

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) November 2008

OFFICERS

Gary Coons—President yragсноoc@juno.com
7329 Townline Rd, N. Tonawanda NY 14120 (695-1003)
Gene Romanyshyn-Vice President
5289 Roberts Rd., Hamburg NY 14075 (491-6111)
Antoinette Grote-Secretary (684-9523)
Tony Messina-Treasurer
33 Deveraux, Buffalo, NY 14214 (832-8517) amessina@hotmail.com

COMMITTEES

Awards-**Dave Tooke** (688-7492)
Education-**Antoinette Grote** (684-9523)
Library-**Nick Pionessa** (683-1873)
Membership-**Larry Bolster** (688-5836)
Fly tying sessions-**Len Bigaj** (826-4178)
Resource protection-**Gary Coons** (695-1003)
Salmon & Steelhead-**Don Kwiatkowski** (894-9807) & **Nick Pionessa**
Shows-**Len Bigaj** (826-4178)
Spring Banquet-**Len Bigaj** (826-4178)
Stream Projects-**Chuck Godfrey** (675-0057)
Sunshine-**Dee Maciejewski** (655-1331)
Website: **Ric Toczek** webmaster@wnytroutunlimited.org
Welcome-**Len Bigaj** (826-4178)
Video Library-**Jim Zak** (894-7301)
Erie County Federation Reps:
Chuck Godfrey (675-0057) steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net
State Council Delegates:
Chuck Godfrey (675-0057)
Gene Romanyshyn (627-2888)
Newsletter: **Russell Shefrin** AdkRuss@roadrunner.com

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

Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, November 25, 2008, 7:30 pm at the **Donovan American Legion Post**, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. **Fly Tying will start at 6 pm.** Please bring chartreuse thread, because we will be tying Chartreuse Woolly Buggers.

The presenter, for the “entertainment” portion of the meeting, will be James Budny, who will speak on a topic as yet to be determined.

The Third Annual Christmas Party/Yankee Swap will be held at the Donovan Post on Thursday, December 11, 2008, at 7pm. Each person who wishes to participate should bring a wrapped \$10 gift. Please see Announcement (below) from Dee Maciejewski.

President’s Report

My first exposure to Trout Unlimited was 20 years ago, through a gentleman whom I frequently visited during fire prevention inspections. We often talked about the fishing conditions on the Aroostook River and some of our successes in catching our frequently elusive quarry, the wild brook trout of northern Maine. He said to me, “We’re getting together next week to discuss interest in forming a chapter of TU”. My reply was, “What is TU?”

I went to the meeting at the Armory in Caribou, Maine; and, in this little meeting room, we started to talk about more than just fishing. Around 10 people were in the room; and they discussed issues of riparian zone infringement (what was a riparian zone?), acid leachate mining in a headwaters area (what was acid leachate mining?), clear cut logging practices that caused siltation in trout rearing and spawning areas (wha...what is this guy talking about?), and attitudes of local residents toward the indiscriminate taking of creel limits several times each day. I realized that this was way above my head and that "This ain't no fishin' club".

So Chip says to me, "We need to take notes. Hey, Gary, can you take notes for this meeting so we can remember what we talked about for the next one?" I said, "Sure, why not?" I should have known better than to "volunteer" around people with military experience. (This is how you become the secretary of the newly formed chapter.)

More importantly, I realized that, even though I did not know the specifics of the conversation, I knew that the watershed I enjoyed so much needed protecting and that there was very little in place, other than a few state and federal laws, to insure its survival as a vital coldwater resource. In January, 1989, those of us who had not previously joined TU did so. We received our charter, and we went to work. I had met and joined forces with people who had a genuine concern for the stewardship of the resource. It was the vision of a group of people concerned for the health of an indicator species and the water resource that drove our efforts.

It is my vision to continue those efforts here in the Western New York Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Our chapter, one of the largest in the state, has been, and continues to be, an active conservation organization. Our membership roles indicate a diversity of age groups and residency from all over western New York.

The chapter needs your help. Two of our Board of Director seats are now vacant. The Stream Clean Up chair has been vacant for some time now; and, though we do have an Education chairman, many of our "committees" consist only of the chairman. "Trout in the Classroom", an important component of youth education is growing, because more interest is being shown in our school districts. The growth and progress we have made as an organization are impressive and need to continue.

