

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) January, 2017

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Awards-**Dave Tooke** (688-7492) tkflytier@yahoo.com

Education-**Dave Bollman** (826-6214)

Library- **[open]**

Membership-**Gary Coons** yragсноoc@gmail.com

Fly tying sessions-**Dave Bollman**

Resource protection-**Gary Coons** (695-1003)

Salmon & Steelhead-**Don Kwiatkowski** (894-9807)

Shows-**Dave Bollman (826-6214)**

Spring Banquet- **[open]**

Conservation-**Chuck Godfrey** (440-6995)

Sunshine- **Chuck Godfrey**

Website: **Ric Toczek** webmaster@wnytroutunlimited.org

Welcome- **Dave Bollman**

Video Library- **[open]**

Erie County Federation Reps:

Chuck Godfrey (440-6995) steelheader03@hotmail.com;

Debbie Godfrey

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Chuck Godfrey (440-6995)

Gene Romanyshyn, Debbie Godfrey

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Label

Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 7:30 pm, at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying starts at 6 p.m. Please bring red or fluorescent orange thread, because we will be tying sucker spawn.

Our presenter, for the “entertainment” portion of the chapter meeting, will be Jen Maguder of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy. She will be speaking on “Trout Fishing Opportunities in the Chautauqua Creek Oxbow”. Many of us were unaware of this location; so, the discussion should prove highly informative. Please join us.

President’s Message

Hi everyone. I’d like to start my report off with the following quote from John Gierach, my favorite author.

“...Maybe your stature as a fly [angler] isn't determined by how big a trout you can catch, but by how small a trout you can catch without being disappointed, and, of course, without losing the faith that there's a bigger one in there.” (John Gierach, Fly Fishing Small Streams).

I only came across this recently, but I think it really strikes at the heart of what TU is all about. Sure, we’re a “coldwater fisheries conservation group”; but I doubt there are many of us who weren’t trout fishers first – and I

have to admit I wish he had said “trout [angler].” We don’t hear much from the worm and spin fishers in our national publications, etc.; but there are many of them who are members, locally, and who help with our conservation, education, and outreach efforts.

I’m really excited about what we have lined up this year for the chapter. As a Board, we have decided to try a few new things. For starters, we’ve always wanted to generate more interest in attending the monthly Chapter meetings. We’ve never had trouble getting enough volunteers to conduct our major activities such as stream projects, public outreach, veterans outreach, etc., which is great; but we’d like to meet more of you at meetings. Over the past few years, we’ve found that we conduct most of the chapter’s business at the Board meetings – which are open to the public by the way – so we’re going to attempt to continue to do that. At the Chapter meetings, we will hold only a short business meeting where we give very brief reports on what has been done. More extensive reports can be found in the newsletter. We are hoping that, by keeping the “business” part of the meeting to a minimum, more people will attend.

We’re also going to develop a calendar of coming events – meetings, stream projects, outreach programs, veterans programs, etc., so that you will know about them well in advance. Normally, we don’t have a March Chapter meeting because of the banquet; but, because we’re not having a banquet this year, we will hold a special meeting. We’re also going to experiment with trying other venues for meetings.

Here are the dates, “entertainment”, and venues for the next four Chapter meetings:

Jan. 31 –Donovan Post – “Entertainment” will be Jen Maguder of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy. She will be speaking on Trout Fishing Opportunities in the Chautauqua Creek Oxbow. I didn’t even know there was such a thing. The DEC is in the process of purchasing “public fishing rights” on this section of the creek. With the barrier bypass work that was done on the creek last year, I think this means the steelhead can get all the way to the oxbow. Ms. Maguder will also talk about other projects and efforts of the Conservancy.

Feb. 28 – Donovan Post – “Entertainment” will be the DEC Region9 Fisheries personnel. Scott Cornett will be attending and presenting on "Updates from the new DEC trout sampling regime in 2016, plans for 2017, and questions from the members on anything trout related". As always, attendance at this meeting should be a priority for members and the general public.

