



May 2011 Fish of the Month Club Winner – for more information see inside

Clearwater Currents

The Official Publication of the Clearwater Chapter
of
Trout Unlimited

169 Old Niskayuna Road Latham, NY 12110

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*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

June 20 Chapter General Meeting – **Cynthia Browning**, BKWA, with an update on what's going on in the Battenkill Valley – guest fly tier too – starts at 6:30pm
June 25 & 26 New York State FREE Fishing Days
June 25 Chapter's Battenkill Roadside Cleanup – 9AM – Rt 313 Rest Area

Board of Directors/Staff

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| Video Library | Richard Atkinson | 377-8249 | Youth | Mike Walchko | 234-4192 |
| 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

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.

June Sulphurs

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.

The May 2011 Fish of the Month Club Winner is Clearwater's long time volunteer **Rich Atkinson** who fooled this 13" fish from the Walloomsac River – if you have never fished the Walloomsac it is about time you tried it too.

Chapter Monthly Meeting

Cynthia Browning, Executive Director of the Battenkill Watershed Alliance, will be an update on the results of the ongoing trout habitat restoration work in the Batten Kill in both NY and VT. A summary of the results of scientific studies showing increases in the trout population at the project site will be provided, along with descriptions of the work already done and plans for future projects. We have a really good news story to tell. I can also point out where people should try fishing.

Also, later in the summer BKWA will be doing a raffle of a Helios rod and Mirage reel donated by Orvis. It's about a thousand dollar package. Anyone who becomes a member of the Alliance for \$30 gets a raffle ticket.

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 6:30pm 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.

Great Website

Thank **Bill Wemple** for sending me this link that I highly recommend you all taking a look at if you have an interest in taking a kid fishing. Check out: www.takekidsflyfishing.com

Special Meeting

Greg Cuda

The Batten Kill Watershed Alliance has set a meeting date to present a talk by **Tom Rosenbauer** on Prospecting for Trout. For those of you who don't know Tom, he was named Angler of the Year in 2011. The other thing you may not know about Tom is he is on the board of the BKWA. Let's see eleven books to his credit, one million hits on his podcasts on fly fishing, biologist, and conservationist.

The date will be Monday July 18. We are trying to book the Cambridge Hotel for the presentation. Stay tuned for more details.

Please spread the word. *Editor's Note – Tom wrote a book called “Prospecting for Trout” – I loaned my copy to someone I now forget – big mistake since it was one of the best books I have ever read. Please thing seriously about attending this meeting as I am sure it will be well worth it. Carpool anyone? Fishing beforehand anyone?*

Passing of Shane Stalcup

One of the most innovative and young tiers this country had suddenly passed away recently. For more information on Shane's passing see the following link: <http://therockyriver.com/shane-stalcup-has-passed-away/>

Chapter Battenkill Roadside Cleanup

A dedicated group of volunteers braved the wet, windy conditions and cleared the trash from a stretch of Route 313 along the Battenkill. Thanks to **Stan Duncan, Stuart Bartow, Fred Tresselt, Jessica Galasso, Heath Clayson, Mike Casler, Anita Witten, and Glen Kuhles**. Thanks to **Bill Donato** and **Bill Cosgrove** for the lunch. **Bill Cosgrove** again did double duty and collected a bag of refuse. The next cleanup is schedules for June 25.

Battenkill Public Access

http://clearwatertu.org/News.html#Public_Access_Batten_Kill

I scanned it in and created a PDF file for download (~7MB in size).

Let everyone know about this resource for one of our local streams available from the site courtesy of ADK chapter who published it – **Bill Wemple**

Trout Waters Youth Program

July 17th to the 23rd,

2011



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
avkurt@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.



[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

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

Fly of the Month: PMD Emerger

Before the staff of the 'Currents heads off to summer break I will leave you with a very important pattern for those heading to the Catskill/Delaware River area to fish. One of the most prolific mayflies you will see is the sulfur or pale morning dun. This pattern is an excellent emerger pattern that is easy to tie and can get good results in tough waters. **Hook:** dry fly hook 16 – 22; **Thread:** 8/0 cream/lt yellow; **Tail:** brown hackles; **Abdomen:** olive brown synthetic dubbing; **Wing:** Case: pale olive or cream hackle fibers; **Thorax:** sulfur colored synthetic dubbing. Hook to the vise and then tie in the thread back to the hook bend where the tail fibers get tied in. Dub the body real tight and slim and then tie in some long hackle fibers to be used as wingcase and legs. Dub in a small mound of dubbing for the thorax and once that is done pull over the hackle fibers to form the wingcase and tie off. The remaining fibers can be split on each side of the hook to form legs with the tying thread. Tie off and whip finish. Long fine tippet and carefully focused eyes should produce results where fussy sulfur feeding fish are eating.





