



Clearwater

Chapter

Clearwater Currents

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

Trout Unlimited

169 Old Niskayuna Road Latham, NY 12110

Issue No. 09-009

October, 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

- October 19 Chapter General Meeting – “State of the Coeymans/Onesquethaw” by **Roy Lamberton**
Guest Fly Tier
- March 6, 2010 Chapter Conservation Banquet

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Battenkill	Greg Cuda	587-1189	Banquet	Bill Cosgrove	766-2405
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Website	John Morgan/Doug Howard 399-8566				

Clearwater Chapter of TU PO Box 9686 Schenectady, NY 12309

www.ClearwaterTU.org

October 3, 2009

Memorial Service at Monument Falls – West Branch Ausable River
for “ The Legend of the Adirondack’s”, Fran Betters.

Bart Chabot

At 1:00pm that Saturday over 100 people gathered to be part of a touching ceremony in honor of Wilmington resident, businessman, landlord, fly tier extraordinaire, rod builder, book writer, storyteller, etc, etc.**Fran Betters**. The morning was overcast but as the ceremony commenced the clouds began to break up and sun peered through. A close friend and minister, **Jeff Gray**, chosen by Fran and Jan, presided over the ceremony. After a few opening comments and thanks to all who attended, Jeff introduced a captivating steel guitar player and singer named **TJ Swan** who proceeded to play/sing some of Fran’s favorite songs about the Adirondacks setting the stage for the rest. TJ played a few songs while the minister sang bearing an outstanding voice. **Jerry Bottcher** even remarked that, “if he had a voice like that, he would be singing in the shower every day”.

Fran had conferred with the minister over the past months to choose much of the eulogy content avoiding fabrication. Fish story fabrication is appropriate but not this day. Professionals recorded all of the commentary and we should expect to review the results by early next year. At one point in the service the minister looked to the heavens remarking that he was certain Fran was looking down observing the ceremony at which point, I trained my digital camera to the sky and snapped a couple of shot’s. I will admit to searching the cloud formations in hopes of observing some type of sign, and I can be sure I was not the only one having those thoughts. Nearing the end of the ceremony, the minister invited anyone having a particular memory of their contact with Fran over the years to come up to the mike and share with the crowd. A few did take the opportunity prompting enjoyable flashbacks of days gone by. Most of us have lasting memories as Fran did share time with each of us. One could not enter the shop without feeling welcome and, of course, we have all been introduced to the “ Ausable Wulff “ and the “Haystack Series”, the most famous of Fran’s inventions.

For this writer, one of the reasons the Ausable had so much appeal was a visit to Fran’s shop and touch base with him & Jan and to help them pay their creditors. Jan and Pat, her new partner, will be keeping the shop running in Fran’s absence and make no mistake, Pat was qualified by Fran in rod building, tying flies and his talent on the water is top notch so trust his judgment . While Fran will be sorely missed you can feel his presence when entering the shop and the memories will linger on.

Tight lines to all!

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.

Oct	Spinners
Nov	Nymphs
Dec	Streamers

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.

October Chapter Meeting Information

On Monday October 19th **Roy Lamberton** will speak on "State of the Coeymans/Onesquethaw," a powerpoint presentation about the natural features of the stream, from its beginnings in the Helderbergs as Onesquethaw Creek, to its confluence with the Hudson River as Coeymans Creek. The stream flows underground in at least two areas, falls over at least 7 waterfalls, and supports a healthy population of wild brown trout all the way to the Hudson River. The stream and its watershed are located entirely within Albany County. Meeting starts at 6:30 pm with a guest fly tier and the featured speaker will begin about 7:30pm. Meeting is at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel about 2 miles east of the end of the Northway. Free of charge for all.

Chapter Thank You's

Art Coleman

We completed the third of our four annual highway cleanups on Route 313 along the Battenkill in partnership with the Battenkill Conservancy. Thanks to **Ed Wnek, Stan Duncan, Mary Dee and Clem Crowe, and Stu Bartow. Stan** also helped relocate some woody debris in White Creek in Salem. The last cleanup for 2009 will be October 24.

More Chapter Thank You's

Bart Chabot

Thanks go out to those who helped at the Wildlife Festival at Blenheim Power Station a week ago Saturday.

Kim & Mike Walchko, Doug Howard Ed Andrejko, Glenn Kuhles, Bill Donato, George Cass, Bill Wemple, Richard Atkinson. Kudo's out to **Kim** for the best change in that program by suggesting we move the casting from the pond area to a patch of turf near the Barn where the tiers were working.

