



Clearwater
Chapter
Clearwater Currents

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

Trout Unlimited

169 Old Niskayuna Road Latham, NY 12110

Issue No. 09-008

September, 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

September 21 Chapter General Meeting – Guest Speaker at 7:30 – Guest Fly Tier Starts at 6:30pm
September 30 New York Fishing License Expires – Please Renew
October 15 General Trout Season in New York Ends

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
Education	Rich Bogardus	377-1022	Ex-Officio	Ron Boutin	453-9843
Secretary	Brad Mohr	482-4645	Youth	Bart Chabot	393-9918
Conservation	Roy Lamberton	872-2217	Newsletter	Mark Brown	brownie6@nycap.rr.com
Stream Research	Art Coleman	399-5550	Programs	Heath Clayson	573-6008
Quartmaster	Doug Howard	399-8566	Flea Market	Bob Mead	399-9000
Schoharie	Ed August	295-7663	Membership	John Morette	393-6443
At Large	Stan Duncan	877-6610	Membership	Dick Hermida	399-6272
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

[Adirondack Fishing Legend Fran Betters Passes](#)

On September 6, 2009 the fishing community lost one of its living legends as **Fran Betters** passed away at his home from heart disease at 78. The inventor of dozens of flies like the Usual, Ausable Wulff, Mini Muddler, etc plus author of many excellent books and one of the sports greatest ambassadors, Fran will be sorely missed. For those in Clearwater Fran was one of our biggest contributors over the years. Much more can be said, but I will let a remembrance of Fran by **Bob Mead** say the rest:

Fran Betters has lost his fight with heart disease. In the past year he had valiantly battled back from several nearly-standing eight-counts, but his opponent was relentless and on Sunday morning, September 6th, it knocked him down for the final time.

For the last half century his name has been synonymous with fly-fishing in the Adirondacks. No self-respecting fly rodder, on a pilgrimage to the West Branch of the Ausable River, would even *think* of putting a waded foot in its storied waters without first stopping in at the Evening Hatch to pay homage to the High Peaks gatekeeper - fly tying guru **Fran Betters**. To forego this ritual would be the equivalent of a devout Catholic visiting Rome on Easter Sunday and skipping the Pope's blessing.

Those who have not fished the Ausable the past few years might be confused by the words 'Evening Hatch;' It is the name of Fran's new establishment just a couple of long casts down and across the road from his original 'Adirondack Sport Shop,' where he tied and sold flies for more than forty years.

The new shop has a North Country museum quality about it with its mounted wildlife, artwork, and glass counter display of old reels and lures. But the main attraction was always the man sitting behind the jury-rigged U-shaped tying area composed of short, narrow tables, well placed in the center of the room so that avid apostles could gather around him. Once there they'd be treated to a seemingly endless string of stories about the old days, jokes, and tips on where to fish and what fly to use. Fran's heart may have been stressed, but to the end his mind was as quick as ever. While he talked he turned out flies as smoothly as one pulls a tissue from a Kleenex box. He would stop now and again to make eye contact with someone who had asked a question, or to emphasize a point with his hands, then continue tying without missing a beat. It was a rare day when one could sit and chat alone with Fran for more than ten uninterrupted minutes.

Though health problems prevented him from wading his beloved river the last couple of years, his guides kept him well informed of water conditions, hatches, and where a big fish could be found.

He really didn't need a lot of updated information, as the river in its bed of granite is resistant to change. The hatches too, remain constant, and big fish are always found in the best lies. Only in the upper flats where sandbars appear and disappear is there ever any noticeable change.

Like the river, Fran changed little over the years until his battle with congenital heart disease slowly began taking its toll. He no longer tied tens of thousands of flies each year, but as recently as this past July his arthritic fingers were still magically turning bits of fur, hair, and hackle into graceful Ausable Wulffs, buggy looking Haystacks, and, while perhaps not quite so high on the esthetics list, but extremely effective, Usuals - all three world-known patterns that work as well today as when he originated them.

Fran began fishing the Ausable seven decades ago with his father and his father's friends: icons the likes of **Ray Bergman, Lee Wulff, Jack Smith, and Bill Phillips**, all of whom camped in the 'notch'. Bergman, especially, offered tying tips and fishing advice to the young Betters.

Since that long ago tutoring Fran amassed his own legacy of tying techniques and solid fishing advice, all the result of countless hours of experimenting at the vise and exploring the river - and all of this lore and knowledge he casually passed on to the eager ears of those who watched him tie. His place in the annals of fly tying and fly-fishing history has long ago been assured – **Bob Mead**.



Treasurer's Report

Ken Waldie

Chapter Treasurer is looking for a replacement. He would be willing to teach and guide any new member wishing to step up into this all important position. If you can help let Ken or Doug Howard know asap.

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.

