



Clearwater
Chapter

Clearwater Currents

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

Issue No. 09-001

January, 2009



*America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation
Organization
Promoting Habitat for Wild Trout and Salmon*

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

January 19 Chapter General Meeting – **John McKeeby**, Executive Director of the Schoharie River Center speaking on the Environmental Study Team Program – Guest Fly Tier
January 23-25 Somerset, NJ Fly Fishing Show

Board of Directors/Staff

President	Doug Howard	399-8566	Trips	Bob Mead	399-9000
V.President	Rich Bogardus	377-1022	Treasurer	Ken Waldie	573-4793
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Website	John Morgan	356-8031	Membership	Dick Hermida	399-6272
Video Library	Richard Atkinson	377-8249	Website	Richard Conant	rconant@rochester.rr.com
Battenkill	Greg Cuda	587-1189	Banquet	Bill Cosgrove	766-2405
Board Member	Glenn Kuhles	869-0817	Publicity	Bill Wemple	384-0014
Youth	Mike Walchko	234-4192	Website	Chris Franchini	265-4335
At Large	Stan Duncan	877-6610			

Clearwater Chapter of TU PO Box 9686 Schenectady, NY
12309

www.ClearwaterTU.org

Looking Ahead to Future Meeting Speakers

January 19th, 2009

John McKeeby, a native of upstate New York, is the Executive Director of the Schoharie River Center, Inc. , a not-for-profit agency located in Burtonsville, Montgomery County. A developmental psychologist with over 20 years experience working with youth, families and community organizations to create opportunities for youth to develop skills and utilize their strengths and talents. He is the co-developer of the Environmental Study Team™, a program which involve youth in the study, monitoring, and improvement of local freshwater streams, lakes and rivers; and the communities that live along their shores. Mr. McKeeby will speak about the Environmental Study Team Program, and how communities and organizations like Trout Unlimited can involve and harness the energy and talents of young people, getting them involved in protecting and improving local watersheds, while at the same time providing them with important life skills, opportunities to learn and integrate academics with life, and develop leadership abilities which will both further the potential of the youth and add to the capacity of the community / organization to achieve their goals. As always a guest fly tier, raffles and camaraderie – free of charge to all – Best Western – a mile or so east of the end of the Northway on Western Avenue Albany, NY. Tier starts at 6:30pm with guest speaker on at 7:30pm.

February 16th, 2009

Dave Langan, Clearwater past president & TU National conservation award recipient, will be February's guest speaker along with his son Joe. They will present a slide show following their (mis)adventures for the last bunch of years. Dave and Joe pick up their rods in one hand and kayaks in the other - be it the Delaware or the Cape. They'll discuss how kayaks extend their range of access, general advice on selecting a kayak for fishing, and basic accessories. Cape Cod has become one of their favorite haunts with access to a number of different fishing scenarios and general solitude. They will present a slide show on the Cape detailing shore and near-shore spots from the canal to P-town. Special attention will be given to spots for fishing with kids as well as easy access for those with physical limitations. Time of day, tides, seasons and use of satellite photos to plan your trip will be discussed. Fly fishing, surf casting, and equipment care will be covered. This should be a fun program whether you are thinking about kayaks for fishing, fishing the Cape, want to compare notes, or simply see pictures of the many misadventures of Dave and Joe. See you there!

Treasurer's Report

Ken Waldie.

None available at press time.

Chapter Fly Swap

Ron Boutin

Another year of fly swapping has ended and another is upon us. Tie 13 and get 13 back that fit that month's category. Monthly swap categories are published in the 'Currents each month. 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.

Fish of the Month Contest

The Fish of the Month Contest winner for 2008 is over with Bill Bach of Glenville our first winner! Bill's fish wasn't the biggest, but his story about his experience was the greatest among the entrants. The year 2009 is shaping up to be another great angling year (see snow, cold, etc so far this winter) so get your cameras ready and let me know about your fish of the month to get entered. A great opportunity for young/old and new/veteran angler alike so everyone should enter in 2009! Send all entries to the Editor at brownie6@nycap.rr.com.

Ausable Trip 2009

Bob Mead

Trip June 5, 6 and 7.

The Clearwater trip to the Ausable is in prime time this year. Reserve a spot now by calling **Bob Mead** at 399-9000. Cost is \$209 and it is the same package deal as last year. Friday and Saturday night stay at the Hungry Trout, Saturday night full course dinner, breakfast Saturday and Sunday morning, and includes tax and tips. The private water is available for 8 rods a day at \$50 a day. Last year the Saturday water filled early. Call or email for further information and fishing details. rmead1@nycap.rr.com

Chapter Flea Market 2009

Bob Mead

Mark your calendar! Clearwater Flea Market will be held the last Saturday in March (28th) at the Sovereign Best Western on Western Avenue. The hotel is located one mile toward Albany from the end of the Northway. It's a great opportunity to stock up on all kinds of fly fishing goodies, tying tools and materials, books and art work. It is also the perfect venue to sell excess or duplicate items that have accumulated over the years. Vendors table cost only \$20 plus a 10 percent donation of sales. Additional tables are available at \$15 each. If you only have a couple of items to sell, bring them to the Chapter table, or team up with another member. Donated items are always welcomed. Hours 8:30 to 1. Set up time 7 to 8:30. Call Bob Mead, 399-9000 or email at rmead1@nycap.rr.com for further information or to reserve a table.