Mar. 28 – Orvis Shop in Williamsville – 7:00 - note the different venue and time– “Entertainment” will be Joe Gould of Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper. He will be presenting on Riverkeeper’s project to improve habitat and connectivity on Crow Creek, a small wild brook trout stream outside of Attica. We will be cooperating with Riverkeeper on this project.

April 25 – Donovan Post – The presentation will be by Sheri Voss, representing WNY Lyme – a group dedicated to informing and helping the public about Lyme Disease. Lyme Disease is a very real danger in WNY. The area around East Aurora is one of the very worst in the country for Lyme Disease infestation, and very little publicity is given to it locally. Everyone who spends time out of doors in WNY should be made aware of this. We’re scheduling this presentation for April, just before the warm weather starts in May, when most trout fishermen become serious about getting out to fish; and turkey hunting starts. Please plan on attending this meeting. I saw this presentation last year and know what two local teens are going through with this disease. I’ve always trout fished in shorts and t-shirts whenever the weather allowed. After viewing this presentation last year, I now ALWAYS wear boots with pants tucked into them and long sleeved shirts and check for ticks when I get home. The danger is that real where we trout fish.

On a lighter note, we will be assisting the Red House Brook Chapter in a cleanup on Elm Creek in Randolph in early May. As already mentioned, sometime this summer we will be cooperating with Riverkeeper to revitalize Crow Creek in Wyoming County. We hope to have a project with the Red House Brook Chapter to protect some streambank on Elm Creek this summer, also. We will certainly be helping with the DEC electroshocking of inland streams this summer. If you've never done this, it's really worth seeing what's actually in the streams. I know it is only with the help of a shocker wand that I regularly see fish over 16" in our inland streams, and otherwise only very infrequently with the use of Panther Martins. I've included two fish from the Wiscoy Creek shocking. [See Photos – Ed.] I know I've never seen any this large while I was fishing!

Please remember that we have a booth at the WNY Sports and Travel EXPO in the Ag Center at the Erie County Fairgrounds. Dates and times are:

Thurs. March 9th 12pm to 9pm

Fri. March 10th 12pm to 9pm

Sat. March 11th 10am to 8pm

Sun. March 12th 11am to 5pm

On Sunday, we will be tying with the kids from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Contact Dave Bollman to help at the EXPO at any time, especially for the flytying with the kids. It's one of the most rewarding things we do.

There will be Project Healing Waters events as follows. Contact Dave Bollman if you wish to help out at one of these. He needs to know in advance.

Fly Tying at Buffalo Veteran Hospital Feb.9th - Mar. 9th - Apr. 13th

Amherst Veteran Center Jan. 18th - Feb. 15th - Mar. 15th - Apr19th.

Finally, here is something else I would like to mention: Over the years, we have accumulated an extensive library of books having to do primarily with trout fishing, but also touching on conservation and other outdoor interests. At the present time, the collection is stored in the attic at our cottage in Angola, because we don't have a print librarian; and, even when we did, books just did not circulate. Therefore, we have decided to divest the chapter of these books. The Board is open to any suggestions anyone may have on how to do this. Suggestions have been to have a sale, to bring a few to each meeting to give out as door prizes, to offer them for sale at shows, try to sell on eBay, etc. We are open to all suggestions. They have been inventoried, and we will have that published in a future electronic edition of the newsletter. Please give us your suggestions.

Announcements:

- **A Report from Mr. David Bollman:**

Fly-Tying: I would like to thank Jim Keech and Kevin O'Neill for their donation of flies at the last Chapter meeting.

Shows: The WNY Sport and Travel Show is fast approaching (March 9 – 12, 2017). We need volunteers to work the booth. Please note that we will be fly tying with the kids on Sunday, March 12, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. I will have a sign-up sheet at the Chapter meeting.

