



The Katterman - Learn to Tie It on the Last Page

Clearwater Currents

**The Official Publication of the Clearwater Chapter
of
Trout Unlimited
169 Old Niskayuna Road Latham, NY 12110**

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April, 2011



*America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation
Organization*

Promoting Habitat for Wild Trout and Salmon

Trout Unlimited Has Been Fighting for Coldwater Fisheries Conservation for 52 Years

Join us before each meeting at 6:30pm for a tying demonstration. Meetings begin at 7:30pm, the third Monday of each month (except Banquet month, July and August), at the Best Western on Western Avenue, Albany, NY (about a mile east of the end of the Northway).

Upcoming Events

- April 18, 2011 Chapter General Meeting – Guest Speaker **Geoff Schaa** speaking on “Great Trout Fishing within a Gas Tank’s Drive from Albany” – Guest Fly Tier **Tom Brewster** will shock and awe with his abilities at the vice – free of charge – 6:30pm at the Best Western Albany
- April 23, 2011 Battenkill Roadside Cleanup – 9am at Rt 313 Rest Area
- June 3-5, 2011 Chapter Ausable Trip – for details see below
- June 25 & 26 New York State FREE Fishing Days

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Clearwater Chapter of TU PO Box 9686 Schenectady, NY 12309
www.ClearwaterTU.org

Fish of the Month 2011 Contest in Full Gear

Mark A Brown

The Chapter's Fish of the Month Contest is already in its fourth year having crowned **Noe Mead**, **Jim Berry** and **Bill Bach** as winners in its first three years. The contest is open to all members (except me!) and the children of the Chapter and is not necessarily based on the biggest fish, but the quality of the fish, story behind it and picture quality all make up a winning entry. Simply send a photograph to me at my email address at brownie6@nycap.rr.com or contact me for my mailing address if you have a Polaroid or 35mm shot. As the entries come I'll publish them in the newsletter and select a winner in December when the winner will get a dozen hand tied flies as a prize. There were no entries for the first half of April – no opening day catches?!

Chapter Fly Swap

Ron Boutin

Another year of fly swapping is over, but it starts all over again at the Chapter meeting in April. Bring in 13 of the current months category and get 13 back of the same category from other tiers in the Chapter. It's a great way to build your fly boxes and try some new flies. New ideas are always welcome as to what you want swapped so call me at 453-9843 or email me at rx4fishing@nycap.rr.com if you have further questions or ideas.

April Hendricksons

May Caddis

June Sulphurs

Hendrickson Hatch Fishing Tournament Information

It's already time to get signed up for spring fishing tournaments in the area. One of the biggest is the Hendrickson Hatch competition on the Salmon River in the Malone area. For more information see their website at www.hendricksonhatch.org. For those of you who have not fished this marvelous river it is time to get up there. Big fish, lonely water and plenty of public access.

Ausable River Two Fly Contest

The Ausable River Two Fly Contest is almost here and here is a website for all the information that you need to get signed up and have a great time:

www.ausablerivertwoflyshop.com/Articles.html

Chapter Monthly Meeting

The Chapter welcomes again **Geoff Schaake** as our featured speaker this Monday April 18th. Geoff will be speaking on great trout fishing within a gas tank's drive from Albany. Many of your favorites I am sure and I can guarantee a few more you never realized. Guest fly tier is **Tom Brewster** tying some of his favorites just in time for the start of the 2011 season.

All are welcome. Meetings are held at the [Best Western Sovereign Hotel](#) about a mile east of the end of the Northway (I-87). We start with a guest fly tier at 6:00pm and our presentation begins about an hour later.

Admission to our meetings is free and public is always invited, so please bring a friend(s) and meet with many of the local 'expert' Fly Fishers, Fly Tiers, and Conservationists.

[Ausable Weekend at the Hungry Trout](#)

The 2011 Clearwater Ausable Weekend at the Hungry Trout is June 3,4,and 5 this year. Owner Jerry Bottcher has held the price at \$209 per person for the third year! As usual, the price includes a 2 night stay, an order from the menu dinner including hors d'oeuvres and desert on Saturday night (can be used Friday night if you wish), breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings and all taxes and tips. I do encourage you to leave a little extra for the girls if you appreciate good service. There is an extra small fee if you desire a room by yourself.

