



John Morrette with his Fish of the Month Submission



From the Editorial Staff at the 'Currents Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Ausable River 12/9/11 1pm Just Downstream from Ski Jumps – Rt. 73 Bridge

Clearwater Currents

The Official Publication of the Clearwater Chapter
of

Trout Unlimited

169 Old Niskayuna Road Latham, NY 12110

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December, 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

December 19 Chapter General Meeting – Fly Tiers Open House – Come See the Area's Finest Fly Tiers All in One Room – Ask Questions, Learn, Get New Ideas, Socialize and Have Fun
December 25 (Sunday) Christmas
March 3 2012 40th Annual Clearwater Chapter Conservation Banquet - Century House Latham

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Battenkill	Greg Cuda	587-1189	Banquet	Jessica Galasso	716-913-5550
Board Member	Glenn Kuhles	869-0817	Banquet	Bill Cosgrove	766-2405
Website	Bill Wemple	384-0014	Publicity	Bill Wemple	384-0014

Clearwater Chapter of TU PO Box 9686 Schenectady, NY 12309

www.ClearwaterTU.org

December 2011 Chapter General Meeting

On Monday, December 19, 7:30 pm Clearwater chapter will hold its annual Holiday Social / Fly-tying Roundtable. This is your opportunity to not only observe and talk to some of the best fly tiers in the area but also to add some of their favorite flies to your collection. Many of the tiers have agreed to donate the flies they tie to our monthly raffle. Come join us at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel in Albany and get your new year off to a great start with some terrific flies tied by our own local experts. Attendance is free, light refreshments are provided, bring a friend.

All are welcome. Meetings are held at the [Best Western Sovereign Hotel](#) about a mile east of the end of the Northway (I-87). 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.

Chapter Fly Swap

Ron Boutin

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.

Dec Salmon/Steelhead

2012 New York State Trout Unlimited Youth Program

Here is a great opportunity to get your child or grandchild, niece or nephew off to a worthwhile summer camp where they will learn about fly fishing and conservation of coldwater fisheries. Check out the link now and get signed up for next summer. Spots are limited so get on it!

[http://clearwatertu.org/Calendar.html#Trout Waters Youth Program](http://clearwatertu.org/Calendar.html#Trout_Waters_Youth_Program)

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.

Due to a lack of Fish of the Month submissions **John Morrette's** submission will have to suffice. John must be in need of a small digital camera to take with him to preserve his angling memories. Christmas gift hint! Having fished with John in the past I can guarantee that his prowess streamside is quite remarkable. This catch is in no way reflective of his angling abilities! The Editor

Next month the Editorial Staff at the 'Currents will announce the winner(s) of the 2011 Fish of the Month contest – so stay tuned!

Clearwater Chapter Trout Unlimited
2012 Annual Conservation Banquet Reservation Form
Saturday March 3rd, 2012
The Century House
997 New Loudon Rd. (Route 9), Latham, NY 12110
Doors Open at 4 PM with Cocktail Hour and Hors d'oeuvres
Dinner Served at 6 PM
Raffles and Auctions to follow Dinner

The Clearwater Chapter of Trout Unlimited proudly invites you and your guests to attend the 40th Annual Conservation Banquet. An exciting array of auction and raffle items will be offered during this evening of socializing and fund raising. All proceeds from this event directly benefit the local conservation of our coldwater fisheries.

Our hosts at The Century House will be providing us with table-side menus, so there is no need to make meal choices for registration before the Banquet. Our Entrée choices on the table-side menu should include Filet Mignon, Chicken Marsala, or Rigatoni Oreganato (vegetarian).

The Century House has also set aside a block of ten rooms at \$109 each for that night, just mention 'Trout Unlimited' if you make a reservation. Please call them at phone#: (888) 674-6873 or (518) 785-0931.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number Attending ____ X \$40.00 each = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to '**Clearwater Chapter Trout Unlimited**'

____ I cannot attend, but would like to make a donation of \$_____ to the Clearwater TU Conservation Fund.

Please send reservation form with payment to: Kim Walchko, 244 Quarry Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043.

One of the Annual Banquet highlights is a raffle for a Hornbeck "BlackJack" 10'8" carbon fiber canoe, complete with rowing package, that weighs only 14 lbs with a 300 lb carrying capacity. Tickets for these are \$5.00 each or a book of five for \$20.00. They will also be available for sale during the banquet. If you would like to purchase any now please indicate number of ticket(s) you would like here: _____ and include that amount with banquet reservation payment above.