Sept Terrestrials
Oct Spinners
Nov Nymphs
Dec Streamers

Brook Trout Surveying

Art Coleman

We completed our second season surveying for brook trout in streams where their status was unknown. Thirty-four sites were studied with five of them yielding brook trout. Some participants became quite adept at catching creek chubs. An estimated 317 hours were volunteered by the following great people: **Mike and Kim Walchko; Heath Clayson; Doug Howard; Ron Bellisario; Bob Thomas; Bill Borthwick; Mike Casler; and Jan Panek.**

The photo of our quarry was taken by **Ron Bellisario**. Ron caught this brookie on a second visit to a site. What a persistent guy! ***Editor's Note** – to see Ron's brook trout caught in our brook trout survey see the Fish of the Month Contest entry for Summer, 2009.*

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.

As previously mentioned the Fish of the Month Contest entry for Summer, 2009 is this fine brook trout caught by Chapter member **Ron Bellasario**. It is tough enough to catch brookies period, but in summer it is even tougher. Plus it was for a Chapter research project to boot! Nice job Ron!



[Dear Clearwater Chapter Member,](#)

How does a free guided fishing trip sound?? Sounds too good to be true, well it is not, as part of the Batten Kill River restoration program several members have volunteered to take Clearwater Chapter members out on the upper Batten Kill on a one day guided fly fishing trip to do a creel survey.

The fishing trip would be set up later on during the season, August or September, at the convenience of the guide and the members signing up for the trip. A section of the Batten Kill upper river would be selected and the guide would take a number of members out fishing. The number going in each party would depend on the total number signing up for this great opportunity.

Each member would bring his own lunch, meet the guide at a location to be determined by the guide and all would enjoy a day of fly fishing.

This program is being set up to help establish the trout population in the upper Batten Kill prior to the start of a restoration program for the "Catch and Release" section of the river.

This is a win win program, a win for those participating and a win for the Batten Kill, so please consider participating. If you would like to participate in the program please contact on of the following members.

Doug Howard: (518) 399-8566 or e-mail at dhoward11@nycap.rr.com

Rich Bogardus: (518) 377-1022 or e-mail at richar1@yahoo.com

Chapter Thank You's

Bart Chabot

I thanked a bunch of volunteers in last month's newsletter for their help on summer projects, but forgot two of them. Special thanks, and my apologies, go out to **Kim Walchko** and **Jessica Galasso** for their help to the Chapter.

Wild Atlantic salmon found in Salmon River for first time in more than a century

Posted by David Figura/The Post-Standard August 19, 2009

12:22PM

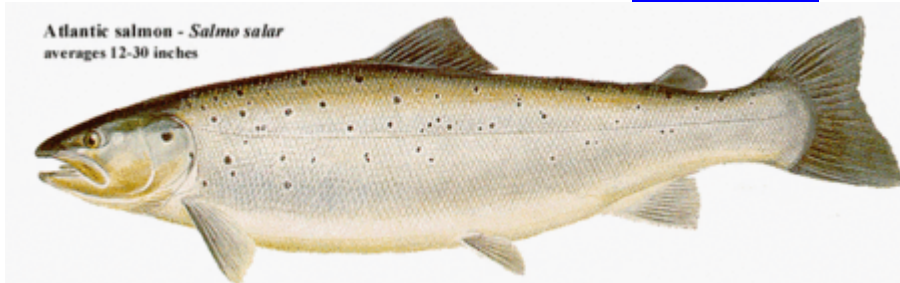


Photo courtesy of DEC

Scientists recently discovered wild young Atlantic salmon in New York's Salmon River, according a news release issue by U.S. Geological Survey officials.

This is the first time in more than a century that salmon produced naturally in the wild have been found in what was once New York's premier salmon stream. Forty-one wild Atlantic salmon were collected in June and July. All of the salmon were under one year old and ranged in length from about 2 - 2.5 inches.

"This discovery suggests that, after many years of reproductive failure, restoration is starting to work for this species," said Jim Johnson, Station Chief for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Tunison Lab of Aquatic Science in Cortland, NY. "This finding should provide real excitement and impetus for biologists and sport groups interested in bringing this species back to the area," said Johnson, whose lab made the discovery.

Lake Ontario once supported the largest freshwater population of Atlantic salmon in the world and the Salmon River, one of the lake's tributaries, helped supply the lake with its namesake species. But by the late 1800's, Atlantic salmon had vanished from the lake due to damming of tributaries, overfishing, deforestation, and pollution.

Salmon have not reproduced naturally for many years, in part due to low levels of thiamine in their bodies. One of the salmon's primary prey is the alewife, an invasive fish species that entered the Great Lakes more than 50 years ago. Alewives contain thiaminase, an enzyme that destroys thiamine. When lake trout or salmon eat alewife, they take in this enzyme, which reduces thiamine in adult salmon and their eggs and causes early death of newly hatched fish. Recent reductions in alewife populations in Lake Ontario, coinciding with an increase in native preyfish, may be having some positive effects on Atlantic salmon populations.

