

TROUT TALK

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

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Library- [**open**]

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Spring Banquet- [**open**]

Conservation- **Joe Morgan** (Conservation@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Sunshine- **Chuck Godfrey**

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Welcome- **Bob Bohner**

Video Library- [**open**]

Erie County Federation Reps:

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

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

Stamp

Label

Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: The next chapter meeting will take place on **Tuesday, November 26, 2019, 7:30 pm**, at the **ORVIS SHOP, 4545 Transit Road, Williamsville, New York.**

Fly-tying begins at 6 p.m. Please bring orange or red thread, because we will be tying egg flies and sucker spawn.

The presenter, for the “entertainment” portion of the chapter meeting, will be Mr. Nick Sagnibene, local guide and inland stream fishing expert, who will discuss “Targeting Trophy Trout in Western New York”. Please join us on November 26.

President’s Message:

Hi everyone,

I hope everybody enjoyed the first snowfall of the year. I’m guessing the snow and cold temperatures have slowed down fishing in the region. I know I don’t go out to fish in this kind of weather now that I’m 72. As I write, it’s the first day of the “shotgun” season for deer; but I don’t even deer hunt in it anymore. Just too cold for these old bones. However, keeping Jim Markham’s information from the September meeting in mind, I’m waiting

for the first day when we have “warm” weather with decent flow – that won’t knock me down – to get out for some steelhead. There are drawbacks to that sometimes, though. I remember a New Year’s Day several years ago when it was really unseasonably warm; and I thought, “What a way to start off the new year.” I drove down to Chautauqua Creek at Route 5 and saw 27 cars parked there. Needless to say, I looked elsewhere. Everywhere on the creek there were literally hordes of people. I figured I’d try one of the inland streams open at the time but went home after finding all four I checked to be blown out. Sometimes the weather can be too nice.

November’s presenter will be Nick Sagnibene - Local Guide and Inland Stream Fishing Expert – who will discuss "Targeting Trophy Trout in Western NY". Anyone who is familiar with the “Gallery” in the Sports section of the online version of “The Buffalo News” will be familiar with him, because he frequently has pictures in there of **LARGE** trout he’s caught in WNY waters.

We have, sadly, decided not to hold a Christmas Party this year. The reason is that we have been unable to get any firm commitment from the Donovan Post on a date. We’ll be looking for another venue for next December, because the people who attend seem to have a good time.

We’ve also decided to move the site of next June’s chapter picnic. We will be holding it at Elma Conservation Society on Creek Road in Elma. They have a larger pavilion, and people will be able to fish in their pond. We’ll publish details as soon as they’re all settled.

In January, we will have Scott Cornett of the DEC in for his annual presentation on what is going on in the inland trout waters of Region 9. By that time, the DEC will have published the proposed final form of its new “Inland Trout Stream Management Plan”, and it will be in its “public comment period.” I assume we’ll be able to ask Scott questions about it.

There are five new regulation proposals regarding Great Lakes cold-water fisheries. We have discussed them before. [If you would like a link to them, please email the newsletter editor at adkruss@gmail.com.] The chapter is supporting all five of them. There is organized opposition to the proposal to reduce the creel limit for steelhead on Lake Ontario. Please take the time to comment on them, pro or con, although we’d naturally prefer “pro.” Also note that each needs to be commented on separately.

We will be attending the Greater Niagara Fishing Expo on Jan. 17th – 19th. We need volunteers to staff the booth. I’ve included the link to the show so that you can see what it’s all about: <https://niagarafishingexpo.com/>.

The NYS Council of TU will hold its Annual Meeting on November 23rd at Tailwaters Lodge on the Salmon River. All meetings are open to the public, and we are allowed three voting members at the meeting, namely, the president and two delegates. Lately, we’ve mostly been having just two go, as my wife has been a delegate for several years. If someone else would like to become a delegate, please let us know. There are only two meetings per year, and we can actually change delegates every meeting if we wish.

