

TROUT TALK

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

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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)

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(Editor's Note: This is a greatly expanded version of the September, 2008, print edition.)

Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, September 30, 2008, 7:30 pm at the **Donovan American Legion Post**, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. **Fly Tying will start at 6 pm.** We will be tying the Olive Woolly Bugger.

The "entertainment" will feature a presentation by Mr. Jim Markham, of the DEC Lake Erie Unit, who will provide updates on the Salmon/Steelhead fishery as well as the fish passage projects on Chautauqua and Canadaway Creeks. In addition, we will be holding the "Rod Raffle" for those who submitted their e-mail addresses.

President's Report

Trout Unlimited members – I hope your summer was long and as leisurely as possible! Some of you helped out at the McIntosh Brook Project, at the Fair, or by assisting our Vets in Project Healing Waters. Thank you for volunteering your valuable time.

I want to mention that our first “Yute” Raffle was a success. Three young fly fishermen (Austin Bigaj, Matt Kowalski, and Ken Sobol) went away very happy with a selection of gear and supplies. We will be holding another raffle, hopefully next spring. Many thanks to veteran TU member, Charlie Arrick, for his most generous donation and for being the inspiration for this raffle.

Our first meeting this fall is on September 30. Jim Markham, from the Lake Erie Unit of the DEC, will be there to give us a Salmon/Steelhead update as well as information on the fish passage projects on Chautauqua and Canadaway Creeks. I hope many of you will be able to attend. That night, we will have our Rod Raffle for all those who submitted their e-mail addresses. September 30 is also the deadline for nomination of Officers and Board of Directors. Elections will be held at the October meeting. Remember, the October issue of the newsletter will be available only in electronic format.

Over the summer, I heard from several of you who wanted to get more involved with your chapter. There are always many things to be done and never enough volunteers to go around. Our chapter is large (over 500), but the pool of active members is way too small! Right now, we need someone to step forward and to become our chapter Secretary. The duties are light but require that you attend the Board of Directors and General Meetings. Gary Coons or I will be able to fill in anyone who is willing to help out. We also need your help in tying flies, building rods, organizing meeting entertainment, getting sponsors to pay for our meetings, helping Vets with fishing and fly fishing, assisting with our annual banquet, publicity and youth activities, not to mention helping out at stream projects and at shows. I have stressed the importance, many times before, of volunteering. Your help, even in small ways, is truly needed and would be appreciated. Contact any officer or board member.

Our State Council will be selling tickets for an excellent rod and reel combo and additional prizes. Tickets will be available through “Long Cast” and at chapter meetings. The drawings will take place at the June, 2009, meeting. First prize is a Winston, 9ft 5wt 4pc Vapor fly rod with a Ross CLA Reel (5/6wt). Second prize is a Folstaff Collapsible Wading Staff. Third prize is a numbered Scott Hartman print entitled “Taking a Break”. It is matted and framed by Peter Dubno – LI Chapter. Tickets are \$5 each, 3 for \$10, and 10 for \$20. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the NYSCTU Conservation Fund. Help support the fund that gives back to chapters.

Dee Maciejewski, President

Announcements

- **There’s still time! Free Chance to Win a Rod!** (Forwarded by Dee Maciejewski). *Yes, you read it correctly. Not only do you get a chance on a great 61/2 foot #4-5 weight rod, but also to give the chapter an opportunity to save some money. What we want is your current email address so newsletters and meeting notices can be sent out electronically if you desire. It currently costs us about \$.75 for each newsletter to be printed and mailed, and we send over 600 each time. Since we mail 5 hardcopy newsletters a year, that’s over \$2000! If we could cut that figure even in half, a substantial amount of money could be more available for our local projects, not to mention the paper that would be saved! The remainder of the newsletters is now electronic, but if we don’t have your address, you aren’t getting them! We only want your email for chapter use. We will not share it with anyone else.*

Even if you think we have your email, we may not. Many of the addresses on our current small list are undeliverable. Only those who reply will be entered in the rod drawing. The winner will be selected in September, and if not present, will be notified by.....you guessed it

email.

Simply email your name, and just say “yes” if you want all newsletters sent electronically, or “no” if you still want the hardcopy issues that are published.

Send your reply to both of the following so the lists can be checked for errors:

Russ Shefrin (Editor) newsletter@wnytroutunlimited.org

Dee Maciejewski (President) president@wnytroutunlimited.org

Please help us, and maybe win a great rod! Do it now, and ask your friends to do the same.

- **A Report from Len Bigaj:** Well, the 2008 Erie County Fair is over; and I am proud to report that we had a very good twelve days, despite the rain. We earned a \$1045.50 profit, which included \$775.00 from the sale of flies. I want to say a very heart-felt “Thank You” to all the TU members who helped to man the booth. Without your help, I could not have made this happen. Thanks to Jim Zak, Ed Luba, Craig Zink, Gene Romanyshyn, Dave Unetich, Ray Kegler, Jim Stachowski, Chuck Godfrey, Bill Jedlicka, and Gary Coons. I would also like to thank my wife, Linda, and daughter, Peggy, for their hard work in decorating our booth. We took first place and the \$125 prize.

Shows: The next show will be March 12 – 15, 2009. We will need the help of you fly-tyers!

Banquet: The 2009 annual banquet will be held on March 21, 2009, at Lucarelli’s Banquet Center, 1838 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, New York. Please keep this date open. We need you to attend.

Project Healing Waters: We have been fly fishing with the Vets at Elma through-out the summer. On September 18, we will start tying at the V.A. at 6pm. After that, the fly tying will be held on the second Thursday of the month. If you want to help out, contact me. Thanks to Ed Luba, Gene Romanyshyn, and Paul and Dee Maciejewski for their help with this great project. Len.

