



Fish of the Month #1 Jim Boyle with a nice Battenkill Brown Trout caught on a Rich Atkinson bead headed green weenie



Fish of the Month #2 Shannon Johnsone with a beautiful Northern Oregon steelhead



Fish of the Month #3 David Irvine caught this steelhead in April on a tributary of the Salmon River in Pulaski. Kevin Margosian was guiding. I heard of him though TU and have been out with him eight days on the Salmon, Delaware, and Ausable Rivers. Only one day was unsuccessful of the eight.



Fish of the Month #4 Ron Boutin with a more than 60 pound black drum and nice redfish caught off the Louisiana coast - drum may have been a fly rod record!

Clearwater Currents
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Trout Unlimited
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*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

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| December, 2014 | Chapter General Meeting – Annual Fly Tiers Roundtable – 6:30pm Start |
| 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

| | | | | | |
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| President | Heath Clayson | 573-6008 | Trips | Bob Mead | 399-9000 |
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| Secretary | Brad Mohr | 482-4645 | Youth | Bart Chabot | 393-9918 |
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| Quartermaster | Bill Cosgrove | 766-2405 | Flea Market | Bob Mead | 399-9000 |
| Scholarie | 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

December's meeting of Clearwater Chapter TU will be our annual Fly Tying Round Table and Holiday Celebration. The fly tying starts at 6:30 PM then brief announcements, pizza and light refreshments, grab bag gifts, and raffles all through the evening. 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. Anyone wanting to do some fly tying of any skill level is welcome to bring their tools and materials and join us for some holiday cheer, tell some fish tales, etc. For more information and details of upcoming events, please visit <http://www.clearwatertu.org>.

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.

We've wrapped up another year of the Fish of the Month Contest with 4 great submissions in December! Congratulations and thanks a bunch for all the entrants – winner to be announced at the March banquet.

Great How To Link on Streamer Fishing

Jim Boyle

Follow the link to a very nice article, plus links to several more informative articles – this particular article is so right on reducing the leader length when fishing streamers plus so much more.

<http://www.hatchmag.com/articles/5-tips-better-streamer-fishing/7712015>

Another Great Link on Shocking Invasive Species

<http://txchnologist.com/post/99919062190/scientists-cast-electric-hooks-to-catch-invasive>

Fly of the Month: Hidy Style Partridge and Hare's Ear Caddis

If you haven't visited, <http://donbastianwetflies.com/>, you probably need to get there now. Lots of articles on fly tying, classic flies and plenty of great reading and additional links to keep you busy all winter. This nice easy to tie fly is a must have wet fly in every anglers box. Common ingredients from 10 – 24 in size covers almost all situations calling for an emerger, cripple, spinner, etc. Fish see this fly and see food. This fly is a guaranteed good call when choosing a fly from May to October. **Hook:** wet fly 10 – 24; **Thread:** 6/0 or 8/0 tan or gray; **Rib:** fine gold wire; **Body:** tan or gray dubbing with lots of fibers/guard hairs; **Hackle:** two turns of grouse. Mount the hook and tie in the rib and then dub the body onto the thread. Wind the body towards the eye leaving enough room for the hackle. Wrap the rib and tie off. Tie in the hackle and after two turns tie off and whip finish. Quick and a fish catcher – can't beat that!



Update on George Schmidt

Bart Chabot

Talked with George Schmidt's son George L. who informed me that the family held a meeting resulting in concern for George Sr. safety and well being.

In mid-November, George was moved to a place near his son Philip in Hartford, Ct. All the info to contact him is as follows:

George Schmidt
275 Steele Rd. - A119
W. Hartford, Ct. 06117

Home Phone [1-860-904-6044](tel:1-860-904-6044)

schmdtglll@yahoo.com

George has offered use of his cabin on his Battenkill as long as he & family own it. I hope some of us will keep in touch.

Editor's Note: for those old enough to remember George was so very gracious in loaning us his Battenkill property for many years to conduct our fly fishing on stream classes. A great angler/conservationist and wonderful friend of the Chapter.

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

DEC Releases Hudson River Estuary Habitat Restoration Plan to Improve Health of the Estuary

A new tool to guide restoration and protection actions to sustain priority habitats in the Hudson River estuary is now available for community groups, government agencies, scientists and conservation organizations, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Joe Martens announced today. The Hudson River Estuary Habitat Restoration Plan identifies four priority habitat types for restoration: intertidal (the area between high and low tide), shallow water, shorelines and tributaries, from the federal dam at Troy to the Tappan Zee Bridge. These habitats are all important to the overall health of the ecosystem; have been degraded or destroyed on a large scale by human action; and provide feasible opportunities for restoration.