We are continuing to monitor the proposal for placing 50 wind turbines IN Lake Erie. Until the company submits an application to the DEC, however, there really isn’t any factual information to be distributed.

Our next Annual Meeting, as required by our bylaws, will be the March Chapter meeting. All officers and three directors’ positions will be up for election. In addition, we still have one vacant Board position. Obviously, we would like to fill all of these. The president’s position will also be open, because I will be “termining out” as required by our bylaws. We very much wish to identify people who would be willing to become leaders in the group. We ask about this at the greeting table at meetings, and we also would like to hear from people who may not attend meetings regularly. We’re in the process of documenting responsibilities and procedures for each position, including committee chairmanships. Our most critical need is to find a President. The job does not have to be very

complicated or time consuming. A lot of what I do, as President, is actually not part of the WNYTU President's job; and I'm planning on continuing the additional activities. Also, I'll certainly be around to help the new President as he/she wants.

Our next Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 10th, at Sorrentino's, located at Main and Mill in Williamsville. Meetings start at 7:00 and are open to any member.

Finally, next March will mark the 50th anniversary of our chapter's founding. At the moment, we're planning on having our regular meeting, with some sort of celebration commemorating the founding. If anyone has any ideas as to what might be appropriate, please let any Board member or officer know.

Trout in The Classroom

The tanks at all 11 schools are up and running. Eggs have hatched in all of them.

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

The Federation has two opportunities of which WNYTU members should be aware. First is the Joseph Jemiolo Jr. Lifetime Sport's License Raffle. This is a FREE raffle for kids under the age of 16. A drawing is held in December of each year. Entries are only online and can be accessed, along with information on the program, at the Federation's website - www.ecfsc.org Additionally, the Federation awards up to five \$200 scholarships each year to students who are residents of Erie County and who are enrolled in a curriculum for a degree in several qualifying outdoor-oriented careers or law enforcement programs. The application, along with relevant information, can likewise be found on the Federation's website. These applications can be sent either by email or USPS to the Scholarship Chairman – me for now.

Chuck Godfrey, WNYTU President

- **Stream Conservation Report – by Mr. Joseph Morgan:** The feasibility study for the removal of the Pike Dam has been completed. For those folks not familiar with the dam, it is located in the Pike Village Park, right in the center of town. It is old and deteriorating. The preferred option is removal of the dam and replacing it with grade control. This will also help to maintain a good pool in front of the DEC fishing platform that was built a few years back. The estimated total cost of the project is \$300,000. It appears there is \$160,000 in US Fish and Wildlife Service funding in place. The Town of Pike and Wyoming County will be able to contribute about \$15-20K in machinery and trucking. This leaves the project at least \$100K short. The DEC is looking into a number of potential funding grants. For our (WNYTU) part, we are going to apply for a \$5K grant that the DEC has for TU chapters doing habitat projects. We are also going to try for National and State TU Embrace-A-Stream grants. There also may be funding available through corporations, organizations etc. I will keep you posted as we move forward. Thanks. Joe
- **International News:** Our friends at **Niagara Chapter – Trout Unlimited Canada** have sent me a copy of their highly informative October, 2019, newsletter. I have been on their mailing list for quite a while and find it interesting to learn about their organization and activities. If any of our WNYTU members would like to see a copy of the newsletter, I would be happy to forward one. Just contact me, your loyal newsletter editor, at adkruss@gmail.com. Russ Shefrin
- **From the Editor:** 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 digital 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@gmail.com

