



Clearwater
Chapter

Clearwater Currents

The Official Publication of the Clearwater
Chapter of
Trout Unlimited

169 Old Niskayuna Road Latham, NY 12110

Issue No. 09-006

June, 2009



*America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation
Organization*

*Promoting Habitat for Wild Trout and Salmon
During 2009 Trout Unlimited Celebrates Its 50th Year
Fighting for Coldwater Fisheries Conservation*

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

June 15 Chapter General Meeting – **Norm McBride** –
NYS DEC Fisheries Chief Speaking on
“Delaware River Fisheries Issues” and I am sure
several other topics of interest to TU’ers – Guest
Fly Tier

June 20 Streamside Cleanup – 9am – Rt. 313 Rest
Area

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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Video Library	Richard Atkinson	377-8249	Youth	Mike Walchko	234-4192
Battenkill	Greg Cuda	587-1189	Banquet	Bill Cosgrove	766-2405
Board Member	Glenn Kuhles	869-0817	Publicity	Bill Wemple	384-0014
Website	John Morgan/Doug Howard 399-8566				

Clearwater Chapter of TU PO Box 9686 Schenectady, NY
12309

www.ClearwaterTU.org

Chapter Website

After a couple of months of being down or in repair the Chapter website, www.ClearwaterTU.org is back up and running. Thanks to **Doug Howard** and **John Morgan**. Check it out to keep up to date on all that is going on.

Treasurer's Report

Ken Waldie.

The Chapter finished May, 2009 with \$20,900.02 in the bank after taking in \$3,123.85 while spending \$3,057.02.

Chapter Fly Swap

Ron Boutin

Another year of fly swapping is upon us and starts at this months general meeting on April 20th. 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.

June	Caddis
Sept	Terrestrials
Oct	Spinners
Nov	Nymphs
Dec	Streamers

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.

Entry for May, 2009

Clearwater TU Fish-of-the-Month? Perhaps, but then again perhaps not. However, there is no question that the magnificent wild brown trout caught while fishing the morning of May 22nd on the upper section of the West Branch of the Delaware River is most certainly my personal best since completing the Clearwater TU Fly Fishing Course in 2005.

The photo was taken by frequent fishing companion and fellow Clearwater TU member Phil Johnson. The gentleman standing with me is our friend and fishing guide John Sweeney of John's Guide Service, Middleville, NY (<http://www.johnsguideservice.com/>). John deserves much credit for coaching me over the past several years as well as putting me over this fish and selecting the streamer that worked.

This was the first Delaware River West Branch trout I succeeded in bringing to the net. In large measure I was successful due to the generosity of TU members and others in helping me learn from my mistakes so that I might improve my fly fishing skills and techniques.

While I very much enjoyed playing and netting this wonderful creature, I found the most pleasure in seeing the indignant powerful tail thrusts as “my brown” quickly disappeared into deep water after being released unharmed.

While “my brown” may not qualify as a Clearwater TU Fish-of-the-Month; to paraphrase *Charlotte's Web* that was “Some Fish!”



General Meeting Schedule

June 2009

Norm McBride, the Fisheries Chief for NYS DEC, will speak on the Delaware River Fishery. Please come out to the last meeting before summer break to get the latest on NY’s biggest trout fishery.

**Don’t Forget – No Meetings During July or August See You
in September!**

YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR 2009

Sunnyview / ARC Fishing Clinic at 6mi, Water Works
Friday, June 12 and Friday, June 26 -- (9:00am to 1:00pm)
Instruct and assist fishing
Need 6 – 8 people each Friday

Northeastern Woodworker's Picnic at Elnora Firehouse (Clifton Pk.)
Sunday July 26
Need 2 people

Kids Fishing Clinic in Central Park - Teach Safety and Instruct Fishing
Week # one – July 7-8-9-
Week # two – July 14-15-16
Need 8 people

Blenheim Power Station Saturday, September 26 -- 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Need 4 Tiers and 2 Casters

This is just a short list of activities that our Chapter does to support youth's in the community and people in need of a day outside to make their lives just a bit happier. If you can help, please contact **Bart Chabot** at 393-9918.

Streamside Cleanups and Tree Plantings

Art Coleman

Our next Battenkill streamside cleanup will be Saturday June 20th at 9am. We will meet at the Rt. 313 rest area and work to cleanup our stretch of roadway. Fishing afterwards if you so desire.

Creek plan spurs concern

Advocates say proposal to clean up Patroon Creek could sully green space elsewhere in Albany

By JORDAN CARLEO-EVANGELIST, Staff writer

First published in print: Monday, June 1, 2009

ALBANY -- The city hopes to use \$1 million in federal stimulus money to reinvigorate Patroon Creek, once considered one of the nastiest and most polluted creeks in the state.

