



Walter Susko with a Beautiful West Canada Brown Trout



Stan Duncan with a Blue Marlin Caught on September 14th 2011 off the coast of Hawaii

Clearwater Currents

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



*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

- October 17 Chapter General Meeting – Bill O'Brien speaking about the Ausable Two Fly Contest – Guest Fly Tier starting at 6:30pm – free and open to the public – Best Western Hotel – Western Ave Albany about 2 miles east of the end of the Northway
- October 22 FINAL Chapter Battenkill Cleanup – 9am at the Rt 313 Rest Area

Board of Directors/Staff

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Clearwater Chapter of TU PO Box 9686 Schenectady, NY 12309
www.ClearwaterTU.org

October 2011 Chapter General Meeting

The speaker for this month's meeting will be **Bill O'Brien** who will talk about the Ausable Two Fly Contest. Like any meeting that is fishing oriented the seats will fill up quickly so get there early to get a seat.

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.

Chapter Fly Swap

Ron Boutin

Bring in 13 of the current months category and get 13 back of the same category from other tiers in the Chapter. It's a great way to build your fly boxes and try some new flies. New ideas are always welcome as to what you want swapped so call me at 453-9843 or email me at rx4fishing@nycap.rr.com if you have further questions or ideas.

| | |
|-----|------------------|
| Oct | Attractor flies |
| Nov | Streamers |
| Dec | Salmon/Steelhead |

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.

I am not sure if we have two winners for October or we'll make it one for September and one for October, but anyways we have two great entries for the Fish of the Month Club for this edition. In the lower picture **Stan Duncan** caught this 175 lbs., 8 ft Pacific Blue Marlin off the Kona Coast of Hawaii on September 14, 2011. The fish was tagged and released. The other person in the photo is Lewis, a member of the boat crew. Although not a cold water fish, it was a hell of a thrill.

In the top photo **Walter Susko** caught this beautiful West Canada brown trout and only had this to say, but it pretty much sums it up – "the story behind this brownie is, it was hungry and loved my size 14 Adams"

Real nice job by both anglers – two more months to get entries before I have to make that very tough decision on who will win this years Fish of the Month Contest! Lots of good fishing still left so get out there and get a big one!

INVASIVE SPECIES TRAINING

THE THREAT OF EMERALD ASH BORER AND ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE IN ALBANY COUNTY

OCTOBER 20, 2011

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County
24 Martin Rd., Voorheesville
9:00 AM-10:30 AM



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation will present information on:

- *Emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle identification*
- *How the insects kill trees*
- *Related regulations and quarantines*
- *How to prepare communities for the arrival of invasive species*
- *2012 funding opportunities*
- *Best management practices to prevent the spread of invasive pests*

Who should attend?

- *Parks and Forestry Department field staff*
- *Public Works/Highway Departments field staff*
- *Planning Department and Conservation Advisory Committee staff*
- *Code enforcement/Buildings and grounds maintenance staff*
- *Landscapers*
- *Forest Preserve and golf course managers*
- *Woodlot owners*

This training is free but seating is limited. Please R.S.V.P. by October 18th to Walter VanDeLoo at (518) 765-2055 or dpw@albanycounty.com

Chapter Thank You's

We managed to perform a highway cleanup in September, but did leave some refuse for the large group of volunteers anticipated for the final cleanup of the year on October 22. Join us at the large rest area on Route 313 near the VT border at 9 am and we will have a party. Thanks to **Stan Duncan** and **Stu Bartow** for their effort on September 24.

More Chapter Thank You's

The people who helped with our summer projects: Sunnyview Rehab. Hosp. and ARC fishing at 6Mile Water Works, Kids Learn to Fish Program at Central Park, Schenectady, NWA summer picnic casting instruction et all. The assistants deserving KUDO'S again are random order:

George Kass, Bill Donato, Walt Susko, Glen Kuhles, Lois & Richard Atkinson, Ron Bellisario, Brad ohr, Bill Cosgrove, Ron Dorn, Stan Duncan, Doug Howard, Ed Andrrejko, John Morrette, Dick Hermida, Bill Wemple, Scott Parker, Len Tobler, Jan Panek, Bill Bach, Peter Tobeisson, Heath Clayson, Chuck Pallidino, Ed Culhane, Mike Fluty, Arnie Schultz, Bart Chabot and Mark Brown for keeping us informed in the newsletter.

