

TROUT TALK

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

OFFICERS

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

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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: www.wnytroutunlimited.org.

(**Ric Toczek** webmaster@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Welcome- **Dave Bollman**

Video Library- **[open]**

Erie County Federation Reps:

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

Debbie Godfrey

State Council Delegates:

Chuck Godfrey (440-6995)

Gene Romanyshyn, Debbie Godfrey

Newsletter: **Russell Shefrin** AdkRuss@gmail.com.

On the web: wnytu.org

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Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 7:30 pm, at the ORVIS SHOP, 4545 Transit Road, Williamsville, New York. [PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION.]

Our presenters, for the “entertainment” portion of the chapter meeting, will be Ms. Margie Hanrahan and staff from Messenger Woods. They will discuss wildlife rehabilitation and will bring some birds from the center. This promises to be a highly informative presentation. Please join us.

President’s Message:

Hi everyone. First, I’d like to thank our members who stepped up and made the recent EXPO at the Erie County Fairgrounds Agriculture Center a success, especially those who helped with the fly-tying instructions on Sunday afternoon. Many parents spoke to me and said that it was the highlight of the show for their kids.

If you missed our February general meeting, you missed a great opportunity to hear from Scott Cornett of the DEC’s Region 9 Allegany Office. This was our second meeting at our new permanent meeting site, the Orvis Shop in Williamsville, 4545 Transit Road. We had 81 people in attendance, including 23 non-members who, for the most part, were being exposed to us for the first time.

The Board has been discussing what to do about communications. One issue is whether to use the e-mail list more liberally. An example occurred in January, when we had to announce a last-minute cancellation and rescheduling of the chapter meeting. The younger generation seems to me comfortable with digital communication, but we want to respect the wishes of all our members. We'd like to avoid using Russ's e-mail newsletter list for anything but the newsletter; but it's presently the only list of e-mails, besides for stream projects, that we have. 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 information to see if they'd like to become more involved and/or more informed than just receiving 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 in a leadership position.

Also, after many years in the position, Gary Coons has decided to step down as Membership Chair. Bob Bohner has volunteered, and been appointed, to become the new chairman. Much thanks to Gary for his years of service in that position. He will remain in his other positions at both the Chapter and State Council levels.

The Great Lakes Watershed once again faces an uncertain fate with regard to future funding. As he did last year, the President has proposed cutting \$300,000,000 (that's the correct figure) from the GLRI (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative) budget of \$330,000,000. That's a 91% cut. Last year, Congress got together in bi-partisan support for the program; and full funding was restored. It looks as if the same battle will be going on this year. These funds are critical to the health and continued improvement of the Great Lakes. Keep in mind that this money is spent anywhere in the Watershed. Since people have finally woken up to the fact that "water flows downhill," these funds are available for use far inland from the actual Great Lakes. We used funds from this on the project on the North Branch of Wiscoy Creek in 2011, also on the Red House Brook project on Clear Creek along Rte. 98 at the gravel pit. As I said, Congress last year voted decisively to restore full funding; but, with the present political climate, it's not at all sure it will be done again. People should write their Congressmen/women and Senators asking for this to be done again.

We would like you to be aware of a proposal called "Considerations for Great Lakes Sportfish Regulation Changes for 2020". It includes new regulations for Spooner Brook and the North Branch of Clear Creek. The Spooner Creek and North Branch of Clear Creek Proposal is to: Eliminate special Lake Erie tributary regulations applied to Spooner Creek and North Branch of Clear Creek (Erie County.) This would remove the "no-fishing reg's" from January 1 through March 31. The original intent of these regulations was to protect adult steelhead and to 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. 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 improve the habitat significantly just isn't feasible on either stream. Therefore, the WNYTU board submitted a comment on behalf of the chapter supporting the change in regulations and removing the closure of the streams. However, we did 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.

