

# TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited ([www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org)) October, 2011

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Stamp

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**Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, October 25, 2010, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying will start at 6pm. Please bring black thread, because we will be tying Purple Woolly Buggers.**

**Our speaker, for the “entertainment” portion of the meeting, has not been determined at the time of newsletter publication.**

## President’s Report

Greetings Fellow Anglers & Conservationists,

You’ve heard me say this before. The autumnal season has become a reality. I truly enjoy this time of year. Leaves are changing; brook trout turn to their spectacular spawning colors. The steelhead are running alongside the browns and salmon. For the “well-rounded” angler of tributary and inland persuasions, you can’t ask for better opportunity.

Our chapter membership is nearly 700, an increase from a year ago of nearly one hundred. I know that many of you are members because you want to contribute to the cold water fisheries conservation activities that Trout Unlimited represents. Admirable indeed. Personal time contribution is always at a premium. It was that sacrifice of personal time that made the North Branch of the Wiscoy project such a rousing success. And there's more to come for the Wiscoy.

We (Trout Unlimited membership) have been looked upon as "elitist" - a bunch of maturing gentlemen in flannel shirts, Filson hats, and fly vests who stand at stream side, smoking pipes. Demographic surveys suggest the typical TU member is male, over 61, college educated, and affluent. REALLY? As I look around the banquet room, and our place of meeting, I do not see it. Though I can't tell if a gentleman is "college educated" from what he wears; and I cannot tell his "affluence" from outside appearances, we are a group of concerned conservationists. That much is clear. (Female membership is on the rise as well).

This is your chapter of TU. The chapter officers and board of directors are responsible for the administration and functions, but we still need your help. Two members from our ranks have come forward to serve on our Board of Directors. Dave Bollman and Bill Jedlicka (write-in candidate) are running, unopposed, in the October election, along with the other chapter officers. An additional position on the BOD remains unfilled; and interested individuals should contact one of the BOD, chapter officers, or Paul Maciejewski (Nominations Committee Chairman).

I had the opportunity to travel though the southern tier region, post flooding, and witnessed, firsthand, the devastating toll our weather has taken on the Delaware and Susquehanna River basins. The pictures you may have seen on the news are not nearly as graphic as the actual damage. Our concerns with the re-habitation of stream banks and bridges will remain our focus for some time, because affected areas have been given a rather "loose" carte blanche to accomplish repairs that may not be in line with "best practices" for stream hydraulics.

I want to thank Jim Markham for his presentation at the September chapter meeting. Jim is always very informative and a pleasure to hear. The background he provided on that invasive species, the Sea Lamprey, was incredible. I would encourage each of you to write our elected representatives to continue support for control of invasive species, in particular, the Sea Lamprey. The current administration wants to see cuts of 15% for funding in Lamprey control. This is a dangerous idea. Lake Champlain salmonids suffered over 80% wounding rate from the Sea Lamprey until Vermont DNR got "onboard" with lampricide treatments in their streams. Wounding rates are now near 15%.

Our guest speaker for this month's meeting cannot be confirmed at the time of this writing.

We ALL live downstream. Please come out and support YOUR local chapter, become involved.

See you at the meeting.

Gary Coons, WNYTU Chapter President.

## **Announcements**

- **A Report from Len Bigaj:**

**Shows:** The next show will be the W.N.Y. Sport and Travel Expo, March 8 through 11, 2012. Please let me know if you would like to help out with staffing the booth or fly tying with the kids (March 11).

**Project Healing Waters:** I do not have the dates for fly tying at the V.A. but will make this information available as soon as possible.

**Annual Banquet:** The 2012 Banquet will be held at Lucarelli’s Banquet Center, 1830 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, N.Y., on March 24. Please note that, because of extensive fees and new bank regulations, we will no longer be able to accept charge cards at the banquet. We apologize for the inconvenience. Please try to support your local TU chapter by attending the banquet, our most important fundraiser of the year. And, please remember that we are still looking for a new Banquet Chairman for 2013. Thanks to all, Len.

