

# TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited ([www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org)) February, 2019

## OFFICERS

**Chuck Godfrey** —President (440-6995) [steelheader03@hotmail.com](mailto:steelheader03@hotmail.com)

**Brian Barry**-Vice President (VicePresident@wnytroutunlimited.org)

**Dave Unetich**-Secretary (Secretary@wnytroutunlimited.org)

**Tony Messina**-Treasurer (Treasurer@wnytroutunlimited.org)

## COMMITTEES

Awards-**Dave Tooke** (Awards@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Education- [open]

Library- [open]

Membership-**Gary Coons** (Membership@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Fly Tying Sessions-**Dave Bollman**

Resource Protection-**Gary Coons** (Resource

Protection@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Salmon & Steelhead-**Don Kwiatkowski** (SalmonandSteelhead@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Shows-**Dave Bollman** (Shows@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Spring Banquet- [open]

Conservation- **Joe Morgan** (Conservation@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Stream Clean-up – Ric Toczek (StreamCleanup@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Sunshine- **Chuck Godfrey**

Website: **Ric Toczek** [webmaster@wnytroutunlimited.org](mailto:webmaster@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Welcome- **Dave Bollman**

Video Library- [open]

Erie County Federation Reps:

**Chuck Godfrey** (440-6995) [steelheader03@hotmail.com](mailto:steelheader03@hotmail.com);

**Debbie Godfrey**

State Council Delegates:

**Chuck Godfrey** (440-6995)

**Gene Romanyshyn, Debbie Godfrey**

Newsletter: **Russell Shefrin** [AdkRuss@gmail.com](mailto:AdkRuss@gmail.com).

On the web: [wnytu.org](http://wnytu.org)

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**Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 7:30 pm, at the ORVIS SHOP, 4545 Transit Road, Williamsville, New York. [PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION.] Fly Tying begins at 6 p.m. Please bring olive thread, because we will be tying the Bead Head Olive Woolly Bugger.**

**Our presenters, for the “entertainment” portion of the chapter meeting, will be New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Fisheries Biologist Scott Cornett and Principle Fisheries Technician James Zanett. They will discuss the 2018 fish sampling surveys, Region 9 cold-water fisheries issues, and related subjects. This annual presentation is one of our most popular, and you will likely find it of great interest. Please join us. [Editor’s Note: The report of the 2018 fish sampling was attached to the January, 2019, issue of this newsletter. If you would like to review it but have deleted your copy of the newsletter, you can find the report on our website, [www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org).]**

## President’s Message:

Hi everyone. Our first meeting at our new permanent meeting site, the Orvis Shop in Williamsville, 4545 Transit Road., was well-received, if a bit delayed. On the original date we were getting hit with the massive two-day blizzard so we postponed the meeting until the following week, i.e., February 5. Hopefully, we got the word out to everyone who planned on attending despite the weather. This brings to mind one of our ongoing concerns.

We have a lot of members with whom we don't really have much contact. We try not to use the newsletter email address list for anything but the newsletter, because that's what people have generally requested. We do have email addresses for most members through our roster from National TU but haven't been using that list to contact people, because we know how inundated most of us are with emails. The Board has been discussing what to do about this situation for a while now – and the younger generation tends to use social media to communicate, anyway. I'd like to have suggestions from our membership as to what you would like us to do. For the time being, we've decided to contact new members who supply contact info to see if they'd like to become more involved and/or more informed than just the newsletter. Please feel free to send me any comments/suggestions at steelheader03@hotmail.com.

At the February 5, 2019, chapter meeting, we had a presentation on “WNYTU – Who We Are and What We Do”, which seemed to be well received. Also, our new State Council President - Larry Charette of the Seth Greene Chapter in Rochester – visited us. He did a short presentation on the State Council and how he sees it running in the future. Very informative. We also welcomed new Board member Drew Nisbet, who will fill out the term of Gene Romanyshyn. Thanks to Gene for his many years of fine service as a Board member and Vice President.