But the plan to reroute the creek into Tivoli Lake, a former city reservoir and now an increasingly mucky pond in the largely forgotten 80-acre Tivoli Lakes Preserve, has some neighborhood and environmental advocates raising questions about who the project would really benefit.

The city's planning and development office will ask the Common Council tonight to approve a \$1.06 million grant application to pay for the work, which it says would clean the creek's water by using the preserve's wetlands as a natural filter.

The city says the project would improve water quality in the lake by increasing circulation and oxygen content and will also make cleaner the water that flows out of the lake and into the Hudson River at the Corning Preserve.

Part of the plan involves bringing sections of the creek confined to underground culverts above ground, a process known as daylighting. All told, the project would cost \$1.18 million.

Re-routing and daylighting would slow the creek's flow, expose its waters to purifying sunlight and help stem erosion threatening vegetation and buried water and sewer lines.

City planning Director Douglas Melnick said the work would lead to "a more biologically healthy environment" in the lake, where dwindling oxygen levels are threatening its ability to sustain life.

Melnick told lawmakers last week that there are fish in the lake but they are dying.

But not everyone is sold on the proposal, including an environmental group that focuses on the Tivoli Preserve and the Patroon Creek watershed.

The problem is what lies upstream.

The creek, which starts in the Pine Bush and has its main source at Rensselaer Lake, wends past some of the area's most historically toxic sites, including the former National Lead munitions plant in Colonie, which spewed lead and depleted uranium contamination for years, and the Mercury Refining Co., which environmental authorities say contaminated one of the creek's tributaries.

In 1993 the Patroon Creek was named one of the 10 most polluted creeks in the state. The state later removed it from that list.

Ken Watson, executive director of the W. Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center and Arbor Hill Environmental Justice, fears what the Patroon would carry into the lake -- and leave there.

"I have some serious reservations about things like mercury, depleted uranium and PCBs," said Watson, who called cleaning the creek a decent goal, but not at the expense of the preserve, which sits near two of the city's least-affluent neighborhoods. There are better, though more expensive ways, to achieve the same result, he said.

When rainfall swells the creek, the water resembles oatmeal as it churns with sediment -- some of which Watson says he believes carries contaminants that will be deposited in the preserve.

"This is the only green space in all of Arbor Hill and West Hill, and it's going to be further contaminated for the benefit of a different constituency down at the Corning Preserve," he said.

George Robinson, associate professor at University at Albany who has studied the creek's water quality, said that while there is mercury in the preserve already, the source is not likely the creek because the creek's heavy metal contaminants are largely contained by a dam upstream.

Robinson said the main creek contaminants are coliform bacteria and road salt from Interstate 90 and the 35 to 40 percent of the surrounding drainage area covered with hard surfaces.

Both he and Watson agree that improving the quality of the preserve should be part of a larger effort to increase public access and recreational opportunities, which the city's grant application says is part of the plan.

DEC faces loss of 225 employees

Busy agency braces for cuts

By [Alexa James](#)

Times Herald-Record

Posted: May 28, 2009 - 2:00 AM

NEW PALTZ — Outside, at a picnic to celebrate the grand opening of an environmentally-friendly regional headquarters in New Paltz last week, the commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Conservation smiled big and talked of a promising future with his employees.

But inside, after the cupcakes and photos, Commissioner Pete Grannis holed up in a small conference room and foreshadowed a tough year for his staff.

Gov. David Paterson plans to cut 8,700 state jobs by July, including about 225 from the DEC. Those layoffs, coupled with the loss of another 250 or so through attrition and a hiring freeze, will leave Grannis' agency with a thin army and an unprecedented to-do list.

"I think very few people understand the scope of our responsibility," he said. "What we do touches every New Yorker every day."

The agency manages more than 1.4 million fishing, hunting and trapping licenses per year and 4.5 million acres of land. It oversees landfills, recycling and wastewater treatment plants, plus mining and drilling operations. The staff responds to as many as 18,000 chemical spills annually.

"And we license crematorium operators," said Grannis, wryly. "It goes on and on."

The governor's budget office said job cuts could have been avoided if the state's union members reopened their contracts and made two key concessions: defer one week of pay, to be doled out when employees quit or retire, and forgo 3 percent raises. Those sacrifices would save about \$450 million, said budget spokesman Jeffrey Gordon.

The Civil Service Employees Association refused to break its contract, suggesting other ideas, such as buying prescription drugs from Canada. Union spokesman Stephen Madarasz said Paterson's plan panders to public opinion polls and saves less than one half of 1 percent of the state's \$132 billion budget.

