

# TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited ([www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org)) February 2020

## 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- **Bob Bohner**

Library- **[open]**

Membership- **Bob Bohner**

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)

Sunshine- **Chuck Godfrey**

Website: [www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org).

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

Welcome- **Bob Bohner**

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).

Stamp

Label

**Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting:** The next chapter meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 7:30 pm, at the **ORVIS SHOP, 4545 Transit Road, Williamsville, New York**. Fly-tying begins at 6 p.m. Please bring black or orange thread, because we will be tying wet flies and steelhead flies.

The presenter, for the “entertainment” portion of the chapter meeting, will be **Dr. Jim Budny**, who will discuss “Salmon Fishing on the Cheap.” Dr. Budny has given several presentations over the years and always does a great job. Please join us on February 25.

## President’s Message:

Hi Everyone,

This is my second-to-last President’s Report ever, so we’ll get right to the subject of elections. At the March Chapter Meeting, we will need to vote on officers and Directors. My allowable terms as President are up; and, truth be told, it’s time for someone else to take over. I’ve mentioned before that the President’s job is not anywhere near as time consuming as it may seem to the average member. The President’s actual job consists of being just an administrator for the chapter, overseeing general and Board meetings, and putting together an agenda for the Board

meetings. We have good committee chairs who keep the chapter running, so the day to day business of the chapter is really handled by them. Most of what people see me do, and probably think of as part of the president's responsibilities, are, in actuality, things I've chosen to do as a chair or member of various committees. The President doesn't even have to attend meetings of other groups, etc. When I'm doing that, it isn't in the role of President but, rather, as a delegate or representative of the chapter. I'm not planning on giving up that other work. Also, the next President, or any other officer, does not need to come from our present leadership structure; and it would be a good thing to get people with new ideas involved.

Having said all that, the Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary positions are all one-year terms, so are elected annually. There are nine Board positions, each with a three-year term, and three are elected each year. The positions of Dave Bollman, Bill Jedlicka, and Spencer Schofield are the ones to be elected this year. All three have indicated a desire to serve again, but we will be accepting nominations from the floor for all positions at the February meeting. The Board is required, by the bylaws, to present a slate of officers and directors to the membership at the February meeting. Brian Barrey has decided not to seek re-election as the Vice President, Tony Messina and Dave Unetich have agreed to run for re-election as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. We have not yet had anyone volunteer to run for President. There is also one open Board seat that Drew Nisbet had to give up when he relocated to Vermont to work in the Orvis home store. Please think about stepping up and helping out the chapter. We do accept self-nominations – in other words, volunteers.

The March meeting will also mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of our chapter. We're planning a modest celebration that night and will raffle off a rod, reel, and fly line. Details on both of those will be provided over the course of the next two months. I've not been able to find a list of past presidents. I think it would be nice to publish that, with years served if possible - and no, I didn't mean that to sound like a prison sentence. I have known many of them since I joined in 1983(?) but not necessarily the years served, so I'm reaching out to the membership at large to ask you to contact me via email. Don't worry about whether anyone else has sent in a name or names. I'd rather get 100 emails with many repetitions than miss someone

Now, on to other things. As we have mentioned before, there is a U.B. Fishing Club. The club is associated with us through a national Costa 5 Rivers program administered by Costa and TU. They will be hosting "The Fly-fishing Film Tour – 2020" at U.B. on April 3, 2020. The film will begin at 7:30. Tickets, which are \$25.00 for non-students, can be purchased at <https://buffalo.universitytickets.com/w/default.aspx> within the next couple weeks. Details and trailers can be found at the following website <https://flyfilmtour.com/watch-trailers/>. Items will be raffled off throughout the evening: raffle tickets will be available the last week of March.

For decades, the Springville Field and Stream Club has maintained a club pond in Springville. It is spring fed and, when originally constructed, supported brook trout. They have always allowed the public to fish there, and it is stocked with trout in the spring by the DEC. Years ago, they also maintained a small hatchery on the property. The pond has silted in over the years, so it is basically a warmwater pond once the weather gets nice. They are planning to restore it to a cold-water pond and to construct a hatchery on site and are looking for help. For a couple of reasons, it doesn't really fall under the types of projects TU can officially get involved with: but the Board feels it's certainly a laudable project, and we wish to be supportive of it. To that end, we want to announce that they are having a showing of the IF4 Fly Fishing Film Festival in Springville on March 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a different set of films from the one offered by the UB Fishing Club. Details are in the attached flyer(s). [Editor's Note: These, and other flyers noted in the newsletter, are not included in the edition sent to WNYTU members who have requested no such material.]

