



[One of Many of the Great Shots by Jason Neuswanger at Troutnut.com](http://www.troutnut.com)

Clearwater

Chapter

Clearwater Currents

**The Official Publication of the Clearwater Chapter
of**

Trout Unlimited

169 Old Niskayuna Road Latham, NY 12110

Issue No. 10-03

March, 2010



America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization

Promoting Habitat for Wild Trout and Salmon

*During 2009 Trout Unlimited Celebrated 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

April 1, 2010 New York State Trout Season Opener
April 19, 2010 Chapter General Meeting – **Ken Tualo** from Baxter House Outfitter speaking on “Guide Flies for Surface feeding Trout” – Guest Fly Tier TBA

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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Board Member	Glenn Kuhles	869-0817	Banquet Co-Chair	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 upon us and starts 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.

Fish of the Month Winner for 2009!

Mark A Brown

The Chapter's Fish of the Month Contest is already in its third year having crowned **Jim Berry** and **Bill Bach** as winners in its first two years. The contest is open to all members and their 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.

April Chapter Meeting Information



Ken Tutalo - Ken, the owner of the Baxter House River Outfitters has been fishing the waters of the Upper Delaware for over 30 years. Over the last 10 years while operating the Baxter House, Ken has shared his knowledge and love of the local waters with hundreds of people. When not guiding or helping customers in the Fly Shop, Ken can usually be found stalking the glass like pools of the East Branch for wary browns or wading the pockets of the Lower Beaverkill for wild rainbows.

During the winter months Ken is a regular at the Winter Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Shows where he demonstrates fly tying techniques and gives seminars on topics pertaining to the Upper Delaware River System and Fly Fishing for Trout.

Ken also publishes the daily fishing report on the Baxter House Website, which is read by thousands weekly from April through November. Ken has also appeared on Fly Fishing DVD's and on television. His most recent project was the Discovery Channel Program "Fishing Road Trip USA" which appeared on Discovery Travel. We are very grateful to have Ken with us on April 19th for his presentation of "Guides Flies for Surface Feeding Trout" – the last time Ken spoke to our group it was a full house so get there early!

Please visit www.clearwatertu.org for more information, events, and updates. The public is always invited and admission is free – meeting at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel on Western Avenue about a mile east of the end of I-87.

Chapter Ausable Fishing Trip

Bob Mead

The 2010 Clearwater Chapter Ausable Fishing trip will be June 4 – 6th, 2010 at the Hungry Trout Motor Inn. The deal is the same as last year and also priced the same at \$209 per person. For more information and to sign up please contact Bob Mead at 518-399-9000 or rmead1@nycap.rr.com.

TU's Stream Clean-Up Days: April 17 & June 26

Join TU volunteers in the second annual stream clean-up days on Saturday, April 17 and Saturday, June 26. Volunteers around the country will join together on their local rivers and streams, planting trees, removing trash and working together to continue their dedication to protecting and conserving coldwater fisheries. Hopefully, all will do their part across the country and each state. Prizes will be given to the chapter that brings out the most volunteers and gathers the most trash.

SPECIAL RAFFLE TO BENEFIT NYSCTU CONSERVATION FUND

The New York State Council is raffling off an outstanding rod, along with additional prizes. Raffles are **\$5.00 each or 3 for \$10 or 10 for \$20.00.**

Prize #1: A Sage ZXL 590-4 (9' 5wt 4pc.) Fly rod

Prize #2: A three day - two night stay for two at the West Branch Angler Resort during off peak season (April thru June 30th). Any time after July 1st, 2009

Prize #3: *Flies of New York* – An assortment of flies, tied & donated by fellow TU members from across NY State.