The second major development for the chapter is the restructuring of our fiscal year by National. As of October 1, 2018, our fiscal year now runs from April 1 to March 31, instead of October to September, as it was previously. This is necessitating a one-time “short fiscal year” – which we are now in- of October 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019. In keeping with that, the Board is proposing to amend our by-laws to change our election cycle to coincide with the new fiscal year. What we are proposing is naming the March meeting as our Annual Meeting, instead of October. This will necessitate a change in the by-laws so that we nominate people for officers and directors' positions in February, with nominations from the floor also in March when we will hold our elections. To pass an amendment, we need to give 30 days' notice before a vote, which we did in the last newsletter and are doing in this newsletter, so we will vote on the amendment at the February 26 general meeting. We anticipate it will pass, so we would then accept nominations from the floor in February, again in March, and hold the elections in March. This will result in shortening everyone's term by 6 months, once. Below are the present sections of the by-laws pertaining to the annual meeting and elections with the word to be changed in parentheses and the new wording in red.

*Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the Chapter shall be held in (October) **March**, to elect officers and Directors and conduct other business of the Chapter.*

*Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall nominate members, **and accept nominations from the floor** for each elected office, **at the meeting prior to the Annual Meeting**. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.*

Presuming that we will have elections in March, here are the positions that will need to be voted on then: Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary (all one-year terms) and three Board of Directors' positions (all three-year terms). Brian Barrey – Vice President, Tony Messina – Treasurer, and Dave Unetich – Secretary have all agreed to run again. The terms of Jim Budny, Don Kwiatkowski, and Drew Nisbet are all ending this year. They have all agreed to run again. Also, please remember that there will be nominations from the floor at the February and March meetings for any positions. If you'd like to serve, please have someone nominate you, or nominate yourself. If you'd like to become more active, but aren't quite ready to become an officer or director, we have committee spots open and other things people can help with to get their feet wet. Also, we need to be thinking about next year. I will term limit out of the president's position. We really need to have someone ready to step into that position. We're working on transition planning and procedures for that right now.

We have also begun the process of assembling a handbook of responsibilities for all officers, directors, and committee chairs. This is almost completed. This way we will have available a list of duties for everyone in a

leadership position so that, if someone wants to help with something, we can readily show him or her what needs to be done, whether that leader is present or not. It will also serve as a template of duties if we were to have a leader become incapacitated, etc.

**Conservation and the Environment:** There are several conservation/environmental issues of which you need to be aware, specifically “Considerations for Great Lakes Sportfish Regulation Changes for 2020”.

We would encourage people to send comments in on this plan, but please note that the deadline for comments is February 28, 2019. The full draft of the plan is available on the DEC's website at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/115977.html>. It includes new regulations for Lake Ontario, its tributaries, the Niagara River, Spooner Brook, and the North Branch of Clear Creek.

The Spooner Creek and North Branch of Clear Creek Proposal is: *Eliminate special Lake Erie tributary regulations applied to Spooner Creek and North Branch of Clear Creek (Erie County) (2020\_GL\_05)*

*Description: Angling on Spooner Creek and the North Branch of Clear Creek is currently closed each year from January 1 through March 31st. Under this potential change, anglers would be able to fish species with an open season during the period January 1 through March 31st.*

*Rationale: The original intent of these regulations was to protect adult steelhead and promote natural reproduction in these two tributaries. More recent research has indicated that juvenile habitat is the factor limiting wild steelhead production, not the number of adults. Moreover, these regulations apply to stream sections that are entirely privately owned and are posted, significantly limiting angling pressure.*

To comment on the just the Spooner Brook and Clear Creek part of the plan, send an email with the subject line Spooner Brook and North Branch Clear Creek to: [regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov](mailto:regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov).

The DEC has decided that the initial reasons for the closure on those two creeks have just not borne results, as the true limiting factor on production of adult steelhead from such streams comes from suitable habitat for juveniles; and there just isn't enough to hold very many juveniles until they can smolt. Also, trying to significantly improve the habitat just isn't feasible on either stream. Therefore, the WNYTU board will be submitting a comment on behalf of the chapter supporting the change in regulations and removing the closure of the streams. However, we are going to ask that the Department consider making the streams a “catch and release area” during those three months because of the size of the streams and the vulnerability of the spawning adults.

### **Presenters for Upcoming Chapter Meetings:**

On February 26, 2019, Fisheries Biologist Scott Cornett and Principle Fisheries Technician Jim Zanett will attend our meeting and present on 2018 fish sampling surveys, Region 9 cold-water fisheries issues etc. This is always one of our most well-attended and most interesting meetings.

