



Fish of the Month – see details inside

Clearwater Currents

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

17 Sutherland Drive Watervliet, NY 12189

Issue No. 16-05

May, 2016





*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

May 16 Chapter General Meeting – 6:30pm guest tier and 7:30 featured speaker

Board of Directors/Staff

President	Scott Parker	894-4661	ExOfficio	Heath Clayson	573-6008
Treasurer	Ken Waldie	573-4793	Treasurer	Ken Waldie	573-4793
Youth	Bart Chabot	393-9918	Trips	Bob Mead	399-9000
Conservation	Roy Lamberton	872-2217	Newsletter	Mark A Brown	mrbrownie6@gmail.com
Education	Doug Howard	399-8566	Secretary	Chris Franchini	
Stream Research	Art Coleman	399-5550	Programs	Heath Clayson	573-6008
Quartermaster	Bill Cosgrove	766-2405	Flea Market	Bob Mead	399-9000
Schoharie	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	Trevor Tripp	380-6614			
Disabled Angler Program	Bart Chabot	393-9918			

Clearwater Chapter of TU PO Box 9686 Schenectady, NY 12309
www.ClearwaterTU.org

Clearwater Chapter General Meeting

At press time there was no information provided about the Clearwater Meeting scheduled for Monday May 16, 2016. Meeting starts at 6:30pm with a guest fly tier and the featured speaker starts at 7pm. At the Ramada Inn off exit 5 of I-90 Albany. Free of charge and all are welcome.

2016 Clearwater Chapter Ausable River Trip

Please let me know if you will be joining us on the Ausable trip this year. June 3,4,5, Two night stay, 2 breakfasts and an order from the menu dinner Saturday evening. \$219 per person this year and as the last 3 years, pay your own tips. I've got 5 rooms plus a 3 or 4 person suite left so let me know ASAP. Thanks.

As ever, Bob Mead – 518-399-9000.

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, Jim Boyle** and for 2015, **Paul Kalacs** winners in its first eight 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.

Jeff Bull's grandson is the May 2016 Fish of the Month entrant. My Grandson and I recently went on a drift boat trip for Steelhead on the Salmon. It was a first for both of us. He hooked four and landed this one. Grandpa on the other hand didn't get a hit, totally skunked. Hope this makes the fish of the month. He would be tickled to "make the headlines". *Editor's Note – miscommunication between Jeff and I as I don't have the Grandson's name as of press time – will update next month.*

2016 Hendrickson Hatch Tournament June 4th & 5th

Registration is now available for the 2016 Hendrickson Hatch tournament. Please visit www.hendricksonhatch.org for a printable registration. Complete the registration and return to MRF, PO Box 211, Malone, NY 12953.

For those that will need accommodations for the tournament Holiday Inn Express has reserved a block of rooms at a special event price. When you call to make a reservation please mention the Hendrickson Hatch tournament. Also go to www.visitmalone.com for additional accommodations and other Malone information.

As usual Brookfield Renewable will be providing a cash donation again this year. Thanks to Brookfield

Renewable we are scheduled to stock \$2000 worth of trout a couple days before the tournament. This year we have a few new sponsors as well. JP Ross Fly Rods <http://www.jprossflyrods.com/> has offered to donate a custom fly rod for a raffle. Attached is a promotion from JP Ross for a fly fishing event to be held Father's Day weekend in the Adirondacks.

Ausable Two Fly Challenge

This year's Ausable Two Fly Challenge is May 20 – 21. For more information please see the following site:

<http://www.whitefaceregion.com/do/events/two-fly-challenge>

Woodlands, Wetlands, and Water:

What Local Decision-Makers Need to Know

Presented by: Ingrid Haeckel, Laura Heady, & Elisa Chae-Banaja, NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program, & Marilyn Wyman, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia & Greene Counties

When: Thursday, May 26, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Where: Bethlehem Town Hall auditorium, 445 Delaware Ave, Delmar, NY 12054

Learn about the forests and wetlands in the Capital Region, the ways forests and wetlands influence water quality, drinking water, flood attenuation, and other vital benefits, and how local government can play a role in sustaining these resources. This event is open to the public, and will offer practical guidance and tools for members of municipal boards and others involved in land-use decisions and conservation. Self-certification forms for 3 hours of municipal training credit will be available for members of local boards.

This training is co-sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia & Greene Counties, Albany County Department of Economic Development, Conservation, and Planning, Schenectady County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program with support from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund.

Light refreshments will be served.

Register Online: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/wetlands_210

Register by Phone: [518-622-9820 x0](tel:518-622-9820)

Katherine Czajkowski, CPESC

Mohawk Watershed Coordinator, Mohawk River Basin Program/Cornell WRI

Fly of the Month: Jeff's CDC Funnel Emerger

We are very near to the time of the season where a great sulfur emerger will make your day if fished right. Here is one that is easy to tie and comes from a great tier and angler. Check out the wonderful website and tying instructions on video on the site to make it easier - <https://jeffwilkinsflytying.wordpress.com/emergers/>

My experience with the sulfur hatch has shown me that a well fished emerger will outfish the adults everytime. With this fly I can assure you that if you aren't catching fish it is because of poor casting/drag or the tippet size is too big. Fish see so many sulfur's in late May through summer that they get enormously educated and picky on what a real bug looks like. If having trouble give the water a rest and use the next smaller sized tippet. Once the fish get back into a rhythm make a nice gentle cast with your lighter tippet and hang on.