As your new Chapter President, I urge you to become involved and active. The McIntosh Brook project, a joint chapter initiative, was originally expected to require two summers to complete. It was finished in August. For those of you who missed the October membership meeting, Scott Cornett, Region 9 DEC, presented us with a detailed overview of the work accomplished; and we have seen results of increased habitat and cover. All this was the results of many hands' contributing time and effort. The mission is set; it is plain, simple, to the point. Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

See you at the meeting.....Gary Coons, WNYTU Chapter President

Announcements

- **A Report from Len Bigaj: Our annual Banquet fund raiser will be held on March 21, 2009, at Lucarelli's Banquet Center, 1831 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, N.Y.** (The location is 1-1/2 miles south of Ridge Road and 3 miles north of Ralph Wilson Stadium.) Please try to attend, because we need your help to make this event a success. Without your assistance, WNY TU cannot exist. Our thanks to Lee and Century Printing for donating ticket printing again this year. A Grand Prize drawing will be held at the Banquet. This year, the prize will be a Panasonic 42" HD Plasma TV, which was donated by West Herr Automotive Group and Stereo Advantage. Banquet tickets are \$10.00 each or 3/\$20.00. If you cannot attend the Banquet and would like to support WNY Trout Unlimited, please send your donation to: WNY

Trout Unlimited, 58 Balen Drive, Lackawanna, NY 14218. I will gladly enter you in the Grand Prize drawing, and the winner need not be present. If you need more information, please contact me at 826-4178 or LBIGAJ001@roadrunner.com. Thank you in advance for your continued support. (Editor's Note: Please see page 6.)

Project Healing Waters: We will be tying at the VA on the second Thursday of the month, from 6 to 8pm. If you are interested in helping with this great project, please let me know.

Shows: The WNY Sport and Travel Expo will take place March 12 through 15, 2009. If you would like to help with the booth, please let me know. Thanks, Len.

- **WNY TU Christmas Party** (by Dee Maciejewski): All members please note that the Third Annual Christmas Party will take place on Thursday evening, 12/11/2008, at the Donovan Post, beginning at 7PM. There will be a raffle and a 50/50 drawing as well as free pizza, wings, snacks and pop for all. Most important is the Yankee Swap. To participate, bring a wrapped, \$10 gift to exchange. You must let Dee know you are coming!! 655-1331 (please call in the evening), or email at dryfly@roadrunner.com. We hope more of you will attend this year. The highlight of the evening is always the wonderful wine tasting, provided by Gary and Annie Coons, from their own award winning wine cellars.
- **A Reminder:** Why you should attend TU meetings, buy 50-50 tickets, go to the banquet, etc.: There are plenty of reasons to support the local TU chapter, but here is one you may not know about. The fact is that, by and large, the activities of the local chapter are not financed by the national organization. The costs of the newsletter, our portion of most area stream and habitat restoration projects, etc., are funded almost entirely by the money raised at the meetings, the banquet, and the sale of flies at the county fair. Your dues go to the national organization, which only provides money to the local group under special circumstances. Without the money raised here, the local organization may not be able to exist.
- **New Officers:** At the October, 2008, meeting, Gary Coons was elected as the new president of WNY TU. (Our thanks to outgoing President, Dee Maciejewski, for a job well done.) Gene Romanyshyn will continue as Vice President and Tony Messina as Treasurer. Antoinette Grote has graciously agreed to serve as Secretary. Congratulations to all of you
- **October Meeting "Entertainment":** Mr. Scott Cornett, DEC Fisheries Biologist, presented a highly informative discussion of the McIntosh Brook Project in Allegany State Park. Mr. Cornett explained that McIntosh Brook lacks good pools during low flow periods. Brook trout need such pools to thrive during those periods. The goals of the project, in which several WNY TU members participated, were to create more substantial pools and, in so doing, to improve brook trout habitat. Please see Chuck Godfrey's report, in the September, 2008, newsletter for background to this matter. Mr. Cornett helped his audience understand the functioning of the structures which were constructed on McIntosh Brook. These log and stone devices utilize the natural flow of water to create the desired trout habitat. Our thanks to Mr. Cornett for this enlightening presentation.
- **WNY TU Treasurer's Report For the Period Ending October 31, 2008 (Submitted by Anthony Messina):**

October 1, 2008	(Checking Account)	\$1090.62
Inflows: 50/50 Drawing	\$120.00	
	Total Inflows:	\$120.00
Outflows: Newsletter Postage	\$420.00	
Monthly Meeting	\$60.00	
Travel	\$104.50	

	Fly-Tying	\$135.50	
	50/50 Drawing	\$60.00	
	Total Outflows:	\$780.00	
October 31, 2008	(Checking Account)	\$430.62	
October 1, 2008	(Money Market Account)	\$12,169.91	
	Inflows: Interest	\$9.28	
	Outflows: None	\$0.00	
October 31, 2008	(Money Market Account)	\$12,179.19	

(All funds on deposit at Bank of America)

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Articles:

(Editor's Note: The following is the Abstract from a report entitled "Wiscoy Creek Electrofishing, Temperature Monitoring and Angler Diary Program – 2006" by DEC Fisheries Biologists Scott Cornett and Joseph Evans. The complete report can be found as an attachment to this electronic newsletter.)