Proceeds from this year's raffle will benefit the NYSCTU Conservation Fund. Help support the fund that gives back to chapters, providing financial assistance for projects on our home waters. The drawing will be held at the June NYSCTU General Meeting on Saturday, June 5th, 2010 held in Lake Placid. Tickets will be available at the next three Council meetings (September, November and June) or you can purchase them through Longcasts via mail by sending a check and this coupon to:

NYSCTU / Special Raffle
c/o **Ron Urban**, Council Chairman
PO Box 815
Port Ewen, NY 12466

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

- 1 ticket = \$5.00
 3 tickets = \$10.00
 10 tickets = \$20.00

One Strange Fish Tale

An Entirely Synthetic Fish: How Rainbow Trout Beguiled America and Overran the World

Anders Halverson in Fall River, Estes Park, Colo.



By Peter Schmidt

Behold the regal rainbow trout, dappled denizen of deep lake and rushing river, fierce hunter of fish and fly—and prize of pork-barrel politics, invigorator of men, eradicator of native species, payload of numerous bombing missions.

An angler can catch a lot of rainbow trout and yet have no clue what a remarkable force of nature—and mankind—the creatures truly are. Anders Halverson, a research associate at the University of Colorado's Center of the American West, hoists them up for close inspection in a book just released by Yale University Press: *An Entirely Synthetic Fish: How Rainbow Trout Beguiled America and Overran the World*.

Few one-that-got-away stories sound nearly as improbable as his account of how our species, *Homo sapiens*, spread the fish species, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, beyond its native range.

Consider that as of the 1870s, the rainbow trout and its sea-run variant, the steelhead, lived only along the Pacific Rim, from California to Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula. Since then, Halverson says, the fish "have been introduced to every state in the United States and to at least 80 different countries on every continent except Antarctica," an expansion of range that took humans, corn, sheep, and dogs thousands of years to achieve.

Halverson offers statistics that illustrate how much humans are still involved in the spread of rainbow trout: For each of the roughly four million people born in the United States each year, he says, state and federal hatcheries stock about 20 of the fish in public waters. Most of them being mature, they weigh a total of about 25 million pounds.

Why make such an investment in spreading this one species of fish? It grows rapidly in hatcheries and withstands warmer waters and more-difficult conditions than other trout. Perhaps more important, Halverson says, the stocking of rainbow trout—which fight hard and leap acrobatically when hooked—has "satisfied a powerful human need": the primal urge to seek out and battle prey.

Halverson's book is a microhistory, an examination of America's involvement with a favored fish that sheds light on broader truths regarding our recent relationship with the natural world.

He says he fished for stocked rainbow trout while growing up in Colorado but eventually got bored with the pursuit and thought little of the fish until he became a graduate student in aquatic ecology at Yale University,

where he earned his doctorate in 2005. At Yale "I came to realize there is a real paradox to the way so many fisheries are managed these days," he says. "Like most fishermen, I see fishing as a way to escape civilization and industrialization, and a way to sort of make peace with the natural world." Yet most rainbow trout, being either the products of hatcheries or the descendants of hatchery fish, "are in many ways a product of that industrialization."

He decided to write a book examining the artificial spread of the rainbow trout and obtained a National Science Foundation grant to help finance the undertaking. He initially expected the project to be mainly an exercise in muckraking (he had worked as a newspaper reporter before going to graduate school). But "the more people I met and the more people I interviewed," he says, "the more I realized what a complex topic this is." Although he came across case after case in which efforts to spread the trout led to environmental disasters, his book generally does not paint those involved as fools or villains.

When it comes to government policy regarding trout, he says, "there are a lot of issues for which there are no clear answers." He points to the dilemma posed by rainbow trout's ability to mate with the increasingly rare—and unhealthily inbred—cutthroat trout of the American West. Such interbreeding is causing cutthroats to become even rarer as a distinct species, but the purebred cutthroat population is having so much trouble surviving on its own that hybridization might represent the single best hope of passing the fish's genes along to future generations. It is unclear whether the long-term survival of cutthroats requires keeping rainbows at a distance or bringing the two species together.