The Mayfly Club

Annual Fly-Tying Extravaganza at The Riverside
Café on the Quickway

EXIT 92 10 Minutes FROM ROSCOE

Saturday June 25th 10am to 3pm

Take a break, have some lunch and cool off from the mid-day heat. Maybe learn a new technique, chat with the guys or just relax.

RAFFLES, COLLECTOR FLIES

FREE ADMISSION

Fly tyers

Joe Fox
Fishy Fullum
Ralph Graves
Dave Brandt
Bob Mead
Ted Patlen

Shawn Britton
Bruce Corwin
Jim Froio
Ed McQuat
Joe Caballos
John Bonasera



ACA Casting News



ACA Casting Demonstration and Competition in New England!

Dear Ron Urban,

Steve Rajeff and Chris Korich, World & National Casting Champions and the American Casting Association would like to invite you to a special weekend of casting demonstrations and competitions called, **Introduction to Tournament Casting**. It will be held at the [Cabela's, East Hartford, CT Store](#) on July 9th & 10th..

Steve, Chris and others will be giving demonstrations of accuracy and distance events with fly and plug tackle for the public. We'll use the store's pond for accuracy and the lawn and fields for distance events. In addition, experienced and new casters are invited to bring their own outfits and cast the events. We will hold some competitions for the public with tackle prizes. We're in the process of getting fly and plug outfits for the public to use.

We are grateful for the volunteers from the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association who will help us run the event. I've attached a press release with schedule and directions and would appreciate it if clubs would invite their members and friends. [Press Release with schedule and directions](#).

Questions? [Email ACA](#)

See you there, John Field, President, ACA

email: castingnews@americancastingassoc.org
web: <http://www.americancastingassoc.org>



INTRODUCTION TO
TOURNAMENT CASTING
BELA'S, EAST HARTFORD, CT JULY 9- 10th
Spectators & Casters Welcome!

ACCURACY & DISTANCE
FLY & PLUG
Casting Demonstrations
by top ACA casters:

Including: STEVE RAJEFF
WORLD CASTING CHAMPION

Saturday 9- 11AM, 1- 3PM, Sunday 10AM- Noon

ACCURACY & DISTANCE
FLY & PLUG COMPETITION:
Open to the Public

Saturday 11AM- 1PM & 3- 5PM
Sunday 11AM- 1PM

OPEN PRACTICE AFTER
EVENTS EACH DAY



Cabela's

americancastingassoc.org

ACA Memberships and Donations On-line



Click on Logo to Join, Renew or Donate

Credit Cards or PayPal Accepted

ACA is a Recognized 501(C)3 Charitable Organization and donation to it are tax deductible to the extent of IRS law. Thank you.

Earns 'Ultimate Fishing Town' honor



Elaine Fettig, president of the Roscoe-Rockland Chamber of Commerce, said "it was just wonderful" that her town won the online competition. Jennifer Stiles/For the Times Herald-Record

By Leonard Sparks

Times Herald-Record

Published: 2:00 AM - 06/01/11

ROSCOE — An all-out effort by county officials, businesses and volunteers helped Roscoe overcome a seemingly insurmountable lead and emerge Tuesday as the unofficial winner of the World Fishing Network's "Ultimate Fishing Town" contest.

The tiny hamlet erased a deficit of more than 10,000 votes to end with 272,257 votes, 2,197 more than Waddington, the St. Lawrence County town that was Roscoe's main competition.

"It was just wonderful," Elaine Fettig, president of the Roscoe-Rockland Chamber of Commerce, said as she stood in Riverside Park with a dozen volunteers 20 minutes after voting ended at 6 p.m. "This community is just fantastic."

World Fishing Network officially will declare a winner by June 6, but if Tuesday's final tally holds, Roscoe will win \$25,000 to use on "fishing-related" projects, 10 WaveSpin reels and a short feature on the network.

The contest began March 1, with Destin, Fla., winning the first round. Subsequent rounds saw Roscoe and Waddington outpacing all other entrants.

The network allowed people to vote as many as four times a day, so Roscoe mobilized an army of volunteers to vote by proxy for people who submitted their email addresses.

Hundreds of employees in the New York City and South Fallsburg offices of Rolling V Bus Co. spent Friday submitting votes on behalf of people at the network's contest page, said owner Phil Vallone. "Everybody was involved," he said. "And not only employees, but their family members."

The Sullivan County Visitor's Association distributed fliers during this past weekend's Phish shows encouraging fans to vote. The association also posted appeals on Phish-related websites Tuesday morning.

"A lot of the fans that have been here for Phish were jumping on board," said the association's President Roberta Byron-Lockwood.

Roscoe resident Deb Hendrickson and her husband, Bill, spent weeks on the campaign. They scrambled to find a friend with a generator when their electricity went out Friday, and then lugged their computers there.

