Catskill Mountains Trout Unlimited

To conserve, protect and restore New York's Trout and Salmon Fisheries and their watersheds

CMTU Chapter Meeting

Wednesday February 17th, 2016, 6:30PM
Courtyard by Marriott, Kingston, NY

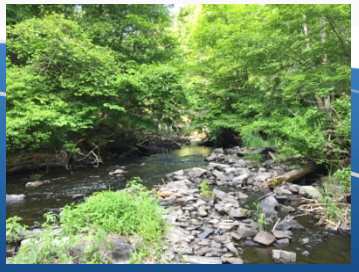
Our speaker for the February meeting will be Andrew Meyer of the Hudson River Estuary Program. Andrew will be speaking to us about ways that we can partner with the Hudson River Estuary program to help identify and remove barriers to aquatic connectivity in the Hudson River Watershed. This is an exciting opportunity for our chapter to do some "hands on" work that can make a real difference in the health of trout populations in our area.

One of the major threats to the health of trout is barriers to fish passage. Trout are pretty amazing creatures, and given half a chance they move great distances in search of clean, cold water and choice spawning locations. One of the keys to a healthy trout population is the ability to move throughout the watershed. But man-made barriers such as dams and poorly-designed culverts can isolate and fragment populations or cut off miles of streams to fish.

Continued on Page 4

Calendar

February	Chapter Meeting, Wednesday February 17th, 2016, Courtyard by Marriot, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM
	Speaker: Andrew Meyer, Hudson River Estuary Program
March	Chapter Meeting, Wednesday March 16th, 2016, Courtyard by Marriot, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM
	Speaker: To be announced
April	Chapter Meeting, Wednesday April 20th, 2016, Courtyard by Marriot, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM
	Speaker: To be announced



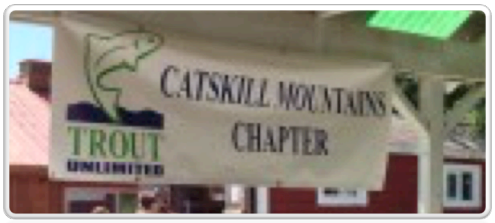
From the President

I've often heard that fly fishing is the activity with the highest drop-out rate for beginners. I'm not sure how scientifically sound that claim is, but I can see how it might be true. After all, it can be overwhelming for the newbie. When I started fly fishing seriously as an adult, I was taken aback by all the decisions I'd have to make before I even got to the stream. What weight rod should I get? Floating line or sinking line? What size leader? And the flies? Heck, I was mystified about when to use a wet or a dry fly. Choosing between parachute Adams, an elk hair caddis, a klinkhammer, a cdc bwo…? Well, you get the idea. It would have been easy to say, "forget this, I'm going to take up something simple, like golf."

But I did stick with it. And I caught a few fish. Partly because more experienced anglers helped simplify things for me. But I also stuck with it because I scaled back my expectations and took things one step at a time. So at first I told myself, "If I just get a strike, I'm going to be happy, because that shows I'm doing something right." As I settle into being Chapter President, I'm trying to take a similar approach—reach out to experienced TU members and take things one step at a time. This revamped chapter newsletter that Ted Hoover and I worked on is one of those first steps. We hope you like it.

Tight lines,

Andrew



Interested in becoming a Member of Catskill Mountain Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited is America's leading coldwater conservation organization. Our hope is that clean, cold, fishable water exists for generations to come, but we can't do it without the support of committed anglers and conservationists like you. Click here to become a new TU member and see all the great benefits of membership, or click here to renew your existing membership.

Incoming chapter president Andrew Higgins presents plaque to outgoing president Ron Urban, while Jim Littlefoot looks on.

CMTU award to Ron Urban

At the Chapter Christmas Party in December outgoing president Ron Urban was presented with a plaque honoring him for his many years of service with CMTU.

Chapter members shouldn't worry that Ron will be riding off into the sunset, though. He is continuing to serve the chapter as treasurer, and remains our State Council Chair. Hopefully, though, he'll have a little more time to fish this season.

Black Creek: The Search for John Burroughs' Brook Trout

The Catskill Mountains Chapter of Trout Unlimited is conducting a multiyear study in collaboration with John Burroughs Association to determine the feasibility of a sustainable wild brook trout population within the Black Creek watershed and leverage the results of this study for future conservation activities.

The Black Creek in Ulster County New York is a small 15-mile Hudson River tributary with historical literary references to fishing for eastern brook trout for over 200 years. The stream flows past naturalist John Burroughs' cabin Slabsides, in West Park, NY, and Burroughs wrote about catching its brookies in his essays. Despite decades of development on and near the Black Creek that has limited its ability to sustain wild brook populations, anglers have occasionally reported catching wild "brookies." It is believed that any remaining brook trout population would be a genetic strain native to New York State.

The first phase in this project is to conduct a thermal study on the creek during the summer months to determine if a sustainable brook trout habitat exists in within the Black Creek watershed. This phase requires the acquisition and strategic placement of six thermal monitoring devices in the Black Creek over two years to collect information that would determine if sustainable wild brook trout populations could exist. The thermal monitoring devices will be built per the recommendations outlined in TU's Stream Temperature Monitoring Guide.

The results of this study will be used to develop future projects. If the thermal study shows that a sustainable habitat exists on the Black Creek, future projects include

(1) Collecting samples of brook trout via electro fish sampling for the purpose of genetic testing to determine its status as a wild "heritage" strain of New York state brook trout
(2) Conducting stream restoration so as to protect and enhance any populations of wild brook trout, and
(3) Work with DEC and local landowners to develop management plans to protect and enhance those populations.

Planning for 2016 has begun. Locations and dates for installation of the thermometers are being mapped out for installation in April.

Please contact Ted Hoover thoover@hvc.rr.com if you are interested in volunteering your time on this project in 2016.

Continued from page 1

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Removing these barriers can have a major impact on trout populations. It can open up spawning habitat, give fish refuge from summer heat, increase the flow of nutrients in the system, and (because they have more places to live and hide out) make trout populations better able to endure natural and man-made calamities. This is especially important for native brook trout populations in many of the small streams in our area. The recent replacement of culverts on Horse Brook by Trout Unlimited and the Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, for instance, opened up 2.3 miles of habitat to trout in the Beaverkill Watershed.

But before these barriers can be removed they need to be located. So the Hudson River Estuary Program has been working on a comprehensive survey of stream barriers throughout the Hudson River Watershed. This is where we come in. Andrew is asking for our help to identify and locate these barriers throughout our region. As anglers, we are one of the best sources of knowledge about local streams. The chances are your familiarity with that little stream that runs behind your house or that small brook trout creek you fish a couple times a year can make big difference in the Hudson River Estuary Program's efforts. I should also add that this project meshes perfectly with our chapter's current work on Black Creek.

Andrew will present to us a number of different ways that we can become involved. So even if you don't think you'll be able to donate much time to locating stream barriers, knowing about them will enable you to spot problems when you're out fishing—or just driving around. So please come out and hear Andrew and find out more about how you can help us make a difference for trout populations in our area.

TU completes Horse Brook culvert project in Catskills

In 2015, in collaboration with Theodore Gordon Fly Fishers, local and state TU organizations help replace a culvert on Horse Brook near Roscoe, NY.

http://www.tu.org/blog-posts/tu-completes-horse-brook-culvert-project-in-catskills

Chapter Information

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