

Clearwater Currents

The Official Publication of the Clearwater Chapter of
Trout Unlimited
17 Sutherland Drive Watervliet, NY 12189

Issue No. 15-02

February, 2015



*America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation
Organization
Promoting Habitat for Wild Trout and Salmon
Trout Unlimited Has Been Fighting for Coldwater Fisheries
Conservation for 56 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 Albany Ramada located on Watervliet Avenue Extension off Exit 5 of I-90 (Everett Road).

Upcoming Events

February 16 Chapter General Meeting – Featured Speaker **Tom Anderson** speaking on fishing Rock Creek near Missoula, Montana – 6:30 Guest Tier – Details Inside
March 14, 2015 Clearwater Chapter Conservation Banquet – see inside for more info!
March 28, 2015 Chapter Flea Market – Details Inside
April 1 Trout Season Opens New York

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Website	Bill Wemple	384-0014	Publicity	Bill Wemple	384-0014
Disabled Angler Program	Bart Chabot	393-9918			

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

Clearwater Chapter General Meeting

Monday February 16th Clearwater TU welcomes **Tom Anderson** who will speak on fishing Rock Creek near Missoula, Montana. Guest tier starts at 6:30 with featured speaker at 7:30. Meetings are held at the Albany Ramada Plaza Hotel, 3 Watervliet Ave. Ext., Albany, NY 12206. Admission to our meetings is always free and public is invited. For more information and details of upcoming events, please visit <http://www.clearwatertu.org>.

Annual Ausable Trip Information

Bob Mead

Our annual Ausable trip to the Hungry Trout will be May 29, 30, and 31 this year. Cost will be \$214 per person and you are responsible for your own gratuities, the same as the last two years. Includes two night stay, 2 breakfasts and one dinner off the menu. Please email me at rmead1@nycap.rr.com or call me at [518-399-9000](tel:518-399-9000).

Chapter Flea Market Information

Just an early 'save the date' notice that our Clearwater Chapter of Trout Unlimited Flea Market will be held Saturday, March 28th this year from 9am to 1pm with set up time between 7 and 9am.

Same cost as last year, \$20 first table, \$15 per additional table, plus 10 percent of sales, same place: The Albany Ramada Plaza Hotel, 3 Watervliet Avenue, Albany, NY just off Everett Rd.

If anyone has items to either outright donate, or sell at the Chapter tables please let me know ahead of time as it gets very busy the morning of the flea market.

If you usually come but can not this year please reply so I won't keep sending you emails.

If you already know you'd like one or more tables reply as to that also.

Any questions please email or call me. Thanks you.

As ever, Bob

Bob Mead [518-399-9000](tel:518-399-9000)

rmead1@nycap.rr.com

The Clearwater Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Proudly invites you and your guests to attend the
43rd Annual Conservation Banquet
March 14, 2015

at
The Century House
997 New Loudon Road (Rt 9), Latham, NY 12110

Doors open with hors d'oeuvres at 4 p.m. Dinner served at 6 p.m.
Tableside menu choices to include Filet Mignon **or** Salmon **or** Rigatoni Oreganato

Live Auction - Silent Auction - Bucket Raffles - Card Raffles – Door Prizes
Artwork – Fishing Gear – Tying Materials – Jewelry – Fly Rods and Reels – Gift Certificates

Reservations only available in advance
\$45 per person

Please complete this form and mail it by **March 6, 2015** with your payment to:

Mike and Kim Walchko 244 Quarry St. Cobleskill, NY 12043
Make checks payable to **Clearwater Trout Unlimited**
(Reservations will not be confirmed prior to the banquet)

Grand Prize drawing at the banquet:

“The Blackjack” carbon fiber canoe by **Hornbeck Boats** with rowing package
Canoe raffle tickets are available: One for \$5 or Five for \$20.
You need not be present to win.

All proceeds from this event to benefit local conservation of our cold-water resources.