On March 26, 2019, Margie Hanrahan and staff from Messenger Woods will speak on wildlife rehabilitation. They will have some birds from the center with them.

On April 30, 2019, we will host Rich Ruby, the US Army Corps of Engineers biologist on the Scoby Dam Fish Passage Project. He is leading the fish passage design and environmental assessment. Jim Markham of the DEC is going to try to be in attendance also. This should be a great meeting for anyone interested in the fish passage, the effect on steelhead fishing in Cattaraugus Creek, and its effects on the existing wild trout fishery above the dam.

Dave Denk, who was unable to attend our rescheduled January meeting due to a prior commitment, will probably be able to come to the May meeting. We will let you know when we're sure.

**Trout in the Classroom:** All nine of our schools have their tanks up and running and are having varying degrees of success. If you know a teacher who would be interested in participating in the program, please have him or her contact Chuck Godfrey at steelheader03@hotmail.com or at 716-440-6995.

**NYS Council of TU:** The Executive Board of the Council had a phone conference meeting on Tuesday, January 22. There are a lot of internal changes proposed by the incoming Council chairman. Chuck will report on them as they take effect.

**Chapter Picnic:** We will once again be holding our annual Chapter Picnic at Como Lake Park, on June 15, 2019, starting at 10:00 at the Boy Scout Shelter #5. All members and their families are invited, and the veterans from Project Healing Waters will be invited also. Watch for more details in the coming months. [Editor's Note: Please see the flyer which is attached at the end of this newsletter unless you have requested no such announcements.]

Finally, please remember that members are always welcome at our Board meetings. The next one is Tuesday, March 12, at Sorrentinos (the corner of Main and Mill in Williamsville) at 7:00.

Chuck Godfrey, WNY Chapter President

## **Announcements:**

- **A Report by Mr. Dave Bollman:**

**Shows:** The WNY Sport & Travel Show is fast approaching, and we need help with both staffing the booth and tying with the kids on Sunday, March 10. Please note that, this year, you will have to bring your own vise and tools. I will have a sign-up sheet at the general meeting.

**Project Healing Waters:** The next fly-tying session at the Buffalo V.A. Hospital will take place on Monday, March 4, 2019. If you would like to help, please contact me, David Bollman, at (716) 697-3807. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

**Annual Picnic:** Our next annual picnic will be held on June 15, 2019, from 10 a.m. to “?”, at Como Lake Park Shelter #5 (Boy Scout Shelter).

- **Stream Projects: A Report from Mr. Joseph Morgan.**

Trees have been ordered for spring planting at the Elton Creek Project that was completed last summer. Additional trees have been ordered for a few fill-in spots on other streams.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, we are investigating potential sites for future tree plantings under the “Trees for Tribs” Grant Program that is being made available by the New York State Environmental Fund. I am asking the membership to please let me know of any locations you can think of on trout streams (particularly wild trout streams or stocked streams with significant wild trout populations) within the WNYTU chapter counties (Erie, Wyoming) in need of shade tree plantings. Some details are still being worked out, but the general requirements are the following: Sites should be at least 100 feet in length with little to no riparian trees. Landowners will have to be on board with the project and sign on to some terms (like not cutting down the trees or mowing them over). Areas with Public Fishing Rights are

preferred, but this is not a requirement; because the benefits are stream-wide. Any information such as landowner contact information, location address and GPS coordinates would be helpful. Please email at [joephmorgan@msn.com](mailto:joephmorgan@msn.com) if you have any sites in mind or with any other questions.

Late Breaking News: The DEC just announced a program called “Buffer in a Bag”. This is separate from the “Trees for Tribs” Grant Program I mentioned above. Anyone who owns or manages at least 50 feet of land along a stream or waterbody in New York State is eligible to receive a free “Buffer in a Bag”. The bag contains 25 bare-root trees and shrub seedlings along with planting instructions. The goal is to enhance the streamside area. Properties with 50-99 feet of streamside land are eligible for one bag, and properties with 100 or more feet are eligible to apply for two bags. Applicants must provide photos and information indicating where the trees will be planted. There is a limited supply, and recipients are selected on a first-come, first-served basis. The application deadline is April 3, 2019. For more information go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/115903.html>. You can also call (518) 402-9405 or email [treestfortribs@dec.ny.gov](mailto:treestfortribs@dec.ny.gov) <mailto:[treestfortribs@dec.ny.gov](mailto:treestfortribs@dec.ny.gov)> .