Conservation Banquet March 6, 2010

Where has the summer gone? We are gearing up for the 2010 Conservation Banquet to be held at the Sovereign Best Western in March 2010. More details on the banquet as they develop, however, now is the time to save the date.

Jessica Galasso and Bill Cosgrove will co-chair the banquet committee, but are requesting that everyone reading this consider how they can help make this banquet even bigger and better. Although, we are hoping that there will be some new volunteers for the committee there are many other ways you can help. We will again have a Hornbeck Black Jack Canoe with a rowing package to raffle off at the banquet. The funds received from the canoe raffle contribute greatly to our success. Why not consider taking a book or two or more and sell them or use them for holiday gifts for your family and friends that love the outdoors. We will be looking for donations for our bucket, silent and live auctions. If you or someone you know has a special talent ask if they would consider making a donation. Places you do business may also be places to seek a donation. We have over 600 members. Please don't leave it to a few to seek out donations. In going through magazines you receive if you see a company that deals with outdoor or fishing products send Bill an email at poppycos@aol.com with the name and address of the company. Last year we had donations from a number of companies that received our solicitation letter.

The first banquet meeting will be held Monday November 9, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at Saratoga Bridges located at 495 Clifton Park Ctr Rd., Clifton Park 12065. The easiest way to get there from the Northway is to get off at exit 9 going west on Route 146. Just past the mall is Moe Road. Take a left and then a left on Clifton Park Ctr Rd. Saratoga Bridges sits back off the road on the left There is a sign which is difficult to see in the dark. If you map quest directions make sure you use the address as noted above. Hope to see some new faces and you are welcome at the meeting just for information purposes. If you plan on attending let Bill know at the above email address so that I can notify you of any changes. Also I believe the web site is up and running and any change in location will be noted there. We are also looking for a place to meet in Colonie which is more centralized. If you have any suggestions let Bill know as Jess still working many hours a week.

Fishing License Confusion Update

Beginning October 1, 2009, any angler fishing for "migratory fish from the sea" (e.g. American shad, striped bass) in the Delaware River or tributaries will need a recreational marine fishing license. The New York State legislature did not build in any type of reciprocity with the State of Pennsylvania in regard to fishing the Delaware and tributaries for "migratory fish from the sea" so anglers that hold a PA fishing license will need to acquire a NY recreational marine fishing license to fish for American shad (or striped bass or hickory shad.....) from the border water area of the Delaware River and West Branch Delaware River.

There will be some question as to what "fishing for" a species entails, but that is almost always the case where we have multiple species and varied open/ closed seasons on a given body of water. DEC Law Enforcement staff do an excellent job in using discretion when evaluating when an angler is targeting a species and good discretion will be used in this instance as well. If an angler is repeatedly catching a given species or using tackle that is fairly specialized (ie in this case - shad dart), then that angler should have a recreational marine fishing license. Our Environmental Conservation Officers are generally well-versed in the innuendo of specific tackle set-ups or specific patterns used (mostly) exclusively by anglers targeting a given species in a given water body/ geographic area and, thus, derive some of the basis of their discretion by knowledge of the resource and the resource users. Hopefully anglers understand and support the reasoning and rationale and don't, unnecessarily, try to complicate the issues. Can an angler catch a smallmouth bass or trout on a shad dart? - sure (have done so myself), but that is not generally the terminal tackle used to fish for smallmouth bass or trout. Can American shad be caught on a #14 Adams? - sure (have done so myself), but few anglers targeting American shad are using such terminal tackle.

That is the best guidance that I can offer right now: if fishing for migratory fish from the sea, a recreational marine fishing license is required (beginning October 1, 2009); there is no reciprocity with PA; and DEC law Enforcement will use their best discretion in the enforcement of the law.

Now, for migratory fish from the sea are defined in ECL and generally refer to anadromous and catadromous species as example on Long Island. The recreational marine fishing license is needed when fishing in the marine district. *The Marine and Coastal District includes all the waters of the Atlantic Ocean within three nautical miles from the coast and all other tidal waters within the state, including the Hudson River up to the Governor Malcolm Wilson Tappan Zee Bridge.* Therefore, someone fishing for Long Island brook trout in tidal waters would need a recreational fishing license as they would be considered to be fishing in the marine district.

Douglas Stang

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News From New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

News from [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#)

For more information contact: Lori Severino, 518-402-8000

Recreational Marine Fishing Licenses Go on Sale

Licenses Are Available Statewide Via Internet, Telephone and License Sales Outlets

ALBANY, NY (09/25/2009)(readMedia)-- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Pete Grannis today announced that beginning Friday, Sept. 25, recreational marine fishing licenses will be available for sale.