Project Healing Waters: I would like to thank Gary Coons, Bill Kelman, and Jose Olea for their help in fly tying with the veterans at the Buffalo V.A. Everyone had a good time at the latest event. **The Buffalo V.A. fly-tying schedule is: February 9, 2017; March 9, 2017; and April 13 (all at 6p.m. to 7:30 p.m).** **The Amherst fly-tying schedule is February 15, 2017; March 15, 2017; and April 12, 2017 (all at 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.).** The rod building classes will take place at the **Buffalo V.A. Hospital, Freedom Hall (3rd Floor), on January 21, January 28, February 4 and February 11, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.**

- **Face Book: Mr. Bill Jedlicka** writes: “We invite you to visit Western New York Trout Unlimited on Facebook. Please "Like" the page and "Share" it with your Facebook friends. It's a great way to spread the word about the important things WNYTU does in the area and can help interested people (including current or, perhaps, future members) stay informed about upcoming activities. And feel free to post some of your favorite fishing or fly tying photos as well!”
- **Chautauqua Creek Watershed Conservancy: Ms. Jen Maguder**, who will be the featured presenter at the January 31, 2017, WNYTU Chapter meeting, sends us this announcement, under the heading, “Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy provides public fishing access to Chautauqua Creek” - **In 2014 the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy acquired 21.6 acres along Lyons Road in Sherman, NY, which became the Chautauqua Creek Oxbow Forest Preserve. The preserve has a 2,200 foot section of Chautauqua Creek running through it. Steelheads can now reach this section of the creek during their annual runs. Public Fishing Access will be offered by the Chautauqua Creek Oxbow Forest Preserve, with a trail leading down to the creek. Call the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy at [\(716\)664-2166](tel:7166642166) for more information.**
- **Department of Environmental Conservation Lake Erie Steelhead Management Plan: Mr. Kevin O'Neill** kindly forwards this link for those of you who would like to study the 2016 - 2025 management plan for Lake Erie Steelhead. http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/lertmanageplan.pdf.
- **DEC Warns: “Sporting License Buyers – Beware of Opportunistic Websites: Mr. Chuck Godfrey** would like to call our attention to a recent DEC web posting which announces that “anglers and hunters should be aware of at least two currently active non-DEC websites where one can, purportedly, purchase a fishing license, hunting license or receive hunter education training that meets New York requirements: Fishinglicense.org.....Hunting-license.org.....**The consumer on these sites should understand that they are only getting ‘assistance’ for their money and not an actual fishing or hunting license...**” [Emphasis in the original – ed] There are several places to find the announcement. Here is one of them <http://www.longisland.com/news/01-05-17/dec-warns-sporting-license-buyers.html>.

- **Treasurer's Report for the Period Ended December 31, 2016 (Kindly submitted by Mr. Anthony Messina, Treasurer):**

			prior period thru 11/30/16	this period thru 12/31/16
		(CHECKING ACCT)		
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 1, 2016		\$1,282.82	
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 1, 2016			\$1,589.93
INFLOWS:	TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM		\$540.00	
	(Reimbursement from NYS Council)			
	DONATION (Brad Himmel)			\$300.00
	TOTAL INFLOWS:		\$540.00	\$300.00
OUTFLOWS:	TRAVEL		\$162.89	
	MONTHLY MEETING		\$70.00	
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:		\$232.89	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 30, 2016		\$1,589.93	
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2016			\$1,889.93

			prior period thru 11/30/16	this period thru 12/31/16
		(MONEY MKT ACCT)		
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 1, 2016		\$23,254.56	
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 1, 2016			\$23,254.94
INFLOWS:	INTEREST		\$0.38	\$0.39
OUTFLOWS:	NONE		\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 30, 2016		\$23,254.94	
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2016			\$23,255.33

- Editor’s Note: 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 twice a year (September and January). 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



Photos:

Images of fish “caught” during recent electroshocking at Wiscoy Creek. (Submitted by Mr. Chuck Godfrey):



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