The dream mile will again be limited to 8 rods at \$50 per angler per day, and guides are available should you desire to hire one to learn new spots on the rivers, or for trips back into the brook trout ponds. Please sign up early for guides or the Dream Mile.

I believe this is our 20th reunion at the Hungry Trout. Won't you join us in the High Peaks for a great weekend, excellent food, fine fishing, and good friends. ***Bob says he has one suite left and one double room available for this weekend you won't want to miss.***

To sign up, or to ask questions, please email rmead1@nycap.rr.com , or call me at 518-399-9000 (H).

[Resolution of the NYS Council of Trout Unlimited](#)

Resolved: The New York State Council of Trout Unlimited is not opposed to increasing our domestic energy supply. The Council also recognizes the great damage uncontrolled exploitation of the Marcellus shale formation may cause to New York's fragile watersheds, fish and other creatures that inhabit the waterways. The effects of huge water withdrawals, the injection and disposal of "fracking" products of an undisclosed nature with unknown impacts, and the destruction of valuable and irreplaceable ecosystems may result. Indeed that has been the disastrous result in other regions, particularly as a result of hydro-fracturing techniques and associated activities.

And, whereas the laws, regulations and administrative capabilities of the State of New York are antiquated, inadequate, incomplete and insufficient as they currently exist to properly protect the citizens and the environment from potential hazards caused by Marcellus shale exploitation; be it resolved that the New York State Council of Trout Unlimited, as part of America's oldest and largest cold water conservation organization, opposes and will continue to oppose any exploitation of the Marcellus shale gas deposits until such time as the crucial issues above are resolved; i.e., thorough and complete disclosure of all impacts, the development of comprehensive laws and regulations to safeguard the environment and the presence of knowledgeable professional regulatory staff with funds to do their job.

Adopted 11/07/09 at General Meeting of NYSCTU in Altmar, NY

[Chapter Battenkill Roadside Cleanup](#)

The Chapter's first Battenkill roadside cleanup is schedule for Saturday April 23, 2011. 9am start at the Rt 313 rest area and it should take a couple of hours

Adult Fly Fishing Weekend



May 13-14-15

Weekend includes:

Food Friday Dinner

Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner

Sunday brunch 9:00am

Lodging Friday and Saturday Night

Fly casting and tying lessons for beginners and on stream presentations for advanced Fly Fishers.

Contact:

Trout Waters

Attn: Kurt Nelson

727 Dimmock Hill Road

Binghamton, NY 13905

For more information contact:

Kurt Nelson at 607-372-6330

avkurt@mac.com

Cost is \$350 for a couple and \$175 for singles, singles may be paired up in rooms as space is limited. Rooms have two beds and private bath. No refunds two weeks prior to event.

Limited equipment is available likeaders, rods and reels. If you need equipment please book early and specify sizes, we have limited numbers of waders and sizes but we will try our best.

All proceeds to help with cost of the 2011 TWYP



Advanced Presentations

Joe Goodspeed will give an on stream lesson in nymphing the West Branch and highlight the line and leader design along with drift techniques.

Art Saloman will cover spey/switch rod techniques for the West Branch including rods used, lines, leaders and casting the long rods. These techniques can be used anywhere fish can be found and will run in concurrent sessions so you won't miss a thing.

Beginners will stay at LOV for the casting lessons and fly tying. Folks can sign up to help a beginner to fish in the evening starting around 4:00pm.

Special Guest Jake MacVarish teaching fly tying on Saturday. Jake completed the program last year and has been tying professionally since.

Trout Waters Youth Program

July 17th to the 23rd,

2011



CORTLAND



All applicants must be age 13 through 17 as of May 15, 2011.
Applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2011

For more information contact:
Kurt Nelson at 607-372-6330
avikurt@mac.com

Total cost for tuition, room and board is \$400.00. The Selection Committee of NYSC of TU shall make selections based on the candidates qualifications and desire. Do not send payments until you receive an acceptance letter. All equipment provided if needed.

