

# TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited ([www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org)) May, 2009

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(This edition of the newsletter is available only in electronic format.)

**Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, May 26, 2009, 7:30 pm** at the **Donovan American Legion Post**, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. **Fly tying begins at 6pm. This evening's project will be White Woolly Buggers.**

The presenter, for the "entertainment" portion of the meeting, will be Laura Ortiz of the Army Corps of Engineers. She will discuss several topics, but the main focus will be on the Springville Dam fish passage and its progress. Please join us.

## President's Report

For those of you who missed Russ Shefrin's presentation, you missed a look into the perceptive world of the trout and how to stalk him in his wary world. It's a miracle we are able to catch him at all. Thanks again, Russ.

Laura Ortiz, from the Army Corps of Engineers, is on tap for May's guest speaker. She will be talking about several topics; but her focus will be on the Springville Dam fish passage study and its progress.

May is yet another exciting month for the inland fly fisherman in Western New York. Hatches are in full swing, with great diversity. Looking at the eastern hatch charts, mid May to June are the most prolific of the seasonal hatchings.

Stream Cleanup chairman, Ric Toczek, is the Point of Contact for our stream cleanup tentatively scheduled for June 13, 2009, at the Wyoming County fair grounds in Pike, N.Y. He will fill you in on the details.

Erie County Agricultural Society memberships have been sent out. If you visit the Erie County Fair as much as I do, it may be worth your while to invest in a membership. This year's fair runs August 12 through 23, 2009. As always, we could use help with manning the booth. It is an excellent opportunity to share, with Fair goers, your passion for our cold water resources.

A reminder to you folks who have children or grandchildren: The Youth Raffle is slated for our June meeting, as is fly tying by various chapter members.

Trout in the Classroom has now come full circle at the Nichols School. Though the trout being released will probably not have much of a chance for survival, the program is a great way for Trout Unlimited to show our youth how important is cold water resource conservation.

Work continues on the McIntosh Brook project. The longitudinal survey is being conducted to determine changes in habitat. Photos later in this newsletter show Scott Cornett, of Region 9, DEC, demonstrating the depth of a pool created by one of the installed structures. Also included is a very nice picture of the biomass we are hoping to increase.

See you at the meeting...

Gary Coons, WNY TU Chapter President

## **Announcements**

- **A Report from Len Bigaj:** The 2009 Fish and Wildlife Festival will take place at Hyde Park, Niagara Falls, N.Y., on June 6<sup>th</sup>. I will be fishing with the Vets on that day; but, if you would like to attend the Festival and to promote T.U., please let me know. I can be reached at 826-4178.  
Project Healing Waters- We will be fishing with the Vets at the Elma Conservation Club on June 6, June 19, July 14, August 5, August 28, September 15, and October 7. All starts are at 10:30am, and we finish by 2:30pm. If you would like to help with this very meaningful cause, please let me know. Thanks, Len.
- **News from DEC:** Mr. Scott Cornett has notified us that this DEC website provides information on trout fishing in Allegany State Park: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/53668.html>. Once you get to the page, you can click on a link to view maps, as well. Thank you, Scott, for this information.
- **Stream Cleanup:** The stream cleanup is tentatively scheduled for June 13, 2009, at the Wyoming County Fair Grounds in Pike, N.Y. For details, please contact Stream Cleanup Chairman, Ric Toczek, at [ric.toczek@roadrunner.com](mailto:ric.toczek@roadrunner.com).
- **Fly-Fishing Camper for Sale:** Mr. Bill Decker is selling a 26-foot Wilderness Camper decorated in a fly-fishing theme and located on a campsite very convenient to the upper Genesee River. There are many

attractive details, too numerous to mention here; but you can learn about them by calling Bill at 716-984-6924.

- **Tree Planting and Other News: (Reported by Chuck Godfrey)** On Saturday, May 5, 2009, Craig Cox, Dave and Lorie Unetich, and I planted approximately 190 sycamores, silver maples, and black locusts at the Kennedy property along Oatka Creek, just south of Warsaw. In the afternoon, we planted about the same number of those trees, along with 100 streamco willows, on the no-kill section of the Wiscoy. The willows were planted along the stream side at the parking lot to help protect and stabilize the bank there. The hardwoods were planted at 2 sites, just downstream from the parking lot, that were planted with willows last year, and one site, on the north site of the stream, where willows were planted last year. The hardwoods and last year's willows were planted at sites which had no tree or brush growth at all.

On June 13, there will be a free fishing clinic for kids at Tiff Farm, sponsored by the DEC with the cooperation and help of the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the Erie County Fisheries Advisory Board. The clinic is for kids 15 years and under. Fishing rods, reels, and bait are supplied free of charge to all who need them. There is a free lunch, provided by the Federation with donations from Sahlen's and Crow's Nest Fishing Club. There is also a raffle for many fishing related prizes, including some rod and reel sets. All are welcome to attend, but preregistration is requested. Contact Mike Todd of the DEC's Buffalo office at 851-7010 to register.