Wiscoy Creek, located in southern Wyoming County and northern Allegany County, N.Y., supports one of the most abundant wild brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) populations in New York State. Wiscoy Creek has been intensively studied since 1966. Over the last 25 years, brown trout biomass in the 15 mi Wyoming County section has consistently averaged greater than 100 lb/acre, with some areas supporting more than 200 lb/acre. Improved water quality and regulation changes were important factors in increasing the wild brown trout biomass over the last 40 years. Wiscoy Creek is a highly productive stream flowing through a mixture of agricultural and forested landscapes. The Wyoming County portion of Wiscoy Creek has not been stocked with hatchery yearling trout since 1972, while stocking of hatchery yearling brown trout was terminated in the Allegany County portion after 2003. Today, the entire stream is managed with a year-round fishing season. The period from October 16 – March 31 is limited to catch and release only, with gear limited to artificial lures. From April 1 – October 15, any lure or bait may be used, with a minimum size limit of 10 in. and a daily creel limit of 3 trout. Wiscoy Creek has a one

mile long catch and release section on the upper end, and over 12 mi. of public fishing easements provide abundant access for anglers.

Wisicoy Creek was electrofished at 8 sites in late-August and early-September 2006, while two major tributaries, the North Branch of Wisicoy Creek and Trout Brook, were electrofished in mid-August 2006. The estimated density of yearling and older wild brown trout in Wisicoy Creek averaged 1,632 fish/mi. and ranged from 1,254 fish/mi. to 2,602 fish/mi. The biomass of yearling and older wild brown trout averaged 128 lbs/ac and ranged from 73 lbs/ac to 266 lbs/ac, depending on location. Legal size brown trout (>10 in.) comprised 27% of the late summer population, with a density of 446 trout/mi in 2006. Brown trout >12 in. made up 6% of the population, while trout >14 in.



represented 1% of the population in 2006. Late-summer yearling wild brown trout averaged 6.8 in. and two year old wild brown trout averaged 9.8 in. These growth rates are considered good for brown trout in New York State. Yearling wild brown trout made up 55% of the fish captured in 2006 sampling, while 32% were two year olds, 11% three year olds and only 2% were four years old or older. These values are similar to those found in 1997 and 2001 samples.

In the North Branch, 2006 sampling estimated 1,424 yearling and older wild brown trout/mi at three sites, with an estimated biomass of 163 lbs/ac. In 2006, two sites on Trout Brook had an estimated 1,144 yearling and older wild brown trout/mi with an estimated biomass of 102 lbs/ac. There were an estimated 269 yearling and older wild brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)/mi and 16 lbs/ac of wild brook trout in Trout Brook in 2006.

From June-August 2006 we monitored water temperatures at 9 sites on Wisicoy Creek, one site on the North Branch and one site on Trout Brook. The summer of 2006 was a warm, humid period that gave us an opportunity to examine the stream's thermal regime under somewhat extreme, but not exceptional, conditions. Water temperatures were found to be ideal for wild brown trout growth and survival at only the site on the North Branch, with conditions somewhat poorer on the main stream and Trout Brook. Maximum high water temperatures at all sites except the North Branch site were in the mid to upper 70s F. At all sites on Wisicoy Creek, between 29% and 65% of the days sampled had daily high water temperatures equal to or greater than 70 F (Table 19). The number of days where the daily low water temperature never dropped below 65F ranged from zero on the North Branch to 50 at Site 2 (Pond Road) on Wisicoy Creek. There was no direct mouth to headwaters gradient apparent in daily high water temperatures on Wisicoy Creek.

An angler diary program run on the mainstem of Wisicoy Creek from March 1 to November 30, 2006 had 56 participants who fished a total of 1,030 h with an average catch rate of 1.34 fish/h. This catch rate was very consistent with those found in 1997 and 2001. April had the highest number of trips, followed by June and May, although 34% of the effort came after July 1st. Only 63, or 4.6% of the 1,381 brown trout caught by diarists were creeled.

In 2009, we will again use electrofishing and an angler diary program to continue monitoring the wild brown trout population in Wisicoy Creek, the North Branch and Trout Brook. Additionally, a full season angler creel survey will be completed in 2009.

**WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER
TROUT UNLIMITED
ANNUAL FUND RAISING BANQUET**

SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2009

**LUCARELLI'S BANQUET CENTER
1830 Abbott Rd
Lackawanna, NY 14218
(716-824-8711)**

TICKETS COST \$30.00/PERSON

8 OR MORE TICKETS RESERVES A TABLE

- **6:00 PM CASH BAR/COCKTAIL HOUR**
- **7:00 PM BUFFET STYLE DINNER**

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 - **BUCKET RAFFLES**
- **OTHER SPECIAL RAFFLES**

FOR TICKET INFO CONTACT:

**LEN BIGAJ
58 BALEN DRIVE
LACKAWANNA, NY 14218
(716)-826-4178**

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