

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) September, 2017

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Stamp

Label

Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, September 26, 2017, 7:30 pm, at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying begins at 6 p.m. Please bring black thread, because we will be tying Black Woolly Buggers. Incidentally, our fly boxes are now rather empty, because their contents sold well at the Erie County Fair. Please help us to replenish them!

Our presenter, for the “entertainment” portion of the chapter meeting, will be Mr. Jim Markham, of the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation’s Lake Erie Research Unit. He will be discussing the state of steelhead in Lake Erie tributaries and a stocking experiment which he is conducting. This promises to be a most interesting presentation. Please join us.

President’s Message:

Hello everyone. This is the one chance per year we have to address the entire membership, because expenses dictate sending out a hardcopy newsletter just once per year – in September. [Please see Editor’s Note at end of President’s Message.] In light of that, we really wish that more people would take advantage of the opportunity to receive the newsletter electronically. WE DO NOT SEND ANYTHING OUT TO THAT LIST BUT THE NEWSLETTER. We know everyone gets too much email already, so all our email list ever receives from us is the

newsletter – 10 per year maximum. Much has happened, in the past year, of which you may not be aware, especially if you do not receive the electronic newsletter. In an effort to increase attendance at meetings, we have decided to conduct nearly all chapter business at the monthly Board meetings and to have only a very brief set of reports at the monthly general meeting. We have been pretty successful at holding this part of the meeting to under 15 minutes, generally about 10 minutes, and then launching right into the “entertainment/presentation” part of the meeting. This seems to be working well, as we have generally had over 30 people at the meetings, and over 40 a few times. We experimented with holding a meeting at the Orvis Shop in Williamsville in March for a presentation by Riverkeeper on their planned trout stream project, in which we will partner; and I think we had over 50 people there. We will probably approach them about doing this again. We also have a website and FACEBOOK page where you can keep up with what we’re doing.

This month, on Sept. 26, the “entertainment” will be Jim Markham, of the DEC’s Lake Erie Research Unit, who will be presenting on the state of steelhead in the Lake Erie tributaries and also an update on some stocking experimentation he is conducting. On October 31, Scott Cornett, of the DEC office in Allegany, and Tom Hoffman, of the Lower Great Lakes Office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, will report on results of a genetic study they have been conducting on wild brook trout streams in Region 9. Both presentations promise to be fascinating, so please plan to attend. We’re still looking for a presentation for the November meeting. The month of December will see the return of our ever-popular Christmas Party. Finally, we are always looking for new ideas on presentations, so, if anyone has a suggestion, please contact one of us. The presentation doesn’t necessarily need to be cold water fisheries related. Some of our best discussions over the years have been on nuisance wildlife, raptors in WNY, and outdoor photography.

There is a lot that has happened in the past year. We had a successful, although cold and wet, planting session on the Wiscoy and Trout Brook in May and an enjoyable chapter picnic in Como Lake Park in lieu of a June meeting. We would have liked to have seen more members attend the picnic, but we also hosted some of the vets from the Project Healing Waters program; and that alone made it worthwhile. We had successful Trout in the Classroom programs in eight schools last year, and it will be nine this year. If you know teachers who might be interested in participating in this, have them get hold of me at steelheader03@hotmail.com or 440-6995. It’s really too late to start up a new program for this year, but it’s never too early to plan one for next year. We have access to State Council funding to help defray the expenses for the program for the school, but we need to start the process no later than the end of April.

The DEC is holding a series of “Regional Trout Stream Management Meetings” this fall to explain its proposals for the future of trout in NYS. Please check out the press release at the following website <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111015.html>. [Editor’s Note: Please see Scott Cornett’s message later in this newsletter.] The local meeting will be held October 3 at 6:30 at Reinstein Woods. There will be another Region 9 meeting at the Allegany DEC office. There will be a 30-minute presentation followed by a 90-minute question and answer and discussion period. The Board would like to urge as many members as possible to attend one of these meetings in order to see what is going on and to express your opinions as to what you’d like to see happening. We will be requesting, of the Bureau Chief, that at least the electronic parts of the presentations be made available to the public online; but, at present, we believe there are no plans to do so.