Contact: Mike and Kim Walchko (518) 234-4192
www.clearwatertu.org

All are welcome!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

email: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____ x \$45 each = \$ _____

I would like to purchase canoe raffle tickets: # of tickets: _____ x \$5 each = \$ _____

I cannot attend but I would like to make a conservation donation of \$ _____

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____



**Trout Unlimited
Clearwater Chapter
Annual Conservation Banquet**



Saturday, March 14th, 2015

The Century House

997 New Loudon Rd. (Route 9) , Latham, NY

Time:

4:00 PM Cocktails &

Hors D'oeuvres

Dinner 6:00 PM

Price \$45.00

**Live
Auction**

**Door
Prizes**

**Silent
Auctions**

**Card
Raffles**

**Local
Artwork**

**Bucket
Raffles**



Hornbeck 'BlackJack' Canoe Raffle

Carbon Fiber (16 lbs) with Rowing Package

Tickets \$5.00 each or Book of Five \$20.00

Banquet RSVP: Kim Walchko, (518) 234-4192

For more information, directions, or reservation
forms please visit:

<http://clearwatertu.org/Banquet.html>

Canoe Raffle tickets please contact Scott Parker:
(518) 894-4661 (sgparker@nycap.rr.com)



[Fish of the Month 2015 Contest in Full Gear](#)

Mark A Brown

The Chapter's Fish of the Month Contest is already in its sixth year having crowned **Rich Atkinson, Noe Mead, Jim Berry, Bill Bach, Ron Boutin** and for 2013, **Brad Mohr**, as winners in its first six years.

All the entries for 2014's contest are in and the winner will be announced at the Clearwater Banquet on March 14. The entire editorial staff is carefully scrutinizing all the photos from last year to come up with best of the best for 2014!

The contest is open to all members (except me!) and family members of Chapter members 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 mrbrownie6@gmail.com or contact me via email 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 at the March Banquet when the winner will get a dozen hand tied flies or something else really nice as a prize.

For February 2015 there were no entries.

[Fly of the Month: Buzz](#)

Last month's fly took us to Europe and this month we'll stay there and focus on legendary German tier Hans Weilenmann and his wonderful tying website – www.flytierspage.com – hundreds of videos showing how to tie fishing flies presented by the world's top tiers besides Hans himself. Click a link and you are transported to a Youtube video for that fly. You could spend all winter here tying flies. This fly is a great floater and tremendous prospector in fast moving water such as you would find in the Adirondacks. Easy to tie, durable and works.

Hook: size 8 – 18 dry fly hook; **Thread:** tan or grey 8/0 (Hans uses a 12/0 thread, but 8/0 will suffice); **Body:** saddle hackle; **Wing:** grouse feather preferable something mottled; **Thorax:** hare's ear or fox dubbing – something with guard hairs; **Hackle:** remainder of saddle hackle used for body. Tie in the thread starting about 1/3rd of the way down the shank and make a few wraps and then tie in the body hackle. Wrap the thread further down the shank to the bend. Wrap the hackle tightly to the bend and then tie it off. Once tied off wrap the thread through the body hackle to secure it better. Select several grouse fibers and tie in at an angle so they cover the body hackle. Then tie in the remaining body saddle hackle at the same tie in point as the body hackle and wing. Dub a thorax and wrap the hackle over it several times tying off to finish it. Check out the video on this – click on he “buzz” link on the link above and watch the expert to learn. Best of luck!



[GO WITH THE FLOW](#) [Fly Fishing and Mindfulness Seminar](#) May 30th, 2015

Ladies, Join us for a one day seminar where you will learn scientifically proven, simple techniques to manage stress and increase feelings of well being and calm, as well as introductory fly fishing skills on a beautiful central New York stream. These experiences blend together beautifully, as fly fishing asks us to be in the moment, and fully aware of our experience. We will also be enjoying a custom-prepared lunch in a beautiful setting. This introductory seminar promises to be deeply enriching and revitalizing. "Come join us as we explore together the potential for beauty, renewal, connection, and growth inherent in every trip to the stream." For further details and to register contact Nicole at: NicoleChristina.com, Nicolesgarden@gmail.com, 315-426-8330, BreatheTasteSavor.com or Vicky at: victorialn63@gmail.com, 315-748-6951

Supported by NYS DEC

*Ron Urban, Chairman
NY Trout Unlimited*



HUDSON RIVER NET



Do you own or manage land along a stream?

The Hudson Estuary Trees for Tribs Program offers free native trees and shrubs for planting along the tributary streams in the Hudson River Estuary watershed. We are looking for new sites for plantings. Our staff can help you create a planting plan and work with your volunteers on-site during planting.



Trees for Tribs is now accepting

applications for Spring 2015 planting projects. Watershed groups, land trusts, and other environmental organizations are encouraged to apply. Applications received by March 1, 2015 will be given preference.

Since 2007, Trees for Tribs has been responsible for planting more than 36,000 native trees and shrubs along 17 miles of stream with the help of over 7,500 local volunteers. These plants will help protect water quality, fish and wildlife and also reduce erosion and flooding.

