

# TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited ([www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org)) January, 2011

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(This is an expanded version of the print edition.)

**Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying begins at 6pm. Please bring black thread, because we will be tying Stone Fly Nymphs.**

**The highlight of the meeting will be the annual discussion, by N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation staff, of the state of our streams. Mr. Scott Cornett and Mr. James Zanett, of Region Nine DEC, will be the presenters. This promises to be a highly interesting and informative evening. Please join us.**

## President's Report

Greetings Fellow TUs,

I trust the New Year finds you healthy.

I want to thank those who attended our November meeting and our featured speaker, Ms. Audrey Richter, US Army Corps of Engineers biologist. Her presentation was indeed informative and educational. It is a real privilege and honor to have such talent available to TU's membership. Those in attendance at the chapter meeting were also privy

to a short awards ceremony. Mr. Ray Li, Fisheries Biologist with the Lower Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office, received the NYS Council TU Professional Resource award for his contributions to the Western NY watersheds, most notably the McIntosh Brook & Wiscoy projects. (Mr. Li has also been a guest speaker at our membership meetings.) Thanks Ray, for your efforts and your enthusiasm. (Ed. Note: Please see photo later in this newsletter.)

The rather well attended Christmas Party went off without a hitch. This year, there were no major snow storms to block the evening's activities. It was good to see all of you "socially" and outside of the business context of our meetings.

January is the month we traditionally have DEC as our guest to give a presentation on the "state of our streams," as it were. Once again, Scott Cornett & Jim Zanett will make their presentation for our education and benefit. Please feel free to bring a guest, perhaps someone who is not a member of TU but who would like to see what the DEC staff has in store for Western NY streams. Mr. Cornett has provided me with his presentation, minus his narrative, which will be published in next month's electronic version of the newsletter. (Scott does a great job of narrating the presentation, and you will find it worth your while to attend.)

That brings me to my next subject. As Mr. Shefrin, our award winning newsletter editor, has pointed out at many meetings as well as in the newsletter, the print edition is limited to four pages. With the electronic version, he is able to expand coverage as well as to include pictures and graphs. With membership over 600, postage and printing costs are considerable. "Opting out" of the printed version for the enhanced "E" version allows us to better spend organization monies for the furthering of Trout Unlimited's mission to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Please take a few moments to send a quick e-mail to Russ Shefrin [AdkRuss@roadrunner.com](mailto:AdkRuss@roadrunner.com) and to "opt out" of the mailed, hardcopy format of the newsletter.

Once again it is time to think "banquet season". I have three to attend already. Len has tickets available for both the raffle and the dinner. I would encourage all members to attend as we do every year. If you are not able to make the banquet, purchasing a raffle ticket is the next best way to support *your local chapter of TU*. Please don't wait for the last minute to reserve your tickets, because planning the dinner is a vital part of the preparations. The banquet is by far our biggest fund raiser of the year. It is also an appropriate time for recognition of individuals for their contributions to the community and to cold water resource protection. The deadline for submission of award nominations is March 13, 2011, the last day of the Sportsman Show. Submissions should be in e-mail form (although they can be handwritten) and sent to Dave Tooke or me.

Which, of course, brings me to my next subject, namely, the Erie Promotions Sportsman Show & Travel Expo. On Sunday, March 13, 2011, we are hosting a youth fly tying activity from noon to 4pm. Volunteers are needed to help with staffing the booth throughout the show as well as with the youth tying. Last year, we achieved our biggest success so far in the youth activity day, when 70 young men and ladies participated in the fly tying. The show starts on Thursday, March 10, 2011 and runs through Sunday, March 13.

Many issues remain at the forefront in our efforts to promote cold water resource conservation. We continue to be actively involved. WNYTU's volunteer personnel resources are stakeholder representatives in everything from Great Lakes watershed to "inland" resources. Help your chapter by working with us. We still are in need of a Membership Chairman, as well as a Trout-In-The-Classroom Chairman.

We ALL live downstream. Please come out and support YOUR local chapter; become involved.

