



Fish of the Month January 2015 - Jim Boyle caught largemouth bass - more info inside

Clearwater Currents

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

Issue No. 15-01

January, 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 55 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

January 19	Chapter General Meeting – Featured Speaker TBA – 6:30 Guest Tier – Details Inside
January 16-18, 2015	Fly Fishing Show – Marlborough, MA
January 23-25, 2015	Fly Fishing Show – Somerset, NJ
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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Disabled Angler Program	Bart Chabot	393-9918			

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

Clearwater Chapter General Meeting

As of press time for this edition there was no decision made as far as a speaker goes, but I am sure there will be an interesting one found. 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

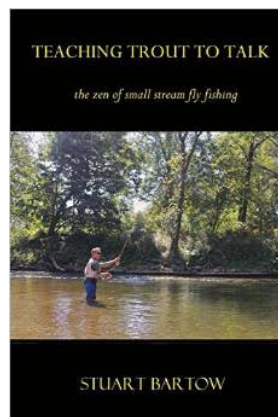
True Heroes

Thanks to **Ron Urban** for this link to the Syracuse Post Standard series of articles on heroes in the outdoors. Besides this link to **Fran Verdoliva's** fine efforts on the Salmon River there are other write-ups on other heroes out that way.

http://www.syracuse.com/outdoors/index.ssf/2014/12/fran_verdoliva_a_cny_hero_of_conservation_first_in_a_series.html

Clearwater Book Review: "Teaching Trout to Talk – the zen of small stream fly fishing" by **Stuart Bartow**

Clearwater member **Stuart Bartow** provided me a copy of his book before Christmas for my review. I was hoping to get it read and in the December 'Currents, but unfortunately I was unable to do so. It would have made a great Christmas gift looking for something new in the fly fishing library. For those who don't know Mr Bartow is a professor of English at Adirondack Community College and also chairs the Battenkill Conservancy. Not so much a how to book, there are plenty of those out there, but more of a book that asks or nudges the reader into thinking about all that is going on around them while onstream. If the reader does that argues the author their enjoyment of the sport will increase. He makes a strong argument to fish the small streams to maximize your zen as these special places put the angler far from roads and other anglers and allow us to become part of and benefit from the beauty around us. I couldn't agree more. An angler reaches his zenith fishing these small streams for wild fish where every mistake is magnified. He is right to quote **George Harvey** who wrote of the 3 stages anglers go through – catch the most, catch the biggest and finally the hermit stage where the angler is pushed into the wilderness to find different challenges and seasonally changing sights. It's that third stage where this book focuses. I also appreciated his experiences and encouragement to get anglers to try stillwaters and warm water species. Vastly underutilized and just what the doctor ordered to remedy the hustle and bustle and sometimes frustration of better known waters. Too much more in this book to even go into here. Quick to read and the chapters are one or two pages long making it a good before you go to sleep book. I highly recommend. About \$13 in paperback on Amazon.



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 Oregonato

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.

This month's Fish of the Month was caught by **Jim Boyle** in a pond behind his condo in Naples, Florida on a **Rich Atkinson** tied yellow popper. Way to go to both Clearwater TU'ers!

Fly of the Month: Fender Deer Hair Emerger

The United States has never won the Fly Fishing Championships although 5th place finishes in the last two contests shows we are catching up. The Europeans have this fly fishing thing down pat and their finishes back it up. Maybe we should be paying more attention to what the Europeans are doing on stream and what they are doing at the vise. I found a wonderful website, www.rodtrip.com, that promotes European tiers and anglers. For this month's Fly of the Month I will showcase the Fender Deer Hair Emerger. Most parachute style patterns require an upright post with a hackle tied around it. Requires a bit of dexterity and maybe a gallows tool. This pattern makes tying parachute style flies much easier and I think is worth a try on American waters. If you haven't fished emergers/parachutes much now is the time to try. **Hook:** Mustad C49 or other lightweight curved shank hook – scud style curved shank hooks are too heavy; **Thread:** color to match body 8/0; **Body:** original uses moose mane – I would believe a premium dry fly dubbing tied tight or biots are fine also; **Hackle or Post:** fine deer hair; **Thorax:** original uses underfur from winter deer coat, but peacock herl or fine dubbing is ok here. Detailed step by step instructions can be found here: http://www.rodtrip.com/world_flies/fender-deer-hair-emerger/ to help you out, but I will also provide abbreviated instructions next. Mount the hook and tie in the thread back to the curve of the hook. The original used tying thread to form the body shape – cone shaped being thicker towards the eye than the curve. Whatever your body material is wrap it over the shank leaving room for the thorax and post. Next mount the post like you would for a comparadun style fly, but leave it upright and don't flare it out like a comparadun. Dub the thorax under the post and then tie off. Using your index finger push down the top of the post so the hairs flare out 360 over the hook shank. Once you have a good circle of fibers add a bit of superglue or head cement to the center of the fibers on top of the shank. Use a hot lamp or uv light to quickly dry the cement and the fibers should stay flared. Much easier design and makes a real nice fly. Finished fly below.