The poster below can be copied and distributed to high volume areas like supermarkets, your bulletin board at work, coffee shops, etc



**Trout Unlimited
Clearwater Chapter
Annual Conservation Banquet**



Saturday, March 3rd, 2012

The Century House

997 New Loudon Rd. (Route 9) , Latham, NY

Time:

4:00 PM Cocktails &

Hors d'oeuvres

Dinner 6:00 PM

Price \$40.00

**Live
Auction**

**Door
Prizes**

**Silent
Auctions**



**Card
Raffles**

**Local
Artwork**

**Bucket
Raffles**

Hornbeck 'BlackJack' Canoe Raffle

Carbon Fiber (14 lbs!) with Rowing Package

Tickets \$5.00 each or Book of Five \$20.00



Banquet RSVP: Doug Howard (518) 399-8566

For more information, directions, or reservation forms please visit:

<http://clearwatertu.org/Banquet.html>



Help needed for the 40th Annual Conservation Banquet

Your banquet committee is beginning the planning process for the 40th annual Clearwater Trout Unlimited conservation banquet. There are plenty of ways you can help.

Save the Date

Attend the banquet on March 3, 2012 at The Century House in Latham. Cost is \$40 per person. Enjoy appetizers including a chocolate fountain and three-course dinner including choice of entrée: filet mignon, chicken Marsala or rigatoni oreganato (vegetarian).

Donate an item for raffle or auction

Theme baskets, fishing and outdoor gear, flies, a craft, restaurant or business gift certificate, artwork, jewelry, anything!

Donate a fly rod, reel, line

This year's banquet is in great need of rods for raffle and auction

Hang posters around town

Pick up a few at the next general meeting or print them from www.clearwatertu.org. Post them on any community bulletin board where people can see them.

Sell and buy Hornbeck canoe raffle tickets

Tickets are \$5 each or a book of 5 tickets for \$20. There will be a special drawing again this year. Anyone selling or buying five books of tickets will be entered to win a special prize.

Join the banquet committee

The next committee meeting is January 9 at 7 p.m. at Saratoga Bridges in Clifton Park

The Hornbeck canoe will be on display at the December 19 general meeting so you can check it out. Canoe raffle tickets, banquet reservation forms, posters, and donation forms will be available. If you have anything to donate please bring it along.

Contact **Jessica Galasso** or **Bill Cosgrove**

Clearwater Chapter Conservation Initiatives for 2012

Roy Lamberton – Conservation Chair

I have made a list of our chapter's current conservation initiatives. Please review it for completeness.

1. Fox Creek tributary to Catskill Creek, in Albany County. DEC **Dennis Wischman** (Reg.4 Fisheries) is negotiating stream improvements, PFR, and bridge repair for a bridge/culvert owned by Albany County. He phoned me re being a partner and possibly seeking funding to assist Albany County in creating step pools to allow trout migration into this spawning trib. Work is being designed by USF&WS. Dennis is now the PFR person for DEC Region 4. *Lead person would be Roy Lamberton, unless we can find other volunteers.*
2. Onesquethaw-Coeymans Creek, PFR in the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County. **Scott Wells** (Reg.4 Fisheries) expects to file his required paperwork for DEC to purchase about 1 mile of PFR, during the week of November 28. He will phone me once that is done, and we can then contact people we know in higher levels at DEC to ask if they can follow the internal progress. Supervisor **Sam Messina** would like to have concrete progress to publicly announce before December 31, 2011. The Onesquethaw-Coeymans Watershed Council (OCWC) has about \$12,000 in the bank to help purchase the PFR, which is now not needed. \$5,000 came from Clearwater Chapter. This money will be used to build a parking lot and make trout habitat improvements on the PFR stretch. *Lead person would be Roy Lamberton, unless we can find other volunteers.*
3. OCWC received a grant from DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP) and the New England Interstate Water

Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) to build a public information kiosk (among other projects) at the PFR site on Onesquethaw Creek. We will need TU volunteers to transport the material and build the kiosk. *Lead person is Roy Lamberton.*

4. Geyser Brook in Saratoga County has about \$35,000 available in remediation funds from Saratoga County, with DEC Region 5 guidance, for trout habitat. Our chapter will lead the effort, in partnership with USF&WS, DEC, and Saratoga County to improve the trout fishery. *Lead person is Greg Cuda.*

5. Saratoga County trout streams, significantly Kayaderosseras Creek, availability of over \$200,000 for stream improvements. Funds are from Saratoga County for remediation. Designs are by USF&WS. Volunteers are needed from our chapter to prepare permit applications to DEC and be liaisons. *Lead persons are needed.*

6. The Dwaas Kill and a spawning trib in Clifton Park, Saratoga County, have a wild population of brook trout. There is a town nature preserve for public access. Protections and improvements are needed. We need to maintain liaisons to Clifton Park. *Lead person is Stan Duncan, but we need more volunteers.*