The oddest specimens in *An Entirely Synthetic Fish* are the people. They include Livingston Stone, a New Hampshire pastor who abandoned the pulpit to raise brook trout on a fish farm, then ventured to California in the 1870s, initially to set up a federal salmon hatchery in the Sacramento River Valley. He encountered the rainbow trout and ended up propagating that species in a hatchery on the McCloud River, where he lived under threat of attack by outlaws and members of the Wintu tribe. In one report on his activities, he remarked, "With tarantulas, scorpions, rattlesnakes, Indians, panthers and threats of murder our course here is not wholly over a path of roses."

Among others described in Halverson's book is Al Reese, a crop duster and barnstormer who in the late 1940s helped persuade California's Department of Fish and Game to drop rainbow trout into mountain lakes from the air. (He tested the fishes' ability to survive the trip partly by holding live specimens out a car window at 70 miles per hour.) The state agency recruited World War II pilots and purchased surplus military airplanes to dump the fish, generally from about 200 feet. Many of the trout died on impact with the water or ended up stuck in trees, but enough survived to inspire the agency to similarly drop turkeys, partridges, and even beaver (in burlap sacks attached to parachutes). About 50 years later, the agency learned that it had gone overboard with its fish-bombing runs, inadvertently ridding lakes of rare frogs, which the fish had devoured, and filling some lakes with so many trout that their growth was stunted from too much competition for food.

California fish-and-game officials are hardly the only ones who eventually altered trout-stocking policies in response to evidence of money wasted or doing more harm than good.

The book devotes a chapter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision in 1962 to deliberately poison the Green River in Utah and Wyoming to wipe out the native fish and make room for rainbows. At the time, few in the agency questioned the idea of pouring huge amounts of the piscicide rotenone into a body of water. Since 1952 federal and state fisheries managers had used the chemical, which kills anything with gills, to clear the way for rainbow trout and other game fish in a long list of rivers and lakes around the nation, even within national parks.

A few scholars at Colorado State University and the University of Utah spoke out against the Green River plan and subsequently complained of efforts by state and federal agencies to shut them up by threatening to cut off

grants to their institutions. Many of those involved in the river poisoning lived to regret it, for it ended up being a disaster for both the environment and public relations.

The project's planners assumed they would be able to keep the river from carrying the rotenone into Dinosaur National Monument park by having workers neutralize the poison upstream from the park with potassium permanganate, but they were wrong. When dead fish turned up in the park, the Fish and Wildlife Service found itself in the cross hairs of the National Park Service. Perhaps even more important, about three weeks after the incident, Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring*, helping spawn an environmental movement that barraged officials in Washington with angry letters about the Green River kill.

The secretary of interior at the time, Stewart Udall, responded by curbing the use of rotenone by federal agencies and calling for the welfare of unique species to be a "dominant consideration" in such projects from then on. All four of the chief so-called trash fish that the Green River poisoning sought to kill—the humpback chub, the bonytail, the razorback sucker, and the Colorado pikeminnow—now have a place on the federal endangered-species list. The federal government has spent more than \$100-million trying to save them.

An Entirely Synthetic Fish recounts many other governmental attempts at improving nature that went awry. In the 1960s, for example, researchers discovered that stocking a river with hatchery trout can decimate the wild trout population and actually leave it with fewer trout over all; the hatchery fish aggressively compete with the locals for food, and many end up being eaten themselves because they seem to associate the shadows of predators with those of hatchery workers tossing kibble. Beginning in the late 1980s, the Colorado Division of Wildlife inadvertently unleashed trout epidemics by stocking rivers with rainbows infected with parasite-born whirling disease, which leaves its victims disfigured and prone to swimming in tight circles.

The book also compellingly traces how the nation's attitudes toward fishing have varied over time. In the 17th century, the leaders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony regarded fishing with a hook and line as an exercise in idleness deserving punishment. During and just after the American Revolution, fishing suffered a similar image problem, thanks to its association with the English aristocracy. Beginning in the mid-1800s, however, interest in sport fishing boomed as it gained status as a diversion for the wealthy and came to be viewed as a pursuit that helped keep men virile and in touch with nature. Politicians eager to take credit for bringing hatchery jobs and better fishing to their states happily supported federal efforts to stock waters with game species.