- **Treasurer’s Report for the Period October 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019** (Submitted by **Mr. Anthony Messina**):

		prior period thru 09/30/19	this period thru 10/31/19
		(CHECKING ACCOUNT)	
BALANCE AT	SEPTEMBER 1, 2019	\$686.73	
BALANCE AT	OCTOBER 1, 2019		\$946.47
INFLOWS:	SHOWS		\$1,857.00
	TRANSFER FROM MONEY MKT. ACCT.	\$1,000.00	
	TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$1,000.00	\$1,857.00
OUTFLOWS:	PRINTING (TU Business Cards)		\$140.06
	SUPPLIES	\$288.76	
	NEWSLETTER PRINTING	\$215.00	
	NEWSLETTER POSTAGE	\$236.50	
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$740.26	\$140.06
BALANCE AT	SEPTEMBER 30, 2019	\$946.47	
BALANCE AT	OCTOBER 31, 2019		\$2,663.41

		prior period thru 09/30/19	this period thru 10/31/19
		(MONEY MKT ACCT)	
BALANCE AT	SEPTEMBER 1, 2019	\$28,368.92	
BALANCE AT	OCTOBER 1, 2019		\$27,369.38
INFLOWS:	INTEREST	\$0.46	\$0.46
	TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$0.46	\$0.46

OUTFLOWS:	TRANSFER TO CHECKING ACCT.		\$1,000.00	
		TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
BALANCE				
AT	SEPTEMBER 30, 2019		\$27,369.38	
BALANCE				
AT	OCTOBER 31, 2019			\$27,369.84

			prior period	this period
			thru 09/30/19	thru 10/31/19
		(RESTRICTED FNDS ACCT)		
BALANCE				
AT	SEPTEMBER 1, 2019		\$10,000.00	
BALANCE				
AT	OCTOBER 1, 2019			\$10,000.00
INFLOWS:	NONE		\$0.00	\$0.00
OUTFLOWS:	NONE		\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE				
AT	SEPTEMBER 30, 2019		\$10,000.00	
BALANCE				
AT	OCTOBER 31, 2019			\$10,000.00



Article

The Bat
by
Tom De Wyer

[Editor’s Note: Mr. De Wyer has kindly sent us this condensed chapter from his book, “Too Beautiful to Catch Only Once”]

Flies catch more than just trout. It was one such visit to the Upper Catt. that I found this out. After work one evening a few years back, my son and I went to fish in Arcade, N.Y. about an hour south of Buffalo. Conditions were near perfect with the temperature in the low 70’s. As I recall, the day time temps were cooler for that time of year in late August, and this was the reason fishing was still good, especially in the evenings.

We drove to the bridge at Mockingbird Campground which was at Rt. 98 and Genesee Road and parked the truck. The makeshift parking area was empty so we had the Catt. to ourselves. Actually, there are very few guys out on the streams after the initial opening week of trout season so this wasn't a surprise. As we were getting our gear on, we decided to fish upstream and then back to the bridge. We had about four hours of daylight which seemed the right amount of time before nightfall.

So, we took off fishing upstream using nymphs. We each had a couple 10" trout by the time we meandered up to the next bridge. Actually, there's only bridge abutments as the bridge had been removed years before. This section of the Catt. is heavily stocked in the spring with yearlings and a few two-year olds. On occasion someone hauls a big trout out of there, but 11 inches is about as big as it's gotten for me. I do know from Ray, who was from (G&R Tackle) who owned property in Arcade that big trout were found after the flood in the early 2000's.

At the confluence of the Catt. & Clear Creek, which happens right in the middle of town, the bank had to be sculpted somewhat to prevent another flood. When they dug out the north side of the creek, they found 20" to 22" Browns behind the boulders. They apparently burrowed themselves behind these large stones. Who knows how long they were there or how many similar places there are along the river.

Ok, as usual I'm getting away from my story. As I said we fished nymphs up the creek. We went upstream of the bridge to the farm and decided to start back as the night sky was beginning to come into play. On our way downstream we noticed trout feeding on top so we switched to dry flies. I think we both put Tan Elk's Hair Caddis' on because, at least for me, my "St. Regis Caddis" wasn't invented yet. We caught a few on our way back to the bridge as we fished the pockets and short runs. Every now and then you find yourself in a situation where it doesn't matter what you have on, this wasn't one of them. We had to fish hard to make things work for us.