Many thanks to all for all your help with these projects! ! Let's give these guys a break and get some new blood involved. You WILL have a good time..... Bart Chabot

ASSEMBLYMAN PETE LOPEZ CALLS ON GOVERNOR FOR CONTINUED EMERGENCY ATTENTION TO STREAM CLEARING & STABILIZATION SEEKS EXTENDED PERMIT WAIVERS AND MORE FEDERAL \$

As communities continue to grapple with the massive impacts of Hurricanes Irene & Lee, Assemblyman Pete Lopez (R, C, I – Schoharie) has requested Governor Cuomo continue emergency attention to stabilizing the hundreds of streams and creeks that devastated the region.

“Despite our best collective efforts, the clearing and stabilization of tributaries remains a critical challenge; many channels have left their banks while others are laden with silt, gravel, and debris,” said Assemblyman Lopez. “Unattended, these compromised streams and creeks pose a continued and significant threat to our roads, bridges, and schools, as well as to private businesses, farms and homes.”

Following the storms, the governor authorized the temporary suspension of permits required to clean up debris from stream beds in navigable waters, protected streams and freshwater wetlands in declared disaster areas until October 8, 2011. Coupled with this waiver has been the release of federal funds through FEMA to take on the massive work.

While progress is being made as a result of the Governor's initial efforts, Assemblyman Lopez and local officials are concerned that the recovery efforts have been complicated by continued heavy rains, slowing the pace of necessary work. These delays will lead to further flooding, landslides and other damage across the region.

Harold Vroman, Chair of the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors, said, “We need to have this deadline extended. There's not enough time to get clean up done in the short period we have and there's a lot that needs to be done. If we aren't able to clean up before the spring thaw, we could see additional major flooding and damage to personal houses.”

At a special legislative meeting of the Greene County Legislature, held September 19th, a resolution was passed asking for an additional 6-month extender on the permit waiver. Wayne Speenburgh, Chair of Greene County Legislature, said “It is most important that they extend this deadline. The first few weeks of our recovery were spent on ensuring public safety,

getting people out of their homes, and it's just now that we're able to start looking at issues like cleaning up the stream beds."

Delaware County Board of Supervisors also passed a resolution asking for the permit waiver to be extended. James Eisel, Chair of Delaware County Board of Supervisors, said, "I support Assemblyman Lopez 100 percent. We have tried for years to get in and cleanup the stream beds and it's always been an uphill battle. It's time for them to do away with the permits and allow us to clean up. If there's another storm, without giving us the opportunity to clean up the streams, the results will be catastrophic. How many times can FEMA come bail us out? It's always the same problems year after year."

"With the Batavia Kill adjacent to the school and exceeding its banks, the amount and level of sentiment on our fields and complex was incredible. Additionally, with the water levels now a minimum of 3 feet higher than it was, due to sediment piling up downstream, our storm water drainage system is being compromised and causing reoccurring flooding on our campus and Main Street each day. The only way to solve this problem and restore safety is to clean out the streams. John Wiktorko, Superintendent of Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School District, said, "Redirecting this steam and preventing future damage to the community is a cost that local taxpayers simply cannot afford. The amount of resources to do the job properly is significant and not only affects our community but those downstream as well."

"Franklin and Walton in Delaware County did extensive stream clearing after the flooding in 2006. This work helped protect them from Irene & Lee.", said Unadilla Highway Superintendent Rodney Renwick. "There needs to be a long-term plan and not just a short term solution. Right now we are simply reacting to what has happened. We need to be proactive to reduce these impacts in the future. Years ago, farmers and other property owners were able to help keep these streams and creeks clear. We need to take a hard look at allowing them and others to be part of a routine stream maintenance program."

"We need the Governor's help to protect our communities", said Assemblyman Lopez. "More time and resources are needed to tackle these streams to protect public health & safety".

Anglers want the hook for bulldozers in brooks

October 1, 2011

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

The New York State Council of Trout Unlimited weighed in this week on the work being done in Adirondack rivers and streams.

In a letter to Gov. Andrew Cuomo, the group claims some work crews are doing more harm than good by not following state Department of Environmental Conservation emergency guidelines.

The Sept. 27 letter states that Trout Unlimited was initially relieved to read the DEC's emergency flood response guidelines after Tropical Storm Irene hit the region on Aug. 28; however, the organization has grown concerned since then because some work is "proceeding in a manner inconsistent with these guidelines."

The organization is concerned that such work is harming natural habitat and could exacerbate future flooding events.

"Aesthetic, recreational and economic values are lost wherever channels are degraded," the letter says. "Subsequent flood impacts are not controlled; channel maintenance costs skyrocket and post flood repairs of previously altered channels ... are overwhelming."

The letter was signed by Elma resident Dee Maciejewski, chairman of the group's statewide council, and Queensbury resident John Braico, who is secretary and resource management vice president.

