



See inside on how to tie the June 2015 Fly of the Month, the Turcks Tarantula

## ***Clearwater Currents***

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

Issue No. 15-06

June, 2015





*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**

- June 15 Chapter General Meeting – TBA - 6:30pm start with a guest fly tier and featured speaker at 7:30pm
- June 27 Battenkill Cleanup – 9am at Rt 313 Rest Area
- June 27 weekend Free Fishing Weekend in New York
- August 15 Battenkill Cleanup
- September 26 Battenkill Cleanup

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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

As of this writing there was no decision on a June speaker. Rest assured there will be a wonderful and engaging speaker. At the Albany Ramada off exit 5 of I-90, meeting starts at 6:30pm with a guest fly tier and at 7:30pm our featured speaker. As usual meeting is free and all are welcome.

## 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.

No entrants for this edition so stay tuned for next month.

## Fly of the Month: Turck's Tarantula by Guy Turck

Summer is here and fish see a lot of big bugs on top of the water – stoneflies and terrestrials to name a few. Here is a pattern that looks like both and is an excellent choice if you are going to tie on a small nymph as a dropper also. Excellent floater for rough water and realistic enough to fool fish looking up it uses basic techniques and common materials. It also has a great youtube page showing you how to do it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Elbx-vLKs6Q> and its own webpage by the creator at: <http://turcktarantula.com/> **Hook:** Tiemco 5262 or Dai Riki 4-14; **Thread:** tan 3/0; **Tail:** Amherst pheasant tippets; **Body:** hare's ear mask; **Wing:** White calftail topped with pearlescent Accent or Krystal Flash; **Collar:** natural deer hair; **Legs:** double strand of brown rubber; **Head:** natural deer hair spun and clipped. Take a look at the websites for tying instructions/video plus history and fishing techniques. I've used this on plenty of warm water species as well as trout in the Catskills and Adirondacks – dead drift or twitched it is a must have for your box.

Sunday, July 12th - Friday, July 17th



## Kids Fly-Fishing Camp 2015

West Branch Angler and Resort  
150 Faulkner Road Hancock, NY

Presented By: NYS Council of Trout Unlimited

Open to ALL Kids Ages 13 - 17  
(acceptance limited to 12 students, contact us today!)

No Experience Necessary

All Skill Levels Accepted

Cost: \$450 and Includes Room, Board, All Equipment  
Full or Partial Scholarships Available through Most NYS Chapters of TU

Expert instruction from guides and pros covering these topics and more:

|                        |                    |                  |            |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|
| Tying Skills           | Casting            | Reading Water    | Entomology |
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Registration Deadline: May 15th We Look Forward to Meeting You!

Thank You to these Generous Sponsors:



Ron Urban:  
ronsgonefishing@aol.com  
845-339-5938

OR

Bob Mead  
ramead@gmail.com  
607-727-9500

For Further Information  
and Application,  
Contact:

## 2014 Fishing Survey Shows Great Lakes Offers Excellent Angling Opportunities

New York's 2014 Great Lakes angler surveys indicate Lake Erie and Lake Ontario offer anglers excellent fishing opportunities, the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced today. Survey results indicate Lake Erie experienced the greatest level of fishing participation in 12 years, while Lake Ontario anglers experienced another year of excellent trout and salmon fishing.

New York's Great Lakes waters offer anglers a broad diversity of outstanding fishing opportunities ranging from tackle-busting fishing for trophy Chinook salmon on Lake Ontario, winter steelhead fishing on the lower Niagara River, to catching a family meal of yellow perch from a dock on Lake Erie or the St. Lawrence River.

"Anglers in New York's Great Lakes waters continue to experience outstanding fishing opportunities," Commissioner Martens said. "New York's Great Lakes offer some of the best angling experiences available in North America. DEC staff conducts angler surveys each year that are critical in providing information necessary to effectively manage these fisheries for future generations."

Anglers can fish from shore, in tributaries, from a kayak or a canoe, or hire a local fishing guide to ply the waters in a large, fully equipped charter vessel. Due to a broad range of habitats and water temperatures, trophy fishing opportunities include trout and salmon, small and largemouth bass, walleye, muskellunge, northern pike and even catfish. Children can experience panfish angling in quiet backwaters for perch, pumpkinseeds, bluegills and bullheads.

