

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) September, 2010

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Stamp

Label

Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, September 28, 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 Woolly Buggers.

Our speaker, for the “entertainment” portion of the meeting, will be Mr. James Markham, Lake Erie Fisheries Unit biologist, who will discuss the steelhead trout. Following his presentation, Mr. Markham will answer audience questions. Please join us.

President’s Report

Greetings Fellow Anglers & Conservationists,

Holy Cow, did that summer go by fast, or is just me?

I want to thank all who attended the picnic event that was our June Chapter meeting at the Donovan Post. We had a wonderful time swapping stories and feasting on food donated by members in attendance.

Work on local stream projects continued over the summer. Great Lakes Restoration funding will hopefully find its way to streams we didn't even consider targeting, due to lack of funding resources. Look for the announcements in future newsletters.

Storms and high water events played havoc with several area streams. The Springdale Farm section of the Wiscoy, which underwent an amazing transformation after the "early" spring growing season, took another hit; and remedial action needed to be taken in order to prevent further damage. Once Mother Nature starts to set a course, it's hard to change her mind.

I was down on Clear Creek in Arcade, evaluating the damage from three to four inches of rain. It was amazing to witness the ability of water to move pools and runs and to cover them with three feet of gravel.

Project Healing Waters fishing has now ended for the season, with a big THANK YOU to the Elma Conservation Club and all the chapter's volunteers. The picnic, hosted by the Johnson's, was another success. I encourage you folks to go the Project Healing Waters website. <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>. Ray Markiewicz presented Jean Marie Pauley and her husband with a print of the words to the Rodney Atkins song, "The River Just Knows". (Please see the photo in the "Articles" section of this newsletter. Ed.)

Our September meeting's guest speaker will be Jim Markham, biologist from the Lake Erie Fisheries Unit. I've asked him to talk about steelhead. It is a subject I know is near and dear to many of you. Jim will also be answering questions after his presentation.

I'd like to remind our membership that we are in need of volunteers in many areas of our conservation work. These include fund raising, public relations and humanitarian efforts. If you have ideas for guest speakers, by all means let me know.

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:** We had a great twelve days at this year's Erie County Fair. Sales and prizes brought in \$1281. Flies contributed \$1031.75, and our prize for booth décor was \$125.00. Total profit was \$1190.07. I would like to thank Gary Coons, Gene Romanyshyn, Ray Kegler, Dave Unetich, Bill Jedlicka, Jim Stachowski, Dave Bollman, Chuck Godfrey, and Ed Luba for helping to staff the booth. And, to my wife and daughters goes a special thank-you for decorating our prize-winning booth

Shows: The next show is the W.N.Y. Sport and Travel Expo, which will take place March 10 through 13, 2011. If you would like to help with the booth, or with the March 13 (Sunday) fly tying with children, please let me know. (Len).

Project Healing Waters: We have one more outing at the Elma Conservation Club this fall. It is on September 22, 2010, beginning at 10:30am. I will be arranging subsequent fly tying sessions at the VA and will keep you informed. Thanks to all who volunteered for this rewarding project.

Annual Banquet: We are still looking for someone to serve as Banquet Chair for the 2012 event. The upcoming banquet (March 26, 2011; Lucarellis) will be my last as Chairperson. Our Banquet Committee is already hard at work and has obtained some great raffle items. Please try to attend.

- **WNYTU Treasurer’s Report for Period Ending August 31, 2010 (Submitted by Anthony Messina):**

BALANCE AT JUNE 1, 2010	(CHECKING ACCT)	\$435.29
INFLOWS:	TRANS FROM MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	\$1,050.00
OUTFLOWS:	SUMMER PICNIC	\$100.75
	STREAM PROJECTS	\$289.28
	YOUTH CAMP	\$400.00
	NEWSLETTER PRINTING	\$134.20
	NEWSLETTER POSTAGE	\$220.00
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$1,144.23
BALANCE AT AUGUST 31, 2010	(CHECKING ACCT)	\$341.06

BALANCE AT JUNE 1, 2010	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	\$17,365.62	
INFLOWS:	INTEREST	JUNE, JULY, AUGUST	\$4.16
OUTFLOWS:	TRANS TO CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$1,050.00	
BALANCE AT AUGUST 31, 2010	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	\$16,319.78	

ALL FUNDS ON DEPOSIT AT BANK OF AMERICA

- **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.

- **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.)



Articles

High School Revisited?

By

Russell Shefrin

In recent months, as problems with Buffalo waterfront development became popular topics of conversation and written opinion, several observers have said that what's wrong with our region is the limited number of "movers and shakers". I do not know if that interpretation is correct, but it has made me reflect on the matter of "participation".

Remember high school? There was that group of kids who seemed to be involved in everything. It was sometimes annoying when the same people were in charge of this or in charge of that, and received the kudos and recognition year after year. It was as if it was *their* school. Now, there were plenty of explanations, some perhaps not entirely admirable, for the visibility of these people; but one we ought to keep in mind is that many students simply opted to be uninvolved. They had their reasons, often good ones. The fact is, though, opportunities for participation existed; and many chose not to pursue them.

Fast forward to adult life and to volunteer organizations, such as, say, Western New York Trout Unlimited. In the few years that I have had the pleasure of being a member, I have noticed that it is more or less the same core group of people who chair committees, serve in official capacities, attend meetings, and participate in activities. It is easy to conclude, somewhat ruefully, that it is *their* club. However, while these people are dedicated to the principles of TU, they would enthusiastically hand over their "mover and shaker" status to others who share the same convictions about the value of cold water fisheries conservation. But where are these "others"? Our chapter of TU has nearly 600 members "on the books". But, if two or three dozen people attend a chapter meeting, that is a good turn-out. And our electronic mailing list (i.e., those who have agreed to receive the newsletter electronically to help the chapter save on printing and mailing costs) consists of less than half of our membership.

It is difficult to explain the level of participation in our chapter by pointing to the same factors that may prevent a person from becoming involved in regional government or a school organization. You don't need to be particularly wealthy, popular, well-connected, or supremely self-confident and extraverted to attend chapter meetings, to serve on committees, etc. Sure, time, health, and other commitments prevent many from being as involved as they would like to be. And, in some instances, those are insurmountable obstacles. But it is hard to believe that that explanation is exhaustive.

Some years ago, there was an article in a fly-fishing magazine which made a passing reference to a new fly fisher's obtaining his "token membership in Trout Unlimited". Is that part of the problem – i.e., for too many, it is a "token membership"? Well, I suppose that is not all bad. After all, having a large membership roll is helpful in wielding political influence. So, in a sense, "token members" are welcome. But, conservation is also a "hands on" process. It needs real people to do things, to make things happen, to plant and to clean up and to build, to educate and to inspire, to "move and to shake". Without these activities, conservation is just a good idea.

In his monthly message, our current chapter president, Gary Coons, often exhorts us to "become involved". There is much for WNY TU to do if our cold water resource is to be protected. To be successful in the long run, those efforts require the participation of more of us.

Speaking of our Illustrious Chapter President, Check Out this Photo Sent in by DEC Biologist, Scott Cornett:

(Mr. Cornett notes that, in spite of the "questionable camouflage", Mr. Coons was having a productive outing!)



Is this the start of a new fly-fishing fashion trend?

And, as mentioned in the President's Report, here is the presentation to Jean Marie Pauley Johnson (Center) and her husband, Richard, by Ray Markiewicz (Right), in appreciation of their contribution to Project Healing Waters.



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