Once again, we will remind people that the NYS Council of TU is conducting a Youth Trout Camp at the end of June. Details are in the attached flyer. Applicants need not be TU members or relatives of TU members. Applications go directly to Council personnel, not through local chapters. We have scholarship money

available to cover the cost of the camp. If someone from Erie, Niagara, or Wyoming Counties (our area of responsibility) is accepted, we will pay \$450 of the \$550 cost of the camp. Upon successful completion of the camp, and submission of a report to our chapter, we will reimburse \$100 to the camper so that the camp will eventually be free. Take a look at the brochure and see if you know someone who might be interested. This is a chance of a lifetime!!!! I wish it had been around when I was a kid, but then I'm so old that TU wasn't even around then.

At the January meeting, Scott Cornett, DEC fishery biologist, gave a presentation to 75 attendees on the new Inland Trout Stream Management Plan and on results of 2019 electroshocking surveys. This plan will bring the management of inland trout in NYS into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, replacing a plan that is almost 40 years old. The next step is a public announcement of the plan, with a comment period. When it is released, we will be sure people know about it. At that time, we'll ask people to look at it and to send in comments. The chapter will take a position on it once it's officially released; but, unofficially, it's a great plan.

On Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, we participated in the *Greater Niagara Fishing and Outdoor Expo* at the Convention Center in Niagara Falls. "Thanks" to all the volunteers who helped out by staffing the booth. I did two presentations at the show. The first was *Trout Unlimited – Who We Are and What We Do* on Friday and the second was *Brook Trout Fishing in Allegany State Park*. I had a rousing crowd of two people at the first - father and son duo from Toledo. They stuck around even after I told them it would be geared toward our area only. The second had 18 people who seemed interested to know what kind of fishing could be found in the Park. Most didn't know that wild brook trout were in the small streams.

As announced in the last newsletter, Russ Shefrin has decided to end his time as our newsletter editor. We need to have someone volunteer to take over, and Russ will be available to teach and to guide the new editor; but we do need to replace him. Please consider helping us out with this.

**Trout in the Classroom:** All ten remaining schools are having success with the program. Applications for stocking permits have been submitted to the DEC and will be distributed to the schools when we receive them

Chuck Godfrey, WNYTU President

- **Editor's Position Open, Second Notice (lol):** *"The time has come," the Walrus said, "to talk of many things: Of shoes--and ships--and sealing wax--of cabbages--and kings--and new newsletter editors"* [Apologies to Lewis Carroll]. So, let us talk: After over ten years as editor of "Trout Talk", I have decided to hang up the red pen (or whatever is the digital equivalent). It has been a real pleasure to produce the newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited. The time has come, though, to give someone else the chance to compose and to distribute this important medium of communication to, and among, our members, and to exercise creativity in composing a document which often includes photography and original articles. A love of the language, a respect for grammar (with the assistance of Spell Check – LOL), and a desire to keep our members in the loop are definite assets for this job. Some familiarity with Microsoft Word and Excel is required; but you do not need to be a computer expert. I would, of course, be willing to guide your transition to the role. If interested, please e-mail me at [adkruss@gmail.com](mailto:adkruss@gmail.com). Russ Shefrin, Newsletter Editor.
- **Stream Conservation Report – by Mr. Joseph Morgan:** [Excerpt from January Newsletter – Ed.] There are a number of projects tentatively planned for the upcoming year. They include:
  - The Crow Creek Brook Trout Habitat Improvement Project. This project has had many delays, and I am

hoping it will finally get done this year.

- The Pike Dam Removal Project on Wiscoy Creek. Scott Cornett will provide more information on this at the January Chapter meeting.
- Tree Planting on Wiscoy Creek and East Koy Creek in the Spring.
- A Stream Clean Up day on Spring Brook in the Village of Springville.

As I get more information, I will provide updates in the newsletter and via email to the folks who are on the chapter Volunteer list. If anyone is interested in participating, please note that at the guest table at our monthly meetings or send me an email at [Conservation@wnytroutunlimited.org](mailto:Conservation@wnytroutunlimited.org). Thanks. Joe

- **News from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Mr. Scott Cornett, DEC Fishery Biologist, sends us this note:**

“Hi folks,

At the January chapter meeting, I covered the highlights of the draft inland trout stream management plan DEC has been working on for a while now. At the end of the presentation, I mentioned the website address where the draft plan will be available for public comment. And, as of that evening, I had been told it would be available by the end of January. Having worked for DEC for 30 years now, I really should have known better than to list a specific date! Sure enough, I found out a couple days later that it is more likely to be late February before the plan is out for public comment. In fact, the website *now* has the following statement:

*The complete draft plan is anticipated to be made available at the end of February on this webpage. A 45-day public comment period will be provided for the submission of written comments. Detailed instructions on submitting comments will be made available with the plan.*

So, I apologize to those that went to the website expecting to be able to read the draft plan before now. However, it will be there eventually, and I highly recommend all anglers with interests in how your trout streams are proposed to be managed in future years, take time to read the draft plan and then please also take the time to comment on what you like and what you don't like. When commenting, it is very important to be specific in your comments, keeping in mind the scope of the plan (it does not cover Lake Erie and Ontario tribs, lakes or ponds). Comments will be compiled by category and it will make the reviewers job much easier if you are specific in your comments about what you like and what you don't like and importantly, WHY.