- **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.
- **McIntosh Brook Report:** (by Chuck Godfrey) This past spring and summer, we embarked on what was probably our most ambitious project ever. Under the direction of Scott Cornett of DEC Region 9 Fisheries, and Ray Li of US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Red House and WNY Chapters of TU participated in a joint project to enhance brook trout habitat in McIntosh Brook, a small Allegany State Park stream which has a population of wild brook trout. Under a grant obtained by USFWS from the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, the only such grant in NYS this year, the above agencies, along with SUNY Fredonia, Allegany State Park, and unaffiliated volunteers, built 16 in-stream structures over eleven days of construction. There were over 80 man days of volunteer labor involved in the actual construction, along with the manpower of the agencies. There also were many days of preliminary work involved, including planning, surveying the stream, evaluating existing habitat, and electroshocking McIntosh to see how many

trout were in the 16 construction sites and a number of control sites. Sites were also electroshocked on Beehunter Creek, a similar, but somewhat larger, stream with wild brookies in it. The actual construction was mostly done with hand tools, plus a few small power tools such as a hammer drill and chainsaw. At all sites, there is a section of the structure that is lower than the rest, so that, during high water events, the stream will cascade over at that part of the structure and scour into the stream bottom, creating habitat for adult brookies. This project required a massive amount of physical labor. For instance, the first tree we moved was a section of hemlock that was 43' long. Much of this type of work was done with pry bars and manpower. I estimate that an average of over 3 tons of rock were moved by hand and pry bar at each site to stabilize the structure and to lead the water up and over the structure where we want it to go. There will be a 4 year moratorium on fishing McIntosh starting next spring in order to evaluate accurately the success of the project. All are to be commended on the effort and support for this project. We ended up having 20 people associated with our chapter helping on the project. Thanks to all who helped. I will have several copies of a CD with pictures from the project available at meetings for anyone to borrow, as well as CD's of the project to give to anyone who worked on the project and who contacts me, letting me know that he would like to have one. (Ed. Note: Please see pages 6 and 7 for photos.)

- **Chautauqua Creek** (A Report from Vince Tobia): The purpose of the Chautauqua Creek fish passage project is to remove, partially, the upstream barriers, or dams, on Chautauqua Creek in the county of the same name. This stream features fine runs of steelhead, and the project will enable the fish to move upstream past the barriers, opening up excellent spawning habitat and promoting natural reproduction, as well as providing more fishable water for anglers.

The Chautauqua Creek fish passage could really use some help, right now, in the form of a small letter writing campaign. Currently, all of the Federal funds that are required to construct the project next summer (2009) are in place. However, a non-Federal cost-share is required. Unfortunately, it looks like there is some reluctance on the part of New York State to provide the required cost-share, about \$150,000. Reportedly, a pot of money already exists, within NYSDEC, that could be used to fund the project; but the state is reluctant to spend that money. Perhaps some encouragement from the local community and others can convince the NYSDEC to allocate the funds to the Chautauqua Creek project.

It is recommended that interested parties contact the NYSDEC Commissioner, State Assemblyman, and State Senator and encourage them to support the project, based on the following merits: The significant efforts that have gone into getting the project ready for construction; the positive economic impact it will have on the community; and its benefits for New York State fishing and fishermen. Time is a bit of a concern, so the communications should be sent as soon as possible. Here is a sample letter: **“I strongly support the release of available funds from the NYSDEC to help to finance the Chautauqua Creek fish passage project. I believe this project should be funded to completion for the following reasons: 1. Significant effort and money have already gone into preparing the project for construction; 2. It will have a positive economic impact on the community, bringing in more fishermen from other towns and states (and even Canada); 3. It is good for NYS fishing and fishermen, providing more opportunity and access for anglers on this beautiful tributary of Lake Erie.”**

The relevant addresses:

Mr. Pete Grannis
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233

Assemblyman William L. Parment
Hotel Jamestown Bldg. Room 809
Jamestown, New York 14701 (Telephone: 716-664-7773)
(Albany Office: Legislative Office Building # 547, Albany, N.Y. 12248 (518-455-4511;
parmenw@assembly.state.ny.us)

Senator Catharine M. Young
Westgate Plaza
700 W. State Street
Olean, New York 14760
(Albany Office: Room 805, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12247 (518-455-3563))

- **Important Analysis of the Inadequacies of New York State's Water Management Planning:** Trout Unlimited has prepared a new report, entitled, "Tapped Out: New York's Water Woes". It details how the state's system for water withdrawals, river management, and municipal water supplies does not adequately protect our state's water resources. You are urged to read the report, which is available at www.tu.org/tappedout.

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Articles:

Our “Articles” section, this month, features a visual presentation, available only in electronic edition. It consists of photos, submitted by Chuck Godfrey, of the habitat improvement structures which were built, over the summer, on McIntosh Brook in Allegany State Park. Please see Mr. Godfrey’s report, earlier in this newsletter. (Look at the size of those trees!)



Our thanks to the following WNY TU members who participated in the McIntosh Brook project:

WNYTU HELP ON MCINTOSH – 2008

Jim Budny

Chuck Campbell

Jake Cihak

Gary Coons

Craig Cox

Chuck Godfrey

Jonas Herschberger

Gary Kottke

Dave Labiak

Ray Li

Paul Maciejewski

Bob Martin

Sean Meegan



WNY TU Participants (Continued)

Joe Morgan

Kevin Morgan

Tom Piwowar

Al Rosinski

Tom Stamboulis

Bob Tulowiecki

Danny Yoder