A learning Experience of a Lifetime

A typical day at Trout Waters starts with optional fishing at Hale Eddy followed by a hearty breakfast at 8 am. Students attend classes and break for lunch. In the afternoon, students will spend their time learning about habitat and the ecosystem on the river. Dinner will be served at 5pm followed by time to fly-fish somewhere on the West Branch of the Delaware River. Lights out at 11pm. This is an intense week of learning and flyfishing that is sure to last a life time.





TROUT AND SALMON EXPO 2011
APRIL 16, 2011
NEW HARTFORD RECREATION CENTER

Sponsored by the Mohawk Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Building on the success of last year, this years EXPO is expected to draw even more visitors from all regions of upstate New York. The TU Trout Expo will feature a diverse lineup of fishing tackle and equipment, as well as seminars designed to increase your knowledge of area streams.

*It will include **fly casting** demonstrations, **rod building and repair** by Ray Mazza, and **trout-in-the-classroom** exhibits. There are scheduled exhibitors with antique fishing gear, wood carving and how to, "Family Style Fishing Charters" and other local Guides and Charter Captains along with an appearance by the Utica Zoo Mobile. The program will include seminars on Entomology, "how to" fish our most popular fisheries; The West Canada, to include Lake Ontario.*

Wildlife artist Tom Yacovella will be there with his beautiful artwork and will have his NYS Record Brook Trout!

Also the Morrisville Aquaculture program will be there with the fish pond so all of the kids can have an opportunity to catch a Trout!

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation fish tank!

Local artist Tom Linweaver will be showing off his newest works!

A Kids Casting Contest with a prize for every entrant!

The Expo is sponsored by the Mohawk Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, an all volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the coldwater fisheries. Show proceeds to fund fishing projects such as habitat restorations, recreation projects, educational programs and Trout in the Classroom projects Website at - <http://www.uticaod.com/latestnews/x675831661/Outdoor-notebook-TU-Expo-set-for-Saturday>

Battenkill Home for Sale

2806 Route 29, Hamlet of Battenville, Town of Greenwich.

The Battenkill water at this place has always held a good number of fish. I remember one morning I counted 36 rises in 60 seconds right in front of the property. There are deep pools in walking distance under, above and below the Rt. 61 bridge and a good mix of large and small furniture for brownies and brookies to use for their dining and resting pleasure. As a catch-kiss-and-release fly caster, it is my hope that I can pass on the site to someone of our kind. We are selling it because time with our grandchildren is now more important to us than the cottage.

Our realtor is **Maureen Bazar** at Realty USA. This lovely new two bedroom ranch home features 270ft. of river frontage in the most productive fishing area of the famous Battenkill River. This property is located in the town of Greenwich with an easy commute to Saratoga Springs or Vermont. Perfect for a weekend get away or a year round home. If you want to see the inside of place, I can certainly give you a peek. It has an all new interior, well insulated with a hot water heating system, aluminum roof, vinyl siding, 2 bedrooms, a main or "great" room, new kitchen and bath. It is handicapped accessible and has a storage loft in addition to the more than ample shed and workshop. \$124,500 Realty USA 518-225-5362

From my viewpoint, Sunday afternoon is the best time to take a look, but I can arrange another time if that works well for you. Of course, our realtor will have to be involved. She is great to work with and a real professional.

