

Catskill Mountains Trout Unlimited

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



October Meeting Wednesday October 19th, 2016, 6:30PM

This month CMTU's conservation committee Chairman and chapter Vice President, Ted Hoover, will give an update on ongoing Black Creek Project.

The Black Creek project is 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. In addition to discussing Black Creek, Ted would like to discuss general conservation committee priorities within the chapter and get member input.



Calendar

- October Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday October 19th, 2016, Community Room Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM
- Speaker: Ted Hoover, CMTU Conservation Committee Chair
- Annual Conservation Banquet**, Saturday October 29th, 2016
Stonehedge Restaurant West Park NY
- November Chapter Meeting**
Wednesday November 16th, 2016, Community Room Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM
- December Trout T'Ales Event**
Thursday December 1, Keegan Ales, Thursday December 1st 6:30 PM
Keegan Ales Brewery Kingston

Is a “Seiche” Causing Turbidity in Esopus Creek

By Andrew Higgins

As regular Esopus Creek anglers know, the Esopus Creek often starts out clear and clean early in the season (if the didymo isn't bad), but becomes a muddy mess by midsummer. I was fishing this weekend and the water was as muddy as I've ever seen it. And it doesn't just make for ugly fishing and dangerous wading. DEP-funded studies have shown that the turbidity results in thinner fish because they have a harder time detecting food. DEC officials believe that a major cause of this is a phenomenon what's called a seiche, an underwater wave which forms underwater in the Schoharie in the summer months. A seiche is repeating wave that forms in an enclosed body of water. Many large bodies of water have them, including the Great Lakes and the Finger Lakes.

Imagine a bathtub full of water. If you move your hand through the water a few times, you'll create a wave that keeps sloshing back and forth. That's essentially a seiche, only in the Schoharie it's not caused by a giant hand, but by the wind piling water up at one end of the reservoir.

So how does the seiche impact turbidity? As the water sloshes toward the portal's intake valve in the south of the reservoir, it pushes the cold water there back down toward the deep areas of the reservoir. Those deep areas hold a lot of particles (which settle more slowly in the dense, deep colder water). Then as the water sloshes away from the intake valve, that cold water that had been pushed away bounces back, bringing the particles with it.

The Schoharie Seiche is caused by the heavy summer winds of Schoharie County. In years

when those winds aren't strong, the seiche isn't as pronounced. In addition, heavy storms bring a lot of particles into the reservoir, so in years with lots of storm activity the effect of the seiche on turbidity in the water coming out of the portal will be especially strong. DEP thinks this is why we get a lot of turbidity some years and less in other years.

But some long-time Esopus Creek anglers aren't so sure. Anglers who fished Esopus Creek 20 years ago and more claim that the turbidity is a recent phenomenon. And the turbidity we're experiencing right now doesn't seem due to the seiche. According to DEP, the seiche is supposed to abate and the warm weather disappears. Daytime temps have dropped back into the 60s, but the turbidity is as strong as ever. Right now, that's probably due to the extremely low levels of the Schoharie caused by the drought.

At present, DEC says that the seiche is a naturally occurring phenomenon which cannot be controlled. It's possible, though, that the new variable-level intake valve that DEP is installing could allow DEP to take water above the turbid layer, though that water would be warmer, which would probably be worse for the trout. Trout don't like turbid water, but they like warm water even less. It's also possible that more long-term planning, planning which anticipates the extremes of drought and high temperatures caused by climate change, can help DEP better manage water releases from the Schoharie Reservoir and enable them to meet the standards laid out in the SPDES permit that governs discharges into Esopus Creek.

For more information on the Schoharie Seiche, see New York City DEP's Schoharie Seiche FAQ at http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/water/sc_hoharie-seiche-faq.pdf

Blue Hole Update

By Andrew Higgins

Years ago the great Catskill naturalist John Burroughs said, "If I were a trout, I should ascend every stream till I found the Rondout. It is the ideal brook." Unfortunately, it's not so ideal these days. As many of you know, the Peekamoose Blue Hole on Upper Rondout Creek has suffered a lot due to over use caused by the site being advertised online as one of the best swimming holes in the Catskills. Last year the Blue Hole was overrun with people. When member of the APW chapter did a clean up after Labor Day, they found piles of trash, including diapers and stoves in the stream. Both the APW chapter and ours urged local agencies to deal with the issue. Over the past year, DEC and local agencies have stepped up parking enforcement, installed a dumpster near the site, and added porta johns. DEP built a kiosk explaining the stream's role in providing NYC with drinking water. In addition, DEC issues emergency regulations in May restricting parking, prohibiting camping, fires, glass containers, and "audio devices" (radios and such). Recently, 3.5 miles of UC Rt. 4 was posted as a tow-away zone. Finally, DEC said they were taking steps to inform people in NYC about the problem, hoping to stop people from coming up in the first place.