[Boy Scout Fly Tying Class](#)

January 26th is set for a one night fly tying class for Boy Scout 54 in Ballston Spa at the Town Hall. They will be tying a wooly worm with volunteers from our Chapter. Volunteers are needed so if you can help the Scouts that night please contact **Rich Bogardus** at 377-1022.

[Interview with Bob Mead](#)

Check out the following link for an interview with our own **Bob Mead**. The interview/article was done also by our own **Alex Cerveniak**. The link is:
<http://www.hatchesmagazine.com/page/alex/441>

[Fishing Estate Sale](#)

A friend of the Columbia Green TU chapter and an avid fisherman passed away this past summer after a long illness. **Bruce Rowe** left behind a wonderful wife, Martha, and a ton of fishing and tying equipment. Martha plans on placing his entire collection on Ebay soon but wanted to give friends and fellow anglers an opportunity to purchase items from it first. You'll be amazed at what he's collected and most all of it is just like brand new. In fact, a good portion of it has never been wet. Fishing rods; a complete inventory of tying equipment and materials; vises; reels; bass plugs; Waders; totes; and so much more. Take a look at the **Bruce Rowe** inventory by visiting the web site <http://cgtu.org/> and following the links on the home page. You can find all the pertinent contact information on the web site.

[Click here: http://cgtu.org/rowe/RoweMaster.htm](http://cgtu.org/rowe/RoweMaster.htm)

[GOVERNOR PATERSON SIGNS LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING AND REUSE OF BAGS](#)

Bill Requires Large or Chain Retailers to Offer Bag Collection

Governor David A. Paterson today announced he has signed legislation to increase the collection and recycling of plastic carryout bags. Under the new law, A.11725 (Sweeney)/S.8643-A (Marcellino), which will require collection and recycling to begin on January 1, 2009, retail establishments with more than 10,000 square feet of retail space, or those that are part of a chain with more than five stores (each with more than 5,000 square feet of retail space), must provide bins for the collection of used plastic carryout bags, recycle the returned bags, and keep records for three years describing the amount of plastic bags collected and recycled.

“Even during difficult times we must be protective stewards of our environment, and continue to find ways to keep our daily routines from negatively impacting the long-term health of the planet,” said Governor Paterson. “By making changes in our daily lives and business practices,

we can conserve natural resources, save energy and reduce our ecological footprint.”

Judith Enck, Deputy Secretary for the Environment, said: “Plastic bags, made from petroleum are a persistent litter and environmental problem. Nationally, we discard nearly 100 billion plastic bags every year – with lots of them ending up on our streets, in our parks and in our lakes and streams. The bill signed by Governor Paterson will make it easier for New Yorkers to recycle used plastic bags and encourage greater use of reusable bags. Governor Paterson's commitment to environmental sustainability continues with the signing of this bill.”

Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner **Pete Grannis** said: “Governor Paterson has delivered a significant win for the environment. This new law will help boost recycling and reduce waste goals all New Yorkers share.”

Senator Carl Marcellino, Chairman of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, said: “This bill will make it convenient and easy for residents across the State to recycle plastic bags. Their efforts will save landfill space, reduce litter and decrease our dependence on foreign oil. It is small steps like these that green our world.”

Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney, Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation, said: “This is the strongest state plastic bag recycle law in the country. New York consumers and environmentalists can be proud that our state is taking strong action to reduce the amount of loose plastic bags that would otherwise end up in our delicate ecosystem. This law will also cut down the amount of petroleum used to produce these bags. I thank Governor Paterson and the advocates for our environment and natural resources for their work in supporting this important legislation.”

With a comprehensive plastic recycling law in place at the state level, local governments are pre-empted from adopting their own laws on this topic. However, pursuant to an agreement reached with the Legislature, additional legislation will be enacted to amend the bill signed today to (1) allow New York City to retain an effective and popular local law that established a City-wide recycling program for plastic carryout bags and film plastics, and (2) require the recycling of film plastics as part of the State-wide program. The Governor urged lawmakers to move swiftly to pass this amending legislation.

Bette Midler, Founder of the New York Restoration Project, said: “The New York Restoration Project commends Governor Paterson for recognizing the need for New York City to have a more stringent program for recycling plastic bags. Americans use over 84 billion plastic bags annually, about one billion of them in New York City. This is an important step toward building a comprehensive solid waste management regime, and on behalf of all of us in New York City, I thank you for your understanding of the severity of the problem and your cooperation in finding a solution.”