A 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. In keeping with that, the membership amended our by-laws to change our election cycle to coincide with the new fiscal year and to make March our annual meeting, when elections will be held. This will result in shortening

everyone's term by 6 months, once. Here are the positions that will need to be voted on in March: Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary (all one-year terms) and three Board of Directors' positions (all one-year terms). Brian Barrey – Vice President, Tony Messina – Treasurer, and Dave Unetich – Secretary have all agreed to run again. The terms (all three-year 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 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 almost completed a handbook of responsibilities for all officers, directors, and committee chairs. 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 any issues with illnesses, etc.

We will once again be holding our annual Chapter Picnic at Como Lake Park, on June 15, 2019, starting at 10:00 a.m. 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: For those of you who receive announcements, the Picnic Flyer is attached.]

Finally, please remember that members are always welcome at our Board meetings. The next one is Tuesday, April 9, at Sorrentino's (the corner of Main and Mill in Williamsville) at 7:00 p.m.

I am the Erie County Sportsmen's representative to the DEC Region 9 Fish and Wildlife Board. Scott Cornett gave a presentation and update on newly acquired, or being negotiated, Public Fishing Rights easements on Region 9 streams. The list is in an attachment [for those of you who receive announcements].

Our major fundraising venture right now, since we don't have a banquet – anyone want to volunteer? -, is our tying flies to sell. We do a lot of that before meetings, but we also have several hundred flies each year tied at home and donated to us. We could use more help with something like that also. Dave Bollman would be able to give details on how that works and what flies he needs. This would be an easy way to volunteer some time from your own home.

Please remember that we have a more active presence on our website than we used to – the new one is wnytroutunlimited.org - and on Facebook.

Presenters for Upcoming Chapter 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. 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.

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 Flyfishing Tour – 2019*" at U.B. on April 5, 2019. [Editor's Note: Tickets, which are \$20.00 for non-students, can be purchased at <https://www.sbiticket.buffalo.edu/Attractions>.] I believe the last time this show came to Buffalo was several years ago, and I know I thought it was great – even before I won a Scientific Angler's top of the line fly line. Details can be found at the following website

<https://flyfilmtour.myeventscenter.com/event/Buffalo-Ny-32926> There are trailers available for watching at <https://flyfilmtour.com/watch-trailers/> [Editor's Note: If you receive announcements with this newsletter, the flyer is attached.]

Trout in the Classroom: All ten of our schools had their tanks up and running with varying degrees of success. During the power outages in February, Maryvale unfortunately lost power 6 or 7 times in three days. As a result, the fish died; and the tank got out of balance. It would be impractical to try to get it up and running again. Holland had some fish die-off in January, but we will be taking some trout from another school and giving them some more. 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 Trout Unlimited: 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.

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs: The Federation held its annual Awards and Fundraising Banquet at Kloc's Grove on March 2, 2019. Chuck Godfrey was presented with the President's Special Recognition Award.

The Federation voted unanimously to send a letter supporting the DEC's proposed change in fishing regulations for Spooner Brook and North Branch Clear Creek. The Federation is once again running a year-long fundraising raffle for its **FREE** Joe Jemiolo, jr. Youth Lifetime Sporting License Program. Drawing for the licenses is at the Federation's December meeting at Bison City Rod & Gun. Entries are available on the Federation's website, www.ecfsc.org The fundraising raffle has 10 prizes, 3 fishing charters, a .22 cal. Rifle, a crossbow and 5 others. In the 7 years of the program, the Federation has bought 59 lifetime licenses for Erie County youngsters. Tickets are \$5 apiece, or 3 for 10 dollars. Contact Chuck at steelheader03@hotmail.com or 440-6995 if you are interested in tickets.



P.S. We have received a preliminary trout stocking list. It is included as an attachment, for those of receive who receive those.

