

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) January, 2019

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Education- [**open**]

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- **Joe Morgan (716-912-0960)** joephmorgan@msn.com.

Stream Clean-up – Ric Toczek ric.toczek@roadrunner.com

Sunshine- **Chuck Godfrey**

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

Welcome- **Dave Bollman**

Video Library- [**open**]

Erie County Federation Reps:

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Chuck Godfrey (440-6995)

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Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 7:30 pm, at the ORVIS SHOP, 4545 Transit Road, Williamsville, New York. [PLEASE NOTE NEW MEETING LOCATION.] Fly Tying begins at 6 p.m. Please bring black thread, because we will be tying the Bead Head Black Woolly Bugger.

Our presenter, for the “entertainment” portion of the chapter meeting, will be Mr. David Denk, NYS DEC Regional Permit Administrator. He will discuss “Freshwater Wetlands and Wetland Conservation in New York State”. As I am sure you know, wetlands are vitally important and fascinating places. Please join us for what promises to be an enlightening talk.

President’s Message:

Hi everyone. A lot has gone on since we last met in November. Probably the biggest development is that we are changing the site of our general meetings after over 35 years at the Donovan Post. Our new meeting site is the Orvis Shop, 4545 Transit Road, Williamsville, in the Eastern Hills Mall. The outside entrance to the store is on Transit Road. The meetings, which will still start at 7:30 p.m., are typically preceded by a fly-tying session, commencing at 6 p.m., which serves to replenish our stock of flies for sale at events.

We've held our March meetings at the Orvis Shop the last two years and have been encouraged by the increased attendance, both from members and non-members. We will continue to hold monthly general chapter meetings in January, February, March, April, May, September, October, and November. A picnic takes place in June, and a Christmas party is held in December. We plan to continue to locate the picnic in Como Lake Park and the Christmas Party at the Donovan Post. As is now customary, the general meetings start with a brief chapter business discussion (around fifteen minutes), followed by a presentation of interest to the membership. We will continue to conduct most of the official business of the chapter at the Board meetings, which are held the 2nd Tuesday every month except for July and August. The next Board meeting will be held at Sorrentino's Spaghetti House, 5640 Main Street in Williamsville at 7:00 p.m. on February 12. Members are always welcome to attend. Speaking of which, it was with great regret that the Board accepted the resignation of long-time officer and director, Gene Romanyshyn, in December. This means we are looking for a new Board member to finish out his term.

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 the current, one-time, "short fiscal year" 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 to change our official "Annual Meeting" from October to March. 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 are doing in this newsletter. We will vote on the amendment at the February 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 on a one-time basis. 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.*

We have also begun the process of assembling a handbook of responsibilities for all officers, directors, and committee chairs. This is almost completed. We will then have a list of duties for everyone in a leadership position so that, if someone wants to help with something, we can readily show 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.

There are several conservation/environmental issues of which you need to be aware. The most pressing locally is the DEC's Upper Cattaraugus Creek Fisheries Management Plan. This entails the proposed management of the watershed, including the fish passage at Scoby Dam. I would encourage everyone to send comments in on this plan, but please note that the deadline for comments is January 25th. The full draft [Upper Cattaraugus Creek](#)

[Fisheries Management Plan](#) is available on DEC's website. To comment on the plan, [send an e-mail](#) with the subject line "Upper Cattaraugus Creek Plan" to fwfishle@dec.ny.gov

The next issue is the one of Asian Carp. The US Army Corps of Engineers is proposing a barrier at the Branden Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Illinois. National TU is going to submit a written comment supporting this project and is asking the State Councils and the local chapters in the Great Lake Basin to sign on to the letter. This represents the most modern and effective technology, so I have signed us on as a chapter. I had to do it originally without chapter discussion, because we were notified of this a couple of days before the deadline for comments. The USACE has since extended the deadline twice. This barrier should help to protect the Great Lakes, which are responsible for \$16 billion in tourist revenue and support a \$7 billion recreational and commercial fishery.