I went up to the Blue Hole early on the Tuesday after Labor Day. While there wasn't as much trash as last year, the place still has too much trash. I filled a trash bag full of cans, food waste, plastic, charcoal, and yes, a diaper. I fished the stream and only got one hit, which I missed. Though Ed Ostapczuk went came by a few hours later and caught a few brook trout, so maybe the lack of fish I found says more about my angling skills than about water pollution.



Overall, though, it's clear that while the situation at the Blue Hole and along the Upper Rondout is better than last year. Kudos go to the members of the APW chapter, who have worked hard advocating for the Blue Hole and conducting stream clean ups there. But there's still more work needed to preserve one of the most beautiful spots in the Catskills. This is something we'll have to monitor over the coming winter.



CMTU Conservation Banquet 2016

The Catskill Mountains Chapter of Trout Unlimited invites you to our **52nd Annual Conservation Banquet**, 6:00 PM, **Saturday, October 29th**, at the **Stonehedge Restaurant** on Route 9w in West Park, NY. s. As many of you know, this is the major fund raising event for our chapter, and it enables us to do all the good work that we do each year to conserve, protect, and restore the coldwater fisheries in our region and beyond.

This year's speaker will be noted author and former DEC Fisheries Principal Habitat Technician Ed Van Put, together with his wife Judy Van Put, will give a power point presentation on artists who fished the Catskills. In addition to being the birthplace of fly fishing in America, the Catskills played an important role in American landscape painting. Judy will present the program, and explain how those two activities often overlapped; after which Ed will answer questions - either on the subject or on fishing in general. As many of you know, Ed Van Put is the author of Trout Fishing in the Catskills and The Beaverkill: The History of a River and its People.

See cmtu.org for more details.

This year's grand prize raffle items include:

First Prize: [Orvis Superfine Rod \(7'6", 4wt\)](#)

Second Prize: [2 Night Stay for 2, Hungry Trout Resort](#)

Third Prize: [Guided 1-day trip for 3 on the Douglaston Salmon Run with Dave "Rocky" Rockwell.](#)

Grand prize raffle tickets are \$10 per ticket OR 3 tickets for \$20.

You can purchase tickets to the banquet and the raffle online through [Eventbrite](#) or by contacting Ron Urban (845-339-5938 or Ronsgonefishing@aol.com).



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](#).



“Trout T’Ales” Event at Keegan Ales, Kingston NY

Mark your calendar. Thursday December 1st 2016 from 6:30 – 7:30pm Catskill Mountains Trout Unlimited will be hosting an event at Keegan Ales Brewery in Kingston NY.

“Trout T’Ales” is chance for members and local anglers to gather, have a beer and talk about the season, while raising awareness of the chapter activities. It is a first of a kind event for our chapter.

Please join us, help promote and bring a friend. For more information please contact the chapter email catskillmountaintu@gmail.com



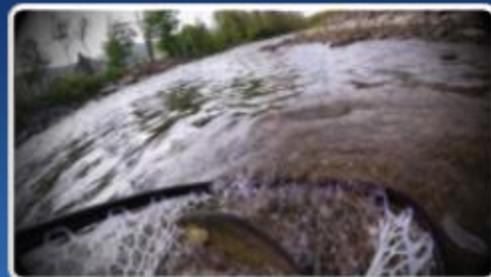
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Note New Chapter Meeting Location

Please note that starting this fall the CMTU monthly meeting moved to a new location.

October's meeting will be held at the Community Room Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston NY (Located near the internal entrance of JCPenny) [map](#)



From the President

Election Season

I'd rather be thinking about fall fishing than politics, but it is election season. And a pretty wild one at that! I'm only 50, but I can't remember a more contentious time in America. We're so divided these days. But not TU. One of the things I noticed about us is that we've got members from across the political spectrum. We've got Republicans and Democrats, Libertarians and Green Party members in the chapter. Yet we all work together. That's pretty rare these days. But I think it represents something fundamentally American.

Soon after the American Revolution, Americans started asking themselves an important question: what does it mean to be an American? You see, they recognized that the United States was unlike any other country in the world. The rest of those countries were tribal. A Frenchman was French because he was born in France and spoke French, just like his ancestors. A Greek was a Greek because he came from Greece, as had his ancestors going back over 10,000 years. But the United States was something new. It was a nation founded on ideas. As Abraham Lincoln put it: "our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." So what made each of us American? The answer those early Americans came up with was civic engagement. An American was someone who participated in the civic life of the community. That didn't necessarily mean politics. You might join the VFW, coach a little league team, or teach a Sunday school class. (Or do whatever the late 1700s versions of those things were.) Or you might get involved in politics, listening to debates, arguing with your neighbors, and of



course, voting. Historians call this idea American Republicanism, and I think it's one of those things that really makes this country exceptional. I'm proud of a lot of things about TU, but one of the things I'm most proud of is the way that we try to live up to those ideals. In a time when America seems to be pulling a part at the seams, I'm proud of the fact that each time TU members come together, whatever their political party or beliefs, we're doing our part to stitch it back together again. We may disagree about a lot of things, but we all agree about the importance of conserving, protecting, and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

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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