So, please take time to check out and comment on the draft plan in coming weeks at the following website:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111015.html>

If, after reading the plan you have questions, please feel free to write or call me. However, comments on the plan should be submitted through the website (or there will be a place they can be mailed as well).

Thanks,

Scott Cornett  
Fishery Biologist  
Region 9 – Allegany  
[scott.cornett@dec.ny.gov](mailto:scott.cornett@dec.ny.gov)  
379-6390”

**And, Mr. Cornett would like us to be aware that:** “The NYSDEC is launching another diary program on the Genesee River for 2020. We are looking for both trout and bass anglers who are interested in participating this year. We rely on the information provided by anglers, like you, in order to manage the Genesee River fishery. If you are interested in participating please contact Logan Stratton at 716-379-6379 or at [logan.stratton@dec.ny.gov](mailto:logan.stratton@dec.ny.gov) with your mailing address, email and phone number. Thank you in advance!”

- **From the Editor:** 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 digital 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@gmail.com](mailto:AdkRuss@gmail.com)
- Trout Unlimited Discounts: Mr. Bob Bohner would like us to be aware of discounts available to TU members. They can be found by checking out this link: <https://www.tu.org/members-discounts/>.
- **Treasurer’s Report for the Period January 1, 2020, through January 31, 2020** (Submitted by **Mr. Anthony Messina**):

		prior period thru 12/31/19	this period thru 01/31/20
CHECKING ACCT)			
BALANCE AT BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 1, 2019	<b>\$1,274.85</b>	
	JANUARY 1, 2020		<b>\$1,274.85</b>
INFLOWS:	NONE	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TOTAL INFLOWS:	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
OUTFLOWS:	MEMBERSHIP DUES (EC Federation)		\$135.00
	DONATION (EC Federation - Banquet Tickets)		\$80.00
	DONATION (EC Federation - Booklet Ad)		\$100.00
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$315.00</b>
BALANCE AT BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2019	<b>\$1,274.85</b>	
	JANUARY 31, 2020		<b>\$959.85</b>

			*****	*****
		(MONEY MKT ACCT)	prior period thru 12/31/19	this period thru 01/31/20
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 1, 2019		<b>\$27,370.29</b>	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 1, 2020			<b>\$27,370.75</b>
INFLOWS:	INTEREST		\$0.46	\$0.46
	TOTAL INFLOWS:		<b>\$0.46</b>	<b>\$0.46</b>
OUTFLOWS:	NONE			
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2019		<b>\$27,370.75</b>	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 31, 2020			<b>\$27,371.21</b>

			*****	*****
		(RESTR. FNDS ACCT)	prior period thru 12/31/19	this period thru 01/31/20
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 1, 2019		<b>\$10,000.00</b>	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 1, 2020			<b>\$10,000.00</b>
INFLOWS:	NONE		\$0.00	\$0.00
OUTFLOWS:	NONE		\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2019		<b>\$10,000.00</b>	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 31, 2020			<b>\$10,000.00</b>



## Photography

Mr. Chuck Godfrey forwards these images of DEC personnel familiar to our chapter. In the first photo, Mr. James Markham presents at the recent U. S. Army Corps of Engineers meeting, which drew an overflow crowd, on the Springville Dam project. In the second, Mr. Scott Cornett discusses the Inland Trout Stream Management Plan and other matters of interest.



\*\*\*

## **Our Advertisers**

### **Cattaraugus Creek Outfitters**

**\*Guided Fly Fishing for Steelhead**

**\*Cabins on Cattaraugus Creek in Zoar Valley**

**\*Hosted Fly-Fishing Adventures to Alaska, Bahamas, Mexico**

**\*DIY Bahamas Bonefishing Adventures**

Visit [www.ccoflyfishing.com](http://www.ccoflyfishing.com)

Or call Vince @ 716-479-2327

### **Whispering Pines Fish Farm**

**Pond Stocking**

**Trout, Bass, Perch, Minnows**

**Grass Carp, Koi, Crayfish**

**716-496-7440**