"This provides some hope that we can get natural reproduction of Atlantic salmon despite the thiaminase issue," said Dan Bishop, fishery manager for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Region 7 Fisheries Unit. "Our thinking was that the reproductive impairment would be very difficult to overcome."

State, federal and Canadian natural resource agencies have a keen interest in the potential for Atlantic salmon restoration in Lake Ontario. The NYSDEC currently stocks 30,000 yearling Atlantic salmon in the Salmon River and was pleased to hear of the discovery of the wild salmon.

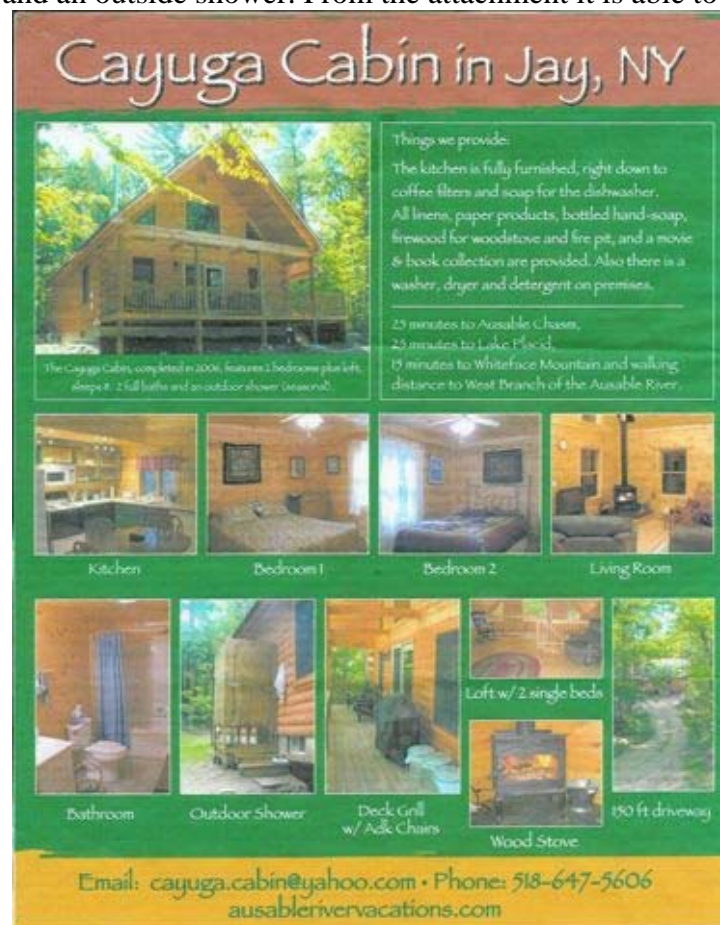
Identifying and overcoming obstacles to the possible restoration of Atlantic salmon in Lake Ontario is a high priority and NYSDEC and USGS scientists will continue to monitor tributaries to track populations of this important native fish. In addition, the implementation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative may help facilitate these restoration efforts and contribute to the broader goal of a healthier Great Lakes ecosystem.

Book of the Month: “Capturing Rogue Trout – Strategies of a Third Generation Fly Fisherman” by John B. Mordock

In remembrance of **Fran Batters** I will review a book that I bought at his store this summer. Unfortunately, due to his deteriorating condition he was not available to offer his advice or opinion on this book. The author puts three generations of his families fishing adventures and his own knowledge into this book and in so doing throws some old angling traditions out the window. I have always read that pond fishing is always best right after ice out. The author says that it is an old tale and one should wait a couple of weeks and then gives a bunch of good reasons why. Come to think about it my success rate with chunks of ice still on the water wasn't good as I remember it! What I liked most, besides the unique opinions, was the detailed advice on many of the most common angling situations like fishing pocket water, eddies and tail outs in the early, mid and late seasons. Although I would recommend this book to beginners and intermediate angler alike, the large number of typographical errors in my edition left me scratching my head. Paperback for about \$19.

Cabin in Jay for Rent

Dave Dodge, treasurer of Upper Susquehanna, is making available this cabin to rent at a special rate for TU members. Dave says the cabin is situated within walking distance of the West Branch of the Ausable river below Wilmington in the town of Jay. The rates are: \$300 for the first two nights and \$100 for each additional night. Dogs are allowed @ \$10 per night. These rates are good for September and October. The standard rate for that time is \$150 per night or \$900 per week. For reservations or questions call Rick Dodge at (518) 647-5606 and be sure to tell Rick that you are a TU member and the name of your chapter. The cabin has two baths (1 upstairs and 1 downstairs) and an outside shower. From the attachment it is able to sleep 8 people.



