



Sue Garufi on Soda Butte Creek with a 18 1/2" Cutthroat – Fish of the Month Submission #1



This fish was caught in the Yellowstone River by Jeff Bull on the same day as Jim Boyle's fish of the month for October. Fish of the Month Submission #2



John Fulco with Fish of the Month #3 – see inside for details

Clearwater Currents

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

Issue No. 14-10

November, 2014



*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

November 17, 2014 Chapter General Meeting – Speaker TBA – guest fly tier at 6:30 and featured speaker at 7:30
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

Board of Directors/Staff

President	Heath Clayson	573-6008	Trips	Bob Mead	399-9000
V President	Scott Parker	894-4661	Treasurer	Ken Waldie	573-4793
Conservation	Roy Lamberton	872-2217	Newsletter	Mark A Brown	mrbrownie6@gmail.com
Education	Doug Howard	399-8566	Ex-Oficio	Mike Walchko	234-4192
Secretary	Brad Mohr	482-4645	Youth	Bart Chabot	393-9918
Stream Research	Art Coleman	399-5550	Programs	Heath Clayson	573-6008
Quartermaster	Bill Cosgrove	766-2405	Flea Market	Bob Mead	399-9000
Schoharie	Ed August	295-7663	Membership	Ron Boutin	453-9843
Trout/Classroom	Ron Dorn	842-2593	Membership	Dick Hermida	399-6272
Video Library	Richard Atkinson	377-8249	Youth	Mike Walchko	234-4192
Battenkill	Greg Cuda	587-1189	Banquet	Jessica Galasso	716-913-5550
Board Member	Glenn Kuhles	869-0817	Banquet	Bill Cosgrove	766-2405
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



Fly Tying Classes 2015 Sponsored by Clearwater Chapter Trout Unlimited

Saint Joseph's Parish Center 45 Macarthur Dr., Scotia, NY

Beginner's class start Jan 13th - Mar 3rd, every Tuesday

Advanced class starts Jan 15th—Mar 5th, every Thursday

Time: 7-9 PM

Cost: \$65 for TU members & \$80 for non-TU members (*includes a one year membership to Trout Unlimited)
All materials are supplied, students must provide tying tools and a vise. (**Limited # of vises available for beginners)

For more info, or to register please go to: <http://clearwatertu.org/Classes.html>
or call/email: **Doug Howard**: 399-8566 (dhoward11@nycap.rr.com)
Gift certificates are available.

Clearwater Chapter General Meeting

Details weren't ready by press time, but rest assured there will be a speaker for the November 17th meeting.

Guest fly tier starts at 6:30pm with the featured speaker at 7:30pm.

By the way a huge donation of fly tying materials was made to the Chapter and is being sold at ridiculously low prices at the Chapter meetings. Great time to stock up on materials just before winter sets in. Won't find lower prices anywhere and you support the Chapter to boot!

Open to all and of course free to boot. Albany Ramada off exit 5 of I-90. See you there!

Fish of the Month 2014 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. 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 as a prize.

Fish of the the Month Submission #1:

Sue is a beginning fly fisher and joined TU earlier this year and is a member in the Clearwater Chapter. I have been teaching Sue to fly fish and we made the trip to Montana and Wyoming and Yellowstone Park for two weeks of fishing in early October, 2014. Even though Sue has caught quite a few fish so far, this cutthroat was her largest by far at 18 1/2 inches and was taken on a #16 pheasant tail nymph. The fish was released right after the photos to be enjoyed by many others – **Ron Zawoysky**

Fish of the Month Submission #2:

Jeff Bull with a beautiful Yellowstone fish caught the same day as October's Fish of the Month's submission by **Jim Boyle**. Evidence of a great trip!

Fish of the Month Submission #3:

John Fulco caught this beautiful steelhead in September on the Skeena River in British Columbia.

Fly of the Month: Dark Clown Rag Egg

Steelhead season is upon us so this month I offer an egg pattern as the fly of the month. As a kid I tied thousands of these egg yarn pattern for Lake Ontario and Finger Lakes trout and after 30 years worth of steelheading changes the egg fly is still a very good choice to land a lake run monster. Egg flies come in a variety of colors, but this one incorporates several different colors and is just as easy to tie. **Hook:** egg style: hook in 6 – 10 such as a TMC 105; **Thread:** 6/0 color of your choice; **Egg Yarn:** several different colors of your choice – pink, red, orange, chartreuse, cheese, etc are good choices. Cut your yarn choices into 1 1/4” long pieces and comb them out a bit so the diameter is slightly less than the diameter of a pencil. Four or five colors is plenty. Wrap the thread several times on the shank to start. Lay on the first two pieces of yarn perpendicular to the hook shank and using a crisscross method with the thread secure them to the shank. When secure leave the thread just ahead of the yarn and tie in the remaining yarn pieces two at a time. When finished with securing the yarn pieces to the shank pull up on the yarn pieces firmly and tie in a small ball of thread up against the yarn pieces or make a few wraps around the pulled up yarn to secure them. Let go and then trim the yarn a bit to form a round ball. Use your fingers to fluff them into position. Takes two minutes to do one fly and even faster if you pre cut all of your yarn ahead of time. Check out this link for more information:

<http://www.current-works.com/how-to-tie-fly/clown-rag-egg-pattern/>



EPA Announces Proposed Settlement with Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation for Cleanup of Saratoga Springs, NY Superfund Site Value of Cleanup Work Estimated at \$6.5 Million

Contact: Larisa Romanowski, [\(518\) 747-4389](tel:5187474389), romanowski.larisa@epa.gov

(New York, N.Y. – October 16, 2014) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced a proposed settlement with Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation to perform a soil and groundwater cleanup and reimburse EPA for certain past and future costs at the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation Superfund site in Saratoga Springs, New York. Under the settlement, Niagara Mohawk will perform this additional cleanup work, valued at \$6.5 million, and pay 100 percent of EPA’s future oversight costs as well as all of EPA’s costs from April 1, 2013 through the date the court approves the settlement. The site, which was once used to manufacture gas from coal, contains hazardous substances, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that were produced as byproducts and disposed of on site. Exposure to these pollutants can have serious health effects, and in some cases, increases the risk of cancer. Residents within

the area impacted by the contaminated groundwater do not use the groundwater as a drinking water source and are served by a public water supply.

"This agreement ensures that the remaining cleanup work at the Niagara Mohawk site will proceed and continue to protect this community," said EPA Regional Administrator Judith A. Enck. "It also demonstrates how the Superfund law works to make polluters, rather than taxpayers, pay for the cost of cleanups."

From approximately 1853 to the 1940s, Niagara Mohawk's predecessors, Saratoga Gas and Light and New York Power and Light Corporation, produced gas at the Niagara Mohawk property on Excelsior Ave used to power gas street lights. After gas manufacturing stopped, the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation used its property for storage and to park vehicles. The EPA added the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation site to the Superfund list in 1990.

In 1995, the EPA finalized a cleanup plan to address contaminants in the groundwater and soil on the NiagaraMohawk property, at a former skating rink, and in stream sediment along portions of Spring Run Creek. Under a 1997 settlement with EPA, Niagara Mohawk agreed to do the cleanup work. The company removed contaminated soil and sediment from areas containing coal tar waste, installed underground barriers to contain the contaminated groundwater and installed a protective cap to cover contaminated soil. In addition, the company constructed and continues to operate a system to extract and treat contaminated groundwater on Niagara Mohawk's property. While this cleanup work was thought to be all that would be needed to address contamination at the site, additional soil and groundwater contamination was discovered in 2006 to the west and southwest of the Niagara Mohawk property in a half-acre area near Excelsior, Warren and High Rock Avenues. EPA oversaw Niagara Mohawk's investigation of this newly discovered contamination, including their analysis of various options to address it.

In 2013, the EPA finalized a second cleanup plan to address the newly discovered contamination. The work under this plan would be conducted under the agreement proposed today. The 2013 plan calls for the cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater under a section of Excelsior Avenue, at a small green space containing the Old Red Spring well and pavilion and under a section of an adjacent paved parking lot. Under the terms of the agreement with EPA, Niagara Mohawk will solidify and stabilize contaminated areas of soil in the Old Red Spring area with a cement-like material. The company will also install underground barriers to contain contaminated soil underneath the surface of Excelsior Avenue. Following the work, any grassy areas, plants, parking lots, roadways or sidewalks impacted during the cleanup will be restored. In addition, Niagara Mohawk will treat contaminated groundwater using non-hazardous oxygen-releasing materials and nutrients to break down the contamination to meet federal and state water quality standards. The EPA will require that groundwater samples be collected and analyzed periodically to verify that the level and extent of the contamination is declining. The plan requires environmental easements that will place restrictions on land use such as prohibiting the use of groundwater wells and preventing activities that could disturb the barrier wall and solidified material. To minimize the impact on the surrounding community, EPA and National Grid will work with the city government and community to minimize impacts during construction, particularly during the racing season.

The Superfund program operates on the principle that polluters should pay for the cleanups, rather than passing the costs to taxpayers. The EPA searches for parties legally responsible for the contamination at sites and it seeks to hold those parties accountable for the costs of investigations and cleanups. To-date, the cleanup of the NiagaraMohawk Superfund site has been conducted and paid for by Niagara Mohawk with oversight by the EPA.