In particular, anglers on Lakes Erie and Ontario in recent years have enjoyed exceptional fishing success, which is measured by the number of fish caught per hour of fishing.

The survey found on Lake Erie in 2014:

- Anglers spent approximately 370,000 hours fishing, the highest effort in over 12 years.
- The majority of anglers sought walleye (50 percent), yellow perch (21 percent) and bass (17 percent). Angling quality for walleye, smallmouth bass and yellow perch in 2014, as measured by angler catch rates, was at or near record levels. Walleye and yellow perch catch rates were the highest observed in the 27-year survey, while smallmouth bass catch rates were the second highest on record.
- Yellow perch anglers harvested approximately 212,000 fish, the highest observed in the survey, and walleye anglers harvested nearly 62,000 fish, the third highest on record.



DEC's annual Lake Ontario Fishing Boat Survey provides information essential for managing a diverse, world-class trout and salmon fishery that attracts anglers from across the U.S. (38 states in 2014). In recent years, Lake Ontario anglers have experienced the best trout and salmon fishing on record. That trend continued in 2014 despite colder than normal water temperature patterns. The Lake Ontario 2014 survey found:

- Trout and salmon anglers represented 94 percent of all anglers' hours on Lake Ontario.
- Availability of brown trout along New York's entire Lake Ontario shoreline resulted in above average (18 percent) angler success in 2014.
- Six species of trout and salmon stocked by DEC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provide anglers diverse opportunities to target different species when needed, and anglers took advantage of this during 2014 with catch rates for all trout and salmon species combined was 20 percent above average.
- Chinook salmon anglers experienced periods of both excellent and difficult fishing in 2014, but overall angling quality was up 34 percent above average, the 12th consecutive year of elevated catch rates.
- Rainbow trout angling quality was 35 percent above average, maintaining near-record high levels for the 7th consecutive year.
- Lake trout fishing quality improved in recent years, and Atlantic salmon angler success remained 11 percent above average.
- Coho salmon fishing quality was slightly below average in 2014.

Angler surveys are conducted each year from May through October on Lake Erie and from mid-April through September on Lake Ontario. Anglers returning to ports from the open waters of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario are interviewed to gather information including numbers of anglers and the length of their fishing trip, which fish species were harvested or released, and biological data are collected from harvested fish to determine age and growth rates of various species. DEC extrapolates the data from those interviews to generate lakewide estimates for the angling year. The surveys for lakes Erie and Ontario were initiated in 1988 and 1985, respectively. New York's Lake Erie angler effort and harvest data for walleye and yellow perch are combined with companion data from neighboring states and the Province of Ontario to produce annual lake-wide assessments of the status of these species, providing essential information for establishing sustainable recreational and commercial harvest limits across jurisdictional borders.

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, \$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.

The enacted state budget for 2015-16 raises the Environmental Protection Fund to \$177 million, an increase of 32 percent since Governor Cuomo took office. The \$15 million increase will support 14 categories, including land conservation, stewardship, and invasive species control and prevention. The increase includes a new sub-allocation for capacity grants to State Parks friends' groups.

Under the initiative, the 2015-16 Enacted Budget adds 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.

For further information on the [Lake Erie angler survey](#) and for [Lake Ontario Fisheries Unit Reports](#) visit DEC's website, or contact Steven LaPan, New York Great Lakes Section Leader at Cape Vincent Fisheries Research Station, [\(315\) 654-2147](tel:3156542147).



# SPECIAL NYSCTU CONSERVATION FUND RAFFLE



The New York State Council of Trout Unlimited is raffling off an outstanding rod and additional prizes.  
Raffles are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10 or 10 for \$25.00.

**Prize #1: Orvis Helios2 8'4" 3-weight 4-piece Fly Rod**

Designed with dry flies and eager risers in mind, the 3-weight, 8'4" Helios2 is lightweight, sensitive and extremely powerful. This is THE rod to turn to for small streams, small fish, and big adventures!

**Prize #2: Gift certificate for a two (2) night stay for 2 people at Tailwater Lodge**

Located on the Salmon River approximately ¼ mile downstream from the Altmar Bridge. Accommodations in one of their "Double Queen" rooms, includes private access to the Salmon River plus complimentary hot breakfast, free high speed wireless Internet and cable TV.