"Our living room is now transformed into a voting office," Deb Hendrickson said.

Her niece, Angel Feeney, also helped input votes. The 18-year-old SUNY Cortland student began work at 8 a.m. Tuesday, with more than 100 email addresses.

"It's probably one of the most exciting things that's happened to Roscoe in awhile," she said.

Waddington still held out hope of the final vote changing before it becomes official, but town Chamber of Commerce President Alicia Murphy declared the contest a victory no matter the outcome. "We've put ourselves on the map just by being one of the frontrunners," she said. "And it's really brought our community together."

[Click here: Roscoe surges to win network TV contest | recordonline.com](http://www.recordonline.com)

Salmon in the Classroom

<http://www.adirondackdailyenterprise.com/page/content.detail/id/524817/Salmon-program-spreading-in-North-Country.html?nav=5046>

Salmon program spreading in North Country

June 4, 2011

By MIKE LYNCH - Enterprise Outdoors Writer (mlynch@adirondackdailyenterprise.com) , Adirondack Daily Enterprise

About two decades ago, Don Lee took a fishing trip to the Margaree River in Nova Scotia. While he was there, he noticed there was very little garbage or litter on the waterway.

Afterward, he was talking to a worker at the local salmon hatchery who told him about the salmon in the classroom program. The educational program is one that teaches students about the life cycle of the salmon, its ecosystem and other aspects of the fish and its habitat. Participating classrooms raise young salmon and then stock them in nearby waters. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate salmon into their lessons. The program is similar to the trout in the classroom program, popular throughout New York state.

"I thought maybe we could do something like that in Plattsburgh on Lake Champlain with our rivers, and maybe the people would start treating them a little better," said Lee, a member of the Lake Champlain Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Soon after, Lee helped introduce the program to the Stafford Middle School in Plattsburgh. Today, the program is in about 20 schools throughout the North Country, including several Adirondack schools.

One of the schools that has tried the program recently was the kindergarten class at the Northern Lights School in Saranac Lake. The class is the youngest in the local program.

Teacher Kim Holmlund said the kids are too young to really understand most of the curriculum, but have really become interested in the young fish.

"When they're out this summer, I know they'll make the connection," Holmlund said.

Northern Lights School received salmon eggs in January. They were then put in a fish tank provided by Trout Unlimited. Since then, the teachers have been maintaining the tank, which includes changing the water and making sure the temperature lines up with the season.

In late May, with the help of retired Adirondack Fish Hatchery employee Ed Grant, they released 1.5-inch salmon fry, using a stocking permit they received from the state. The fish were put into Hatchery Brook in Lake Clear.

The school has also received help with these efforts from Bill Wellman, head of the Lake Champlain Chapter and Matt Rothamel, a member of the Tri-Lakes chapter and owner of Blue Line Sports in Saranac Lake.

Advocates of the program believe it is successful because there are many hands-on elements to it. Members of TU, like Lee, will give presentations to classes on things like fly fishing. Plus, the salmon are in tanks right in the classroom, so students can see the fish grow on a daily basis.

"It's a living, breathing creature that kids can put their hands on, versus just looking at a book and picture," Lee said. "We need to get our kids interested in the environment. I have nothing against TV. I have nothing against computers and stuff like that. It's great to have those things, but they need to have hands-on stuff that they can do."

Salmon have historically lived in oceans. They have also been in Lake Champlain for centuries, although there's debate over whether they were in the lake originally or migrated there.

Salmon weren't in the interior Adirondacks until the state Department of Environmental Conservation started stocking them in lakes and ponds. Salmon do, however, spawn in rivers such as the Saranac, but on a very limited basis because their migrations have been impeded by dams.

The salmon population dropped a couple of hundred years ago because dams were built on rivers where they used to spawn. Pollution and overfishing also played a role in the decline of the fish.

In recent years, the salmon population has rebounded after the DEC implemented a successful program to decrease the number of sea lamprey. DEC now uses a pesticide to kill sea lamprey, which are parasites that attach themselves to salmon, eventually killing them.

But Rich Preall, a fisheries biologist with the DEC, said that fish counts last fall indicated the salmon population is stronger than it has been in years.

"It's going to be a good spring for salmon along Lake Champlain," Preall said in late April. "We are already getting reports they are catching them at the mouth of the Saranac River in Plattsburgh."

That's good news for fishermen and any conservationist who appreciates the fish.

"At one time there were so many salmon coming up the Saranac River that in Morrisonville, farmers used to take a buck board out into the river with a team of horses and with pitchforks. They could load the back of a wagon with 18- to 25-pound salmon in an hour's time," Lee said. "This is documented in the history of Clinton County. In fact, on the seal of Clinton County, there is a salmon. That's because that's how important the salmon used to be to the populace around here."

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