Throughout much of America, one can still encounter the absurd sight of fishermen gathered on riverbanks next to hatchery trucks, hoping to catch naïve rainbow trout minutes after they are stocked. While not exactly shooting fish in a barrel, perhaps no other experience comes as close.

For his part, Halverson is attempting to restore the populations of rarer species of trout by, counterintuitively, encouraging people to fish for them. Taking a cue from the culture of birdwatchers, many of whom will travel long distances to add to their "life list" of species they have seen, he has set up a Web site that encourages anglers to catch and release as many species as they can. His logic is that if enough people roll into small towns and say they are out to hook rare fish species X or Y, the local chambers of commerce will get word, and new constituencies will be created to lobby for the fish's restoration.

Writing *An Entirely Synthetic Fish* has renewed his own interest in angling, both for rainbows and for other trout, Halverson says. "I actually love fishing again. You pick one of these rainbows up, and it is just a book that says so much about us."

Bill Wemple

Good to Know Chapter Website Stuff

There were a lot of old fly pattern pages hiding on the web server that were not hooked up anymore, so I just rebuilt them to be like the rest.

<http://clearwatertu.org/Flies.htm>

look on lower left for 'Old Fly Patterns' and you'll see the links there all racked up and connected to their respective pages with pictures, instructions, etc.

On an additional note the newsletter this month has a new feature that everyone can partake in. If you notice at the top of page one the TU 50th Anniversary logo is gone since that was last year. Instead I replaced with a photo I took that has something to do with fishing/conservation. If you have a photo you would like to feature on page one of the newsletters please email it to me and I will put it there. Captions are fine too. I hope you send in some nice shots since I only have a few that are worthy!

Hudson River Fishing License Changes

The folks in Albany notified us that they have changed fishing license requirements for the Hudson River. As of yesterday, a person needs: 1. a marine license to fish for striped bass, American shad, and river herring, and eels and 2. a freshwater license to fish for all other fish. Fishermen will not need both licenses unless they fish for both anadromous fish and freshwater fish. Striped bass fishermen will not need a freshwater license unless they plan to keep catfish, walleye, or some other freshwater species. A black bass fisherman will not need a marine license.

Could you relay this change to your TU friends. No clarification yet for the Delaware River.

Clearwater Chapter of TU Thanks Key Contributors Who Helped Make Banquet 2010 a Success!!!

The Clearwater Chapter's 37th Annual Conservation Banquet was held March 6, 2010. It was a grand success. Thank you. There are a number of key individuals responsible for organizing this year's function. They are those on the Banquet Committee:

Jessica Galasso
Bill Cosgrove
Richard Atkinson
Ron Boutin
Bart Chabot
Heath Clayson
Bill Donato
Stan Duncan
Richard Hermida
Douglas Howard
Glenn Kuhles
John Morrette
Kim Walchko
Mike Walchko
Bill Wemple

Thank you.

Every one of these people brings their talents and tirelessly works for months to make this fundraiser successful. Each has unique skills that together lighten the loads of such an undertaking as organizing a banquet. This is only the beginning of the story, however.

Those who donate items for the auctions and raffles make this annual event possible. The Clearwater banquet is a showcase of craftsmanship and generosity that is unmatched. Businesses we patronize, Clearwater chapter members, family and friends who support our organization, all give what they can of their time and resources. Please take a moment to see the list of donors who made the prizes available at this year's banquet. Think of these businesses when you shop.

Thank you.

Finally, those who attend the banquet not only find an evening of entertainment and a common cause, but generously participate in the auctions and raffles intended to support Trout Unlimited conservation efforts. A banquet is not a banquet without people in attendance. This year we had 112 guests. Thank you for coming and generously bidding on all of the fantastic prizes. As you can see, this annual conservation banquet is not just one person's undertaking. It is a well-orchestrated, combined effort that is only as great as the sum of its parts. In this case, we have the best.

Thank you!