"The Habitat Restoration Plan provides a foundation for achieving the Estuary Program's goal," said Commissioner Martens. "The work includes restoring tidal wetlands, natural shorelines and shallows, and facilitating fish passage up the Hudson's tributaries. Restoring healthy habitats provides significant benefits for fish, birds, turtles, crabs, mammals, invertebrate animals and the residents of the Hudson River Valley and New York State."

Dating back to the early 1800s a variety of activities damaged habitats in the Hudson River estuary including dredging of the navigation channel and filling of adjacent wetlands; construction of the railroad along sensitive shoreline habitats; and construction of dams in tributaries, affecting fish, bird and wildlife populations. In addition, loss of coastal shallows and wetlands has reduced the diversity and productivity of these important natural areas, limiting the Hudson's ability to adapt to climate change and rapid sea-level rise. Loss of coastal shallows and wetlands also has made coastal communities more vulnerable to flooding and intense storms by removing the natural barriers that protect against weather extremes. The Hudson River Estuary Habitat Restoration Plan is intended for use by community groups, government agencies, scientists, conservation organizations and other restoration organizations throughout the region to plan, carry out and evaluate habitat restoration and protection projects that will improve ecosystem health and resilience and support adaptation to sea-level rise by river shoreline communities.

The Hudson River Habitat Restoration Plan was developed with input from state and federal regulatory agencies, scientists, natural resource managers and non-governmental organizations. Many technical resources produced by these groups were used to develop an understanding of current conditions and how they have changed due to human action. The [Hudson River Habitat Restoration Plan](#) is available on DEC's website.

The Hudson River Estuary Program protects and improves the natural and scenic Hudson River watershed for all its residents. The program was created in 1987 and extends from the Troy dam to the upper New York Harbor. Its core mission is to ensure clean water; protect and restore fish and wildlife and their habitats; provide river access and water recreation; adapt to climate change; and conserve the Hudson Valley's world-famous scenery. The Hudson River Estuary Program is a project of the NYS Environmental Protection Fund.

Steelhead Fishing the Salmon River



Ron Urban, Chairman
NY Trout Unlimited

Fall Pacific salmon fishing isn't the end to fishing on NY's famed Salmon River. Perceived by many anglers as the premier freshwater game fish, migratory rainbow trout, more commonly referred to as steelhead, enter the river in mid-October and continue into early May. This sleek, beautiful salmonid makes fast and powerful runs when hooked, often leaping into the air multiple times. Successful anglers use many techniques and various bait, lures and flies to entice a strike. NYSDEC's Salmon River Hatchery annually stocks the Salmon River with 120,000 winter-run and 48,000 summer-run steelhead, which are augmented by natural reproduction in the river's high-quality tributaries. Visit DEC's Steelhead Fishing in Lake Ontario Tributaries for more information on steelhead fishing. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/62202.html>



Richard Nixon on Environment **President of the U.S., 1968-1974**

1969: Halt all dumping in the Great Lakes

In his State of the Union Address of 1969, President Nixon detailed a 37-point message on the American environment that included goals ranging from monitoring motor vehicle emissions standards to halting all dumping in the Great Lakes. President Nixon's ambitious endeavor would eventually lead to his request for Congress to establish the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Under the express direction of President Nixon and following public hearings, in late 1970 the EPA was established and "a new era of environmental protection began." This endeavor was the first attempt by any administration to specifically address environmental problems through a newly created, independent agency.

Source: [Cameron Lynch in W&M Env. Law Review, vol. 26 #1, p.215-216](#), Jan 1, 2001

1970: Created cabinet-level Council on Environmental Quality

Mounting environmental concerns in the late 1960s drove President Nixon to begin to officially examine the problem in depth. To aid his administration in developing environmental policy, Nixon first created the Council on Environmental Quality ("CEQ")--a cabinet committee overseen and coordinated by the White House Office of Science and Technology. Eventually, lack of interest and experience of this council's members forced Nixon to name a specialized task force with significant environmental experience to address the problem. The task force's main duty was to develop Nixon's first major environmental address, which he delivered to Congress in February of 1970. Following this address, the National Environmental Protection Agency ("NEPA") was enacted and it served as a predecessor, in both theory and structure, to what would eventually become the EPA.

Source: [Cameron Lynch in W&M Env. Law Review, vol. 26 #1, p.218-219](#), Jan 1, 2001

1970-72: Created EPA which passed Clean Air Act

While there was some hesitation and concern regarding Nixon's intentions in creating the EPA, there is a general consensus that Nixon's true motivation was to purify the nation from an environmental standpoint. Disillusioned by the lack of cooperation and cohesion on environmental

policy, as well as by the overall ineffectiveness of the NEPA, Nixon utilized an executive order to create the EPA, an independent government organization, in late 1970. The EPA subsequently passed its first piece of legislation, the Clean Air Act, in 1972. While Nixon is generally scorned as a presidential figure, his actions in the environmental realm appear, by most accounts, to have been genuine and thorough and are often overlooked in the historical record.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