The final environmental issue another huge one for WNY. The Department of Energy is proposing to downgrade the classification of some types of material now classified as High Level Radioactive Waste to Low Level Radioactive Waste. This would relax the present guidelines for treatment/disposal of these wastes, even allowing some to remain in place forever. One of the sites which would be affected is the facility in West Valley. Needless to say, this is a major concern due to its proximity to Cattaraugus Creek and Lake Erie, to say nothing of the many wells in the area. A local consortium of groups submitted a letter vehemently opposing this reclassification, with West Valley identified as a particular example of why it is a bad idea. We signed on to this. The comment period was over on January 8, and I just found out about it on the 5th.

So much for the doom and gloom. On to happier things. Here's the list of presenters for the next four meetings:

On January 29, 2019, we will host David Denk, DEC Regional Permit Administrator. Dave has worked in the field of environmental analysis and regulation here in NYSDEC Region 9 for more than 31 years. The title of the presentation will be "Freshwater Wetlands and Wetland Conservation in New York State". This should be a very important and interesting presentation. We can't emphasize enough how important wetlands are to the health of our fisheries.

On Feb. 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 coldwater fisheries issues, etc. This is always one of our most well-attended and most interesting meetings.

On March 26, 2019, we will host Margi Annihan and staff from Messenger Woods, who will be speaking on wildlife rehabilitation. She will have some birds from the center with her.

April 30, 2019, Rich Ruby, US Army Corps of Engineers biologist for the Scoby Dam Fish Passage Project will join us. 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.

I also received the following notification while I was typing up my message, so I wanted to pass it along to anyone who might be interested. Alberto Ray will be presenting a talk at the Eastern Hills Orvis Store on February 1. His topic is "Nuts and Bolts of Preparing for the Spring Steelhead Run". The presentation is scheduled for 6-7:30 p.m. Call ahead so they prepare refreshments and seating: 716-633-1600.

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 716-440-6995.

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs: The Federation will be holding its annual Awards and Fundraising Banquet on March 2, 2019, at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca. If anyone wants information, please contact Chuck Godfrey at steelheader03@hotmail.com or 716-440-6995. The Federation also runs a free youth lifetime license raffle for Erie County youth who are under 16 by March 1st. This year, it raised enough money to fund 11 lifetime hunting, fishing, sportsmen's, bowhunting, and trappers' licenses. The Federation also awards scholarships to college students who are enrolled in various majors benefitting the environment. Entries for the raffle and applications for the scholarships are available on the Federation's website <http://ecfsc.org/>, as is information on each.

NYS Council of TU: The Executive Board of the Council will be having a phone conference meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2019. There are a lot of internal changes proposed by the incoming Council chairman. Chuck will report on them as they take effect.

Membership: For a limited time, Trout Unlimited is offering a FREE upgrade to a family membership for any present member. According to the information, it lasts for the length of your membership. I've done it, and it's really simple. You just click on the following link, look at the information, and then click on the link in there. You will need to have your membership number, which is located on your membership card – if you still have it – and also on the label on your copy of "Trout" magazine. If you need the number, you can also contact Chuck Godfrey at sttelheader03@hotmail.com; because our chapter roster includes the membership numbers.

November Meeting: We had a great presentation by nationally known guide and author Rick Kustich. He gave a fascinating talk on fishing for muskies with a flyrod. [Two images can be found in the "Photography" section of this newsletter. Ed.]

Christmas Party: Our 2018 Christmas party proved an opportunity for a good time by all. Great food, great company, and, as usual, the very popular "Yankee Swap."

Here (at right), Gary Coons and Jim Logel discuss the merits of "swapping" a bottle of wine.



Chuck Godfrey, WNY Chapter President

Announcements:

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

Shows: We will be present at the Niagara Outdoor Fishing Expo from Friday, January 18, through Sunday, January 21. This should not be confused with the WNY Sport and Travel Expo, which will run from March 7 through March 10, 2019, and for which we will need some assistance. Specifically, we need help in staffing the booth, in tying flies, and in assisting with the kids' fly-tying experience on Sunday, March 10. I will have a sign-up sheet at our general meetings. Without help from our members, these

shows are not successful. So, please, if you can, help us out with staffing the booth. Your donating some flies to sell would also be appreciated.