Expires: 11/30/16 (Regular pricing \$139.<sup>00</sup>/night x 2 nights = \$278.<sup>00</sup> value)

Donated by Christine Tucciarone, Marketing Director, Tailwater Lodge, 52 Pulaski Street, Altmar, NY, 13302  
([www.tailwaterlodge.com](http://www.tailwaterlodge.com))

**Prize #3: A signed & numbered limited edition print, "Taking a Break" by artist Scott Hartman (framed and matted by Peter Dubno – LI Chapter)**

Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the NYSCTU Conservation Fund. Help support the fund that gives back to chapters, providing financial assistance for projects on our home waters.

The drawing will be held at the November NYSCTU General Meeting on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Tickets will be available at the next three Council meetings (June, September and November) or you can purchase them via mail by sending a check and this coupon to:

NYSCTU 2015 Conservation Fund Raffle  
c/o Ron Urban – Council Chair  
PO Box 815  
Port Ewen, NY 12466

\* Date is tentative.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 1 ticket = \$ 5.00
- 3 tickets = \$ 10.00
- 10 tickets = \$ 25.00

# Fighting Pollution From Microbeads Used in Soaps and Creams

**NY Times**

By [RACHEL ABRAMS](#)

MAY 22, 2015

Stiv Wilson, an environmentalist who lives on his boat, has helped lead the fight against tiny plastic balls called microbeads. Credit Jason Henry for The New York Times

Stiv Wilson is not much of an exfoliator.

Mr. Wilson, a 42-year-old environmental advocate, lives on a sailboat, wears flip-flops and doesn't care much for personal care products like fancy creams and moisturizers. But to the companies that make those products, some of the largest corporations in the world, Mr. Wilson tends to be more abrasive than the scrubs they sell. For more than two years, Mr. Wilson, director of campaigns at the nonprofit group The Story of Stuff Project, has helped lead the fight against microbeads, tiny plastic balls used in face washes, moisturizers and toothpaste, which activists say [wind up in the nation's lakes and rivers](#). On Friday, the California State Assembly approved a measure to outlaw the use of the particles in what could become the strictest ban in the country.

[Continue reading the main story](#)

Microbeads look like tiny, colorful dots suspended in cleansers and other personal care items. Manufacturers like [Johnson & Johnson](#) and [Procter & Gamble](#) advertise their exfoliating power, offering consumers a little luxury in the form of a D.I.Y. mini-facial.

Microbeads used in personal care products find their way into waterways, where they absorb other pollutants. Credit Tony Cenicola/The New York Times

But when the beads are rinsed off, they flow through pipes and drains and into the water. By the billions. The effect is similar to grinding up plastic water bottles, other products of concern to environmentalists, and pumping them into oceans and lakes. But because microbeads are small enough to be ingested by fish and other marine life, they can carry other pollutants into the food chain.

"Kind of like the Trojan horse effect," said Dave Andrews, a senior scientist with the nonprofit Environmental Working Group. "You're increasing the quantity that's ending up in the lower organisms, and then they could make their way up the food chain."

Water treatment plants cannot process the nearly 19 tons of microbeads that may be washing into New York's wastewater every year, according to [a recent report](#) from the office of the state's attorney general, [Eric T. Schneiderman](#). The State Assembly has approved a proposal from Mr. Schneiderman's office to ban microbeads, but the bill has stalled in the State Senate.

Four states — Illinois, Maine, New Jersey and Colorado — have enacted legislation to restrict the use of microbeads, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, while bills are pending in others, including Michigan, Minnesota, Washington and Oregon. If the California bill becomes law, the state would ban not only synthetic particles but the biodegradable ones that many companies have been developing as alternatives.

Environmentalists like Mr. Wilson say many of those bills do not go far enough, because they allow companies to come up with biodegradable, but insufficiently tested, alternatives. There is not enough evidence to show that these new microbeads dissolve in the natural marine ecosystem, they say.

One such alternative, polylactic acid, can degrade faster than other plastics, but only under extreme heat and other conditions not typically found in marine environments, environmental advocates say.

"Everything on earth is biodegradable on a geological time scale," Mr. Wilson said. "It's not biodegradable in a meaningful time frame."

Lisa Powers, a spokeswoman for the Personal Care Products Council, an industry trade group, said in an email, “There is considerable global, cutting-edge research efforts focused on developing biodegradable plastics in accordance with internationally accepted standards.”