Back under the bridge, adjacent to where the truck was parked, is the deepest stretch of water for several hundred feet and when I say deep, we're talking 30" max. Craig got to the truck first and started to put his gear away while I went to the bridge. I was looking downstream when I noticed a few larger trout below the outstretched limb of a large oak tree. There must have been 8 to 10 trout altogether, somewhere in the 12 to 13-inch range.

I was pretty excited and yelled to Craig to grab his fly rod and come up on the bridge. It was now around 9:00 PM and the sun was going down quickly. The trout kept in the shadow of the tree limb for the most part. As the sun dropped, the shadow and the trout inched their way toward the bridge. My decision, with the sun going down, was to tie on a larger, lighter colored Elks Hair Caddis. When Craig came up, he was empty handed. He'd put away his rod and changed by the time I had called him. He did bring a flashlight which would come in quite handy in a few minutes.

With the Caddis on and it getting darker by the minute, I started casting to the trout. With me on the bridge I was casting down to the water. We're talking a good 6/7 feet from road surface to water. The Caddis would land a few feet in front of the trout, just as I planned, and it drew the attention of a couple although they wouldn't move too far out of the shade plus I think they had a pretty good view of me standing on the bridge. I thought of moving down to water's edge but darkness was setting in.

My idea, (I'm full of ideas,) was to wait until it was dark and then cast to the trout. What I did next was pretty unique, at least to me. I would time my cast to know when the fly would hit the water. I got this down before nightfall - 1, 2, 3, 4, water, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 pull up. What a great idea! After a few casts I had it down pat. The only thing out of the sequence would be a strike by a big brown. Wrong!

After several casts into the darkness and my “incredible ability” to pull up with my back cast at the right time, I got the response I wanted. False cast, false cast, 1, 2, Wait! The strike I was looking for after 1, 2, 3, 4, came at 1, 2 of the forward cast? Yes, I threw the line out in the darkness and started my count down. 1, 2 “Bam!” a tug at the end of the line. What just happened? I pulled back slightly, thinking I caught a branch, but the line took off, straight out! What the? By now the line is straight as an arrow, actually a little to the right of where I was casting.

Craig flicked on the flashlight and it took a few seconds to find, which I first thought to be a bird. I had caught a Sea Gull once casting a Rapala, but that’s another story. When we finally saw it, it was no bird, it was a bat! A bat that was trying to fly away. A bat had taken my fly. I’m not sure how to feel. Should I think that my fly was good enough to fool a bat? Or should I think differently, that is, my fly couldn’t take a trout in the dark?

By now the line is taut and I’m reeling it in. How wild was the view? With Craig trained on the bat, me reeling it in and it trying to fly away, it looked like we were watching an old Bela Lugosi movie. When the bat was within 10 feet it seemed like it was trying to fly away from us only in slow motion just like Dracula at the window looking for a potential victim. It would have been a great picture, but I didn’t have my camera with me at the time.

When I reeled the bat within 6 feet it folded its wings and the line dropped. I continued to reel up to within 3’ and we looked at it for a couple of seconds weighing our options, as to what to do next. Yep! Now what? I did notice the bat was hooked just barely in its lip so I pulled up the rod tip, let it fall fast and quickly jerked it up. The bat broke off and my fly was intact. What an experience. As I reeled in, I thought to myself, “Someday, I may write this in a book.”

Photography

We have received some views of our October, 2019, Chapter Meeting, which included a presentation by Mr. Chuck Godfrey:





Mr. Bob Bohner is downsizing and, in the process, is selling his Fly-Tying Desk. Here are a couple of photos of the desk. For additional pictures and more details, please contact:

“Bob Bohner – West Seneca, NY 716-462-4716 Sale \$600 or Best Offer by Nov 30, 2019 Orig cost \$1200”

All Storage in Place – 28 Drawers.



Front View – Side Extensions and Tying Desk Opened.



CPU Computer/Data Storage.



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