Project Healing Waters: On Monday, January 4, we were at the Buffalo VA, where we tied flies and demonstrated rod building to the Veterans. I would like to thank Bill Koerner and Jose Olea for their assistance. Our next fly-tying session will be on February 4, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. Finally, I would like to thank Gary Coons for taking over as program leader for the Niagara Falls program.

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.** 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 spots 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 them down or mowing them over). Areas with Public Fishing Rights are preferred; but they do not have to be on PFR, because the benefits are stream-wide. Any information, such as landowner contact information, location address and GPS coordinates would be helpful. Please email me at joephmorgan@msn.com if you have any sites in mind or with any other questions. Thanks.
- **News from N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation:** The DEC is inviting public comment on the Upper Cattaraugus Creek Fisheries Management Plan. Comments will be accepted through January 25, 2019: Here is the text of their announcement:

“New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced the release of the Draft Upper Cattaraugus Creek Fisheries Management Plan for public comment. The draft plan provides a roadmap for fisheries management practices following the planned fish passage project at the Springville Dam. DEC is accepting public comments on the draft plan until Jan. 25, 2019.

“Cattaraugus Creek provides some of the most diverse trout fishing experiences in New York State,” Commissioner Seggos said. “Lower Cattaraugus Creek is regarded as one of the premier destinations in North America for steelhead anglers, and upper Cattaraugus Creek provides excellent angling opportunities for resident rainbow and brown trout. This plan seeks to enhance Cattaraugus Creek as a premier destination in Western New York for a year-round, high-quality sport fishery.”

Construction of a selective fish passage system at Springville Dam will allow steelhead access to additional miles of high-quality habitat and create new fishing opportunities in upper Cattaraugus Creek. The draft plan focuses on the addition of lake-run steelhead in the 34 miles of the main stem of Cattaraugus Creek and its numerous tributaries above Springville Dam and covers the period 2019-2030.

DEC’s goal is to manage the upper Cattaraugus Creek and its tributaries as a high-quality, year-round sport fishery with opportunities to catch a lake-run steelhead, as well as resident brown and rainbow trout. The draft plan proposes a variety of strategies to achieve this goal, including improved and increased angler access, maintaining responsible stewardship of fisheries resources, protection and

enhancement of critical fish habitats, and utilizing science and adaptive management to measure and achieve success.

The full draft [Upper Cattaraugus Creek Fisheries Management Plan](#) is available on DEC's website.

To comment on the plan, the public can email with the subject line "Upper Cattaraugus Creek Plan" to fwfishle@dec.ny.gov or send written comments via U.S. Mail to: Jason Robinson, Unit Leader, Lake Erie Fisheries Research Unit, 178 Point Drive North, Dunkirk, New York 14048-1031."

- **More from DEC: Mr. Scott Cornett** has kindly provided us with the **official results of 2018 trout sampling**. You are receiving them as attachments to this newsletter unless you have requested no attachments. The first is an overview of the findings; and the second file, called "Appendix 1" has more detail. If you normally do not receive attachments but want to see these, just email me; and I will send you the attachments.

- **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

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

- **Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy:** The CWS has expressed concern about a permit application for water withdrawal of potentially 3 million gallons per day for snow making at the Cockaigne Ski area. The source of the water would be what the CWS describes as "one of Chautauqua County's premier brown trout streams". CWS may be submitting a comment to NYS DEC.
- **Fly-Tying Classes at Orvis Buffalo:** We have received word that the Orvis Shop on Transit Road in Williamsville will be offering free classes on fly-tying. According to their announcement, these are two-hour "Fly-Tying 101" classes; and Orvis will provide the lessons, vise, tools, and materials. The events take place on Saturdays during January and February. The contact person is listed as Drew Nisbet, 716 – 276 – 7200. (Editors Note: Several of the dates appear to be "filled up", so, if interested, you should call right away.)