What's Killing Salmon River Steelhead?

http://www.syracuse.com/outdoors/index.ssf/2014/12/scientist_puzzled_about_whats_killing_steelhead_in_the_salmon_river_and_other_la.html#incart_river

DEC Studying Ongoing Salmon River Steelhead Disorder

Nutritional Deficiency Strongly Implicated in Increased Steelhead Mortality in Lake Ontario Tributaries

DEC Taking Steps to Meet Egg Quotas to Ensure Robust Steelhead Population

Adult steelhead (a strain of rainbow trout) returning from Lake Ontario to the Salmon River in Oswego County are exhibiting signs of stress and elevated mortality rates due to an apparent thiamine (vitamin B) deficiency, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Joe Martens announced today.

DEC scientists enlisted the help of fish health experts in other agencies and academia to determine the cause of this disorder. DEC staff submitted moribund Salmon River steelhead to the Cornell University Aquatic Animal Health Program for testing. Results indicate that fish pathogens are not responsible for the abnormal behavior and mortality. DEC also sent steelhead samples to the U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Appalachian Research Laboratory for further lab testing. Results strongly indicate a severe thiamine (vitamin B) deficiency, which means it is likely contributing to the steelhead mortality.

"Lake Ontario steelhead are an important component of Lake Ontario's sport fishery and DEC is deeply concerned about reports of steelhead stress and mortality in the Salmon River and other Lake Ontario tributaries," Commissioner Martens said. "Steelhead provide high-quality sport fisheries in the open lake and are especially sought after by anglers who fish in tributaries from fall through spring. DEC staff will continue to work closely with federal agencies, Cornell University and other stakeholders to identify the cause of the current situation and strategies to ensure a robust steelhead population."

In mid-November, DEC fisheries staff began to receive reports of steelhead swimming erratically in the Salmon River and higher mortality of the species. More recent reports indicate similar behavior in steelhead in other Lake Ontario tributaries.

Steelhead are an important component of Lake Ontario's sport fishery, which a Cornell University study valued at over \$112 million in angler expenditures in New York annually.

Great Lakes fish predators (including salmon and steelhead) that feed primarily on alewife are prone to thiamine deficiency. Alewife, an invasive bait fish in the Great Lakes, are known to contain thiaminase, an enzyme that degrades thiamine. A thiamine deficiency can impact egg quality and the survival of eggs and newly hatched fish, and, in severe cases, can cause the death of adult fish.

DEC is taking steps to meet its spring 2015 steelhead egg-take targets at Salmon River Hatchery, and will work with Great Lakes agency partners to provide assistance in meeting egg take quotas, if needed. Staff from DEC's Rome Fish Disease Control Unit and Salmon River Hatchery are preemptively injecting adult steelhead returning to the hatchery with thiamine. Thiamine-injected fish will be held in outdoor raceways at the hatchery and fed a diet fortified with vitamin B to improve the likelihood of successful steelhead egg collections in 2015.

However, little can be done to alleviate the mortality of adult steelhead that are unable to ascend the river and reach the hatchery's holding facilities. Although moderate thiamine deficiencies are not uncommon in top predator fish such as salmon, lake trout and steelhead in Lake Ontario and other waters, this year's acute deficiency is atypical in its severity. DEC staff will continue to collaborate with experts to further understand the circumstances leading to this year's mortality.

For more information, contact DEC's Bureau of Fisheries (Cape Vincent Fisheries Station) at [\(315\) 654-2147](tel:3156542147).

Trout Unlimited Hails NY Fracking Ban **PA has experienced spills & loss of stream access**



By [Morgan Lyle](#)



Gas pipeline construction in Pennsylvania has caused sedimentation of trout streams, Trout Unlimited says. Gov. Andrew Cuomo's decision to [ban hydro-fracking in New York](#) "is a win for the state's trout streams and for fishing," a [Trout Unlimited](#) official says. Cuomo announced Dec. 17 the controversial method of extracting natural gas or oil from rock deep underground would not be permitted in the Empire State.