7. East Branch Delaware River, Tomannex State Forest Project at Harvard. A partnership of 4 chapters is planning a trout habitat project using design by USF&WS. If successful, the partnership will expand to other sites hopefully throughout the Catskills. *Lead persons for Clearwater are Roy Lamberton and Ken Waldie.*

8. Catskill Watersheds Partnership (CWP) is the name given to an informal coalition of chapters throughout the Catskills to strengthen small chapters and undertake habitat improvements. Clearwater is participating because so many of our members fish these waters. Our first trial project will be the Tomannex Project described above. Potential member chapters are Upper Delaware, Dave Brandt, Al Hazzard, Clearwater, Beamoc, NY City, Catskill Mountain, and others. *Lead persons are Roy Lamberton and Ken Waldie - more volunteers are needed.*

9. The Batten Kill has many projects, similar to the ones in Vermont, which have been completed and are being planned in the coming years. *Lead persons are Greg Cuda and Art Coleman. We need more description here.*

10. White Creek has more habitat and stabilization projects planned. *Lead persons are Art Coleman and Greg Cuda. We need more description here.*

11. Beaver Kill and Delaware System Public Fishing Rights are receiving attention from prominent anglers and conservationists who have learned about the CWP and TU involvement. People currently involved in researching PFR are **Ed Van Put** (author of "Beaverkill"), **Tony Bonovist** (retired Reg.3 Fisheries), **Dave Brandt**, and **Dave Plummer**. *Lead persons from Clearwater are Roy Lamberton and Ken Waldie - others are welcome.*

PLEASE ADD, COMMENT, AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS TO THE ABOVE.
WE CAN USE VOLUNTEER HELP IN ALL THE ABOVE. Thanks -- Roy

[West Canada Fishing Contest 2012](#)

Check out the website below for plenty of information on next year's inaugural fishing contest on the West Canada. The website below also has links to many other sites of interest including one I really liked – **Eric**

Dresser's wildlife photography site called <http://ecdphoto.addr.com/>

The West Canada website is www.troutpower.blogspot.com



Fly Tying Classes 2012

Sponsored by

Clearwater Chapter Trout Unlimited

@

Saint Joseph's Parish Center
45 Macarthur Dr., Scotia, NY

Beginner's class start Jan 17th - Mar 6th, every Tuesday
Advanced class starts Jan 19th—Mar 8th, every Thursday
Time: 7-9 PM

Cost: \$65 for TU members & \$80 for non-TU members
(*includes a one year membership to Trout Unlimited)

All materials are supplied, students must provide tying tools and a vise.

For more info, or to register please go to:

<http://clearwatertu.org/Classes.html>

Or call/email

Doug Howard: 399-8566 (dhoward11@nycap.rr.com)

Dick Hermida: 399-6272 (rher575969@aol.com)

Gift certificates are available.

Fly Tying Classes 2012

Beginner's Classes start on January 17th, 2012 and meet every Tuesday until March 6th

Advanced classes start on January 19th, 2012 and meet every Thursday until March 8th.

Times: 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Location: St. Joseph's Parish Center in Scotia (map) MacArthur Drive, Scotia, NY

***** An extra week was also reserved at our location in case of cancelled classes due to inclement weather.**

Participants need a vice and set of their own tools. Materials and handouts will be provided.

More info TBA as dates get closer.

*****These would make great holiday gifts...**

Fly Fishing Classes 2012

Fly Fishing Classes start on March 27th, 2012 and meet each Tuesday until May 8th with an additional 'on the water' class held on the Battenkill on either May 19th or 20th, weather & flows permitting.

(Please do whatever you can to influence good weather and no floods like last year!)

***** An extra class day on May 15th is tentatively scheduled in case of inclement weather if needed.**

For all the Chapter sponsored classes see the reservation form below

Clearwater Chapter Trout Unlimited Fly Tying/Fly Fishing Class
Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____
Address _____

(Please check one)

Fly Tying: Beginner's _____ or Advanced: _____

Cost: \$65.00 for TU members, \$80.00 for non-members, which includes a one year TU membership.

Fly Fishing: _____

Cost: \$135.00 for TU members \$150.00 for non-members, which includes a one year TU membership.