September is the month when we need to nominate people for officers and directors of the chapter. I’m in the first year of a two-year term; the vice-president, secretary and treasurer all have one-year terms. In addition, we have an open Board seat that expires in November of 2018 and three occupied Board positions that expire this year. We’d all like to see some new leadership step up, so please consider at least running for the open Board seat. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the September meeting and then again at the October meeting. Elections will be held in October.

Finally, many of you were aware of the untimely death of our son in early June. Debbie and I would like to thank you for the outpouring of condolences and support which we have received over the past several months. It has really meant a lot to us.

Stream Projects: It looks as though we will not be dealing with the project on Crow Creek this year. However, we have been approached by the Erie County SWCD about a possible project on Hosmer Brook for next year. The goals are to stabilize an eroding bank and to install habitat structures and plantings. As we get more information, we'll keep you informed. My computer has once again lost my list of people who wish to be contacted about stream projects. I only have about 20 on that list now, because that's what I could come up with from memory. If you wish to be added to it, please let me know. In line with our requests for new leadership participation, we're going to need a new Stream Projects Chairman. I've done it for the last 18 years; and it's been incredibly rewarding and educational. But it's time to cut back some. We do have someone who has said he would like to do it, and I'll be talking to him soon. Thanks for all the support over the years. I can't think of even once when we've needed volunteers for a project and did not have enough to do the job. That really says a lot for our membership.

Trout in the Classroom: We will be participating again with Nichols Middle School, Brockport High School., Gowanda High School., Lackawanna Middle School, Maryvale Middle School, St. Mary's Elementary School in Swormsville, Holland High School., and Newfane High School. Due to scheduling difficulties, Iroquois Middle School will be unable to participate this year but wishes to rejoin next year. After a year's delay, we will have Randolph Academy in Hamburg joining us.

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs: The Federation continues to offer a free raffle for youth lifetime licenses for kids who will turn 16 after March 1 of 2018. See the website, ericyfsc.org, for details of the Joseph Jemiolo Jr. Youth Lifetime License program. Entry into the raffle is only online. The Federation also awards up to five \$200 scholarships each year to students going to college to major in environmental science, law enforcement and other related fields. See the Federation's website for details.

[Editor's Note: Historically, we have also published a print edition of the newsletter in January. Its purpose is to inform the larger membership of the annual March banquet, one of our most important fund-raisers. However, because we have been unable to find a chair-person for the banquet project, there may be no banquet again this year. Hence, no paper newsletter in January.]

Announcements:

- **A Report from Mr. David Bollman:
Education:**

On June 2, 2017, Gary Coons went, in my place, to Caledonia Fish Hatchery in order to spend the day with the 4th and 5th graders from the Brockport Elementary School. Gary also did some fly tying and fly casting with the kids. (And managed to catch a fish or two!) A BIG THANKS TO GARY!

Shows:

The Erie County Fair is now our biggest fund raiser of the year. Even though we are a large chapter, a relatively small number of our members staffed the Fair booth. Even so, we still managed to take in \$1690.00 for the organization. A special “thank you” goes out to the following people for their fly donations: George Welsh, Jim Keech and Gary Bauer. And another special “thank you” goes to the following people for their help in working the booth: Bill and Pat Koerner, Henry Lipiew, Bill Jedlicka, Dave Unetich, Brian Berry, Tom DeWyer, Dennis DeWyer, Jeff Kohler, Gene Romanyshyn, Bill Kelman, Karen and Dave Bollman. Without the help of these individuals, this show and fund raiser would not happen. Finally, I would like to say a very special “thank you” to my wife, Karen Bollman, for her countless hours of baking her fish cookies and for coming up with idea of the wooden fish with the lollipop game in it which raised \$110.00 for stream projects.

