

# Catskill Mountains Trout Unlimited

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



## CMTU Chapter Meeting

Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 6:30PM  
Courtyard by Marriott, Kingston, NY

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 bring to the swap!

## Calendar

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| April | Chapter Meeting, Wednesday April 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2016, Courtyard by Marriot, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM<br><br>Gear, Books, and Materials Swap and Tying Event                                 |
| May   | Chapter Meeting, Wednesday May 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2016, Courtyard by Marriot, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM<br><br>Speaker: Mike Flaherty, NYS DEC - Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources |
| June  | No Scheduled Chapter Meeting  |

## Seasons of a Fly Fisherman

Most veteran fly anglers love observing nature's cycle and rhythmic beauty as much as catching fish. Every year, as Mother Nature's deciduous plants awaken from winter's hibernation, they prepare for the full life of summer with bright colored blooms and sprouting pale green leaves. It is the beginning, the metaphoric sunrise of the year. Seeds begin to sprout through the soil's surface. Spring is when nature's life begins.

Spring is the time when the rainbow trout spawn to reproduce new life. They then incorporate colors of light red to lavender, as does a colorful sunrise when it begins a daily cycle. Spring is a fly fisherman's favorite time of the year. It's the end of winter and the preparation for summer's full life. Then comes the second favorite and most beautiful season, the fall. As winter begins, the end of the cycle approaches. Deciduous plants develop seeds to reproduce in the spring. They change their colors to brown and beautiful bright colors before dying or hibernating.

Fall is also when the brown trout and brook trout (char) spawn in streams and river's gravel nest called redds. It is then when they incorporate some of the most spectacular colors of dark red and orange, as does the colors of a beautiful daily sunset. In one's opinion, their fall colors are the some of the most beautiful of all freshwater fish.

Spawning rainbows remind one of the beginning of nature's yearly cycle and the browns and brook trout reminds fly fishermen of the summer's end and coming of another winter. It is the spring time of the year that we love to fly fish the most. Maybe it is because you don't have the



floating leaves to contend with or that it follows a long, boring winter.

We spend more time tying flies and wanting to fish during the winter. Fly anglers that have not experienced the effects of ageing should enjoy it as much as possible. It will not last forever.

In conclusion, the most challenging, and therefore rewarding, are the beautiful native brook trout in higher mountain spring creeks in the fall but the most fun and exciting fly fishing is for wild rainbow trout in the spring following a long, boring summer.

Ron Urban

## Volunteer Opportunity – AWSMP Family Fun & Fish Day

AWSMP Family Fun and Fish Day will be on Sunday, June 5 at Kenneth Wilson State Campground (859 Wittenberg Road, Mt. Tremper, NY). It will be held from 12:00 Noon to 2:30pm.

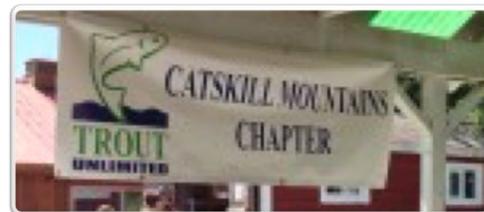
AWSMP is seeking volunteers for this event. AWSMP will cover the cost of entering the park and will provide a free BBQ lunch! NYSDEC will be on hand to provide fishing tackle and bait.

This is a great opportunity to see that happen and to teach some basic fundamentals of the sport. If anyone has any questions about the event or wish to volunteer, please contact: Brent Gotsch, AWSMP (845) 688-3047 ext. 3 or [bwg37@cornll.edu](mailto:bwg37@cornll.edu)

## CMTU Annual Banquet

Catskill Mountains Trout Unlimited annual banquet will be held on Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Stonehedge Restaurant in West Park NY. Mark the date on your calendar.

Contact Andrew Higgins, [higgins\\_andrew@yahoo.com](mailto:higgins_andrew@yahoo.com) if you would like to assist in organizing the details of the banquet.



### 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](#).



Bob Sills demonstrating proper casting techniques with one of our students

## CMTU Fly Fishing Class 2016

CMTU volunteers teaching and assisting this year's Fly Fishing class at Ulster County Community College



## From the President

### Simplify, Simplify

This past month I had the pleasure of sitting in on our chapter's fly fishing school. Watching Bob Sills teach is always a treat, but what's really special is watching a class full of beginning anglers take their first casts with a fly rod. We ended up with a great group this year. We had 11 students, ranging in ages from around 12 on up to, well, a lot older than that. Before the first class, many of them had never held a fly rod before. Yet by the end of the first night, they were learning not to bend their wrists, getting their timing down, and starting to make decent casts. By the third class, many were tossing beautiful loops and dropping "flies" right in the middle of Bob's hula hoop targets.

I was struck by how well these beginning fly casters were doing. We often talk about how difficult fly fishing is. And it can be. But not all trout are that selective, and I'm sure these anglers are going to catch fish this season.

Maybe the biggest hurdle they face isn't the difficulty of casting or fly selection. It's the idea that they have to learn it all. In fact, beginning anglers can have a lot of success if they follow Thoreau's advice to "simplify, simplify." When I first started out fly fishing in earnest, I thought I had to learn how to cast a dry fly, drift a nymph, strip a streamer, and swing a wet before I could even step in the stream. But then I heard somewhere that if you wanted to catch fish, nymphs were the way to go.

By focusing on indicator nymphing, I got to where I could catch a few fish now and then. There's the old saying that says "if your only tool is a hammer, you everything looks like a nail."



That's supposed to point out the downside of only having one tool. The upside, though, is that you learn to swing a hammer well.

Eventually, I moved on to other techniques. But I realized that one of the beauties of fly fishing is that there are so many situations, fish, and techniques that no one can ever master them all, which means that I know, right now, that as long as I live, there will always be new angling horizons. On the stream, every angler is a student.

Tight lines,

Andrew

# Chapter Information

**President:** Andrew Higgins

**Vice President:** Ted Hoover

**Secretary:** Ryan Williams

**Treasurer:** Ron Urban

**Directors:** Bert Darrow

Ron Urban

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