Jessica Galasso
Banquet Committee Co-Chair

Bill Cosgrove
Banquet Committee Co-Chair

Thank You to All Banquet Contributors for Banquet 2010

The Clearwater Chapter of Trout Unlimited would like to extend our appreciation to all the businesses and individuals that provided donations to help make our banquet a success. Please support these businesses as they have supported us.

Adirondack Sport Shop	Atkinson	Richard & Lois
Adirondack Life	Ayer	William
Adirondack Paddle	Boyle	Jim & Lorraine
All Seasons Equipment	Brewster	Tom
All Terrain	Bull	Jeff
American Museum of Fly Fishing	Casler	Mike
Backyard Birds	Chabot	Bart
Best Western Sovereign Hotel	Cosgrove	Bill & Judy
Burnt Hills Café	Denis	Marvin
Campmor	Coleman	Art
Capital Repetory Theatre	Dorn	Ron & Kathy
Dry Fly Headwaters Distillery	Duncan	Stan
Faddegon's Nursery	Easterling	Alexander & Kimberly
Fishpond	Fuller	Jim & Betty
Fly Rod and Reel	Galasso	Jess
Fly Shack	Clayson	Heath
Focastle Farms Country Store	Hermeda	Richard
Fogg's Automotive & Suzuki	Howard	Doug
Fred the Butcher	Kuhles	Glenn
Freeman's Bridge Wine & Liquor Store	Lamberton	Roy
Gershons	Mohr	Brad
Goldstocks Sporting Goods	Morrette	John & Mary
Home Style Pizza	Olsen	Robert
Hungry Trout Fly Shop	Pasquini	Sue
Hungry Trout Resort	Peters	Gerald
Hydes RV & Boats	Tibbetts	John
Kattskill Mountain Club	VanDenburgh	Jessica
Light House Restaurant	Wemple	Bill & Anita
LL Bean	Zorian	Gregory & Kathleen
Maurice's	Donato	Bill
Michael's Shoe Service	Hesel	Larry
Mirror Lake Inn	Susko	Walt
Mountain Creek Anglers	Walchko	Mike
Oasis Flytying Benches	Andrejko	Ed
Old Saratoga Brewing Co.	Bogardus	Rich
Open Door Book & Gift Gallery	Boutin	Ron
Orvis	Kass	George
The Outdoor News	Newcomb	Bill
Peter Pause Restaurant		
Popeyes		
Randy's Tire Service		
Reel Seafood Restaurant		
Renaissance Gallery		
RLP Financial Management		
Salty's Pub & Galley		
Schenectady Hardware & Electric		
Scientific Anglers		
J. Stockard Fly Fishing		

State Farm Insurance-Keith Stewart
Straight Line Industries
Taylor & Vadney
Tops American Grill
Troy Music Hall
UNI Products
Wapsi Fly
Waterworks Lamson
Winston Rod Co
Brian Westover
Wright & Mc Gill Co
Yono's Restaurant
E & D Designs
Cabela's Inc
Jann's Netcraft
Proctors



Trout Unlimited's Spring Dinner in New York
An evening to celebrate wild rivers and wild fish

Thursday, May 6, 2010
Central Park Boathouse
New York, NY

Cocktails and Silent Auction: 6:00pm
Dinner, Program and Live Auction: 7:15pm

Special Program: National Geographic Society- Special unveiling of photography by Michael Melford and content written by Edwin Dobb from the magazine's upcoming story on the Pebble Mine and its potential impact on Bristol Bay, Alaska. In attendance for National Geographic will be the magazine's editor in chief, Chris Johns, and the Society's executive vice president and president of publishing, John Q. Griffin

Attendance: 250

[Buy your tickets here.](#)

Ticket Price: \$500 per person, \$2,500 for two, or \$10,000 per table.
Sponsorship opportunities available beginning at \$20,000.