Mike Asbury
817-3877



Upcoming Fishing Events Close to You

April 16th, 2011: [Trout & Salmon Expo](#), New Hartford, NY
April 16th, 2011: ['Come Hell or High Water'](#) 2nd Annual Fly Fishing Festival and Film Tour
April 16th, 2011: [Fly Tyers Rendezvous](#), Rockland House, Roscoe, NY
April 16th, 2011: [SUNY Cobleskill Wildlife Festival](#), Cobleskill, NY
April 16th, 2011: [Fly Casting Clinic with Capital District Fly Fishers](#), Halfmoon, NY
April 18th, 2011: [April General Meeting](#), Albany
May 13th - 15th, 2011: [NYS Council TU Adult Fund Raiser](#), Hale Eddy, NY
May 14th - 15th, 2011: [Women's Fly Fishing Institute Fly Fishing Retreat](#), Killington, VT
May 14th, 2011: [Men's & Women's Fly Casting Lessons](#), [Adirondack Folk School](#), Lake Luzerne, NY
May 20th & 21st, 2011: [Ausable River Two-Fly Contest](#), Wilmington, NY
May 20th & 21st, 2011: [Adirondack Fishing Expo](#), Old Forge, NY
May 21st, 2011: [Intro to Fly Tying](#), [Adirondack Folk School](#), Lake Luzerne, NY
May 22nd, 2011: [Advanced Fly Tying](#), [Adirondack Folk School](#), Lake Luzerne, NY
June 4th & 5th, 2011: [Hendrickson Hatch Fly Fishing Tournament](#), Malone, NY
June 3rd - 5th, 2011: [Annual Chapter Fishing Trip to Ausable River](#), Wilmington, NY
June 10th & 24th, 2011: [Clearwater TU Fishing Clinic for Sunnyview Hospital](#), Colonie, NY
July 5th - 14th (6 mornings) 2011: [Clearwater TU Kid's Fishing Clinic](#) Central Park, Schenectady, NY
July 9th & August 6th, 2011: [Repair your Bamboo Fly Rod](#), [Adirondack Folk School](#), Lake Luzerne, NY
July 17th - 23rd, 2011: [NYS CTU Youth Program](#), Hale Eddy, NY
<http://web.mac.com/avkurt/Site2/TroutWaters.html>
July 30th & 31st, 2011: [Build Your Own Traditional Bamboo Fly Rod](#), [Adirondack Folk School](#), Lake Luzerne, NY

For more information and the most updated list of events in our area please see www.clearwatertu.org

Member in Need for Partner on Fishing Trip to Chile

I'm retiring this June, and I'm going to be visiting some of the great fishing destinations in the world. One thing I'd like to do is visit Patagonia and fish the fjords there that come down off the western slope of the Andes at the southern end of Chile. The rates quoted are for double occupancy, so, being single that's a problem for me. Is it possible that one to three of our members might be interested in such a trip? The boat pictured at the site I'll include with this note handles four anglers. Below is the link for more information on where we'll stay and the fishing opportunities:

http://www.frontierstravel.com/public/freshwater/1/fjords_fishing_overview/fjords_fishing_middle_menu

Sincerely,

Bruce Raymer

346-0919 after 5:00

Trout added, fought from Virginia waterways

By [Ted Strong](#)
March 31, 2011

This year, the state will put thousands of brown trout into Virginia's waterways. And federal officials will keep working to kill them in Shenandoah National Park.

The divergent treatment of brown trout represents a tension in wildlife management: the preservation of the natural versus recreation for the masses. It is also part of the growing question of how to address non-native species such as the brown trout.

"Nowhere do we find so much hypocrisy on the issue of invasive species than among the fisheries departments of the various state wildlife agencies all over the U.S.," said Jackson Landers, a local hunter and fisherman who is currently working on a book about eating invasive species. "On one day they issue warnings about the dangers of zebra mussels and rock snot, and the next day they release thousands of invasive brown trout into streams where they compete with native rainbow and brook trout."

Landers, responding by email, did add that he thinks the state's [Department of Game and Inland Fisheries](#) does a very good job overall.

The dual approach to brown trout in [Virginia](#) creates some odd situations for anglers in Shenandoah National Park.

To limit the spread of brown trout, the park has a rule that requires anglers to kill and throw away certain fish. The special regulation applies to three bodies of water in Madison County: the Rose and Hughes rivers and Brokenback Run. There, any angler who catches a brown trout longer than 7 inches is obliged to keep it. Any angler who catches a brown trout shorter than 7 inches is forbidden from keeping it, but also forbidden from putting it back. Instead, the trout "must be disposed of away from the stream and away from park roads or trails."

