



**Fish of the Month January 2016 is from Ed Michaels with a beautiful bonefish from the Bahamas – more details inside**

## ***Clearwater Currents***

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

**Issue No. 16-01**

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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**

- Jan 18 Clearwater Chapter General Meeting – starts at 6:30pm with a guest fly tier – featured speaker Rich Stolis speaking on his new book **“Tying Flies For The Toughest Fish And Strategies For Fishing Them”**– all our welcome, free of charge
- Jan 22 – 24 Fly Fishing Show – Marlborough, MA – more info at [www.flyfishingshow.com](http://www.flyfishingshow.com)
- Jan 29 – 31 Fly Fishing Show – Somerset, NJ - more info at [www.flyfishingshow.com](http://www.flyfishingshow.com)
- March 19 Chapter Annual Conservation Banquet - \$45 – 4pm start – Century House Latham – hundreds of prizes and giveaways – see inside for more details

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**Clearwater Chapter of TU PO Box 9686 Schenectady, NY 12309**  
**[www.ClearwaterTU.org](http://www.ClearwaterTU.org)**

## **Clearwater Chapter General Meeting**

Meeting is scheduled for Monday January 18 with a guest fly tier at 6:30pm. This month's meeting features author **Rich Stolis** speaking on his book, “**Tying Flies For The Toughest Fish And Strategies For Fishing Them**”. This presentation gives the audience a peek into my new book. There are days on the water when catching fish can be a struggle, when those days come we often leave the water scratching our heads in disbelief. This presentation will give you a taste of my thought process behind some of the fly patterns and ways that I fish them when one of those days strikes.

For a lot more on **Rich Stolis** see [www.catchingshadows.com](http://www.catchingshadows.com) – I would suspect this meeting will be SRO so get there early!

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

Clearwater Chapter TU received a HUGE donation of NEW fly tying materials from a local fly shop that closed up and left the region and donated their fly tying supply inventory to the chapter. We are going to be selling portions of these materials each monthly meeting at RIDICULOUS prices as a fund raiser for our conservation efforts and renting the meeting room expenses, etc. Come and get these materials such as synthetics, furs, feathers, hair, chenille, thread, floss, flash, beads, eyes, buck-tails, marabou, etc. It is new and not junk!

## **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, 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](mailto: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.

**Ed Michaels** writes of his Fish of the Month entry - Very large bonefish caught in the Salina Pt. area of Acklins, Bahamas last week. The tide was low after a hard fall due to the new moon. This fish was tailing on the periphery of a school of smaller fish at the mouth of a creek. My cast was about 12 inches from where his head was, while his tail was out of the water. He quickly seized the prototype fly that I was experimenting with, called a "Shrab", on it's first strip. He quickly ran far into the backing of the 9 wt. and made at least 5 long runs, and much bull-dogging before I could bring him to hand.

For those of you that are planning to go bonefishing for the first time, keep in mind two techniques that will make unhooking and protecting the fish for a safe release. Immediately turn the fish upside-down when you bring it to hand. This will subdue the fish while you unhook it. To revive and give the fish a rest before releasing it back to where a hungry shark may be waiting, or to give your partner time to get his camera ready, put the fish back into the water and let it rest on the bottom, while immediately and lightly stroking the fishes head, back and forth between the eyes, with one finger. This either puts the fish to sleep, or temporarily paralyses it. You do not need to handle the fish at all. Shortly after you stop stroking the fish, it will slowly swim away. Good luck, and may the wind and sun always be at your back.

## CLEARWATER ANGLING FLEA MARKET APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Save the date! April 9<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:rmead1@nycap.rr.com) to reserve your table.

### Link to DEC Fisheries Insider Winter 2015/16

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYSDEC/bulletins/129adce>

### Fly of the Month: Emperor Caddis

Every year I have a problem on the water that I wasn't properly equipped to handle. Last year was that I realized I didn't have a great match for very small caddis. A bit of research and I think I have a solution from a webpage at <https://www.dryflyinnovations.com/categories/emperor-caddis>. It's worth a look as they claim it is the PhD of caddis and the "King of Caddis" capable of fooling the smartest of fish. They only sell it in sizes 18 and 20 so that should tell you something. **Hook:** light wire 18 or smaller dry fly; **Thread:** 8/0 color to match head; **Body:** biots in color to match natural – olive, tan, brown, black; **Wing:** bunch of cdc to match wing of original; **Head:** dubbing to match body; **Antenna:** monofilament or stripped feathers. Mount the hook and add the thread from the eye to the hook bend. Tie in the body material and wrap a tight, segmented body to a spot about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the way back from the eye leaving enough room for the head. Tie in the cdc feathers leaving the butts to hang over the eye. These butts will form the wingcase after adding the head. The cdc should end just beyond the hook bend. After tying in the wing add the dubbed head and then pull over the butts to form a wingcase. A few fibers from the cdc butts will remain, but leave them. Antennae can be added now before tying off the fly. Some tiers add them first, but I find they get in the way. Light tippet and stealthy approach should work.