The proposed settlement will be subject to a 30-day public comment period upon the publication of a notice in the Federal Register. For a copy of the proposed settlement, visit www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/npl/niagaramohawk/. The 30-day public comment period starts when the proposed settlement is published in the Federal Register. Once it is published, a copy of the Federal Register notice with instructions about how to comment can be found at http://www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html. The settlement requires approval by the United States District Court before becoming final.

For more information on the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation Superfund site, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/npl/niagaramohawk/>.

Governor Cuomo Announces Hatchery to Reopen and Restore Trout Fishing on Connetquot River State Park

Hatchery expected to produce 35K trout for river fishery and Long Island State Parks
Albany, NY (October 23, 2014)

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that the Connetquot River State Park Preserve hatchery will reopen next year, helping to reinvigorate the rich trout fishing tradition on Long Island's Connetquot River. The Environmental Protection Fund will pay for \$150,000 in upgrades to the historic hatchery, which will begin this winter.

"This State Park has long been one of the premiere fly-fishing destinations in the country – and today we are laying the groundwork to continue that legacy by restoring a sustainable fish population on the Connetquot River," Governor Cuomo said. "Bringing this hatchery back into operation will help ensure that anglers continue to come from all over to seek out prized trout on the Connetquot, and that Long Island's rich heritage of outstanding freshwater fishing will continue for years to come."

The hatchery in Oakdale has been closed since 2008, after Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (IPN) was detected. Though harmless to people, IPN is a contagious disease that can be fatal to young fish of the Salmonid family, including Rainbow, Brook and Brown trout. State Parks has since worked with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to eliminate IPN from fish in the river and develop the plan to reopen the hatchery.

To reduce the chance of a reinfection, the project will install a bio-secure well and generator to provide a fresh supply of groundwater to the hatchery. Project work will begin this fall. Fish cultivation is expected to begin in 2015, with the first trout release occurring in late 2016 or early 2017.

The new system is expected to eventually produce 30,000-35,000 trout 12 inches or greater in size on an annual basis, restoring the Connetquot River fishery as well as providing trout for Caleb Smith State Park Preserve and other Long Island parks. Until the hatchery is at full production, the park will continue stocking the river with outside sources of trout.

The project is funded by a \$150,000 Environmental Protection Fund grant awarded through Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council initiative. The Friends of Connetquot and other local fishing clubs will contribute \$10,000 to purchase eggs needed to begin cultivating fish.

Reopening the hatchery continues the Governor's efforts to improve access to outdoor recreation and promote hunting and fishing opportunities in New York. Since 2012, the Governor's NY Works initiative has supported a total of \$421 million in capital funding to undertake 179 improvement projects at 109 parks and historic sites.

State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey said, "I'm grateful for the partnership of the Friends of Connetquot and local fishing clubs to help the state keep the Connetquot flowing with an abundance of high-quality trout. This is another huge step forward in Governor Cuomo's dedication to reopening and revitalizing State Park facilities, and maximizing the huge economic potential of tourism and outdoor recreation."

Richard Remmer, director of the Friends of Connetquot and member of the Long Island State Parks Commission, said, "This is a win-win scenario for anglers, students and the economy. Thanks to the efforts of Governor Cuomo, New York State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey and Regional Director Wayne Horsley, programs for Wounded Warriors, Casting for Recovery, Scouts and BOCES will soon be returning to Connetquot. My father, my children and I learned to fly fish at Connetquot. By reopening the Hatchery this incredible opportunity will be available for generations to come."

DEC Commissioner Joe Martens said, "Trout fishing has long been one of the most popular sports for New York anglers and now they will have additional opportunities to fish the Connetquot River. This project reflects Governor Cuomo's commitment to expanding fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation across New York, and this hatchery will provide benefits to anglers and local communities on Long Island."

Governor Cuomo launched the NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative to improve recreational activities for in-state and out-of-state sportsmen and sportswomen and to boost tourism opportunities throughout the state, while maintaining New York's fishing and wildlife programs. In support of this initiative, \$10 million in NY Works funding has been dedicated to fish hatchery repairs and 50 new land and water access projects such as boat launches, hunting blinds, trails and parking areas.

According to a 2013 report by the American Sportfishing Association, New York ranks second only to Florida in angler expenditures. Sportfishing has a total impact of nearly \$4.5 billion and supports 32,000 jobs in New York State.

The 3,473-acre Connetquot River State Park Preserve was founded in 1866 as the Southside Sportsmen's Club and acquired by the state in 1973. Deer and waterfowl are plentiful, rare nesting birds, including osprey, are present and there are numerous rare plants in their natural habitats. The preserve also has 50 miles of hiking, horseback riding, cross-country ski and nature trails.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has issued the following press release:

[Lake Sturgeon Restoration Continues In North Country](#)

Lake sturgeon continue to be stocked in North Country waters as part of a restoration program for this threatened fish species, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced today. The state restoration effort is made possible in collaboration with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT), the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

DEC released approximately 6,500 fingerlings (three month old, 3-4-inch long fish) into Lake Ontario's Chaumont Bay and the St. Lawrence River at Ogdensburg on September 9. Earlier in the summer, biologists stocked additional young sturgeon in Sandy Pond at the Oswego and Jefferson County boundary and the St. Lawrence River at Massena.