- **Treasurer’s Report for the Period Ended December 31, 2018** (Submitted by **Mr. Anthony Messina**):

		prior period thru 11/30/2018	this period thru 12/31/2018
	(CHECKING ACCT)		
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 1, 2018	\$2,236.13	
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 1, 2018		\$2,161.13
INFLOWS:	DONATIONS		\$10,300.00
	TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$0.00	\$10,300.00
OUTFLOWS:	MONTHLY MEETING	\$75.00	\$75.00
	HOLIDAY PARTY		\$254.73
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$75.00	\$329.73
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 30, 2018	\$2,161.13	
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2018		\$12,131.40

		prior period thru 11/30/2018	this period thru 12/31/2018
	(MONEY MKT ACCT)		
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 1, 2018	\$22,763.86	
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 1, 2018		\$22,764.23
INFLOWS:	INTEREST	\$0.37	\$0.39
	TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$0.37	\$0.39
OUTFLOWS:	NONE		
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 30, 2018	\$22,764.23	
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2018		\$22,764.62

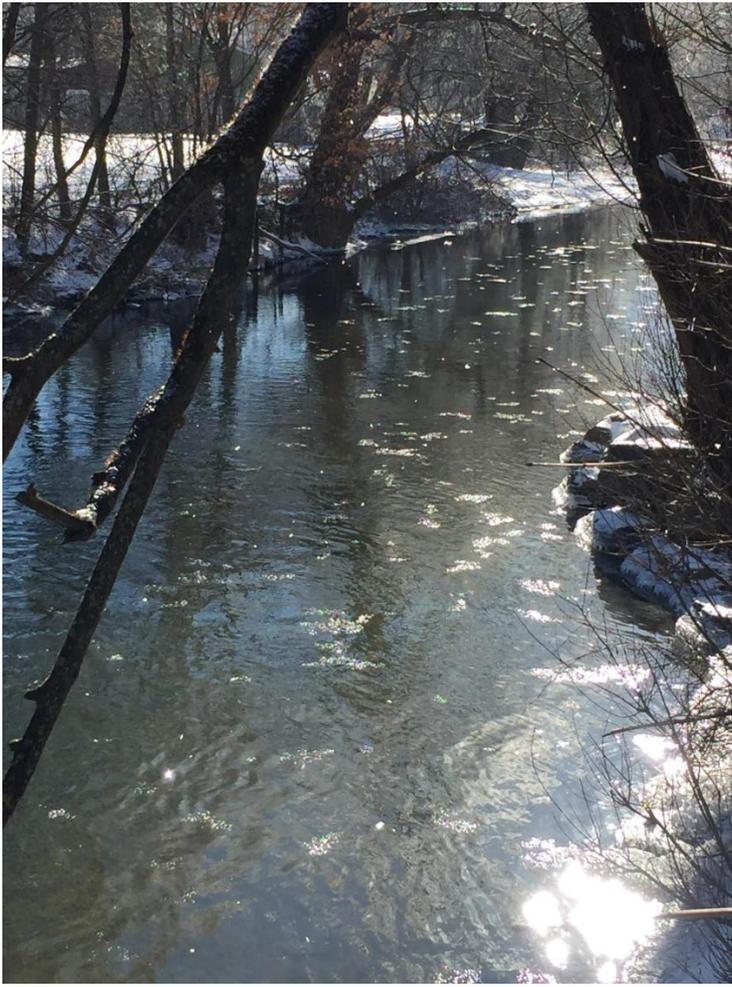
- **Editor’s Notes (1)** Our “Trout Talk” newsletter is published in an expanded electronic format each month except for July, August, and December. In order to contain costs, the (typically brief) print version is only available once a year, namely, in September. Unfortunately, even on this schedule, 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. (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

Mr. Tom Piwowar would like to share these images, entitled, “Winter Trout Streams”:



Wolf Creek in Silver Springs



The Wiscoy below Pike

Here are two views of the November, 2018, chapter meeting, sent to us by Mr. Chuck Godfrey:



Dave Unetich, Bill Koerner, Dave Bollman, and Kevin O'Neill (clockwise) tie flies for fundraising, while Brian Barrey and Spencer Schofield look on.



Rick Kustich discusses fly fishing for Muskies.

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