Picnic:

June 18, 2017, was the day of our annual picnic at Como Lake Park. Forty-four people showed up, including 30 Veterans. Everyone had a good time and left with full stomachs. “Thank you”, Orvis, for sending Adam down to put on a great demo on fly casting. Really hope to see more people next year!!!

Project Healing Waters:

Our last Elma outing with the Veterans was Friday, September 15, 2017. Approximately 80 Veterans were there; and everyone had a good time, even though the fish were very reluctant to take the worms.

Fly tying will begin next month at Buffalo VA Hospital and the Amherst Vet Center. No dates for Buffalo are available at this time.

- **News from the Department of Environmental Conservation: Mr. Scott Cornett**, NYS DEC Fisheries Biologist, sends us this note:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111015.html>.

The link [above] talks about two inland trout stream management meetings that are being held in WNY in early October. The first will be held at Reinstein Woods Nature Center in Depew on October 3rd from 6:30-9:00 PM and the second will be at the DEC office in Allegany on October 5th from 6:30-9:00 PM. The Reinstein meeting will be primarily led by our Albany Coldwater Unit leader, Fred Henson, with Mike Clancy and Scott Cornett from Region 9 also in attendance. The meeting in Allegany will be led by Mike and Scott. Below is part of the background information on the meeting that is included in the website link:

Since 1990, NYSDEC has generally managed trout streams for a desired catch rate. A catch rate, the number of fish caught per hour, has the advantage of being a well-defined and easy-to-understand objective. However, after nearly three decades, NYSDEC fisheries managers feel a duty to engage the public in an examination of how well the current management goal fits the purpose of satisfying the desires of today's recreational trout stream anglers. A thorough understanding of the fishery characteristics valued by trout stream anglers is necessary for biologists to identify and develop the strategies needed for the future.

To provide a convenient opportunity for trout stream anglers and other interested members of the public to discuss these questions with NYSDEC biologists, a series of public meetings will be held in each NYSDEC region. The meetings will feature a 30-minute presentation describing how DEC currently manages trout streams and will summarize key findings of a statewide study completed in 2015 (PDF, 2.6 MB). This will

be followed by a 90-minute discussion period aimed at identifying the measures of trout stream angling quality most important to this segment of New York's the angling public.

- **Treasurer's Report for the Period June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017 (Kindly submitted by Mr. Anthony Messina, Treasurer):**

		prior period thru 05/31/17	this period thru 08/31/17
(CHECKING ACCOUNT)			
BALANCE AT	MAY 1, 2017	\$1,233.76	
BALANCE AT	JUNE 1, 2017		\$1,158.76
INFLOWS:	NONE	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$0.00	\$0.00
OUTFLOWS:	MONTHLY MEETING	\$75.00	
	MEMBERSHIP (EC Agricultural Society)		\$50.00
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$75.00	\$50.00
BALANCE AT	MAY 31, 2017	\$1,158.76	
BALANCE AT	AUGUST 31, 2017		\$1,108.76

		prior period thru 05/31/17	this period thru 08/31/17
(MONEY MKT ACCT)			
BALANCE AT	MAY 1, 2017	\$23,256.86	
BALANCE AT	JUNE 1, 2017		\$23,257.26
INFLOWS:	INTEREST - MAY	\$0.40	
	INTEREST - JUNE		\$0.38
	INTEREST - JULY		\$0.40
	INTEREST - AUGUST		\$0.40
OUTFLOWS:	NONE	\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	MAY 31, 2017	\$23,257.26	
BALANCE AT	AUGUST 31, 2017		\$23,258.44

- Editor’s Note: 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 twice a year (September and January). 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 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@roadrunner.com



Photos:

Mr. Tom Piwowar sends us these pictures. The first is of a brown trout caught during the August, 2017, electroshocking on the Wiscoy Creek. The second shows the plaque, which honors Mr. Jerry Brown, at the Pike Dam fishing platform.





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