On Saturday, June 27, the Federation, with the cooperation of the DEC and ECFAB, will sponsor a kids' fishing clinic at Chestnut Ridge Park. The details are the same as above, EXCEPT that preregistration is required due to limitations placed, by the Erie County Parks Department, on the number of participants. Register by calling the East Aurora Boys' and Girls' Club at 652-4180. This is a tremendous fishery for large sunfish, medium sized yellow perch, and the occasional largemouth, pike, or crappie. One of the highlights is always getting to see large snapping turtles. Two years ago, my daughter even caught a water snake. This lake is not open to the public, is hardly ever fished; and this is the only day of the year when kids under 18 are allowed up there. Everyone who has attended in the past has had a great time. Also, if anyone is available to help out, we can always use some assistance; because we are generally dealing with over 120 kids and a slightly smaller number of parents, many of whom have never fished.

- **Charles Arrick Youth Raffle (by Dee Maciejewski):** Do you know a young person who is a beginner at fishing and would like to try fly fishing? At our June 30th meeting, we will hold our Second Annual Youth Raffle. Last year, Charles Arrick, one of WNYTU's original members, donated his fly fishing equipment to us, with the stipulation that young beginner fly fishers would be the recipients. This year, we have decided to continue the "tradition" and have named the event for Mr. Arrick, who recently passed away. His wife has graciously donated money for this year's raffle, and there will be an assortment of prizes for the lucky winners, who must be present to claim their winnings. Please enter the name of a youth, up to the age of 19, whom you know will benefit from this raffle. Send the name, age and phone number of the person to President Gary Coons or to me, Dee Maciejewski, at [dryfly@roadrunner.com](mailto:dryfly@roadrunner.com).
- **Editor's Note:** Our "Trout Talk" newsletter is published in electronic format each month except for July, August, and December. In order to contain costs, the print version is only available five times a year (January, February, June, September, and November). 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 (and perhaps save some trees!) if more of our members agreed to this arrangement. There is a further advantage to the subscriber. Specifically, the electronic version usually has more items than does the print version, often has pictures, etc., all because its length is not as constrained as is the paper form. Won't you please consider adding your name to the list of those who receive, via e-mail, only the electronic newsletter? All you have to do is send me your e-mail and "snail mail" addresses so

that I can add you to the electronic mailing list and remove your name from the paper mailing list. Please give this matter some serious consideration. I can be reached at [AdkRuss@roadrunner.com](mailto:AdkRuss@roadrunner.com).

- **Call for Articles:** Have a story to tell about on-stream experiences, cold water fisheries conservation, improving one's fishing skills, understanding salmonids, etc.? Why not send it here and see if it is suitable for our newsletter? Just email it to me, and I'll take a look. Or, if you have an idea, but would like some assistance in putting it into words, let me know; I might be able to help. Looking forward to hearing from you! Russ Shefrin, Editor. ([AdkRuss@roadrunner.com](mailto:AdkRuss@roadrunner.com).)



## Articles:

### An Illustrated Report by Chuck Godfrey

**McIntosh Brook Update:** On May 13, 14, and 18, Scott Cornett of the DEC, Ray Li, Liz Migliore, Marie Schrecengost of the USF&WS, and I (on 2 days) worked on the McIntosh Brook 2009 project in Allegany State Park. The group was gathering data for an updated longitudinal stream profile to be compared to the one completed last year. While doing the survey we saw at least 12 brook trout young of the year, 8 in one pool, just on the first day alone. These fish were about 3/4" to 1" long. What may have been most impressive was the fact that they were at the sites which were farthest upstream, where no adult brookies were found last spring.



The next four photos were taken on May 18, 2009. The first two show the pool at the culvert, where three adult brookies and several young of the year were found.



The following two pictures were taken on McIntosh itself. At right, the fish is in the middle of the picture; and, at left, he's near the top. Notice the parr marks. We've seen what I consider to be quite a few young of the year in the creek. None was found there last year. Also, no one year-olds were observed last year.



**Nichols School Update:** On Thursday, May 14, we witnessed the culmination of the Trout In the Classroom project with which we helped at Nichols Middle School. From the beginning in October, when we put the tank together with all its equipment, teacher Sandy Cunningham and her students have faithfully studied the fish from hatching up to release. The young brown trout, which had been supplied by the DEC's Randolph Hatchery, were released in Ellicott Creek within Glen Park in Williamsville. (Set aside Tuesday, June 30, to come to our TU meeting, greet Sandy, and see her PowerPoint presentation on the project.)

Here is what the grand event looked like: (Next Page)



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