See you at the meeting.

Gary Coons, WNYTU Chapter President.

## Announcements

- **A Report from Len Bigaj.**

**Shows:** The next show is the W.N.Y. Sport and Travel Expo, which will take place March 10 through 13, 2011. If you would like to help with the booth, or with the March 13 (Sunday) fly tying with children, please let me know. I will have a sign-up sheet available at the January, 2011, chapter meeting. (Len)

**Project Healing Waters:** We had a great turn-out at the V.A. for our Christmas Patriot-Fly-in-an Ornament project. With the help of nine volunteers, we made twenty-two ornaments. I would like to thank all of you who assisted. Future fly-tying sessions at the V.A. are scheduled for February 17, March 3, and April 14, 6 pm to 8 pm. If you would like to help, please let me know. (Len)

**Annual Banquet:** We are still looking for someone to serve as Banquet Chair for the 2012 event. The upcoming banquet (March 26, 2011; Lucarellis) will be my last as Chairperson. Our Banquet Committee is already hard at work and has obtained some great raffle items. This year, our Grand Prizes will be: 1<sup>st</sup>, a 16GB Apple iPad, and, 2<sup>nd</sup>, a 6ft 6inch, 2 wt Matrix Fly Rod and Reel. Century Printing has once again donated the printing of our Banquet and Grand Prize tickets. The prize tickets are \$10.00 each, three tickets for \$20.00. The drawing will be held at the Banquet. Please try to attend. (If you can't make the Banquet, but would like to support TU, you can purchase prize tickets by sending a check to Leonard Bigaj, 58 Balen Drive, Lackawanna, N.Y. 14218. I will enter you in the drawing and will return the ticket stubs to you. ) Tickets for the Banquet itself are \$30.00 each. (I have tickets for the Banquet and for the Grand Prize.) If you have any new or pre-loved items which you would like to donate to our Banquet, we will be happy to use them. (Ed. Note: Please see the Banquet announcement, later on in this newsletter.)

**Chapter Meeting Fly-Tyers:** Dave Savko, Bill Kielman, Kevin O'Neill, Jeff Kohler, and Dave Unetich participated in the tying before the start of November's WNYTU Chapter meeting. Thanks to all.

- **WNYTU Treasurer's Report:** For Period Ending December 31, 2010 (Submitted by **Anthony Messina**.)

BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 1, 2010	(CHECKING ACCT)	\$795.20
INFLOWS:	TRANSFER FROM MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT		\$1,000.00
	50/50 DRAWING		\$86.00
	ROD RAFFLE		\$220.00
	REGULAR RAFFLE		\$80.00
		TOTAL INFLOWS	\$1,386.00
OUTFLOWS:	TRAVEL		\$35.00
	STREAM PROJECTS		\$49.46
	MONTHLY MEETING		\$70.00
	NEWSLETTER POSTAGE		\$220.00
	NEWSLETTER PRINTING		\$146.40
	50/50 DRAWING		\$43.00

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM	\$705.00
HOLIDAY PARTY	\$277.00

TOTAL OUTFLOWS: \$1,545.86

BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2010 \$635.34

Checking Account	\$469.34
Cash on Hand	\$166.00

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BALANCE AT NOVEMBER 1, 2010 (MONEY MKT ACCT) \$19,022.91

INFLOWS: INTEREST November & December \$3.10

OUTFLOWS: TRANSFER TO CHECKING ACCOUNT \$1,000.00

BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2010 (MONEY MKT ACCT) \$18,026.01