The trade group removed its objections to the California proposal and has a “neutral” stance, Ms. Powers said. The bill is Mr. Wilson’s second chance to win the war against microbeads in California. An earlier attempt passed the State Assembly but failed by one vote in the State Senate last year. The bill that passed in the Assembly this week contained concessions that supporters hope will improve its chances in the State Senate. In March, Representatives Fred Upton, a Republican from Michigan, and Frank Pallone, a Democrat from New Jersey, introduced federal legislation to ban synthetic plastic microbeads effective in January 2018. But environmental advocates may get their way even if only a few large states enact such bans. Consumer product companies cannot afford to make multiple versions of the same product and could decide to manufacture the version that will pass muster under the strictest state standard.

“The only way that federal legislation is going to pass is if the environmentalists, wastewater and industry all agree on a policy, and we haven’t gotten there yet,” said Mr. Wilson, who has helped draft similar legislation in a number of states. “You don’t need a federal solution to this on a global scale.”

Consumers have more outlets than ever to voice concerns about products, particularly online, where a whisper of danger can turn into a roar. Seeing the effect on their sales, manufacturers have increasingly faced pressure to respond to those concerns.

But reformulating products to remove objectionable ingredients can be time-consuming and expensive. And companies say they do not want microbead legislation that limits them further.

“We believe the current bill in California is overly restrictive, inhibits innovation and does not allow for current and future advancements in biodegradable exfoliate alternatives,” said Carol Goodrich, a spokeswoman for Johnson & Johnson, in an email. In 2013, Johnson & Johnson pledged to remove polyethylene microbeads, the most common type of microbeads, from its personal care products by 2017.

Procter & Gamble, another global consumer products giant, has made a similar pledge. [Unilever](#), the multinational consumer goods company, phased out the use of plastic microbeads from its Dove soaps and other products at the beginning of the year.

More than 3,000 products now contain polyethylene, according to the Environmental Working Group’s online database.

Mango Materials, a start-up based in the San Francisco Bay Area, is developing what it hopes is a promising, environmentally friendly microbead alternative. The new ingredient would be polyhydroxyalkanoate, or PHA, a naturally occurring plastic produced by mushrooms.

The PHAs could dissolve in many marine ecosystems within a month, said Molly Morse, chief executive and co-founder of Mango Materials.

But while she supports initiatives to make California safer, she is concerned that the proposed bill might ban her product, too.

“The wording of the bill makes me nervous,” Ms. Morse said in a phone interview. “I’m a small business with employees, and we love this application and we’re thoroughly motivated by the positive effects our product can have on the environment.”

## **DEC Launches Collaborative Effort to Combat Aquatic Invasive Species in Adirondacks**

### **Boat Stewards Will Alert Boaters to Possible Threats and Decontaminate Boats Coming from High Risk Lakes and Rivers**

Boat stewards will be deployed at 14 new locations and 11 new decontamination stations will be available across the Adirondacks this summer as part of a collaborative program to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the Adirondacks, state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Joe Martens announced today. The program is the result of a historic agreement reached among more than 60 conservation groups, owners associations, and local and state governments in March to work in concert to help preserve clean water, increase recreation opportunities and promote tourism.



"Through this partnership program we aim to significantly reduce the threat posed by aquatic invasive species that could harm the health of our rivers, lakes and streams and the fish and plants that inhabit them," said Martens. "Starting Memorial Day weekend, and throughout the summer, a pilot program in the Adirondacks will focus on boater education, boat inspections and boat decontamination. Governor Cuomo recognizes the importance of these efforts and provided increased funding in this year's budget to fight invasive species. Our partners in this program bring invaluable resources, knowledge and talent that together will benefit residents, tourism and the environment."

New York State is working with local governments, lake associations, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) and Paul Smith's College Watershed Institute in taking a frontline defense against invasive species, such as Eurasian watermilfoil and spiny water flea, in waterbodies in the Adirondacks. This effort is funded by the state Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, the new state budget included an additional \$1 million in the EPF targeted specifically for combatting AIS.

The program will strategically locate inspection stewards and decontamination stations along highway corridors with high boat-trailer traffic and near waterbodies with significant AIS concentrations. The stewards, hired and trained by Paul Smith's College, will show arriving boaters the signs of possible invasive threats on their watercraft and trailers. Using high pressure, hot water decontamination units, stewards will also clean boats that have not been cleaned and drained, especially those last used in waters with high risk for AIS. Boater participation is voluntary yet strongly encouraged.