Eric A. Goldstein, New York Urban Program Director at the Natural Resource Defense Council, said: “The billions of plastic bags that are used in New York State every year impose a mounting environmental burden. They litter our streets, sidewalks, highways and parks. They get into waterways and endanger marine life. They end up in landfills, where it can take up to 1,000 years for them to decompose. Substituting throw-away plastic bags with reusable sacks is a small lifestyle change that can make a big difference over time. So NRDC is pleased to see new state

legislation that advances plastic bag recycling across the Empire State and preserves New York City's recently passed statute. Bravo to Governor Paterson, State Assembly and Senate leaders and City Council Speaker Quinn for moving the ball down the field with the legislation signed by Governor Paterson." *Editor's Note* – Of course the legislation will only work IF we bring back our plastic bags. Or if we don't use the nylon or cloth bags available at most large department or grocery stores. I use the nylon bags for groceries and Price Chopper gives a discount for each bag used!

Meeting Opportunities in Central/Western New York of Interest

Bill Wemple

I was looking at the ADK forum tonight (I post meetings and events there for the Chapter): <http://www.adkforum.com/> and noticed these two upcoming announcements of interest to members in our chapter.

First is a Steelhead fisherman's expo in Chautauqua, NY on Sat/Sun March 21 & 22 - 2009.

<http://flyfishingexpo.chautauquasuites.com/>

Join us for Chautauqua Suites "The Future of Steelhead Fishing Expo", at Chautauqua NY. The hotel features 20,000 square feet of convention center space. Centrally located along Lake Erie's world renowned steelhead tributaries, this 91 room facility is the perfect spot for the expo. Sponsored by Regal Engineering "The Best Fly Tying Vise In The World". Regal is proud to sponsor "The Future of Steelhead Fishing Expo" and to promote this great fishery. Please join us in March and see some of the newest, most exciting products developed to catch these fish. You will be introduced to some of the most knowledgeable fisherman with seminars and workshops and have the opportunity to socialize with people who share the passion.

Featured Keynote Banquet Speaker - Gary Anderson

Gary Anderson is a fishing enthusiast with an incredible record holding NFL career. He operates a fly fishing charter business called Perfect Season. Gary will share his incredible story of his life as an NFL player and his passion for fishing.

Second one is that it looks like the Syracuse Chapter of TU and Central NY Fly Fisher's is trying to put together a Fly-Tying Symposium in Utica. Looks like March 14th 9-5 and it should be at the Radisson in Utica on Genesee Street. No further details available yet. Looks like they're trying to put it tighter still.

<http://www.jprossflyrods.com/ffaa/>

or

<http://www.CNYFFAA.org>

State seeks help to count turkeys

By **BRIAN NEARING**, Staff writer

First published: Friday, December 26, 2008

Look into almost any open field near a patch of woods, and chances are pretty good wild turkeys will be there at some point. And the Department of Environmental Conservation wants to hear about it.

Over the course of this winter, the state is asking anyone who spots wild turkeys to report it. Such sightings will help estimate the birds' numbers and guide DEC on policies for hunting and management, spokeswoman **Lori Severino** said.

During the last three winters, DEC ran a pilot reporting program and got more than 1,500 flock sightings from every county in the state, she said.

Now, landowners, hunters, bird watchers and others can report turkey flocks from January through March. A reporting form can be downloaded at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48756.html> on the DEC's Web site.

Wild turkeys are thriving in the state; the DEC estimates there are some 300,000 birds. Turkeys had been hunted to extinction in New York by the 1840s, and were absent from the state for a century until a small number of turkeys moved in from northwestern Pennsylvania in the 1940s.

After the state began trapping birds in 1959 at Alleghany State Park and moving them to other parts of the state that had no turkeys, numbers soared. About 1,400 birds have been moved in the state so far, and are so plentiful that they are a common sight in suburban backyards.

Because of the bounty of birds, the state has shipped almost 700 turkeys to Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware and the Canadian province of Ontario to re-establish the birds throughout the Northeast.

Thanks to human intervention, more than 7 million turkeys now live in North America, according to the National Wild Turkey Federation. Wild turkeys can cover up to 3 to 4 miles per hour while feeding, and can occupy a range of from 400 to 2,000 acres or more, according to the DEC.

In New York, a state program to band wild turkeys during the winter is entering its fourth year, Severino said. Last year, 352 males and 303 females were banded, bring the three-year total to 1,031 males and 1,056 females in 51 counties and 148 towns.

Severino said the banding study examines hunter harvest rates and turkey survival rates.

How to participate

For the DEC winter flock reporting program in Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Greene, Columbia, Montgomery and Schoharie counties, contact Karl Parker at 357-2154. For Saratoga, Warren, Washington and Fulton counties, contact Melissa Neely at 623-1273.

Trout and Salmon Stamp Proposal

Trout and salmon anglers next year will have to pay an extra \$10 for a special trout/salmon stamp to enjoy their sport under the proposed budget released Tuesday by Gov. David Paterson.

