



Fish of the Month February 2016 is from Ron Boutin – see details inside about this fish

Clearwater Currents

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

17 Sutherland Drive Watervliet, NY 12189

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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 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

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Feb 15 | Clearwater Chapter General Meeting – starts at 6:30pm with a guest fly tier – Robin Hill speaking on “Thinking Like a Guide” - get there early as it will fill up fast |
| March 19 | Chapter Annual Conservation Banquet - \$45 – 4pm start – Century House Latham – hundreds of prizes and giveaways – see inside for more details |
| April 1 | Trout season opens in NY |
| April 2 | Trout season opens in PA – southeastern part of state only |
| April 16 | Trout season opens in PA – rest of state |

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Clearwater Chapter of TU PO Box 9686 Schenectady, NY 12309

www.ClearwaterTU.org

Clearwater Chapter General Meeting

Meeting is scheduled for Monday February 15th with a guest fly tier at 6:30pm. This month's meeting features guide **Robin Hill** speaking on "Thinking Like a Guide." **Robin Hill** is an avid photographer and once a fly-fishing guide in Alaska. His presentation "Think Like A Guide" will provide valuable insight from his guiding experiences.

Visit his blog at <http://brooksidehillbilly.blogspot.com/>

Meetings are free and open to the public. Albany Ramada off exit 5 of I-90.

Fish of the Month 2016 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, Brad Mohr** and for 2014, **Jim Boyle**, as winners in its first seven 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 or something else really nice as a prize.

Ron Boutin provided these comments on his February, 2016 Fish of the Month - Here is a nice redfish caught on a recent trip to Louisiana. We were fishing along the grass banks in about 2 ft of water. I saw the fish swirl while feeding on the bank. I waited until I was able to see the fish coming towards the boat about 30 feet away before casting.

CLEARWATER ANGLING FLEA MARKET APRIL 9th, 2016

Save the date! April 9th, 2016 is the Clearwater TU Annual Angling Flea Market at the Ramada Plaza Hotel just off Everett Rd. Make plans now to attend. On sale: books on angling, hunting, fly tying, fishing; fly tying vises, tools and material; vintage lures and rods and reels, modern custom made graphite and bamboo rods. If it has to do with fishing it will probably be on hand. Three dollar general admittance, children 16 and under free.

Tables are available at the usual rate of \$20 while additional tables can be added at \$15 each. We also ask a 10 percent of sales donation. Contact **Bob Mead** at 518-399-9000 or email at rmead1@nycap.rr.com to reserve your table.

Fly of the Month: Coleman's March Brown Nymph

In the early 1970's a guidance counselor, Mr Tarbor, had a fly tying group meet each week after classes. He supplied the patience and a lot of knowledge and the students brought their own fly tying gear. Mine was a Cortland beginning fly tying kit I got in 1972. Still have the vise! Anyways Mr Tabor's go to fly was this month's fly of the month. Heavy and hard with the coats of varnish it struck you so hard on a poor cast you quickly became a better caster!

The following website - <http://www.anglersportgroup.com/colmans-march-brown-nymph/his> - had this to say about this pattern - This pattern came about in the mid fifties because soft bodied nymphs with partridge hackle are great looking but they are not durable for more than a few fish. The original pattern had a South American condor stripped wing quill rib over wet lacquered brown floss with three coats of waterproof lacquer over the abdomen area. With zero availability of the condor quill in the late sixties a white floss rib replaces the condor quill. The floss rib is even more durable than the condor quill thus upgrading the pattern. This pattern works well during March Brown activity on most streams. Carl has fished it in Eastern streams, Western rivers and many of his customers have used it with great success in New Zealand. However, this pattern is not just valuable as a March Brown only. It also works well in streams that have stone fly hatches as well as those with a good crayfish population. It also works well in ponds and small lakes. The most productive sizes for this Nymph are #14 – #6. Having a heavy weighting, it sinks faster in the larger sizes. Carl suggests fishing this nymph dead drift up stream. Before strike indicators came along, Carl would grease (using Mucilin TM silicone) the last 10 feet of his line about every 10 minutes using it as a strike indicator. If the nymph hits the bottom and snags up, he suggests changing to a smaller size to keep the fly in the water column of feeding fish. The pattern was extensively tested empirically in a number of abdomen colors including green, orange, yellow, red, but the dark brown color was best. Carl has found this nymph one of the best fish catchers when prospecting for fish with no noticeable feeding activity.

Recipe- Hook: Daiichi 1760 (sizes 14 – 6) wrapped with lead wire sized for hook size. Thread: Black 6/0 Tail: Brown hackle Body: Dark brown floss, laquered just before rib is wound (this will hold ribbing in place) Rib: White floss well waxed to prevent it from going clear when lacquer is applied Wing Case: Natural goose wing quill Thorax: Peacock herl Hackle: Brown (three or four turns, trimmed off on bottom). Other Features: For durability, three coats of laquer over the abdomen.