We have a limited number of fly rods available on first come\first served basis - check here if you need one: _____

Trout Unlimited Membership #(if applicable): _____

Make checks payable to TU Clearwater Chapter and mail with registration to:

Doug Howard

38 Velina Drive
Burnt Hills, NY 12027-9412
Ph: 399-8566
Email dhoward11@nycap.rr.com

Water gauge funds are now drying up

Times Union

By **BRIAN NEARING**, Staff writer

Monday, November 28, 2011



A U.S. Geological Survey worker checks a river gauge on the west branch of the Delaware River in Walton, Delaware County, during high water in August 2011. Federal budget troubles could mean that 30 such gauges in the Adirondacks, Champlain Valley, and Southern Tier could be turned off this coming spring. (Courtesy U.S. Geological Survey)

ALBANY — Given New York state's wild year of water — from unprecedented spring floods fed by melting snows to late-summer tropical storms that scoured parts of the Adirondacks and Catskills — it would seem bad timing to start turning off gauges that measure water in rivers, lakes and streams.

But the cash-strapped U.S. Geological Survey agency is planning just that next spring for more than 30 gauges in the Hudson River, Champlain Valley and Southern Tier, some of which have been recording for decades. One gauge slated for closure is on Lake Champlain just north of Lock 12 of the Champlain Canal in Whitehall, Washington County. That gauge helped document that this spring's floods, which kept the lake above flood stage for some two months, shattered records that were at least 150 years old.

Another gauge at Ausable Forks in the Adirondacks has been recording for more than 80 years, and captured data on this summer's devastating tropical storms.

"This community has some low-lying homes. During (Tropical Storm) Irene, the Ausable River jumped Route 86 and changed its channel, going through some homes," said John Sheehan, a spokesman for the Adirondack Council. He said decisions on where residences are allowed to be rebuilt will depend on updated maps

projecting the course of future floods — and that such maps will be harder to make accurately without information from the river gauge.

"We use these gauges all the time," said Tim Mihuc, director of the Lake Champlain Research Institute at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. He said the devices have both immediate value — in helping project flood levels and issue advance warnings — and long-term value by helping track changes in rivers and lakes caused by man-made climate change.

"When you see on the news that the river is due to crest at such-and-such a time, they are relying on these gauges," he said. "And this information is critical for science. If we are going to understand future changes due to climate change, the only way is to monitor these gauges."

Gauge measurements have a variety of uses beyond flood warning and long-term mapping. The data is also used in designing new bridges to withstand expected water flows, monitoring of water quality, and helping people who check daily water levels on the Internet to plan fishing or canoeing trips, said Ward Freeman, director of the USGS New York Water Science Center, based in Troy.

It costs about \$16,000 a year to operate a gauge, a sum the USGS budget can't cover without outside support, he said. That has left a national network of gauges dependent on a yearly hodgepodge of assistance from the U.S. Congress, state and local governments, and even local not-for-profit groups.

The 31 gauges in New York set to shut down March 1 are among more than 580 on their way out nationwide; the total network includes some 7,800 gauges. USGS has been collecting such water data for about 120 years. During the last decade, the geological survey has closed more than 850 gauges nationwide after outside financial support ceased, said spokesman Mike Norris.

On the Ausable River, the Alice Falls Hydro Corp. power plant for the last two decades has used a former paper mill dam to generate electricity. The dam is 12 miles downstream of a gauge set for closure.

"If this goes off, it would kind of blind us," said plant operator Brad Knapp. "We would not have any way to know how much water was coming through the river on its way to us."

In New York, gauges due to be turned off are a potential casualty of the end of congressional earmarks, said Freeman. In the name of fiscal austerity, the most recent Congress ended such spending, which opponents had derided as political pork.

It was earmarks that were supporting most of the USGS gauges now on the chopping block. "Many people think of a 'bridge to nowhere' or some similar project when they hear 'earmarks,' but the truth is that many of the programs funded by earmarks were extremely important," said Freeman, referring to the notorious Alaskan span.

It would cost about \$430,000 to maintain the threatened gauges. "Compared to the cost of flood damage like we have seen this year, it's a drop in the bucket," he said.

"This is a very important issue to us. It is a case of penny-wise and pound-foolish," said Janet Thigpen, who heads the policy committee of the New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association.

"A number of these set to be discontinued are flood forecast points, and we know we need good forecasts," she said.

Eighteen gauges slated to be closed are located along the Susquehanna River or its tributaries in the Southern Tier, which were hit with severe flooding in 2006 and against this year by tropical storms Irene and Lee.

Thigpen said those gauges had been supported financially by the National Weather Service and later the state Department of Environmental Conservation, neither of which are able to continue paying.

"We support more funding for USGS, for a shorter list of high priority gauges necessary for flood projections," she said. "Each year, the USGS spends a lot of staff time trying to locate outside funding for gauges. They could be doing other things with that time."

Reach Brian Nearing at 454-5094 or bnearing@timesunion.com.

Gauge closure list

Is there a USGS water gauge slated to be turned off in your area? Check the list online at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ny/nwis/rt/>