"We're bulldozing and excavating in a method that won't do any good and will just result in more flooding problems at the next high-water event," Bill Wellman, Region 5 vice president of Trout Unlimited's New York State Council, told the Enterprise Friday. "There's a mad rush to get stuff out of streams. Some of it is justified."

If you've got something that's going to imperil a building, a life, a roadway, something has to be done and the TU guys understand that. However, there's a tendency to take that authority a little too far."

Trout Unlimited had previously contacted state officials on Sept. 23 as a member of an alliance asking for heavy machinery work to be halted in Adirondack rivers and streams. The alliance said that before any more such work is done, there should be a meeting to address it that includes members of the state Adirondack Park Agency, Department of Transportation, DEC and other stakeholder groups.

In recent weeks, the Adirondack Council, Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve, the AuSable River Association, and numerous citizens and businesses have expressed concern about the stream and river work.

Local officials have defended it, saying it has been necessary to protect the public at large from future flooding events.

Work crews have until Oct. 8, when environmental permitting requirements go back into effect. The governor suspended them on Aug. 30 to speed rebuilding after the storm.

DEC spokeswoman Emily DeSantis, when asked if there were cases in which crews working in Adirondack waterways violated DEC guidelines, said, "While most of the emergency repair work in streams has been critical to protect life and property following the flooding events, there are cases where repair work may have exceeded emergency authorization guidelines."

She added, "DEC staff is working collaboratively with the DOT, APA and local governments to inspect work performed under emergency authorizations to ensure no unnecessary harm is done and to make certain the environment and property will continue to be protected during future storm events."

When asked specifically about John's Brook, she said it was being inspected. She also said no decisions have been made about whether to extend the emergency authorization deadline.

Braico told the Enterprise in an email that "neither emergency DEC guidelines nor DEC general permitting requirements have been followed or enforced." He said the public is beyond needing emergency conditions at this point, and it's time for local, state and federal agencies and various groups "to work together to meet common objectives that help us recover from the flood disaster, help the environment heal, and offer true reduction in flood risk by dealing with flood energies and all other aspects of flood response in currently accepted means.

"To do otherwise risks squandering limited money, leaving the populace at greater risk of future flood damage, and leaves the streams despoiled for many decades. None of this is an acceptable 'cost,' none of it is justifiable."

Contact Mike Lynch at 518-891-2600 ext. 28 or



September 27, 2011

The Honorable Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chambers - NY State Capitol

Joe Martens, Commissioner
NY State Department of Environmental Conservation

Joan McDonald, Commissioner
NY State Department of Transportation

Dear Governor Cuomo, DEC Commissioner Martens & DOT Commissioner McDonald

We are contacting you as elected officers of the New York State Council of Trout Unlimited representing over 8,000 angler/conservationists dedicated to protecting, preserving and restoring America's cold water resources.

Immediately following Hurricane Irene, Chris Wood, the CEO of Trout Unlimited, expressed great concern for those affected by flooding, encouraged TU members to assist localities, and offered to provide expert assistance with needed stream stabilization. TU chapters responded directly with donations of time, sweat and money.

Given the long history of problematic post flood response in NYS and our organization's efforts to insert science based best current practice in this area, we were initially relieved to read DEC's emergency and post emergency Flood Response Guidelines. However, with reports that stream work was proceeding in a manner inconsistent with these guidelines, TU chapters contacted Regional DEC offices to identify sites of special concern, made visits to obtain critical data and relayed information along to the US Fish & Wildlife Service for help with restorations.

At this point Trout Unlimited remains concerned for both the welfare of those living in flood ravaged areas and for damage to the streams as actions deviating from the issued DEC guidelines for Emergency Flood Response post Irene & Lee across NYS are likely to fail to meet the objective of protecting people, infrastructure and healing streams. Additionally, given the historically high risk of failure from this containment approach, it is wasteful of limited funds.

DEC's guidelines are consistent with the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force Recommendations (A Unified National Program for Floodplain Management, 1994). *The Task Force guidelines stress the need to maintain adequate floodplains to absorb flood energy and waters, thereby largely eliminating or substantially reducing flood damage. Recent DEC guidelines, in acknowledgement of natural stream processes, specify that a flood repaired channel must match stable reaches upstream and down in width, depth, gradient and character.* Trout Unlimited concurs with both the referenced Guidelines and the Recommendations.