The governor will announce job cuts "relatively soon," said Gordon and "initiate the reductions over the summer."

ajames@th-record.com

CLEARWATER CHAPTER, TROUT UNLIMITED **CONSERVATION REPORT, JUNE 2009**

Roy Lamberton and Conservation Committee Members

Dwaas Kill - town and school representatives are meeting regarding the educational potential of the Dwaas Kill Nature Preserve. Riparian vegetation has been planted.

White Creek - plans are being considered for a bank stabilization using large woody debris.

Mettawee - geomorphic surveys are being worked on under the guidance of John Braico of Adirondack Chapter. Clearwater's Art Coleman is our chapter leader. The data will be used by US Fish & Wildlife to design J-hooks, Newbury weirs, and rock vanes for habitat and bank stabilization. Some of these projects may be started this year.

Geomorphic surveys are also being done on the Kayaderosseras and Little Hoosic Creeks. The Little Hoosic survey is being done by Clearwater's Art Coleman in partnership with the Homewaters Chapter, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Little Hoosic Watershed Association..

The chapter's participation in the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture is being led by Art Coleman. Geomorphic and fishing surveys on 36 sites is expected to start in mid June. Ron Bellisario will be leading some of the survey groups.

Onesquethaw-Coeymans Creek - The results of a watershed study are being presented to the towns within the watershed, which lies completely in Albany County. The long term goal is to establish a watershed management plan designed by the Towns of Coeymans, Bethlehem, New Scotland, and Berne, the Village of Ravena, Trout Unlimited, Capital District Regional Planning

Commission, Albany County Soil & Water Conservation District, Albany County Water Quality Coordinating Committee, community residents, and the NYS DEC.

Batten Kill - Another structure will be built at the Hi Brown Farm site and repairs will be made to an existing structure.

At the Foster Farm site, the chapter will help install a j-hook and root wad habitat structures, augmenting an existing structure. Rock has been delivered on site.

Group Needs Your Help

John Morrette

I recently donated a set of fly tying tools to the Addictions Care Center of Albany. A couple tiers from the Capital District Fly Fishers did a presentation to some of the members of the Addictions Center a while back. I visited the center just today to deliver my donation and met many of the people and found them very appreciative for anything I did (which wasn't much). They are now looking for donations of tying materials, hooks, feathers etc. If any of you feel you would like to donate something, you can bring whatever to the meeting this month and give it to me or contact **Denise Case**, at the Center at 434-2367. Thanks for your help, **John Morrette**, 393-6443.

Free Guided Fishing Trip on Battenkill

Learn the secrets of the Battenkill on a guided fly fishing trip. The Clearwater Chapter is offering some guided fishing on the Battenkill free of charge.

What's the catch?

We need some help doing stream research prior to a few stream restoration projects. The research involves fishing and recording the results. The fishing can last all day and the record keeping will take only a few minutes. Join us to learn some new tricks, tactics, and hot spots in exchange for a little bit of your time.

We will be keeping track of the number of fish caught, and the size, stream temperature, time of day, location, and weather conditions, and which flies they took.

Knowing where the fish are will help us to decide where to spend our time and conservation funds restoring this world class fishery.

For more information please feel free to contact me by email, phone or see me at a TU meeting.

Rich Bogardus

richaril@yahoo.com

518-377-1022

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License Fee Increases

Roy Lamberton

I read it in the Schoharie County Conservation Council newsletter:

The fresh water fishing license fee will increase from \$19 to \$29 for the October 1 2009 - 2010 season.

The new license fees will go on sale August 17, 2009.

The senior license fee will increase from \$5 to \$10, and the eligible age will increase from 65 to 70 years of age.

If this is correct, it means **if you are over 65 but under 70, your fishing license will increase from \$5 to \$29.**

Before August 17, you can buy a senior lifetime license for \$50 under the old rate schedule. If you are over 65 and under 70, and expect to live longer than 2 years, you can save alot of money by buying the senior lifetime license before August 17.

If the above information is not correct, someone please notify us asap. Thanks -- Roy

Maine's Efforts to Stop Didymo with Video Clip

The below link takes you to a news article and video clip on what some groups in Maine are doing to stop the entry of Didymo into their state. Nicely done and maybe something we should consider here in New York in those streams not yet affected by didymo.

<http://www.flyfishinginmaine.com/story.php?id=58>

Handicap Accessible Areas in New York State

New York State abounds in accessible by wheelchair areas to hike, birdwatch, fish or generally just get away from it all. Below are three links with hundreds of places persons who find it a little tough to get around would enjoy immensely. Take a moment this summer to take a person with mobility issues out for a bit of nature. You and they will be glad you did.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/34038.html>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/51617.html>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/31539.html>

Have a Great Summer 2009 – The Entire Editorial Staff at the
'Currents Wishes You and Yours a Safe and Happy Summer
Season