

Catskill Mountains Trout Unlimited

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



CMTU Chapter Meeting

Wednesday March 16th, 2016, 6:30PM
Courtyard by Marriott, Kingston, NY

Do It Yourself Bonefishing in the Yucatan

Our speaker for the March meeting will be chapter member Bill Shaw. Bill recently returned from a winter trip to Cancun where he had the opportunity to check out fishing opportunities in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. While there Bill looked into fishing for permit, snook, and tarpon. But what really caught his eye was bonefishing. While most of us are aware that there are lots of pre-packaged bonefishing expeditions available, these often run into the thousands of dollars. Bill explored the world of Do It Yourself (DIY) bonefishing. He'll talk to us about how you can plan your own bonefishing trip to the Yucatan without having to cash out your children's college savings fund. He'll talk about locations, gear, regulations, and lodging. So please come out to this month's meeting and hear what Bill has to say about bonefishing on the Yucatan.

1. DIY Bonefishing - DIYbonefishing.com, Rod Hamilton
2. Do It Yourself Bonefishing, Rod Hamilton & Kirk Deeter

Calendar

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| March | Chapter Meeting, Wednesday March 16 th , 2016, Courtyard by Marriot, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM Speaker: Bill Shaw, Catskill Mountains TU |
| April | Chapter Meeting, Wednesday April 20 th , 2016, Courtyard by Marriot, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM Gear, Books, and Materials Swap and Tying Event |
| May | Chapter Meeting, Wednesday April 20 th , 2016, Courtyard by Marriot, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM Speaker: Mike Flaherty , NYS DEC - Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources |

Update on Gilboa Dam Renovations

As many of you know, friends of Esopus Creek have been concerned about a significant threat to it since DEP released its planned renovations to the Gilboa Dam last April. The dam lacks a functioning downstream release mechanism, which is a serious safety concern. But the planned renovations include only a cold-water release mechanism. The Schoharie is a small reservoir. This means that in some years the Schoharie's supply of cold water could be depleted early. And in the case of an early season tropical storm, the cold water reserves could be dumped downstream to clear space in the reservoir for flood waters. This would force DEP to pump warm water through the Portal, which would have a devastating effect on trout in the Esopus.

Everyone recognizes that fixing the downstream release on the Gilboa Dam is an important safety issue. What's concerning is that DEP did not include a mechanism for a warm-water release in its original plans. However, DEP and DEC (which oversees dam safety) has heard the concerns of conservationists. Plans to install a warm-water release mechanism are now under consideration. In a March 2nd email, DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd wrote to me:

"DEP fully understands the ecological and economic importance of the Esopus Creek. We will continue to do our best to balance water supply, ecology, recreation, public safety and other important interests that sometimes compete. We are hopeful that the additional release mechanisms being designed now will address many of the concerns you shared."



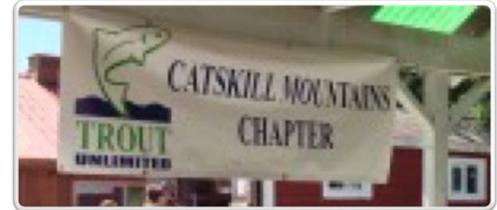
Once again, this is another example of the important role Trout Unlimited plays in protecting the cold-water fisheries we love. The Catskill Mountains Chapter, the Ashokan-Pepacton Chapter, and the New York State Council raised concerns about this issue early and kept demanding answers.

At this point, I'm cautiously optimistic that we will be able to avert a dangerous threat to the Esopus Creek. DEP has heard us, and now it's just a question of money. If New York City or New York State will provide the funds to install the warm-water release mechanism, then we will have a safe Gilboa Dam and a secure cold-water fishery in the Esopus Creek.

Because it's a question of money, though, it is important that we keep on top of things. If you want to help, send a note to Commissioner of DEP Emily Lloyd (ELloyd@dep.nyc.gov) and Governor Andrew Cuomo (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/contact>) letting them know your concerns and urging them to support the addition of the warm-water release mechanism to the Gilboa Dam renovations.

Gear, Books, and Materials Swap and Tying Event

For the April meeting you'll have a chance to trade all that gear and materials you don't use and those fly fishing books you read long ago for stuff you will use and books you haven't read. After the April business meeting, we'll have our first swap and tying event. Everyone is free to bring whatever items they want to swap, whether it's just a handful or a big box of stuff. We'll also have several chapter member tying flies. So as you sort through your gear in anticipation of opening day, look for items to be to the swap!



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](#).

Learn to Fly Fish With Trout Unlimited

Still time to sign up for CMTU's Fly fishing class

When? 2-hour classes meet Tuesday evening from March 15 through April 12, 7:00-9:00

Where? Ulster County Community College, Senate Gymnasium

To reserve a spot, contact Andrew Higgins at 845-802-3861 or catskillmountaintu@gmail.com

See the website for more details: <http://cmtu.org/?p=899>



Jared Stauss, Randy German, and Don Stauss, tying flies

Fly Tying Circle

Over the last couple months on Sundays from 12 -3 PM Kenco Outfitters in Kingston NY has been the location for where skilled and novice fly tiers have been gathering to tie flies.

Drop by to meet and join local fly tiers to prepare for the upcoming trout season.

Note: March 20th will be the last day for this winter's circle

From the President

As I sit here typing this column, there are 25 days until opening day. Like you, I'm wondering just how I'm going to make it. Waiting for opening day each year is like waiting for Christmas when I was a kid. And I don't mean that in the casual I'm-really-looking-forward-to-that-day kind of way. I mean it in the emotionally wrenching, agonizing awareness of the slow tick of every second kind of way.

In both the Decembers of my youth and the Marches of my adulthood I am fairly convinced that I can feel a slight deceleration in the rotation of the earth. I don't tell non-anglers about this. They don't get it. Oh sure, they know that I'm eager, but only in the way my parents did when they said "I bet you can't wait for Christmas." They don't understand the depths of my emotional turmoil.

So how *do* you pass the time? Like when I was a kid, I try to find activities to keep me busy. By this point, my fly box is mostly full. But of course there's always re-arranging the fly box. I have never achieved optimum fly-box order, so I'm constantly locking the cats in the back room and dumping my flies out on the dining room table, searching for some kind of ideal fly order.

Then there are fly lines that need cleaning. That's another job. And I just bought a new line for my 4 wt reel. So I can load that. By the time I get all that done, opening day will be that much closer. But not close enough. Of course, there's my job and my family. They tend to keep me busy.

So eventually, like Christmas, the day will come. Unlike Christmas, though, which *always* came on December 25th, my opening day may actually get delayed a bit. I have to teach all day April 1st, and



then April 2nd is my daughter's birthday. So maybe that first Sunday, the 3rd. If not then, I'll definitely steal away on Monday, the 4th.

Maybe by that time, the opening day crowds will have thinned out, and I'll have a nice long pool full of spring run rainbows all to myself, and for the first time in months I'll feel that vital tug and know that the world has come round again.

Tight lines,

Andrew

Chapter Information

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