Invasive species attach to the outside of boats or the bilge, live well, bait well and ballast areas on the inside of boats, wreaking havoc on native fish and plants as they travel from water bodies. Lake associations spend millions of dollars every year pulling Eurasian watermilfoil and they have to repeat this effort every summer. It is more economical to prevent invasive species than to try to eradicate them.

Starting Memorial Day weekend boat stewards will be deployed at: Fish Creek Pond Campground, Lewey Lake Campground (Indian Lake Launch and Lewey Lake Launch), Moffitt's Beach Campground, Piseco Lake Campgrounds, Town of Day Launch, Hinckley Flow Reservoir, Northhampton Beach Campground, Brown's Tract Pond Campground, Carry Falls Reservoir, Chazy Lake, Golden Beach Campground, Hudson River at Luzerne and Limekiln Lake Campground. The Clifton/Fine boat decontamination station opens this holiday weekend while additional decontamination stations are scheduled to open in June at: Speculator, Northville, Chateaugay, Okara Lakes, Paul Smith's, Cadyville, Ray Brook, Horicon, Piseco and South Colton.

"We're pleased to serve in this important role," said Cathy S. Dove, president of Paul Smith's College. "This new Adirondack Park-wide boat-inspection and decontamination program represents an unprecedented investment of ideas and resources toward safeguarding the ecological, cultural and economic destiny of the Adirondack region. The Governor has recognized that lakes and rivers lie at the heart of the Adirondack experience and form the basis of our communities, even as they face increasingly severe environmental threats. All New Yorkers stand to benefit from this far-reaching program, which both protects internationally recognized natural heritage and will serve as a model for similar landscape-scale invasive species programs within New York State and beyond."

"It is a privilege to work alongside Governor Cuomo and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to implement an aquatic invasive spread prevention strategy to safeguard economic vitality, environmental health, and the natural splendor of the Adirondacks," said Brendan Quirion, program coordinator for the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program. "Our iconic lakes and ponds and future generations deserve nothing less." To implement this pilot program, DEC collaborated with the NY Department of State and the State Department of Transportation.

New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Joan McDonald said, "Boating is an enjoyable and refreshing form of transportation for New Yorkers, but it is essential that this recreational travel does not inadvertently introduce aquatic invasive species to our Adirondack waterways. We are proud to have worked with Governor Andrew Cuomo and DEC Commissioner Martens to create these new decontamination sites."

"Invasive species can significantly impact water-based recreation and tourism, which are significant contributors to the local and regional economies," said New York Secretary of State Cesar A. Perales. "Through the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, the Department of State is pleased to support this important initiative to limit the spread of these aquatic invasive species in the Adirondacks. We look forward to working

with our sister agencies to provide communities with the resources needed to combat this threat to water quality and community revitalization."

DEC advises boaters and anglers to check your boat, trailer and other fishing and boating equipment for any plants or animals that may be clinging to it. Be sure to check bunks, rollers, trim tabs and other likely attachment points on boats and trailers. Following a thorough inspection, DEC encourages boaters to follow the CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY standard:

1. CLEAN boats, trailers and equipment of any debris, and dispose of it in an upland area or receptacle provided for this purpose.
2. DRAIN the boat completely, including bilge areas, live wells and bait wells. Water ski and wake board boat operators should be sure to drain all ballast tanks. Many aquatic invasive species can survive in as little as a drop of water, so it is imperative that all water is removed.
3. DRY all equipment for at least five days before using it in another water body. Longer drying times may be required for difficult to dry equipment or during damp or cool periods. [Recommended drying times for various seasons](#) (offsite link) can be found at 100th Meridian Initiative website. Drying is the simplest and most effective way to ensure equipment does not transport plants or animals.

If boating equipment cannot be completely and thoroughly dried, it must be decontaminated prior to use in another water body. [Various decontamination techniques and special techniques to clean boats](#) previously used in zebra mussel infested waters are provided on DEC's website.

For a listing of the aquatic invasive species that have been reported from publicly accessible state waters, visit the DEC [boating access directory](#).

**Have a Great and Safe Summer 2015!**