Recreational marine fishing licenses can be purchased via the DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html, ordered by mail or telephone at 1-86-NY-DECALS (1-866-933-2257) or by visiting any one of DEC's 1,500 license sales outlets statewide.

"New York's coastal waters provide excellent angling opportunities offer anglers a wide variety of species to target, from scup and sea bass to bluefish and striped bass," Commissioner Grannis said. "Realizing that the federal government was going to soon require marine fishing licenses if there were no state requirement in place, New York elected to implement this new license in order to keep the fees here to help fund state conservation programs. While we know this is a big change for the coastal fishing community, this was the best available option for New York. We appreciate the understanding of marine anglers."

Anglers purchasing their license at one of DEC's 1,500 license sales outlets will receive their license and can go fishing immediately. Anglers purchasing their license via the internet will receive a "smart number" and confirming e-mail and anglers purchasing a license via telephone will receive their customer ID number so they can begin fishing immediately and don't have to wait to receive their license in the mail.

Beginning Thursday, Oct. 1, persons 16 years of age and older need to acquire a recreational marine fishing license if they are fishing in the Marine and Coastal District or fishing any water (such as the Hudson River, Delaware River, or Mohawk River and their tributaries) where the angler is fishing for "migratory fish from the

sea" (such as striped bass, American shad, hickory shad, blueback herring, alewife). The Marine and Coastal District includes all the waters of the Atlantic Ocean within three nautical miles from the coast and all other tidal waters within the state, including the Hudson River up to the Governor Malcolm Wilson Tappan Zee Bridge.

The cost for 1-day, 7-day and annual resident licenses are \$4, \$8, and \$10, respectively. The cost for 1-day, 7-day and annual non-resident licenses are \$5, \$10, and \$15, respectively. The cost of a lifetime recreational marine fishing license is \$150 and the cost of a lifetime combination fishing and recreational marine fishing license is \$450.

All revenues generated from sales of annual, 7-day, and 1-day resident and non-resident recreational marine licenses will be deposited into the Marine Account. The Marine Account is a special sub-account of the Conservation Fund, and, in accordance with State Finance Law, monies in this account shall be available to the DEC specifically for the care, management, protection and enlargement of marine fish and shellfish resources. All revenues generated from the sales of lifetime recreational marine fishing licenses and lifetime combination fishing and recreational fishing licenses will be deposited into the Fish and Game Trust Account as per State Finance Law. Monies in the fish and game trust account are invested by the State Comptroller and the earned income is transferred into the Conservation Fund to be used for intended purposes.

Commissioner Grannis also encouraged all outdoor enthusiasts to consider purchasing a Habitat/Access Stamp, an optional stamp that helps support the DEC's efforts to conserve habitat and increase public access for fish and wildlife-related recreation. This year's stamp features a drawing of a pair of playful red fox. Buying a \$5 stamp is a way to help conserve New York's fabulous wildlife heritage.

More information about purchasing a Habitat Stamp is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/329.html>

Answers to frequently asked questions are available on the DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html and a marine fishing guide is also available on the website at http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/marinelicense2009.pdf.

[Marcellus Shale Drilling Update](#)

News From New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

News from [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#)

For more information contact: Yancey Roy, 518-402-8000

DEC Proposes New Safety Measures, Mitigation Strategies to Govern Potential Marcellus Shale Drilling

Expanded Generic Environmental Impact Statement Released for Public Comment

ALBANY, NY (09/30/2009)(readMedia)-- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today released a draft of the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) governing potential natural gas drilling activities in the Marcellus Shale formation, Commissioner Pete Grannis announced.

The SGEIS addresses the range of potential impacts of shale gas development using horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing and outlines safety measures, protection standards and mitigation strategies that operators would have to follow to obtain permits. Natural gas drilling presents economic development and job creation opportunities, and can help achieve state energy policy goals. As there are also potential environmental impacts, Governor David A. Paterson directed DEC to prepare the SGEIS. Among the highlights:

Pre-drilling

- Disclosure of Fracturing Fluids: Every applicant must include disclosure of the "frac" fluid compositions and the percentages of chemicals to be used for each well.
- Water Well Testing: Prior to drilling, private wells within 1,000 feet of the drill site will be tested to provide baseline information and allow for ongoing monitoring. If there are no wells within 1,000 feet, the survey area will extend to 2,000 feet.
- Water Consumption: Companies will not only have to follow Susquehanna River Basin Commission and Delaware River Basin Commission protocols for water withdrawal where applicable, but also must complete a more stringent and protective streamflow analysis in regards to water withdrawal plans – whether inside or outside the Susquehanna or Delaware basins.
- Technical Compliance: Prior to hydraulically fracturing a well, operators must complete a new "Pre-Frac Checklist and Certification Form" to ensure technical compliance with the permit and to provide information regarding final well-bore construction and hydraulic fracturing operations.
- Mitigation planning: All operators are required to prepare plans for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, visual impacts and noise impacts prior to commencing operations. In addition, if a drilling company has not reached a road-use agreement with the local government, a trucking plan containing the estimated amount of trucking, approach for avoiding peak traffic hours, appropriate off-road parking/staging areas, and routes must be submitted.

Drilling and Post-Drilling

- In primary and principle aquifer areas: a) state inspectors must be present when operators commence cementing well-bore casings; b) more stringent drilling and casing requirements are applicable; c) special requirements are imposed to expeditiously remove fluids from on-site reserve pits or well pad tanks. This last requirement also applies in the NYC Watershed.
- Flowback (wastewater) handling on-site: Operators choosing to store flowback on-site must use steel tanks to protect the environment.
- Centralized flowback storage: If an operator proposes using a centralized impoundment (centralized flowback storage) to serve multiple sites, it must use a double-liner system similar to those required for landfills, provide fencing and off-sets to prevent public access and employ measures to protect wildlife. In addition, state solid waste landfill requirements and dam safety regulations will apply to construction of any centralized storage impoundments.
- Centralized flowback impoundments are prohibited within boundaries of public water supplies (including the New York City Watershed).
- Tracking flowback disposal: Before a permit is issued, the operator must disclose plans for disposal of flowback. Further, a new "Drilling and Production Waste Tracking" process (similar to the process for medical waste) will be used to monitor disposal. Full analysis and approvals under state water laws and regulations will be required before a water treatment facility can accept flowback from drilling operations.
- NYC Watershed and other sensitive areas: The SGEIS contains a number of mitigation measures aimed specifically at protecting the NYC Watershed. Among them, the SGEIS defines buffer zones around reservoirs and other water bodies in the Watershed. Wells proposed within a 1,000-foot corridor of water tunnels or aqueducts will require special approvals – including a site specific Environmental Impact Statement and review by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection. Consistent with the requirements for primary and principle aquifers, fluids may not be kept on-site more than 7 days. In addition, as in other sensitive areas, centralized flowback impoundments are prohibited.

- Floodplains: On-site reserve pits are banned in floodplains – closed-loop tank systems are required instead to protect against potential spills.
- Stormwater control: Drilling operations will be subject to a comprehensive, multi-sector general permit for industrial activities as well as special permit conditions.

The SGEIS, available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/47554.html>, expands on the comprehensive Generic Environmental Impact Statement, adopted in 1992, that has prescribed the requirements for the drilling of thousands of oil and gas wells in New York State.

The public comment period on the draft will be open until November 30. DEC will accept comments in writing, either via e-mail, regular mail, direct online submissions or delivered at public-information sessions. The SGEIS web page will contain detailed instructions for submitting comments.

In addition, DEC soon will announce times and locations for a series of public-information sessions. For additional information regarding the draft SGEIS and background material regarding the Marcellus shale formation and gas drilling in New York State, please visit the Marcellus Shale webpage at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/46288.html>. For information about the long history of oil and gas drilling in New York, the more than 13,000 currently active wells and production data, go to DEC's oil and gas web page, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/205.html>.

GAS DRILLING BULLETIN

THE BIGGEST CASUALTY OF GAS DRILLING WILL BE YOU!

The implementation of gas drilling is being fast tracked. The number of opportunities to impact the outcome is dwindling. If all of us who live in and love the Catskills don't stand up now, the results are very likely to be catastrophic.

As Catskill Mountainkeeper has reported, the provisions of the Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) governing natural gas drilling issued on September 30, 2009, are woefully inadequate. The proposed regulations simply won't provide enough protection for the Catskills and the New York City water supply.

There is an unacceptable disregard for the potential public health issues that have been documented to be a byproduct of natural gas drilling. In part these come from the toxic chemicals that are used in hydro-fracking (the process by which gas is released from the shale rock formations deep underground). These chemicals are being knowingly injected into our air, drinking water and blood streams without our knowledge or consent. Unless we are able to effectively mobilize ourselves we appear to be setting ourselves up for a host of unparalleled multi-generational diseases and health afflictions.