- **From Our Canadian Neighbors: Mr. Brian Green, of the Niagara Chapter, Trout Unlimited Canada,** has kindly sent us this report from the organization’s recent general meeting, which featured an address by WNYTU President, Mr. Chuck Godfrey.

*“The Niagara Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada welcomed Chuck Godfrey, President of the Western NY Chapter of TU to their Annual General Meeting on Jan. 17. The meeting, held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Fonthill Ontario, featured guest speaker Mark Matson, founder and CEO of Lake Ontario Waterkeepers and Swim Drink Fish.*

*Chuck Godfrey made a short presentation on the work being done by the WNY Chapter, and impressed the gathering with mention of the more than 400 trout streams administered by the Chapter. He credited partnerships with other governmental and non-government organizations and neighbouring chapters for their extensive achievements in stream restoration. Both Chair Dennis Edell, and Vice Chair and M.C. Valerie Grabove acknowledged the inspiration provided by our much larger cross-border sister Chapter.*

*After a summary of the past year’s projects and an outline of plans for the coming year for the Niagara Chapter, Mark Matson was introduced. His talk on “Connecting People to the Great Lakes” was a passionate and fascinating account of the work his organization does and its vital importance to the people who live in the Great Lakes watershed. Just as Brook Trout are an indicator species in cold water streams, he said, swimming is an indicator in the Great Lakes. The aim of his organization is to bring people back to the Great Lakes. “They are our Rockies,” he pointed out, and no one should be prevented from enjoying them for fear of pollution, litigation, or any other reason. He concluded by pointing out the necessity of public engagement in bringing about changes to policy and practice by governments at all levels to enable everyone in the Great Lakes watershed to Swim Drink Fish.”*

- **Input needed for New Trout Fishing Guide. A Report from Mr. Spencer Schofield:**

The Western New York Chapter of Trout Unlimited (WNYTU) has previously prepared guides to trout fishing entitled Trout Fishing Waters of Cattaraugus County, followed by Trout Fishing in W.N.Y. (1980)

and, most recently, Trout, Salmon and Steelhead Fishing in Western New York (1996). Members of WNYTU described their favorite streams, including access and favorite flies, etc., in each of these guides.

In the last 23 years access to our fishery has changed, as has the fishery. Your WNYTU board has decided to provide an updated guide which will include not only reports on our members' favorite streams, as has been done in the past, but, also, discussions on Trout in the Classroom, our Veteran's programs, and our stream conservation efforts. We plan to have the new guide completed during 2019.

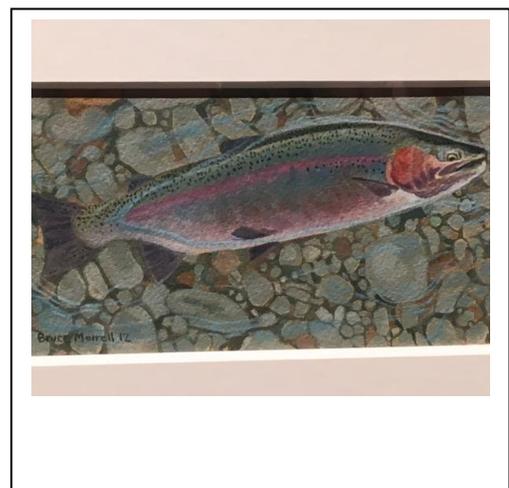
We need your input to describe your favorite stream, where access is available, and any 'tips' that you could provide that may enhance the public's access and enjoyment on our streams. Please provide your information in Microsoft Word format. Kindly send your stream descriptions, or notification that your previous descriptions would be acceptable for this update, to the following address:

Spencer Schofield  
80 Dogwood Road  
Williamsville, New York 14221  
email: [s273fish@gmail.com](mailto:s273fish@gmail.com)

Please provide your favorite stream descriptions by April 30, 2019. Thank you for your cooperation.