Chuck Godfrey – Chapter President

Announcements:

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

Shows: I would like to thank everyone who worked the WNY Sport and Travel Expo. Special thanks go out to **Bill Koerner** and **Brian Barry**, who stepped up and ran the show in my absence, and to the fly tyers who came out and tied with kids on Sunday. Please remember that we have a booth at the Erie County Fair in August. It seems like a long way off, but time goes fast. Your help will be greatly appreciated. A sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting welcome booth.

Project Healing Waters: Rod building is winding down. There are two more sessions left. The next fly-tying session at the Buffalo V.A. will take place on April 1, 2019. It will start at 6:30 p.m. If you are able to help, please call Dave at 697-3807. [Ed.: If you receive announcements, the PHW fly-tying schedule is attached.]

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

Crow Creek Update: I spoke with the project coordinator from Buffalo Niagara River Keeper, and he anticipates that the final design will be signed off by the US Fish and Wildlife Service by the end of March. It looks like a 10-foot box culvert was selected based on the engineering modeling that was done over the fall/winter. If all goes well, construction would begin in July/August. We will be building five “Lunker” structures for the project and will probably do some tree plantings in the fall. I will provide updates as I receive them.

Tree Plantings: We have three interested landowners on the East Koy and Wiscoy for the 2020 “Trees for Tribs” program. The DEC and I are going to meet with them and do a site survey in April.

Stream Clean Up: We are going to conduct a stream cleanup on Spring Brook in the Village of Springville on Saturday, April 27, 2019, at 10:00 AM. Our work will be in the town park and on the section below South Buffalo street. I will send out an e-mail, with more details, to everyone who is on the volunteer list. Anyone who would like to help out, or who would like to be added to the volunteer list, please email me at joephmorgan@msn.com. Thanks.

- **State of the Lake, Lake Ontario: Mr. Gary Coons** would like to draw our attention to the DEC’s “State of the Lake” report for Lake Ontario. The full document will be available some time after March 19, and the link will be: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27068.html. Mr. Coons notes that the report indicates that the overall quality of Lake Ontario trout and salmon was good to excellent. While the findings are very comprehensive and cover many areas, they are worth “wading through” (if we may use that term!).

- **Input needed for New Trout Fishing Guide (by 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.

• **Treasurer’s Report for the Period Ended February 28, 2019** (Submitted by **Mr. Anthony Messina**):

		prior period thru 01/31/2019	this period thru 02/28/2019
		(CHECKING ACCT)	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 1, 2019	\$12,131.40	
BALANCE AT	FEBRUARY 1, 2019		\$11,688.68
INFLOWS:	See Cash Receipt Below		
	SHOWS	\$0.00	\$306.00
	TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$0.00	\$306.00
OUTFLOWS:	MEMBERSHIP DUES (EC Federation)	\$135.00	
	SUPPLIES	\$115.27	\$50.22
	PRINTING (Fishing In WNY Book)	\$601.00	
	STREAM PROJECTS (Reimb from Red House Brook Chapter)	(\$408.55)	
	TU PICNIC		\$97.50
	TU MERCHANDISE		\$500.00
	POSTAGE (Stream Projects)		\$52.65
	DONATION (EC Federation Banquet Tix)		\$70.00
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$442.72	\$770.37
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 31, 2019	\$11,688.68	
BALANCE AT	FEBRUARY 28, 2019		\$11,224.31
		(MONEY MKT ACCT)	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 1, 2019	\$22,764.62	
BALANCE AT	FEBRUARY 1, 2019		\$22,765.01
INFLOWS:	INTEREST	\$0.39	\$0.35
	TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$0.39	\$0.35
OUTFLOWS:	NONE		
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 31, 2019	\$22,765.01	
BALANCE AT	FEBRUARY 28, 2019		\$22,765.36



Photography:

Mr. Bill Jedlicka sends us these images of our Chapter meeting in February, 2019. The presenter, Mr. Scott Cornett, Fisheries Biologist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, discusses issues of interest to the conservation-minded audience.



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