## **DEC Announces Successful Fall Egg Take Reports**

### **Successful Collection of 16.8 Million Eggs Ensure Strong Stocks for Hatchery Program**

State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and partner agencies successfully collected 16.8 million eggs for all species and strains of fish, setting the stage for another successful year at the states fish hatcheries, the agency announced today. Each year, DEC staff carefully collect eggs from wild and captive adult fish to begin the rearing cycle for various species at DEC fish hatcheries.

"New York's fish hatchery system is a vital part of our effort to sustain our popular and economically important recreational fisheries, and foster restoration of rare native fish," said Acting DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "I am pleased that we're off to a good start, and through Governor Cuomo's NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative, we are able to provide ample fish to meet future stocking requirements. I encourage everyone to visit one of DEC's hatcheries and learn about the world class efforts of our talented and dedicated fish hatchery staff."

Chinook and coho salmon eggs are taken each year at the Salmon River Hatchery, a process that is viewed by thousands of visitors to the hatchery. Despite concerns over the warm, dry fall impacting productivity, 3.74 million Chinook and 2.39 million Coho salmon eggs were collected from more than 2,000 adult salmon.

Lake trout eggs are obtained from two different sources: Cayuga Lake provides Finger Lakes strain lake trout, and Raquette Lake is the source of the Adirondack strain of lake trout currently used by DEC. The combined egg take from these waters exceeded 500,000 eggs. Additional eggs from Cayuga Lake were used to make splake - a brook trout-lake trout hybrid utilized in some waters in northern New York. DEC also provided eggs to personnel from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Genoa (WI) National Fish Hatchery to assist with replenishment of broodstocks these partner agencies maintain as part of Great Lakes lake trout restoration efforts.

Landlocked Atlantic salmon egg collections are conducted at Adirondack Hatchery, utilizing fish from Little Clear Pond and captive broodstock maintained inside the hatchery. Approximately 1 million eggs were obtained to meet DEC program needs, and additional eggs were provided to the U.S. Geological Survey's Tunison Laboratory hatchery and to the Eisenhower National Fish Hatchery in Vermont.

To perpetuate selected native brook trout genetic resources, "heritage strain" brook trout eggs were collected from a number of wild brook trout ponds this fall. All egg collections were successful and DEC will have enough fish to meet stocking quotas for Windfall, Horn Lake, and Little Tupper strains of heritage brook trout, and be used to produce hybrid strains as part of an evaluation to improve brook trout survivability in Adirondack ponded waters.

Domestic brown, brook, and rainbow trout eggs are taken each year at DEC's Catskill and Randolph hatcheries, and with 5,993,000 brown trout eggs taken, 1,110,000 brook trout eggs taken, and 1,558,000 rainbow trout eggs successfully collected this fall. Additional brook and brown trout eggs taken at the Rome Fish Disease Control Center (Rome Lab), home of the disease resistant Rome Lab strains of these species, are retained to meet future DEC hatchery broodstock needs.

Eggs were collected from round whitefish, an endangered species in New York, in Lower Cascade Lake in late November and Little Green Pond in December. Lower Cascade Lake is a historically important broodstock water for round whitefish. Recently, fish have been stocked into Little Green Pond, near Adirondack Hatchery to supplement the eggs taken from Lower Cascade Lake fish. Although round whitefish spawn late in the season, generally around the time ice forms, due to mild weather experienced to date, the 2015 egg take was "ice free." Nearly 175,000 eggs were obtained, and rearing will occur at Oneida Hatchery and Adirondack Hatchery as part of the ongoing effort to restore this rare, native species throughout its historic New York range.

After the eggs are taken they are incubated until hatching at DEC's state hatcheries. After hatching, they are fed and cared for by DEC hatchery staff until they reach target stocking sizes. Fish from New York hatcheries are stocked in lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers throughout the state, supporting the state's \$1 billion recreational sport fishery.

Governor Cuomo has expanded recreational opportunities for residents and tourists, positioning New York State as a recreation destination, connecting communities to state lands, and improving the quality of life. Governor Cuomo's NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative is an effort to improve recreational opportunities for sportsmen and women and to boost tourism activities throughout the state. This includes streamlining fishing and hunting licenses, reducing license fees, improving access for fishing and increasing hunting opportunities in New York State. In support of this initiative, last year \$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.

Under the initiative, the 2015-16 Enacted Budget included an additional \$8 million for state land access projects and an additional \$4 million for the state's hatcheries in NY Works funding. The Budget also creates a new capital account which along with federal Pittman-Robertson funds will be used to manage, protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat, and to improve and develop public access for fish and wildlife-related recreation.

DEC operates 12 fish hatcheries and raises and stocks more than 15 species of fish into New York waters. Visit the [Fish Hatcheries](#) webpage for more information on DEC's website.

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

**44<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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>**