- **WNYTU Chapter Member, Mr. George Welsh**, would like to inform us of the 19-minute video, "Stories from the Fountain: A TU Native Brook Trout Odyssey". It is a documentary about a group of college students in Pennsylvania who are studying (and fishing for) brook trout. The project was encouraged by TU and supported by the Fish and Boat Commission and others. While the video concerns trout streams in Pennsylvania, it will likely be of interest to anyone committed to cold water stream conservation and is also a delightful reminder of the passionate dedication on the part of younger people. The link is: <https://vimeo.com/297987240>.

- **Art Exhibit: Mr. Joe Giroux** would like our members to be aware of an art exhibit that may be of interest. It is by Bruce Morrell and is entitled, "Feathers and Fur". The pieces, such as this one, can be viewed at the Springville Center for the Arts, 37 North Buffalo Street, Springville, N.Y., from January 16 through February 23. Gallery hours are: Wednesday and Friday, 12 – 5 p.m.; Thursday, 12 – 8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.



• **Treasurer's Report for the Period Ended January 31, 2019**(Submitted by **Mr. Anthony Messina**):

			prior period thru 12/31/2018	this period thru 01/31/2019
		(CHECKING ACCT)		
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 1, 2018		<b>\$2,161.13</b>	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 1, 2019			<b>\$12,131.40</b>
INFLOWS:	DONATIONS		\$10,300.00	
	See Cash Receipt Below			\$0.00
		TOTAL INFLOWS:	<b>\$10,300.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
OUTFLOWS:	MONTHLY MEETING		\$75.00	
	HOLIDAY PARTY		\$254.73	
	MEMBERSHIP DUES (EC Federation)			\$135.00
	SUPPLIES			\$115.27
	PRINTING (Fishing in WNY Book)			\$601.00
	STREAM PROJECTS			-\$408.55
	(Reimb from Red House Brook Chapter)			
		TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	<b>\$329.73</b>	<b>\$442.72</b>
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2018		<b>\$12,131.40</b>	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 31, 2019			<b>\$11,688.68</b>

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			prior period thru 12/31/2018	this period thru 01/31/2019
		(MONEY MKT ACCT)		
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 1, 2018		<b>\$22,764.23</b>	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 1, 2019			<b>\$22,764.62</b>
INFLOWS:	INTEREST		\$0.39	\$0.39
		TOTAL INFLOWS:	<b>\$0.39</b>	<b>\$0.39</b>
OUTFLOWS:	NONE			
		TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2018		<b>\$22,764.62</b>	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 31, 2019			<b>\$22,765.01</b>

- **Editor’s Notes (1)** Our “Trout Talk” newsletter is published in an expanded electronic format each month except for July, August, and December. In order to contain costs, the (typically brief) print version is only available once a year, namely, in September. Unfortunately, even on this schedule, the financial burden, to WNY TU, of the print newsletter remains considerable. Many of our members have agreed to forgo the print edition and to accept only the electronic version (which is sent to them via email). It would help our organization considerably if more of our members agreed to this arrangement. All you have to do is send me your e-mail and surface mail addresses so that I can add you to the electronic mailing list and remove your name from the paper mailing list. I can be reached at [AdkRuss@roadrunner.com](mailto:AdkRuss@roadrunner.com). **(2)** We are considering a new newsletter section to be entitled something like “New Members Greeting”. Presently, we are awaiting guidance from “National” on what can be included. Stay tuned!



## **Photography**

Familiar Faces at the 2019 Niagara Falls Expo – Photo by Mr. Brian Barrey.



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**COME ONE, COME ALL**  
**TO THE ANNUAL WNYTU FAMILY PICNIC**  
**SATURDAY JUNE 15, 2019**  
**10:00 A.M. TIL 2:00 PM**  
**COMO PARK LAKE IN LANCASTER**  
**BOY SCOUT SHELTER # 5**  
**CASTING DEMONSTRATIONS**  
**FUN, COMERADERIE, GAMES, AND FISHING IN**  
**CAYUGA CREEK PROVIDED AT NO CHARGE**

RESERVATIONS NOT NECESSARY, BUT PLEASE LET CHUCK GODFREY OR DAVE BOLLMAN KNOW IF YOU CAN ATTEND AT [STEELHEADER03@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:STEELHEADER03@HOTMAIL.COM) SO WE CAN PLAN FOR FOOD AND DRINK.

HOTDOGS, HAMBURGERS, SAUSAGE, WATER AND POP PROVIDED.  
A DISH TO PASS.

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