EPA Announces \$1.5 Million in New Federal Funds to Tackle Invasive Species in New York

(New York, N.Y. – May 4, 2016)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$1.5 million to two New York colleges and one state agency to address invasive species in the Great Lakes. These grants are among 31 grants awarded this year through the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

"Invasive species is a serious problem facing the Great Lakes," said EPA Regional Administrator Judith A. Enck. "These EPA grants will help prevent larger costs and damage to the environment in the future and will educate students and boaters about what they can do to reduce this threat to the Great Lakes."

The grants announced today for New York State organizations are:

Hobart and William Smith Colleges - \$516,000

Water Chestnut Control in New York's Great Lakes Basin

Hobart and William Smith Colleges will remove water chestnut from 43 acres in the Lake Ontario and Lake Erie basins through hand pulling, mechanical harvest, and chemical treatment, and will also survey for new infestations. Additionally, the college will engage 100 students and 30 community members in experiential learning activities, including an "adopt-a-shoreline" program and will reach 10,000 community members at a variety of events.

Paul Smith's College - \$500,000

Lake Ontario Headwaters Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

Paul Smith's College will protect the integrity of the headwaters of eastern Lake Ontario through coordinated aquatic invasive species prevention activities in the western Adirondack Park. The project will fund outreach to recreational boaters and inspections of boats and trailers at launch sites.

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation - \$500,000

Using Boat Stewards to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

The New York State Office of Parks will expand on a successful watercraft inspection stewardship program at boat launches and marinas located on Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, the Niagara River, the St. Lawrence River, Lake Champlain and the Finger Lakes. The stewardship program will also educate thousands of national and international recreational and resource users that visit New York State Parks. The Great Lakes provide 30 million Americans with drinking water and help support a multi-billion dollar economy. This year, the EPA is awarding more than \$13.9 million in grants for projects to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

For more information on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, visit: <http://glri.us>

Chapter Banquet Update

For those of you like me who couldn't attend the Banquet here is the news you missed. The winner of the canoe was **Kathy Zorion** so congratulations to her and I hope she get out and enjoys it.

Doug Howard won the Cornerstone Award for his many years of service to the Chapter as past president, who represented the chapter at the national and state levels as well as with other chapters. He has been involved with the fly fishing and fly tying classes, has worked on stream improvement projects, has been quarter master, and wrote nominations for national and state recognition of Clearwater Chapter members.

The Volunteer Award went to **Brad Mohr** for his many years of excellent service as Chapter Secretary.

Certificates this year went to **Jeff Bull, Ed Andrejko and Arnold Schwartz.**

The Chapter is also looking for new Banquet as **Jessica Galasso** has decided to move on after many years of great service to the Chapter. If interested let me know at mrbrownie6@gmail.com.

Updated "Atlas of Inland Fishes of New York" Now Available Atlas Offers Current Data, Distribution, Mapping and Illustrations of All New York's 181 Freshwater Fish Species

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos, State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia, and State Museum Director Mark Schaming today announced the publication of "The Atlas of Inland Fishes of New York" as New York State Museum Record Series, Volume 7. The Atlas was authored jointly by DEC and NYSM staff in a multi-year collaboration and describes present and historic distribution of all 181 native and introduced freshwater fish species in the state. The Atlas contains a wealth of information including an illustration of each species, a brief description of its habitat and native range, and maps for all but two species.

Acting Commissioner Seggos said, "This book is the culmination of many years of research and fieldwork by DEC and Museum staff. We are proud to make this information freely available to New Yorkers and celebrate the diversity of fish in our state."

"Research is at the heart of the State Museum's mission," said State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia. "We're proud to partner with the State Department of Environmental Conservation to publish this book about the diverse fish species of our state and share that knowledge with all New Yorkers."

"The New York State Museum has published books on the natural and cultural histories of New York since 1836 and we continue that tradition today with this new volume about the freshwater fish of New York," said State Museum Director Mark Schaming. "We're pleased to jointly publish the book with the State Department of Environmental Conservation."

The last comparable effort was C.L. Smith's book *Inland Fishes of New York*, published in 1985. Access to the best current information regarding the distribution and relative abundance of fish species across the state is the foundation of all effective conservation. The Atlas project was partially funded by the State Wildlife Grant Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Notable findings in the Atlas include:

- Significant changes in the distributions of many species have occurred since the first comprehensive surveys were performed by the Conservation Department in the 1920s and 1930s. Warm water loving species in particular have seen increases of 100 percent or more in the number of sites where they were detected.
- Green sunfish have expanded their range across most of the state. Green sunfish are characterized as aggressive and the expansion will have unknown consequences for other species.
- Deepwater sculpin, a state endangered species found in Lake Ontario, was thought to be extirpated from New York in 1985. In recent years, new deep trawling efforts in Lake Ontario have turned up regular catches of sculpins.
- Largemouth bass have increased their range across the state since the 19th century and occupy nearly every small watershed of the state.
- Lake sturgeon have regained significant portions of their native range across New York. Lake sturgeon populations had been decimated prior to DEC's (and its predecessors') record keeping.