Benefit Goal: \$330,000

On May 6, 2010, TU is hosting its seventh-annual Spring Dinner in New York at the beautiful Central Park Boathouse. This gala has been TU's most financially successful and well attended event in each of the last six years, bringing in financial leaders and nationally-recognized figures from Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York to Robert Rubin and Mike Kowalski of Tiffany & Co.

This year, National Geographic will unveil the photography and content of their upcoming magazine issue featuring the Pebble Mine and its possible impact on Bristol Bay, Alaska.

We hope that you will join the 200+ philanthropists and conservationists from the greater New York area to celebrate TU's work for North America's trout and salmon and their habitat.

For more information about Trout Unlimited's Spring Dinner in New York, please contact Matt Braughler at mbraughler@tu.org or (703) 284-9413. For more information about Trout Unlimited, visit www.tu.org.

[A Plea to Get Involved to Help Striped Bass](#)

John Kaufmann

During the last four years, those of us with a passion for striped bass have become increasingly troubled by what appears to be a decline in the population.

In Maine and New Hampshire, the fishery has collapsed. What I have personally experienced is the disappearance of small fish. I fish Cape Cod. There are areas that traditionally swarmed with small schoolie bass. One such area is the mouth of the Pamet River in Truro. Since the recovery of stripers in the 80's this was a place that when you wanted an ego boost, you could throw from its banks and catch little guys at will. Now, on most days, the only fish in there are hickory shad.

Outdoor writer, **Ted Williams** has written about this growing crisis both in the pages of Rod and Reel Magazine and on his blog.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is charged with the management of coastal fish which includes striped bass. According to their scientists the striped bass are in great shape. Space does not allow me to address the problems with their assessment but when they tried to roll over the quota of uncaught stripers (what does that tell you when they cannot fill their quota) for the commercial fishery from last year to this year an angry hearing killed the effort. Unfortunately, led by one of the representatives from New York, they recently simply voted to investigate increasing the overall commercial quota.

Every year the feds conduct the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey. Some of you may have some experience with this. They pay surveyors to interview fisherman at major ramps, parking areas, etc. at the conclusion of their trips. According to this survey (which is based on fish both released and kept) between 2006 and 2009 the catch fell by a whopping 65%.

In New York it appears that the state is considering opening the Hudson to commercial fishing and may allow trawlers to begin targeting striped bass (as in commercially netting them). Currently commercial fishing is restricted to rod and reel, gill nets and pound nets.

In New York, the local Coastal Conservation Association chapter is attempting to protect this important fishery. We need all the help we can get. Our web site is www.ccany.org. You can also reach me by either telephoning me at 518-281-2173 or by emailing me at jkaufmann@earthlink.net. If you care about striped bass, please consider getting involved.

3/21/2010 Syracuse Post-Standard.

NY Department of Environmental Conservation: 58 hydrofracking permits pending

By Delen Goldberg / The Post-Standard

March 21, 2010

Six people have been working four hours a day at the state Department of Environmental Conservation, logging thousands of comments about high-volume natural gas drilling, or hydrofracking.

"We're finishing up the transcribing and moving into the technical review," agency spokeswoman Maureen Wren said.

Hydrofracking involves shooting millions of gallons of water, chemicals and sand into wells to break up underground shale rock and create microscopic pathways for natural gas to escape.

The DEC has spent the past several months collecting and reviewing input on an 809-page draft document that outlines safety measures and mitigation standards gas companies will have to follow to receive drilling permits.

Even before the process has been approved, gas and oil companies already have filed 58 permit applications with the DEC, Wren said. Those will be reviewed once the state approves high-volume fracking, she said.

Wren said the DEC hasn't set a date for releasing their final regulations and green-lighting the process.

But anti-fracking advocates have said elected officials told them drilling could start as early as summer.

In other fracking news, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday announced it will begin a study to determine the impacts of gas drilling on human health, groundwater and the environment.

Environmental advocates worry that drilling could pollute groundwater and private wells and leave municipalities with millions of gallons of wastewater and no place to treat it. Oil and gas officials say there has never been a documented case of hydrofracking contaminating water supplies.