Under the restoration program, DEC with assistance from the partners collected 130,000 eggs from mature fish at the New York Power Authority's St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project in Massena this past spring. After fertilizing, USFWS transported the eggs to their fish hatchery in Genoa, Wisconsin, and the hatched fish were nourished until they were large enough to be stocked back into the wild. Some of the fertilized eggs were taken to DEC's Oneida Hatchery for hatching, raising and release into other New York waters.

"This magnificent fish species was classified as threatened in New York State nearly 40 years ago, but stocking efforts continue to help reverse population declines that occurred earlier this century," DEC Regional Director

Judy Drabicki said. "Previous stocking efforts in major rivers in St. Lawrence County have demonstrated success, with dozens of sturgeon ranging up to 48 inches being observed and some have reached maturity and they are ready to spawn."

As sturgeon populations are reintroduced to their historical niche throughout the state, this multi-agency partnership displays its value. "The Service is excited to be part of a team committed to the restoration of this species through the 10-year stocking plan," explained David Stilwell of the USFWS. "Our joint project will increase genetic diversity and year class strength of sturgeon populations in the restored waters. This effort continues to be an outstanding example of partners collaborating to restore the natural heritage of New York." "Since the relicensing of the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project, the New York Power Authority has created several Habitat Improvement Projects to improve lake sturgeon spawning opportunities," said Edward Rider, NYPA regional manager-Northern NY. "The four new spawning beds and sturgeon restocking continue to serve as an example of the Power Authority's commitment to promote the repopulation of the species that was once plentiful in the St. Lawrence River."

Lake sturgeon once flourished in waters along New York's northern border and provided large commercial harvests near Buffalo. In 1885, harvests totaled 1,800 tons. Prior to the decline in the sturgeon population, these large fish inhabited all areas of New York's border waters on the west, north and northeast regions of the state, including Lake Erie, the Niagara River, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, Lake Champlain and in several St. Lawrence River tributaries up to 60 miles upstream.

Activities to increase lake sturgeon populations include: protection from harvest, hatchery rearing, planning, habitat improvement, stocking of fingerlings, and outreach and education. In order to complete all these activities, DEC collaborates with federal partners, and the SRMT and NYPA. USFWS and USGS focus on raising the small fish in hatcheries and evaluating their survival and growth toward maturity then everyone is involved in communicating to the public about our efforts and how to protect the fish. The USFWS - New York Field Office helps support the lake sturgeon restoration program through the Fish Enhancement, Mitigation, and Research Fund (FEMRF), which is funded by NYPA as part of the 2003 relicensing of the St. Lawrence Hydroelectric Power Plant.

There are additional sturgeon being reared at the DEC hatchery at Oneida Lake and USFWS hatchery which will be stocked in October. These include four tributaries to the St. Lawrence River, including Oswegatchie River, Black Lake and St. Regis River, plus the Genesee River downstream of Rochester and into Cayuga and Oneida Lakes.

Hatchery fingerlings are produced for bodies of water chosen as having the best prospects for restoration. One of the signs of program success has been experienced with mature fish being seen in spawning locations in Oneida Lake and the Oswegatchie River, when they are ready to spawn. In addition, small fish have been collected from Oneida Lake that were naturally spawned.

In addition, NYPA has undertaken efforts to promote lake sturgeon restoration by installing two pairs of artificial lake sturgeon spawning beds in the St. Lawrence River near Waddington and Massena, N.Y., during 2007 and 2012, respectively. Since 2008, hundreds of lake sturgeons have been observed with underwater cameras at the Waddington beds. Knowledge gained from these efforts can provide a blueprint for future lake sturgeon spawning beds.

In support of the NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative, this year's budget includes \$6 million in NY Works funding to support creating 50 new land and water access projects to connect hunters, anglers, bird watchers and others who enjoy the outdoors to more than 380,000 acres of existing state and easement lands that have not reached their full potential. These 50 new access projects include building new boat launches, installing new hunting blinds and building new trails and parking areas. In addition, the 2014-15 budget includes \$4 million to repair the state's fish hatcheries; and renews and allows expanded use of crossbows for hunting in New York State.

Inquiries about this threatened fish restoration program and other similar projects can be directed to DEC, Bureau of Fisheries in Watertown, at [\(315\) 785-2263](tel:315-785-2263). Additional information on lake sturgeon can be found on DEC's website.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/26035.html>

Have a Great Thanksgiving