It is well established that stable naturally formed channels with adequate riparian buffers and unrestricted flood plains are appropriately self dimensioned to handle ALL flows, with flood flows passing harmlessly over the floodplain. Six days post Irene, I inspected previously surveyed reaches of the East Branch of the Ausable River. Specifically, the reach immediately behind the Noonmark Diner showed: no channel widening, no channel incision, stable right and left banks without discernible erosion, an intact treed riparian buffer, and no deposition of sediment in the channel. Photos of this reach are indistinguishable from serial photos taken at this point since 1999 -- despite clear physical evidence that the flood attained a height of 9-10' above the active floodplain at that point and extended at least 365' across the floodplain, the low terrace & part way onto the middle terrace.

In contrast, a well studied & monitored unstable reach a few miles downstream at the Rivermede Farm had further channel widening, further bank erosion, extensive tree loss, mid channel deposition of sediment, meander cutoffs and a measured flood width of 1300' (with an unstable existing width of 300'). This flood width is 14.4 times the stable channel width of 90' at this point -- whereas the flood width at the Noonmark site measured only 5.4 stable channel widths. *Clearly an unstable, over-widened and partially entrenched channel as exists at Rivermede was associated with disproportionately wider flooding & markedly worse impacts.* As we all know, the nearby Hamlets of Keene and Upper Jay suffered far greater damage due in large measure to lateral constraints upon the river's and its tributaries' flood plains from infrastructure and buildings.

Similar damage occurred throughout the Catskill region for largely identical reasons. Observers report similar findings: unaffected stable reaches separating damaged reaches with severe flood impacts -- on the same streams. Observers also confirm that both small and large geomorphic restoration work on watersheds of the Battenkill, the Batavia Kill & the Schoharie (to name a few) were unaffected by historic floods. Even a project completed but 36 hrs before the Irene hit was undamaged!

Channelizing streams to increase flood capacity only converts them into unstable reaches: entrenched, over wide, with increased lateral stresses ripping out mature trees, damaging bridges & roads, destroying valuable land, sweeping away buildings -- and as proven by recent electro-shocking studies by USGS on the East Branch of the Ausable -- leaving the streams biologically barren. Aesthetic, recreational & economic values are lost wherever channels are degraded. Subsequent flood impacts are not controlled; channel maintenance costs skyrocket and post flood repairs of previously altered channels (without the benefit of geomorphic restoration) are overwhelming.

As has been pointed out by others, there is simply no way to contain a 500 yr + event. As a case in point, the flood at Ausable Forks peaked at 23,900 cubic feet/second -- with an estimated channel velocity of 7 feet/second. This translates to a flood occupied area of 3,414 square feet. Containing this volume would require excavating the existing 6.4' deep 176' wide channel to a depth of 19.4 feet -- an untenable option. (USGS data)

As the Interagency Report concluded: wherever possible, getting out of high flood risk areas and allowing the stream to function according to natural process with unimpeded access to a functional floodplain is the most rational and cost effective response possible.

In conclusion, The New York State Council of Trout Unlimited supports the limited flood responses as listed by DEC in order to protect the populace, infrastructure and the resource. We do not support any proposals or actions that exceed these Guidelines and respectfully request that DEC and the Governor's Office monitor and require compliance by all engaged in post flood actions. For non emergent actions taking place under the conditions of the General Permit, we also urge that the recommendations of consultant experts in the fields of fluvial geomorphology and river engineering be obtained on an urgent basis.

Healthy productive streams and vibrant communities with safe transportation are eminently compatible objectives, provided all of us fully understand what living in proximity to flowing water entails and are prepared to always act accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fly of the Month: Smoky Mountain Forked Tail

For 14 years I have done this newsletter and every Fly of the Month I can say I have tested – until now! I came across this fly on the website, www.flyaddict.com and thought it would be a good addition to the fly boxes of Clearwater anglers. Since it is named after an area where the fishing is quite similar to the Adirondacks I think it would be a great fly for us in upstate NY also. This one might not need to be tied right now, but with winter tying fast approaching this might be a fly to have since our trout probably haven't seen it. Tied with common materials and fairly easy to tie I think caddis, stonefly or high floating attractor. Whatever the fish think is what is important. **Hook:** 10 – 16 dry fly; **Thread:** 6/0 or 8/0 color to match body; **Tail and Overwing:** Goose biots tied split; **Body:** opossum in the original colors of your choice; **Hackle:** Grizzly and Brown. Mount the hook and tie the thread back to the hook bend. Tie in the biots for the tail and add fur body to the thread. Wind the body forward stopping a short distance ($1/3^{\text{rd}}$ of the hook shank) before the eye to allow for the hackle. Add the two biots for the overwing and then add the two hackles. Tie off and hopefully enjoy!