Carl Colman: Is a fly fishing Guide fishing on the Lake Ontario tributaries. He frequently fishes the Oak Orchard creek, Lower Genesee river and Sandy Creek for steelhead from mid March – mid April. You'll also find him on the Salmon river in both the late spring and fall. Carl also guides all year on the Oatka creek and Spring Brook for wild Brown Trout. Contact Carl at Coleman's fly shop 585-352-4775 or at www.colemansflyshop.com. -

It was my first fly and not my last – enjoy and duck if your not much of a caster!



The Clearwater Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Proudly invites you and your guests to attend the

44th Annual Conservation Banquet
March 19, 2016
at
The Century House
997 New Loudon Rd (Rt 9) Latham, NY 12110

Doors open with hors d'oeuvres at 4pm – Dinner served at 6pm
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 for and mail it by March 11, 2016 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
12' Hornbeck Canoe 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 or 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 would like to make a conservation donation of \$ _____

Total amount enclosed=\$ _____

**Trout Unlimited
Clearwater Chapter
Annual Conservation Banquet**

**Saturday March 19, 2016
The Century House
997 New Loudon Rd (Rt 9) Latham, NY**

**Time:
4:00pm Cocktails &
Hors D'oeuvres
Dinner 6:00pm
Price \$45**



**Hornbeck Classic 12 Foot Canoe with Rowing Package
Tickets \$5 each or book of five for \$20**

**Banquet RSVP: Kim Walchko, (518) 234-4192
For more information please visit:
<http://clearwater.org/banquet.html>**

2016 Fly Fishing Film Tour **March 6th, 2016 Reamer Auditorium** **Union College**

The original and preeminent exhibition of fly-fishing cinema, *The Fly Fishing Film Tour* (<http://www.flyfilmtour.com/>) is a one of a kind experience. This prime event helps support educational and environmental efforts and will finally return to the New York Capital region.

This event will be on Sunday, March 6th at Reamer Auditorium located at Union College. Doors open at 3:30 PM, with the show starting at 4:00 PM. Tickets are \$10 and will be available online at <http://flyfilmtour.ticketfly.com/>. Guests will have an opportunity to win door prizes and raffles, as well as meet representatives to learn more about local efforts and how to get involved. After the show, all are welcomed to join and participate in an *Iron Fly* social competition at Schenectady's Wolff's Biergarten.

The main purpose of this event is to 1.) help promote the 5 Rivers Programs at Union College, Skidmore College, and SUNY Cobleskill; 2.) establish a greater support and networking system in the Capital District.

Editor's Note – this event came to Albany several years ago and was a big hit so get tickets early!

DEC Arrests Two for Poaching

Two Clinton County men are facing charges for poaching trout and salmon from the Saranac River in the City of Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Regional Director Bob Stegemann announced today.

“This type of illegal activity threatens the increasing salmon population and reduces fishing opportunities for lawful anglers,” Regional Director Stegemann said. “DEC Environmental Conservation Police Officers (ECOs) will continue their efforts to seek out and arrest poachers to put an end to these illegal practices. Protection of New York State’s fish and wildlife resources is an important mission for DEC.”

Rich Redman, President of the Lake Champlain Chapter of Trout Unlimited said, “This is great news for every law-abiding angler in the North Country. It’s great to see the salmon back, and DEC protecting them.”

ECOs arrested 38-year-old Joshua Todd and 34-year-old Christopher J. Dumas, both of Plattsburgh, N.Y., on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. The two men allegedly used an illegal fishing technique known as “snagging” to poach the fish. It involves dragging a weighted hook through the water until it gets embedded into the body of the fish. The men are charged with taking fish by means other than angling and Mr. Dumas is also charged with fishing without a license.

“When salmon and brown trout come into rivers to spawn it is often in shallow areas where they can be seen – sometimes even with their backs and dorsal fins breaking the water’s surface,” said DEC Region 5 Fisheries Manager Lance Durfey. “This makes them vulnerable to illegal fishing techniques.”

The Saranac River is one of ten New York and Vermont tributaries to Lake Champlain, which historically had native runs of Atlantic salmon. They vanished from Champlain by the mid- 1800’s and, until the 1950’s, periodic restoration attempts failed. Encouraging results from some of the stream stocking of young salmon in the 1950’s led to full scale salmon restoration work in the Boquet River in 1973. Efforts to control Sea Lamprey in 1990 further enhanced trout and salmon populations.

A primary indicator of strengthening salmon populations is annual spawning runs. DEC staff

observed good fall runs in the Ausable River, Boquet River and especially the Saranac River. It's a great sign for these fish populations, the health of Lake Champlain, anglers, and the economic health of local communities that see the benefit from improved fishing opportunities.

Todd and Dumas are scheduled to appear in the City of Plattsburgh Local Criminal Court on Tuesday, January 5, 2016. They both face fines.

For more information on fishing regulations please refer to the [freshwater fishing guide](#).