That's on top of their \$19 general fishing license.

The governor's budget also includes a new \$19 marine fishing license fee for saltwater anglers, but it's the trout/salmon stamp that should catch the attention of Central New York sportsmen and women.

Paterson's spending plan failed to mention anything new about the recently announced closure of the Reynolds Game Farm near Ithaca, the sole pheasant rearing facility in the state. State Department of Environmental Conservation officials were likewise relatively mum on the issue and what went into the decision.

The DEC's slice of Paterson's budget reflects \$91.8 million in cuts from the department's current \$1.17 billion in expenditures. A big chunk of that would come from a proposed \$50 million reduction in the state's Environmental Protection Fund, which is dedicated to paying for environmental initiatives.

The governor's budget includes department-wide cuts of 10 percent. Those cuts include the dropping of 240 positions "through implementation of a hiring freeze and general attrition."

Apart from the trout/salmon stamp and the new marine fishing license, there were no other new fees announced for outdoor sports enthusiasts.

A press release Saturday from the governor's office confirmed that the Reynolds Game Farm would be closing, saving up to \$750,000 annually. The money for the farm comes from the state's financially strapped conservation fund, which is supported by license fees paid by hunters. The remaining birds on the premises would be processed and distributed to the needy through the Food Bank.

Will the state look for other private sources to purchase the birds for stocking? Or has it decided to turn its back on the sport, which according to the DEC's Web site ranks as New York's most popular small-game hunting activity?

"The state is not turning its back - there is still a season for hunters to participate," said Lori Severino, a DEC spokeswoman. "The state will continue to offer technical assistance and permits for persons and organizations interested in continuing to raise and release pheasant, but they will need to procure the eggs and chicks from commercial sources."

The trout/salmon stamp proposal came from the DEC, a spokeswoman from the state budget office said. It is expected to raise \$3 million in additional funds next year, and some \$4 million

annually after that. It would go into effect October 2009.

"Money would go into the state's Conservation Fund and help cover the costs of stocking fish in the state's waterways," she said.

Sightings of 'Mountain lions' puzzle experts

*Michael Risinit
The Journal News*

As if they had seen a ghost, those who say they've glimpsed a mountain lion in the Hudson Valley must weather disbelievers. But knowing their feline apparitions are rooted in fur and blood leaves no room for self-doubt.

"I'm absolutely positive I spotted it. It just had this enormous head, and I definitely saw the tail. The tail is what did it for me," said Diane Winne of Philipstown.

Winne, an English teacher at Tuxedo High School in Orange County, was describing what she thinks was a dead mountain lion recently on Route 6 near Harriman State Park. The tail is a telltale sign for researchers and mountain-lion aficionados: Long tail means mountain lion; short tail is bobcat or something else.

The news last month that a Patterson family spotted a possible mountain lion in their Somerset Drive yard spawned several other reports of mountain lions - also known as cougars, pumas, catamounts or panthers - from throughout the region. But state and federal wildlife authorities maintain the large cats don't exist locally, except as escaped exotic pets. The wrangling over whether they do or don't has probably gone on since the state's last known wild cougar was killed in 1894.

"Part of me likes to hope that someplace in the Northeast, there's a population of Eastern mountain lions. I'm romantically hopeful," said Fred Koontz, executive director of Teatown Lake Reservation in Yorktown and a former mammals curator at the Bronx Zoo.

The accepted fact is that, except in Florida, there isn't a population anywhere east of the Mississippi. At one time, they roamed from Michigan, eastern Canada and Maine south to South Carolina and west across Tennessee. A mountain lion shot and killed by police last spring in Chicago was traced back to animals from South Dakota. Like other experts, Koontz points out that if they called the Hudson Valley home, a few would become roadkill. In Florida, where some 80 to 100 panthers are thought to live, seven this year have been hit and killed by vehicles.

"A lot of very credible people claim that they've seen mountain lions," he said. "The thing to me that's strange is we haven't found a dead one on the roads."

Christine Belcher, who lives in Dutchess County, said she was driving near her home last month and had to stop her Honda CR-V to let three mountain lions cross Dover Furnace Road.

"It was like a momma and a couple of smaller ones with a long tail, a flat face and big ears," she said, recalling the animals that were so close she could see their whiskers. "In my mind, I called it a mountain lion."

As a college graduate, Belcher said, she went home and checked several Web sites, including National Geographic.

"I'm not a scientist, but it was definitely a mountain lion," she said.

By the spring, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expects to release a review of the status of the Eastern cougar. The review, which began last year, is the first time the federal government has taken a collective look at the animal since placing it on the endangered list in 1982.

"There certainly have been cougars here in the East. Some people believe there is a residual population," said Mark McCollough, the biologist heading the service's review. "We can't find any evidence of that."

Once the review is published, he said, the cougar could be kept on the endangered species list or removed in recognition that it's locally extinct. It's also possible, he said, that some day Florida animals could be relocated elsewhere in the South to take advantage of more spacious habitat.