"Setting minimum sizes and creel limits for invasive species is a counterproductive idea," Landers wrote. "Mandating wanton waste [a legal term for killing, but not eating fish or game] is an equally bad idea."

In many ways, brown trout are great for recreation: the fish get big and survive well, even in warm water and with lots of fishing pressure. But they aren't native, and, when they share a stream with native brook trout, the brook trout usually end up losing out, getting pushed farther and farther up the mountain to streams so small that brown trout can't inhabit them.

National park efforts to remove the brown trout have drawn criticism. When there was outcry over wholesale destruction of the trout by park employees, cooperative efforts were established to relocate the fish, though recently the number of trout found in the Madison County streams has dropped to the point that relocation is no longer worth the effort.

Officials have been electroshocking the special-regulations streams so consistently over the last few years, and have removed so many of the brown trout, that anglers rarely catch — and by extension rarely kill and discard — any, said [Jeb Wofford](#), a fish and wildlife biologist at Shenandoah National Park.

But park officials know that, if the controls on brown trout are relaxed, their populations will rebound. Officials view the problem as one of perpetual management rather than one that can be solved by extirpation — the local eradication of a given species.

"There's a long history here, but I guess the bottom line is that the park service's primary interest is in preserving native fish," [Wofford](#) said.

There's a slightly different policy in the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, where the U.S. Forest Service, not the National Park Service, holds sway.

The Forest Service recognizes the recreational value of brown trout and doesn't take active steps to eradicate them, but manages habitat with brook trout in mind, said [Dawn Kirk](#), [forest fisheries biologist](#) with the Forest Service.

One of the earliest stocked fish was the brown trout. It was introduced in the area around Shenandoah National Park in 1963, Wofford said. At this point, stocking is a well-established way of doing things.

The cost of producing and distributing more than a million stocked trout each year is covered by the trout license anglers must purchase to chase stocked fish in the state (\$18 for residents). Unlike some other states, no special stamp is needed to chase wild trout.

Officials all around the country stocked both brown and rainbow trout widely in the early 20th century in a bid to expand fishing opportunities. In some states, officials have even resorted to using airplanes to “bomb” mountain lakes with trout.

“Most invasive vertebrates are out there because some people decided that they wanted to have them around,” Landers wrote.

Even the brook trout in the park, the prize those fighting brown trout are trying to protect, are, in some cases, the descendants of stocked trout, Wofford said.

There are 2,300 miles of wild trout streams in the state, most of them holding native brook trout, said James “Chubby” Damron, president of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter of Trout Unlimited. That statistic could be a bit misleading, though, in that native brook trout thrive in even very small, very high mountain streams, where an adult fish might be only 5 inches long. But it’s still a lot of trout. And, because the park runs along the crest of the Blue Ridge, a lot of those small, mountain streams are park waters.

While state officials stock brown trout, they keep them out of streams where they could threaten native brook trout. But some populations of brown trout, stocked before the policy change, have taken root and are reproducing in the wild. It’s those wild, non-native fish that the National Park Service is trying to limit.

Brown trout enter the park in areas other than the three special-regulation streams, including along the South Fork of the Moormans River in Albemarle County, but the three Madison County streams are the only ones where officials are aware of populations fully contained within park boundaries. A population in the North Fork of the Moormans is believed to have been wiped out by flooding in the 1990s.

But even when the state only stocks brook trout, there are concerns that the stocked fish could change the genetic makeup of wild fish. The fish the state stocks are descended from New York trout, said Larry Mohn, regional aquatics manager for the state Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Mohn said the state is hoping to move increasingly to stocking sterile fish, with the idea of eventually stocking them anywhere there are native brook trout, a move that Wofford supports. It’s a strategy that has been used successfully in other states, officials said.

“It’s just like when you castrate a steer ... it makes bigger trout, quicker,” Damron said.

In the end, Landers wrote, any change to the state’s approach to brown trout would have to make inroads with the people who actually buy fishing licenses.

Damron said he’s on board.