**A Note from Scott Cornett, Region 9, DEC Fishery Biologist, Scott Cornett:** “Build it and they will come”? I’d like to offer my sincere appreciation to all the members of WNYTU who contributed in any way to the N. Branch Wiscoy project in 2011. Without your help and almost 700 hours of volunteer time, the project would not have happened. The following pictures, taken on October 13<sup>th</sup>, are hopefully an indication of the kind of fish that will choose to live in the structures this project installed in the stream. *[Editor’s note: The photos which accompanied this message can be found in the “Articles” section, later in this newsletter.]*

• **Treasurer’s Report for the Period Ending September 30, 2011(Submitted by Mr. Anthony Messina):**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2011	(CHECKING ACCT)		\$543.90
SHOWS		\$1,890.00	
50/50 DRAWING		\$105.00	
	TOTAL INFLOWS:		\$1,995.00
MONTHLY MEETING		\$70.00	
50/50 DRAWING PRIZE		\$53.00	
TRAVEL		\$135.75	
NEWSLETTER PRINTING		\$146.40	
SHOWS		\$98.00	
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:		\$503.15
SEPTEMBER 30, 2011			\$2,035.75
*****	*****	*****	*****
SEPTEMBER 1, 2011	(MONEY MKT ACCT)		\$22,189.34
INTEREST			\$1.46
SEPTEMBER 30, 2011	(MONEY MKT ACCT)		\$22,190.80

- **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 surface 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

Per Mr. Cornett, “It ate a #16 grey scud”:





**Not Only Does Mr. Cornett Get to Enjoy a Nice Fish, But He Receives an Award, Too:**

Here is a picture of Scott's receiving the NYSCC's Professional Conservationist Award from Chuck Godfrey, President of the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and Stream Projects Chairman of WNYTU. The award was presented work for this year at enhancement project Creek in Wyoming



to Scott on site, during the last day of the cooperative stream habitat on the North Branch of Wiscoy County, October 5, 2011.

**Actually, Two** meeting, the N.Y.S.

2011 NYSCC Professional Conservationist Award to Mr. Cornett. Those endorsing him included representatives from NYS TU, the WNY and Upper Genesee River Chapters of TU, Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Region 9 DEC Natural Resources Supervisor. Congratulations, Scott!

**Awards:** At its recent annual Conservation Council presented its

**Next, Mr. Godfrey provides a Trout in the Classroom Update:**

WNYTU Trout in the Classroom 2011-'12

By Chuck Godfrey

We will be participating again in the Trout in the Classroom program with Sandy Cunningham of The Nichols School Middle School, Buffalo (4th year), Michelle Wagner of Springville-Griffith Institute, Springville (2<sup>nd</sup> year), and Jason Ersing of Frontier Middle School, Hamburg (2<sup>nd</sup> year). Also in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year with the program will be Rosemary Catlin of Brockport High School. Although Brockport is in Region 8, WNYTU is working with Ms. Catlin because the local chapter isn't as fortunate with finances as we are; and we would hate to see a program

abandoned if we can help. All four schools had highly successful programs last year. The Nichols program has been an incredible example of interdisciplinary instruction that could probably serve as an example for any program in the country. New for this year will be a TIC program with teacher Lois Piscitelli at Gowanda High School, where we will be sharing expenses and responsibilities with the Red House Brook Chapter. The Gowanda school district straddles Erie and Cattaraugus Counties, which are part of our separate areas of responsibility.

We would like to be able to establish more programs throughout Erie, Niagara, and Wyoming Counties; but the interest needs to come from the teacher, because there is a lot of effort required on the part of the instructor. We've been lucky enough so far to be able to help by purchasing and loaning the chillers for three of the programs. (Nichols originally had independent funding, but their chiller died at the end of the second year. Jason, from Frontier, has obtained grant money to fund completely a really ambitious program there – solar panels now and windmills in the future for power, a 400 gallon tank, and more.)

If anyone knows of a teacher who might be interested in this program, please have him or her contact Chuck Godfrey at 440-6995 or [steelheader@roadrunner.com](mailto:steelheader@roadrunner.com), as soon as possible. If we know early enough, i.e., sometime in the spring, there is funding available, for the next year, from the State Council. We also are willing to supply volunteers for speaking to classes if the teacher wishes. Actually, this is supposed to be part of the program, anyway. I've spoken at both Brockport and Springville and greatly enjoyed the opportunity to talk to the students about trout and our environment. Hopefully, they gained some personal insight into both.

Here are the links for the national TIC website and for the Nichols program. Take a look at what Sandy has done there. It is great!!!! If teachers click on the "teachers" tab on the national website, they will see what kinds of resources are available for their use. If they look at Sandy's website, they'll see great examples of interdisciplinary education.

<http://www.troutintheclassroom.org/about>

<http://mail.nicholsschool.org/~scunningham@nicholsschool.org/?OpenItemURL=S00B51784>

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