For more information about the program including project guidelines and applications, please visit the DEC website, www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html or contact the Hudson River Estuary Program's Stream Buffer Coordinator, Beth Roessler at [\(845\) 256-2253](tel:8452562253), or HudsonEstuaryTFT@dec.ny.gov.

TU CHAPTERS PARTNER IN STATE PARK STREAM PROJECT

by Greg Cuda and John Braico, edited by Roy Lamberton and Patricia O'Hanlon

A stream restoration project using natural stream design was completed in 2014 on Geyser Brook in the Saratoga Spa State Park (Park), in Saratoga Springs, New York. Geyser Brook runs through the beautiful picnic area of the Park, and is fed the cold clear water of numerous artesian springs (not really geysers).

Representatives of the Clearwater Chapter of Trout Unlimited (Clearwater TU) were invited to review the potential for stream habitat improvements back in 2013. Following successful discussions with the Park and the City of Saratoga Springs, the City provided Clearwater with \$35,000 to fund the proposed stream habitat work. Clearwater volunteers were then responsible for managing the project. The project's fish friendly outcome has exceeded everyone's expectations: aesthetically and functionally.

The project was designed for TU by **Carl Schwartz** of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Partners for Wildlife Program, without cost. Essential site data was surveyed by TU volunteer members of the Adirondack and Clearwater TU Chapters, under the direction of **Dr. John Braico**, president of the Adirondack Chapter. John also prepared the plans for the project which were used by the Park to obtain required stream modification permits from the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation.

A noteworthy element of the project was the City of Saratoga Springs level of confidence in the Clearwater Chapter of TU, and the volunteer members from the Clearwater and Adirondack TU Chapters, to hand the money over to Clearwater to manage the project. Clearwater has a history of many years of successful stream projects through partnerships with federal, state and local agencies, other TU chapters, TU State and National, and local grassroots watershed organizations. The Clearwater and Adirondack TU Chapters are fortunate to have volunteer members with expertise in field evaluation, design, and management of projects. The chapters often also participate in funding. This makes TU an effective partner and leader in natural stream design improvements.

The project was managed by volunteer Greg Cuda, member and past president of Clearwater TU, on behalf of his chapter. This included coordination of activities with Park staff, procurement and transportation of materials, contractor scheduling, and arrangement for payment for work and materials. **John Braico** was a major contributor to some of these activities.

The hard work and dedication of many TU volunteers contributed to the success of this project. Members of the two TU chapters were present each day during construction. **John Braico** donated much of his time to oversee construction by the contractor. The Park provided material, transportation of material, and a staging location. **Carl Schwartz** of USF&WS often visited to review implementation of his design.

As construction progressed, the enthusiasm of the partners grew and additional habitat structures were installed. This resulted in cost overruns which were funded by the two TU chapters, and with additional equipment and materials provided by the Park without charge.

The completed work has resulted in 1200 feet of improved stream habitat consisting of 5 deep scour pools, 3 under-bank structures, extensive arrays of boulder clusters and 2 turning vanes. What was previously a largely barren and shallow stream now bubbles over boulders and plunges into knee to thigh deep pools. The stream has been nudged into a narrower and deeper shape which results in faster currents and cleaner bed, a much better habitat for trout and other aquatic wildlife. The natural stream design used by **Carl Schwartz** of the USF&WS not only functions well, providing habitat for trout, but looks natural without evidence of human activity.

Each year, over a thousand trout are stocked in this small brook under a very successful Park program involving hundreds of area youth, each carrying trout in their own bucket from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation stocking truck to release in the stream. Due primarily to lack of suitable habitat, the majority of fish do not survive into the fall. The partners agree that the ultimate goal will be to improve habitat sufficiently to allow a naturally sustained population of trout. More work will be needed in the future, but this year's effort is expected to improve the fishing next year. The Geyser Brook Project will help Park

visitors, adults and children alike understand the importance of aquatic habitat when they again stock the stream next spring. They will be able to fish the rest of the season with a healthier population of surviving trout. Some day, they may even be able to catch trout that were born wild right in Geysers Brook.

Park Naturalist **Casey Holzworth** sees the restoration as a perfect demonstration project to educate both the public and professionals interested in natural stream design restoration. The Park and TU are excited by the exceptional opportunities for education about healthier trout streams, recreation, environmental stewardship, and newly created fishing opportunities. Next year, TU volunteers have been invited to participate in the spring kids' trout stocking program and provide information about the project's design and benefits.

Just a reminder our Chapter Annual Banquet is March 14th – please make an effort to show and support our conservation efforts. If you can't make it please donate what you can to support TU!