“It’s nice to go up there and catch a brown trout occasionally,” he said. “But there are other places you can do that.”

New York City agrees to modify flow from reservoir system to protect Delaware River

Would help New Jersey in time of drought, flood danger

New York City has agreed to modify how it releases water from its reservoir system in the Catskill Mountains in an effort to better protect the ecology of the Delaware River, and help provide flood control and drought relief, state Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin announced Thursday.

The agreement worked out with the city's Department of Environmental Protection and approved by the states that share the river basin — New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware — is an attempt to better control the river's salt line, typically found in an area around the Delaware Memorial Bridge in Salem County, thereby better protecting aquatic life, as well as drinking-water supplies and industries that utilize fresh water from the river.

The agreement enables water purveyors in a broad swath of central New Jersey to tap into a larger share of river water via the Delaware & Raritan Canal. It also calls for the city to test a procedure to help to alleviate threats of flooding along upper portions of the Delaware River.

"This agreement is a perfect example of agencies working together and across state lines to reach a goal that is good for the entire region, one that is consistent with good water supply practices," Martin said. "I must commend New York City for working with us toward resolving our concerns with its operating plan for its reservoir system and recognizing that the way the city releases water from its reservoirs is felt many miles downstream."

"This landmark agreement protects New York City's water supply, and at the same time, increases the amount of water available to New Jersey, and will better protect the river's ecology, and help reduce flooding throughout the basin," city Environmental Protection Commissioner Cas Holloway said.

The agreement will take effect June 1. After one year, all the parties will evaluate the reservoir management plan to determine if it can be improved.

New York City operates three reservoirs in the Catskill region of southern New York State that are located in the headwaters area of the Delaware. The reservoirs can store more than 276 billion gallons of water.

New Jersey, New York City, and Delaware, New York and Pennsylvania are all parties to a 1954 federal court consent decree allowing for shared management of the Catskill reservoirs. New York City releases water from its Delaware Basin reservoirs as part of court-approved flexible flow management plan (FFMP). Releases from the city's reservoirs have been governed by the plan since it was approved by the U.S. Supreme Court in October 2007. The modifications are an update to the FFMP.

Under terms of the modifications:

- Fishery officials from the four states and the city will form a panel to advise the city on maintaining water flows and temperatures to maintain a healthy and vibrant fishery.
- New Jersey can increase its diversion via the Delaware & Raritan Canal during drought warnings from 85 million gallons per day to 100 million gallons per day. During drought emergencies, the diversion will remain at 85 million gallons per day.

- New York City has set an operational goal to maintain its reservoirs at 10 percent below capacity from Sept. 1 to March 15, and an average of 5 percent below capacity from July 1 to Sept. 1 and from March 15 to May 1. That step could help alleviate river flooding during periods of major storms and heavy snow melt.

Using a high-tech modeling tool, the city's DEP developed a new formula that dramatically improves the ability to forecast and model water conditions, and make decisions on use of shared resources of the Delaware in a new and better way. That can improve conditions for fish and other aquatic life in the river and keep the salt line in check.

— TOM HESTER SR., NEWJERSEYNEWSROOM.COM

Fly of the Month: The Katterman

Let's start the season off with a Catskill originated dry fly that history credits to the incredible vise talents of Walt Dette. Much like the Bivisible, Renegade and in my opinion it has a lot of characteristics of a Spider type fly make this one part of your fly box this year and you might make it in the Fish of the Month! This fly is great for small streams and popping around faster water especially. Easy to tie and using materials every tier has you can knock out a ½ dozen quickety quick. **Hook:** dry fly 12 – 18; **Thread:** 6/0 or 8/0 white or cream; **Tail:** few brown hackles; **Body:** peacock herl; **Hackle:** brown hackle and white hackle. Mount the hook and start the thread at the eye and go back towards the hook bend. Tie in the tail and then the brown hackle and then three strands of peacock herl. Wind the peacock herl almost to the eye and tie off. Wrap the brown hackle over the herl and tie off. Tie in the white hackle and make just a few wraps before tying off. Whip finish and go fishing – good luck!