"They do seem to be coming back if you look at North America as a whole, including Florida, North Dakota, Texas," McCollough said.

Nicole Rubin, the Patterson mother who said last month that she saw a mountain lion, said several neighbors reached out after seeing The Journal News article about her feline sighting and shared similar stories. John Prophet of Patterson, who lives a mile away from Rubin, said he saw a mountain lion - "big head, big body, long, long tail - in his yard about five years ago.

"I know what I saw. It was definitely a mountain lion," Prophet said.

Winne, the teacher, said she notified the state park police about the carcass she saw later that October day, but nothing was found. The remains of a deer or a coyote, she said, would have been unwanted and still there.

"For the longest time, I wanted to put a sign there and say: 'Call me if you saw what I saw,' " Winne said. "I'm telling you, I saw what I saw. I saw that tail."

Conservation Fund Raiser Canoe Raffle

At the Annual Conservation Banquet a Hornbeck Carbon Fiber Canoe will be raffled off. All proceeds from the raffle will go towards the Chapter conservation projects. Your help is needed in support of these efforts in either or both of the following ways:

- Buy raffle tickets
- Print the following page as a poster and display it somewhere that will promote ticket sales

Your help and participation is needed! For additional information contact Stan Duncan, Email: Homesoln@aol.com

Raffle tickets for the Hornbeck Carbon Fiber Canoe would make a welcome gift for the sportsman in your family.

Trout Unlimited

Clearwater Chapter

ANNUAL CONSERVATION BANQUET

CANOE RAFFLE



Drawing at Annual Conservation Banquet
March 7, 2009



**Hornbeck Boats
"The Black Jack"**

- All Carbon Fiber
- Less than 12 lbs!
- 10'8" long
- Beam 30"
- Depth 11"
- Capacity 300 lbs.
- Rowing Package included

Tickets \$5 each or Five for \$20

To be entered send check payable to:

Clearwater Trout Unlimited

Mail to:

Stan Duncan, 7 Huckleberry Lane

Ballston Lake, NY 12019

For more info contact Stan Duncan: Homesoln@aol.com

You need not be present to win

Canoe Raffle Ticket Request (\$5.00 per ticket, book of 5 for \$20.00)

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

Send money and number of tickets to **Stan Duncan**, 7 Huckleberry Lane, Ballston Lake, NY 12019.

Tickets will be entered into drawing at banquet.

Special Banquet Auction

If you would like to own a piece of fishing memorabilia you could make that wish come true by being the winning bidder on a “Gadabout Gaddis” fishing pin that will be auctioned off at our conservation banquet March 7, 2009. The owner of the pin **Joe Gizzi** through outdoor writer Rob Streeter has made the pin available to our chapter for a special auction with the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. To refresh your memory please refer to the following link - <http://timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=754079&category=STREETER&BCCode=&newsdate=1/17/2009>. You need not be present at the banquet to participate. If you would like to make a bid, send your bid along with your name address and telephone number to **Bill Cosgrove** (banquet chairman) at P.O. Box 148, Nassau, NY 12123. All bids will remain confidential until after any bidding is completed at the banquet and then only the winning bid will be announced. The bidding is open to anyone who may wish to participate so let all your family, friends and fishing buddies know. Any questions call Bill at 518-766-2405.

2009 Fly Fishing Shows Schedule

The 2009 Fly Fishing Show season is upon us and for more information please check out the following website – www.flyfishingshow.com. It lists all the major fly fishing shows this year – click the tabs at the top to get detailed information for the show you want to go to. This years Somerset, NJ show is January 23 – 25, 2009.

CLEARWATER CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED
ANNUAL CONSERVATION BANQUET
March 7, 2009

The 36th Conservation Banquet will be held at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Ave, Albany, NY on Saturday March 7, 2009. There will be a Cash Bar from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Hors d' oeuvres will be available at 5:00 and dinner to follow at 6:00. Following dinner there will be the presentation of awards and the auctions and raffles.

The cost of a banquet ticket will be \$35. Meal choices are noted below on the Banquet Reservation slip. Reservations will be accepted until February 28, 2009, and can be mailed to **Douglas Howard** as noted on the reservation slip.

During the cocktail time and dinner you will have an opportunity to peruse the silent and live auction items and purchase bucket raffle tickets, special raffle tickets and raffle tickets on the Hornbeck 10 ft 8", 12 lb. Canoe. There will be many fishing and fly fishing items such as an Orvis 9 ft., 4 piece, 6 wt., fly rod; a hand made bamboo fly rod made locally by former member **Dave Mayo**; and a 6 ½ foot, 2 wt made by **John Prokorym**. A pontoon boat donated by **Bill Donato** will be raffled or auctioned off. There will also be items of interest for the ladies and other family members that do not fish. If you would like to make a donation for the raffles or auction contact **Bill Cosgrove** at poppycoz@aol.com or 766-2405.