“TU and other sportsmen partners have been calling for protection of critical water resources and public lands for some time, through comments on various EIS documents and regulations and through one on one meetings with state officials,” said Trout Unlimited Eastern Water Project Director Katy Dunlap. “While TU and our sportsmen partners have never called for an outright ban on all fracking, yesterday’s decision by the Cuomo administration provides the protections we have been seeking. As such, we support DEC’s decision.” Fracking opponents have cited serious issues such as health impacts, damage to drinking water supplies and lowered property values.

Concerns were also raised about possible impacts on trout and trout fishing. They include:

- Water consumption. Fracking requires millions of gallons of water per well; taking it from nearby streams or ponds could rob wild trout of habitat.
- Contamination. Spills or deliberate dumping by unscrupulous operators could pollute waterways that are crucial to wild trout survival.
- Wild lands disruption. The construction of well pads, access roads, holding ponds and pipelines could result in pollution and sedimentation in fragile trout ecosystems.

While New York leaders were deliberating about whether to allow it, [fracking was taking place](#) over the state line in Pennsylvania. Dunlap said Pennsylvania’s experience had shown that the process can have detrimental impacts on trout habitat.

“One of the most common and potentially significant impacts that we are seeing in PA as a result of shale gas development is excessive sedimentation from shale-related activity, including well pads, access roads and pipelines,” Dunlap said. A network of TU volunteers monitoring streams for fracking impacts found one drilling operation in 2011 had turned Pine Creek, a popular Pennsylvania trout stream, brown with mud. TU alerted local and state conservation authorities and secured a stop-work order until the sedimentation had been corrected, Dunlap said.

“At least 15 different direct negative effects from sedimentation have been demonstrated to impact trout and salmon, ranging from stress, altered behavior, reductions in growth, reduction in fry survivability, reduced stream flow resulting in low oxygen levels, and direct mortality,” she said. “Clearly, this is a big concern for TU.”

The organization has documented at least five instances between 2009 and 2012 of fracking spills in Pennsylvania waterways. Several of these resulted in fish kills, although trout were not among the species affected in those incidents.

Fracking has had another impact on Pennsylvania anglers: restricted access to wilderness fishing experiences on public lands open to fracking.

“Often, forest roads are closed off if active drilling/hydraulic fracturing is occurring,” Dunlap said, adding hours to the time it takes to get to and from fishing destinations. She called that “one potentially serious issue that New York will not have to face, but that Pennsylvania anglers deal with often.”

[EPA Provides a Quarter Million Dollars to Protect Wetlands in New York](#)

Contact: John Martin, [\(212\) 637-3662](tel:2126373662), martin.johnj@epa.gov

(New York, N.Y. – December 15, 2014) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$239,000 to the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and the New York Natural Heritage Program at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry to better protect wetlands throughout the state.

“Wetlands provide enormous environmental benefits, and help in alleviate harmful effects of climate change, such as protecting against flooding and potentially dangerous storm surges,” said EPA Regional Administrator Judith A. Enck. “By strengthening shorelines and restoring wetlands, we are also protecting the habitat of fish and wildlife.”

The New York Natural Heritage Program at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry will use a \$141,000 grant to evaluate the relationship of “buffer zones” and surrounding land uses on wetland

conditions. The Heritage Program will focus its work in urbanized areas within the Great Lakes region, for example, watersheds of the Genesee River, Niagara River and Lake Erie. The program will also develop draft recommendations for conservation policies based on wetland type, surrounding environmental characteristics, and the influence of buffer zones. The New York Natural Heritage Program will contribute \$47,000 towards the total cost of this project.

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks) will use a \$98,000 EPA grant to revise its monitoring procedures to more accurately report the status and success of the agency's restoration of salt marshes. The agency will develop an experimental design plan for a salt marsh restoration project in Jamaica Bay. NYC Parks will also use this grant to draft guidelines for urban salt marsh mitigation and restoration design, and to facilitate a technical workshop to review and discuss these guidelines. NYC Parks will contribute \$36,000 towards the total cost of this project.

Since 1990, the EPA's Wetland Program Development Grants have provided financial assistance to help build or refine state and local government wetland programs. These funds provide opportunities for recipients to conduct research on comprehensive wetlands programs at the state and local level. Recipients of these grants are required to contribute a minimum of 25 percent of the cost of the project.

For more information on the EPA's Wetland Program Development Grants, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines/>