The [Atlas is available for download](#) at the New York State Museum website. *(Link leaves DEC's website.)* A [companion database showing the catch records \(Excel, 41 MB\)](#) included in the Atlas for all species is available for download at the New York State Museum website. *(Data will display as Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.)*

Canoe For Sale

I was wondering if you could get out to the Trout Unlimited membership that I have a canoe for sale. This was my father-in-law's who passed away a few years ago, it is an Old Town, 3 seater, about 16ft and roughly 20 years old. It has a few miles on it but it is in good shape. My father-in-law was an avid outdoors man who loved fishing and canoeing so he would be happy if it went to someone who joined him in his passion. \$300 or best offer. Please feel free to give anyone interested my email address and/or cell number [\(518\) 577-9656](tel:5185779656).

Thanks in advance for any help you can give me.

Ken Rulison



[Interesting Article About Orvis Helios Rods](#)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-04-22/here-s-why-you-should-spend-800-on-a-fly-rod-orvis-helios-2-review>

[DEC's Angler Achievement Awards Program Begins Another Season](#)

Recognizing New York's Top Anglers Since 1990

The Department of Environmental Conservation's annual Angler Achievement Awards Program that recognizes anglers who make exceptional catches begins its 27th season, DEC Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos announced today.

"The Angler Achievement Awards are a popular way to recognize the outdoors people who have made notable catches in New York's water," Acting Commissioner Seggos said. "New York is fortunate to have a wealth of amazing fishing opportunities, and this awards program showcases the best catches of the year and the record fish New York has to offer."

The awards recognize the anglers who caught the heaviest freshwater fish of the year from 43 different species in New York State's lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams. Each fish entered must meet or exceed the minimum qualifying weights. The three categories that make up the program are: Catch and Release, Annual Award (kept fish) and State Record.

The winning anglers are awarded an Angler Achievement Award lapel pin and a Certificate of Achievement suitable for framing. Those who catch a trophy-sized fish have a chance at establishing a new [State Record](#).

In addition to providing deserved recognition to those anglers catching trophy fish, the program also provides a useful snapshot of the quality of the state's freshwater fishery.

The Angler Achievement Awards Program is comprised mostly of New York resident anglers, but in 2015 an additional 13 states were represented, including a "Catch and Release Award" recipient hailing from Hawaii. Of the 150 entries submitted into the program last year, almost 75 percent of those qualified under the Catch and Release Category, indicating the sound stewardship ethic of New York's anglers. Sixteen fish qualified in the Annual Award (kept) Category, with brown bullhead and black crappie making up the majority. Although warmwater fish species such as bass, crappie, pickerel and sunfish comprised well over half of the entries received, there was a slight increase in the number of trout entries compared to previous years.

Joshua Wegner established the one and only state record for 2015 with a 5½ lb. white sucker from Cold Brook (Steuben County) on April 14, 2015. It surpassed the previous state record set over 20 years prior by five ounces. Other notable catches include an impressive 37-inch steelhead caught and released from Sandy Creek (Monroe County), a northern pike weighing over 31 pounds caught in Great Sacandaga Lake, a 24-inch largemouth bass caught and released from Guilford Lake (Chenango County), and a 31-inch brown trout caught and released from Walton Lake (Orange County). Fish from waters in 44 of New York's 62 counties were entered into the program in 2015.

More information about the [Angler Achievement Awards Program](#), including a downloadable application form and photo slideshow of fish entered, can be found on DEC's website.

Full program details and an entry form can also be found in DEC's current Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide. For additional information on the Angler Achievement Awards Program contact [\(518\) 402-8891](tel:518-402-8891) or email fwfish@dec.ny.gov.

Boquet River Home for Sale

Clearwater Chapter legend **Gene Webster** is now a permanent resident of Our Lady of Mercy and has finally decided to sell his year round home in Elizabethtown (Lewis exit off Northway), right on the Boquet River. I asked for approval to put the info in the newsletter and have unanimous vote. Same but grateful okay from daughter Julie. I think one page will be adequate to touch base with Realtor for additional details. See the link below for more details.

<http://www.century21.com/property/445-moss-road-lewis-ny-12950-C2139396194>

Another Clearwater Legend Says Hello

Finally contacted George Schmidt in W. Hartford at The McAuley, 275 Steele St., Apt - A119, West Hartford, Ct.06117. Home phone – (860)-904-6044. If anyone has time to call or drop a line he would love to hear that he's not forgotten. BYW - He plans to go to Nantucket after June 22 !!