Please note that there is a place for an email address on the reservation and canoe raffle slips. Be assured that anyone providing an e-mail address will only be contacted regarding Clearwater Chapter information and that our e-mail list will not be provided to anyone else.

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Banquet Reservation

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

Chicken	Bourbon Glazed	Roast Sirloin
Meal choice & quantity- Cordon Bleu _____	Salmon _____	of Beef _____

Number of meals X \$35.00=_____

___ I cannot attend but would like to make a donation of \$_____ to the Clearwater T.U. Conservation Fund.

Make check payable to Clearwater T.U. Send reservation form with payment to:
Douglas C. Howard, 38 Velina Dr, Burnt Hills, NY 12027.

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Book of the Month:

A new book by *Thunder Creek* author and *Hair Wing Atlantic Salmon Flies* co-author, Keith Fulsher. Keith's, Atlantic Salmon Fly Tyer shares his *memoirs* of people, places, fish and flies.

The book is hard cover, 8' x 10", with 140 pages, 109 in full color. It contains 20 of Keith's favorite and 20 never seen before hair wing Atlantic salmon flies with full patterns. It is an ideal book for both beginner, seasoned fly tyer, and collector. For the tying novice, large format and clear step by step construction instructions of several hair wing patterns will make tying easier. For the experienced tyer Keith shares some interesting tying techniques to create new, proven, and exciting patterns. This book also contains personal observations and details on successful fishing for Atlantic Salmon, the history and evolution of Atlantic Salmon Flies, and some special places and special people. This is an autobiography of one of America's favorite fly tyers and fly fishermen.

Now available for immediate shipping, This first printing is of only 250 copies . 40 copies of this printing contain one of the flies tyed by Keith and signed; Price is \$75. Remaining books are \$34.95 each. Add \$4.50 shipping and handling for each book.

All proceeds from this book will benefit the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum. . Call 845-439-4810 or email: flyfish@catskill.net.

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN FLY TYING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sponsored by: Trout Unlimited Chapter 692

Cash Prizes

1st Place \$100

2nd Place \$50

3rd Place \$25

Entry Fee - \$10 per entry

includes both your

MANDATORY & "TIEBREAKER" FLIES

The Rules:

To enter you must tie and submit two flies. The first fly is the MANDATORY fly, the Hazel Creek, pictured below along with the recipe. The second fly, the TIEBREAKER, is any fly of your choice. You must also submit the recipe for your TIEBREAKER, and it must be a fly that you would fish with. All flies submitted become the property of Trout Unlimited Chapter 692.

Hazel Creek

Hook: Your favorite dry hook and size

Thread: Light yellow 8/0 (70 denier) or
6/0 (140 denier)

Wing: White hackle tips

Tail: Golden Pheasant Natural Tippet

Body: Light yellow Poly yarn or dubbing

Hackle: Grizzly & brown



Send your flies, TIEBREAKER recipe, and \$10 entry fee (check or money order) to:

TU #692 TYING CHAMPIONSHIP

Doug Reid

355 Owassa Road

Murphy, NC 28906

Entries must be postmarked by February 10, 2009. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. (Your personal information will not be shared.)

A panel of judges will be made up of members of Trout Unlimited Chapter 692. The judges will score all mandatory flies and select the top 20. The "tiebreakers" of the top 20 will be scored by the judges and then presented to the chapter membership at the March 12, 2009 meeting for inspection and scoring. The scores will then be combined to determine the winners. The names of the top 20 finalists will be posted on our website, www.ngatu692.com.

North Georgia Trout Unlimited Chapter 692 was founded in 2003 to promote conservation and protection of our rivers and streams. Visit us at our website: www.ngatu692.com



TROUT UNLIMITED CLEARWATER CHAPTER

PO Box 9686
Niskayuna, NY 12309

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT 2009

Dear Fellow TU Members,

With the end of 2008 and the beginning of a new year I want to take this time to wish all our members a Happy and Prosperous 2009. 2008 was a successful year for the Clearwater Chapter and we want to continue this success into 2009. At this time I would like to tell you a little about myself

My name is Doug Howard and I live in Burnt Hills with my wife of 42 years. I have been a member of the Clearwater Chapter for 22 years. Over those years I periodically worked on several conservation projects, attended meetings, attended the annual banquet and helped on some of the educational programs but never held an office or Board of Directors position or thought about holding one of these positions until after I retired. Four years ago a couple of Board Members approached me about becoming a Board Member which I accepted. Since that time I have worked as the Publicity Chairman, Quarter Master and Vice President. Since I said yes my involvement has steadily increased.

At this time I would like to thank Ron Boutin, our past president, for the excellent job he did over the last two years and long time support of the Clearwater Chapter and its programs. Also I would like to thank all Board Members for their dedication and hard work during that same period.