Consider the following stories from nearby Dimock, PA., reported by Jon Hurdle at Reuters on Friday March 13, 2009:

When her children started missing school because of persistent diarrhea and vomiting, Pat Farnelli began to wonder if she and her family were suffering from more than just a classroom bug. After trying several remedies, she stopped using the water drawn from her well in this rural corner of northeastern Pennsylvania, the forefront of a drilling boom in what may be the biggest U.S. reserve of natural gas. "I was getting excruciating stomach cramps after drinking the water," Farnelli said in an interview at her farmhouse, cluttered as a home with eight children would be, while her husband, a night cook at a truck stop, slept on the couch. "It felt like an appendicitis attack." The family, which is poor enough to qualify for government food stamps, began buying bottled water for drinking and cooking. Their illnesses finally ended, and Farnelli found something to blame: natural gas drilling in the township of 1,400 people.

Ron and Jean Carter suspected there was a leak when the water supply to their trailer home started to taste and smell bad after Cabot started drilling 200 yards (meters) away. Not wanting to risk the health of a new grandchild living with them, the 70-year-old retirees scraped together \$6,500 for a water purification system. "It was kind of funny that the water was good in July but after they drilled, it wasn't," said Ron Carter.

Tim and Debbie Maye, a truck driver and post office worker who have three teenage children, have been cooking and drinking only bottled water since their well water turned brown in November after Cabot started drilling. But she can't afford bottled water for her animals. Her cats have been losing fur and projectile vomiting because they lick drips from the spigot that carries water from their well. Her three horses -- one of which is losing its hair -- drink as much as 50 gallons a day. "I tell my husband, 'I'm going out to poison the horses,'" she said.

The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, a Colorado research group, has identified 201 fracking chemicals and found almost 90 percent had the potential to harm skin, eyes, and sensory organs; 50 percent could damage the brain and nervous system, and 29 percent may cause cancer.

Health issues, while critical are not the only concern. In addition to contaminated drinking water and air there will also be:

- The tremendous disruption of our daily lives from hundreds of large tractor trailers traversing and damaging our roads
- The invasive noise of drill engines that run 24/7 and sound like jet engines
- The disruption of banks of klieg lights shining 24/7
- The draining of many of our lakes, rivers, streams and aquifers
- The destruction of our view shed
- The inability of local medical and emergency services to handle the types of chemicals and other accidents associated with gas drilling

- And the devaluation of property

Unfortunately this is turning into a war to protect your way of life, your family's health and the value of your property - once gas drilling starts it's too late!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Insisting that our government is responsive to those who elect them and pay their salaries is a critically important principle of our country - and it works. Due to pressure from Catskill Mountainkeeper and other groups, the DEC has reversed their previous position and is now presenting public hearings where the public can make comments for the record. See the schedule below. Please come, educate yourself and be prepared to make comment for the record.

HEARING SCHEDULE

10/28/2009 - Loch Sheldrake - Sullivan County Community College E Building, Seelig Theatre; 112 College Rd, Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759

11/10/2009 - New York City - Stuyvesant High School High School Auditorium, 345 Chambers St, New York, NY 10282

11/12/2009 - Chenango Bridge - Chenango Valley High School High School Auditorium; 221 Chenango Bridge Rd, Chenango Bridge, NY 13901

TBD - Elmira/Corning

Doors will open at 6:00 PM for individual questions and speaker sign up.

Public comments session will start at 7:00 PM.

This is an incredibly important issue where the public's best interest is not being met. This is not a time when you can stand on the sidelines. The price that you will pay is too high.

*Ron Urban, Chairman
NY Trout Unlimited*



Book of the Month: “Rainbow Trout Fly Fishing” by Ron Newman

This newly released 272 page paperback is for the intermediate to advanced angler according to the cover and boy is the author right! For 30 years the author has been keeping DETAILED records on every possible aspect of rainbow trout fishing in the pristine lakes region of western Canada. This book summarizes in great detail all of those records. If you don't like graphs, percentages or scientific theory like the Schreckstoff factor then this book is not for you. For me it answered a lot of questions that I had pondered while fishing the Adirondack lakes and ponds, but didn't have 30 years of experience and records to answer. This book would be a nice Christmas gift for the angler wanting to make the next step upwards in their knowledge and has some time this winter to read this book. Although the author's research takes place thousands of miles away I still think that a lot of what is in here plays out in this part of the world and for other trout species as well. About \$30 from Frank Amato Publications – 503-653-8108 or on the web at www.amatobooks.com