Cayuga Cabin in Jay, NY

The Cayuga Cabin, completed in 2006, features 2 bedrooms plus loft, sleepst. 2 full baths and an outdoor shower (seasonal).

Things we provide:
The kitchen is fully furnished, right down to coffee filters and soap for the dishwasher. All linens, paper products, bottled hand-soap, firewood for woodstove and fire pit, and a movie & book collection are provided. Also there is a washer, dryer and detergent on premises.

25 minutes to Ausable Chases,
25 minutes to Lake Placid,
15 minutes to Whiteface Mountain and walking distance to West Branch of the Ausable River.

Kitchen Bedroom 1 Bedroom 2 Living Room

Bathroom Outdoor Shower Deck Grill w/ Adk Chairs Wood Stove Loft w/ 2 single beds 150 ft driveway

Email: cayuga.cabin@yahoo.com • Phone: 518-647-5606
ausablerivervacations.com



Trout Unlimited, - Upper Susquehanna Chapter -- 9/19/09

To: Friends, Vendors and Presenters:

Ladies, gentleman and youngsters of all ages are invited to our Second Annual Conservation Day and Flea Market, sponsored by Trout Unlimited, to be held at Fortin Park – I-88 exit 16 South, County Rd. 47, Oneonta NY on Saturday, September 19th, 2009 from 10AM until 4 PM, Free Admission - Under cover - Rain or shine.

During the day, there will demonstrations and advisors available for many kinds of outdoor activities including Hiking, Camping, Fishing, Hunting, Kayaking, and Canoeing, Biking, Bird Watching, and others. Visitors will be able to talk with active conservationists including suppliers of so-called “Green” products and energy saving devices.

Trout Unlimited will conduct a raffle drawing for Prodigy 10 Kayak and Paddle and other prizes at 4PM. Parking is available on the grounds and the activities will be held in the former hangar pavilions.

For you vendors and presenters, and as a result of suggestions from last year’s Conservation Day activities, we have made some changes in our floor plans. There are two unused aircraft hangers with concrete floors which are open on two sides and situated in tandem on the grounds, one behind the other. We will combine profit and not –for- profit vendors and presenters together proportionately in the same buildings. Based on the order in which registrations are received (first come first served), we will assign spaces (stalls) in the first building before assigning spaces in the second building in-line.

We will enlarge our signs and directions to inform all patrons that there are activities and vendors in both buildings.

Vendors and presenters may also setup outside the buildings if you choose, but you will need to furnish your own canopies, if desired. All vendors and presenters must furnish your own tables and chairs.

Electric power is available but limited in supply, and again, will be assigned if requested, on a priority basis; Non- profit first followed by profit vendors on a first-to-register,-first-served basis. Electric power for everyone can not be guaranteed.

Trout Unlimited is a not-for-profit organization. Any and all proceeds or donations are used by this Trout Unlimited chapter for conservation and education projects and to send youngsters to educational New York State sponsored summer conservation camps.

Food and drinks will be available for sale at modest prices by Trout Unlimited members. All vendors and presenters will receive a token for a free drink and hotdog.

Enclosed to vendors is a registration form which includes fees for 10 and 20 foot (or more) stalls

Inquiries may be directed to Conservation Day Co-chairmen, **Jim Lennox** at (607) 432- 7884; **Roy Bartoo**, (607)-263-5620 or **Dave Plummer** (607) 563-1978 or dplummer@stny.rr.com

Issued by:

Dave Plummer, Vice President and Newsletter Editor for the Upper Susquehanna Chapter
23 Haynes Blvd Sidney NY 13838

Registration Form Below

**TROUT UNLIMITED SECOND ANNUAL CONSERVATION DAY (and Flea Market)
Saturday, Sept.19th , Fortin Park-Oneonta. 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.. (Rain or shine)**

VENDOR INFORMATION and REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Vendor or Group: _____

Name(s) of participating individuals:
_____;

Contact person(s): _____

Address: _____ . Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Spaces, both undercover (10 or 20 ft.) and out of doors (30 plus ft.) are available..Indicate preference:

Undercover: _____. Out of doors: _____

Equipment: You must provide all your own equipment and materials ,including tables & chairs.

Fee: _____. No fee is charged UNLESS you are selling items. If you are selling for a non-profit group, T.U. asks for a donation. If selling for the Flea Market, spaces are \$10.00 for 10 ft. (\$20 for 20ft.) under cover or 30 ft. plus out doors..

Return this completed form BEFORE Sept. 12 by e-mail to Dave Plummer (dplummer@stny.rr.com) or by US mail to

23 Haynes Blvd. Sidney, NY 13838 For Info call (607) 563-1978