**Articles**

Timeless

By

Russell Shefrin

Sometimes the real gems are right under our noses, we just don't notice. Quite a while ago, my sister, familiar with my interest in the outdoors, sent me a little volume by Jerry Dennis called "From a Wooden Canoe". Naturally, distracted by the pressing demands of daily life, I set it aside, planning to read it, someday, when I "have the time". So, there on the shelf it sat, as the years went by. Recently, while re-arranging my books, now that I

have acquired some more storage space in my house, I picked up “From a Wooden Canoe” and began to thumb through it. And a gem it turned out to be. The book is a series of essays on those tools and accoutrements of camping and canoeing which have stood the test of time, even if they are no longer as popular as they once were. Mr. Dennis reminds us that the “common elements” that characterize these items are “quality and tradition”. Many, though less convenient, more demanding of maintenance, or bulkier than their modern equivalents, were built with “integrity, passion, and attention to detail” and often are both useful as well as beautiful. Wooden canoes, old-fashioned canvas, the classic Thermos, and the well-designed paddle make Mr. Dennis’ list, as do several others. You owe it to yourself to check out the book. See if you agree with Mr. Dennis’ choices.

About the time I began to read “From a Wooden Canoe”, I chanced to find an old fly rod and reel at an estate sale. Wound on the reel was some ancient silk line, presumably left over from the outfit’s long gone glory days. Normally, in this type of situation, my instinct is to strip off the vintage line and to try to find some modern stuff that will still work with the rod. Now I am wondering if it might not be such a bad idea to see if the silk line can be rejuvenated. A quick tour of the internet revealed several sites devoted to just that subject. Apparently, more than a few folks are interested in giving new life to materials that are part of fly-fishing’s storied past.

What is it about these traditional objects and methods that still holds so much appeal? Is it that they evoke fond memories of times past, either experienced by us directly or via a favorite story? Or is it the quality and craftsmanship that went into so many of them? Could it be that they require more skill to use effectively than their modern counterparts, so that mastering them is an accomplishment of which to be particularly proud? Or is there some ineffable connection with nature? In his introduction, Mr. Dennis reports on an informal experiment in which he asked friends to list possessions they had owned for twenty-five years and expect to own twenty-five years hence. Most of the items turned out to be made of wood or metal, “No plastic items were mentioned”. Curiously I now find myself contemplating the restoration of *silk* line.

I think there is something to this nature thing. There are those who postulate that much of the angst associated with modern living is associated with estrangement from the natural world. The extent to which this is true remains to be proven, but there is little doubt that, for many of us, Thoreau was right when he wrote, “We need the tonic of wildness”. Maybe that is the appeal of certain traditional tools: Using natural materials to connect with the natural world.

Of course, all this means we need keep that natural world around. It really does work both ways. An appreciation of what pristine wild places have to give us motivates us to take care of them. It seems to me that the more deeply we understand those places, the more we value them, and the more we are inclined to conserve, to protect, and to restore them. Those wild “gems” will pay us back a hundred-fold.

So, I am planning a spring project of giving new life to the silk line. Whether I succeed or will actually use the line are open questions. From what I have read, those old lines were not nearly as convenient to use as the modern plastic ones. But the “silk” does seem to possess some of the characteristics of Mr. Dennis’ timeless things associated with the outdoor life: An essentially natural material, fashioned into a beautiful and useful tool with intensive, craftsman-like effort. I look forward to re-establishing the connection, even if only on special occasions.

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(There’s more; please continue.)

Awards Ceremony: Mr. Ray Li, Fisheries Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office, Amherst, N.Y., receives the N.Y. S. Council Trout Unlimited Professional Resource Award from Ms. Dee Maciejewski, N.Y.S.C.T.U. Chairperson, and Dave Savko, N.Y.S. C.T.U. Region 9 Vice President at the November 30, 2010, W.N.Y. T.U. chapter meeting.



(L. to R.: Mr. Li, Ms. Maciejewski, Mr. Savko)

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**WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER  
TROUT UNLIMITED  
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET**

Saturday, March 26, 2011

LUCARELLI'S BANQUET CENTER

1830 Abbott Rd

Lackawanna, NY 14218

716-824-8711

**\*TICKETS \$30.00/PERSON\***

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LEN BIGAJ

58 BALEN DRIVE

LACKAWANNA, NY 14218

716-826-4178

**\*\*\*ALSO AT OAK ORCHARD FLY SHOP AND ORVIS SHOP AT EASTERN HILLS MALL\*\*\***