From what I have seen we are the second largest TU Chapter in New York having about 630 active members. We have about 60 to 100 members attending meetings during the year and about 30 members work on the various programs undertaken by the Chapter; 313 Clean-up, tree planting for stream bank stabilization, Brook Trout Survey, Kids Fishing, Handicap Fishing, Fly Tying Classes, Trout In The Class Room (TIC), Fly Fishing Classes just to mention a few.

We are a very active Chapter conducting many conservation programs, teaching the art of fly tying, teaching fly fishing, supporting other organizations by demonstrations of either fly tying or fly casting and attending many meetings at both the local and state level.

As an example last year during the "Teach Kids to Fish Program" TU members interfaced with over 200 children during an eight week program. It is a joy to see the smile on their faces when they catch their first fish. The Handicap Fishing Program (Sunnyview), a one time event that was recently held was a heart touching and gratifying program. We have about 15 individuals in

each of our beginners and advances fly tying programs each year and teach about 15 to 20 students how to tie fly fish. What I have noticed is the same TU Members are volunteering for all our programs. We need your help, just a few hours spaced out over a month or the year would help us tremendously. Some of our programs we support with just a few hours spaced out over a year to help initiate and complete a program, an example is the Trout In The Class Room (TIC) where school children, with the help of a teacher, obtain trout eggs, incubate them and then stock them into selected streams with the help of DEC. TIC is a minimal involvement program once the equipment is set up and running requiring periodic conversations with the teacher to ensure the program is running smoothly. A new program in 2008 was the Brook Trout Survey a program conducted by Trout Unlimited at the request of DEC. Volunteers from the Clearwater Chapter surveyed approximately 35 streams, selected by DEC, in Washington County gathering information on chemistry, Ph, water flow, bottom structure, bank vegetation and fish populations. Each volunteer had the opportunity to fly fish each stream to determine the presence of brook trout. This data was correlated and then given to DEC for evaluation and possible protection according to the survey findings. There were many other programs conducted by Clearwater members under the guidelines of conservation or education.

I realize that many of our older members are limited by health as to what they can do, and it is these same members that have supported these programs in the past. I also realize that our younger members are busy with work and raising families having limited time to do volunteer work. But I would like to request that all members look at each of our programs and consider volunteering just a few of hours per month or per quarter. Many of our programs are held on weekends and require just a few hours to accomplish its goals. What we will attempt to do is list all our programs in our monthly Newsletter giving the type of program, the scheduled date, where the programs are schedule to be held and who the coordinator is and their contact information. This way each member will know what is scheduled a few months out and can possibly work a few hours into their busy schedules to help us out. We all belong to Trout Unlimited for the same reason, to promote conservation in cold water fisheries and to educate others on how to best accomplish this and to also enjoy its biggest benefit, fly fishing.

We are also looking for individuals that are interested in chairing some of our programs. We have members that have done this work for many years and are looking to step aside to have others carry the torch. Don't think that once you accept a position that you will be left alone, you will have help from the past chairman and from many other volunteers. It is our goal to keep our conservation and education programs running and staffed with highly motivated individuals. It is through individuals like yourself that the cold water fisheries programs are being protected in our own State and throughout the United States for many citizens to enjoy. Sometimes our work is not easy but it is very rewarding when you see streams that were dying come back life to become an outstanding fishery. We have several individuals in our own Chapter that dedicate many hours a month on obtaining funding, coordinating work, arranging equipment and arranging the necessary support agencies to ensure the work is done efficiently, effectively and within the law.

So please consider giving us a few of your precious hours to help us carry forth our programs that our so important to us all. If you have young children they can certainly help out also and get an early start into fly fishing. Passing on the art and science of fly fishing to your children and grandchildren can be a very rewarding experience.

If you have any suggestions for meeting programs please do not hesitate to contact me so your suggestion can be put on the agenda for the Board of Directors Meetings. If you wish you may attend a Board of Directors meeting to present and discuss any ideas you may have. The Clearwater Chapter is your chapter so your suggestions are of value to us. Board of Directors meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the ACR Facility, 455 Center Road, Clifton Park, NY

I look forward to meeting each of you at our monthly meetings and events.

Best regards,

Doug Howard

President

Clearwater Chapter

Trout Unlimited

E-Mail: dhoward11@nycap.rr.com

Home Phone: (518) 399-8566

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Conservation Report 2008

By **Stan Duncan, Art Coleman, Greg Cuda, Jim Boyle, and Roy Lamberton**

January 12, 2008

Dwaas Kill

In 2006 the Town of Clifton Park purchased 250 acres of land and designated it as the Dwaas Kill Nature Preserve. The Dwaas Kill contains wild brook trout and runs about 1.3 miles through the Preserve. Spawning brook trout have been observed. In 2008 the Town of Clifton Park Open Spaces Committee began the process of developing a Master Plan for future use of the Preserve and a consultant was hired to assist in the planning. The Town has indicated a desire to maintain the Preserve in its present wild condition and use it for public education. The Clearwater Chapter was invited to assist on trout fishery issues. The Master Plan is to be completed by early 2009.

During 2008 chapter volunteers and DEC surveyed the stream and some tributaries, and documented brook trout spawning. Several culverts have been identified as potential barriers to fish migration, water quality and storm water management issues have been observed, and riparian plantings are needed in some areas to stabilize stream banks. Recent temperature monitoring data obtained by TU volunteers is being retained and evaluated at the Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District.

This is a unique opportunity to preserve a wild brook trout fishery in the middle of a highly developed section of Clifton Park. It is also an outstanding example of community planning through the joint efforts of the Town, County, NYSDEC and volunteer organizations such as TU.

Batten Kill

Hi-Brow (Skellie) Farm Site Habitat Restoration: The Chapter initiated this habitat restoration project on the Batten Kill River in East Greenwich to remediate damage from prior flooding. The river had split into two channels which were over widened and shallow. The goal is to put the river into its original channel, then add cover and shelter to this reach of river. The channel also needs to be narrowed in sections, and this work is scheduled to be completed in 2009.

In 2008 a rock structure was built to cutoff one of the river channels and redirect the river. Several wood vanes were added to the pool above the cutoff adding cover and shelter for trout. The pool was substantially deepened as the result of the structure. The bench was built to bank full height to provide the river access to the farm field during a flood event.

The work was funded by the Clearwater Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Batten Kill Watershed Alliance. Technical assistance was provided by **Art Coleman** and **Dr. John Braico** of Clearwater and Adirondack TU chapters, respectively. Design and implementation was provided by Carl Schwartz with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Hi-Brow Farms contributed rock and trees for the project.

The projected work for 2009 includes adding more large woody debris to the pools reaches, and building rock vanes to narrow and deepen the river where needed. We have a commitment for trees, rock and the use of an excavator from Hi-Brow Farms.

Luty Site: With USF&W, we looked at an eroding bank threatening a summer home and provided advice to the homeowner.

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Access: We are attempting to determine the location of all public access points on the Batten Kill in a joint effort with the Battenkill Conservancy and DEC .

Foster Farm Site: Chapter volunteers planted tree seedlings at last year's project site.

Road Cleanup: We completed four highway cleanups on Route 313 along the Batten Kill, partnering with the Battenkill Conservancy for 4.5 miles of roadside.

White Creek in Salem

Clearwater and Adirondack Chapter volunteers planted tree seedlings and assisted USF&W with placement of boulder clusters to improve fish habitat. This is a continuing project with the Adirondack Chapter.

Little White Creek

Volunteers planted tree seedlings and assisted USF&W with a bank stabilization project.

Mettawee

Clearwater and Adirondack Chapter volunteers surveyed a reach to provide data to USF&W for design of habitat improvement structures within the Granville Town Park. We met with Granville officials and showed them some of our structures on White Creek and the Batten Kill.

Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

Nine Clearwater volunteers participated about 313 hours to complete the survey of all 34 sites assigned by DEC in 2 subwatersheds, searching for brook trout by fly fishing. Brook trout were caught at 12 sites and observed at 2 others. One brown and a number of rainbows were caught at 3 sites. At all sites chemical and physical measurements were made and a threat assessment was completed. The project will be continued even more vigorously next season.

Kayaderoseras

Volunteers toured a number of possible project sites with Saratoga County Soil & Water,

USF&W, an engineering firm, county officials, DEC, and Adirondack TU.

Stream Assessment Workshop

Chapter member Art Coleman assisted **John Braico** in running a stream assessment workshop held at the Pack Forest in Warrensburg.

Onesquethaw-Coeymans Creek

The Clearwater Chapter was one of the founding organizations of the OC Watershed Council. The Council received a grant from DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program to develop a watershed management plan in partnership with watershed municipalities and other stake holders. Chapter volunteers have worked with a consultant to complete a Watershed Study, and volunteers are now preparing an outreach program for watershed communities. The OC is not stocked for most of its length and contains a very healthy population of wild brown trout.

As an outgrowth of the Study, chapter volunteers have negotiated agreements for 1.6 miles of public fishing rights along the stream, which are now at DEC for processing.

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Ten Mile and Catskill Creeks

Ten Mile Creek is a tributary of Catskill Creek, and both contain wild populations of rainbow trout. Clearwater volunteers are talking to members of the Columbia-Greene TU Chapter regarding joint efforts on the creeks. Catskill Creek has its headwaters in Schoharie and Albany Counties, and its tributary, Ten Mile Creek, begins in Albany County.

Hudson River Watershed Alliance

A Clearwater volunteer is representing the Onesquethaw-Coeymans Watershed Council and Trout Unlimited on the steering committee of the Hudson River Watershed Alliance. The mission of the Alliance is to protect, conserve and restore the water resources of the Hudson River Basin through collaborative outreach, education, networking, science, information sharing and technical assistance by and for the stakeholders of the region. The work of the Alliance will be a strong resource for TU chapters as well as decision makers.

