

Catskill Mountains Trout Unlimited

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



May Meeting Wednesday May 17th, 2017, 6:30 PM at Marriott Courtyard, Kingston NY

This month's speaker will be chapter member Mike Flaherty, Fisheries Manager – Region 3, NYS DEC - Division of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Fisheries will be speaking to the chapter on the state of the Esopus Creek and other regional initiatives.

Please make every effort to attend. It is a great opportunity to hear about the work DEC is doing, ask questions and share your experience on fishing in our home watershed.

Volunteer opportunity, 2017 AWSMP Family Fun & Fish Day

The 2017 AWSMP Family Fun and Fish Day Event for **Saturday, May 20th, 2017** at Kenneth Wilson Campground, Mount Tremper, NY.

This event is a great opportunity for TU volunteers and family members to help introduce the sport of fishing to kids. We need volunteers to bait hooks, give pointers, take hooks out (bring your hemostats!), and flip burgers.

[Register online](#) now by visiting www.ashokanstreams.org. For more information on the event contact Brent Gotsch at [845-688-3047 Ext. 3](tel:845-688-3047), or by email at bwg37@cornell.edu. If you're able to come, email Andrew Higgins or Ted Hoover at catskillmountaintu@gmail.com.

Calendar

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| May | Chapter Meeting Wednesday May 17 th , 2017, Marriott Courtyard, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM

Speaker: Mike Flaherty, Fisheries Manager – Region 3, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources |
| June | Night on the Stream with CMTU Wednesday June 21 st , 2017, Meet at Phoenicia Diner, 6:30 PM |
| July | No scheduled meetings |
| August | No scheduled meetings |
| September | Chapter Meeting Wednesday September 20 th , 2017, Marriott Courtyard, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM |
| October | Chapter Meeting Wednesday October 18 th , 2017, Marriott Courtyard, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM |
| November | Annual Conservation Banquet Saturday November 4 th |

Thank You!! Stony Clove Creek Tree Planting

April 22nd, 2017

In collaboration with the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP), Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Catskill Mountains Chapter of Trout Unlimited organized a tree planting project along Stony Clove Creek, a major Esopus Creek tributary on Earth Day on April 22nd.

Stony Clove was traditionally a source of natural turbidity until some recent, major stream restoration projects.

AWSMP has been conducting a multiyear project to halt bank erosion on the Stony Clove Creek <http://ashokanstreams.org/awsmp-repairs-damage-on-stony-clove-creek/>

Thirty folks of all ages turned out to help in this project and in less than two hours planted more than 700 trees.

Thank you to all the volunteers! This was a very successful event.

The trees were provided by Trout Unlimited working in partnership with the [Arbor Day Foundation](#).



Site of Tree Planting on Stony Clove Creek

Save the Date! Annual Conservation Banquet: November 4th

Our annual Conservation Banquet is scheduled for November 4th. Now's the time to start thinking of donations. If you've got items to donate, contact Andrew Higgins (AndrewHiggins@protonmail.com) or Ron Urban (ronsgonefishing@aol.com). We're interested in fishing gear—new, slightly used, or vintage—works of art (fishing related or not), or pretty much anything else. If you have a craft you do, please consider donating an item. If you're a fly tier, please tie up a dozen flies for us. We can supply fly boxes. If you've got a business or skill, please consider donating a gift certificate for that. Also, if you know the owner of a local business, please ask them to consider donating.

We also need volunteers to plan the banquet. This is our major fundraiser for the year, and it takes a lot of work. But if more people are involved, it's a lot more fun. If you'd like to help out, please contact Andrew Higgins (AndrewHiggins@protonmail.com).

Esopus Creek Law Suit News

In the March newsletter, I told you that our 20-year effort to protect Esopus Creek suffered a serious setback when the US Second Court of Appeals upheld the Water Transfers Rule, overturning Trout Unlimited's earlier victory. As I explain in that article, the SPDES Permit, which governs New York DEP's discharges into Esopus Creek via the portal, are based on this. Now that the Water Transfers Rule is back in place, there's some uncertainty about the SPDES Permit and the future of Esopus Creek. There are fears that DEP could go back to treating Esopus Creek like a drainage ditch rather than a wild trout stream.

For these reasons, I urge you to come out to our May meeting and hear what DEC Region 3 Fisheries Manager Mike Flaherty has to say about the SPDES Permit and the future of Esopus Creek.



Update: Property Sale

In March, we finally closed on our Columbia County property along Taghannaock Creek. We sold the 13.5 acre lot to a responsible buyer who agreed to allow fishing in the creek along the property. Thanks to chapter member Rod Futefas of WK&F Attorneys for all his help!

CMTU Night on the Stream

June 21st 6:30. Meet at the Phoenicia Diner. Fish until dark, and then meet at Brios in Phoenicia for beer and pizza.



Watch out for Ticks

The season has just started, but anglers are already reporting a high number of ticks. The mild weather over the past two winters seems to have lead to an explosion of these pests. As we all know, many ticks in this area carry Lyme disease—and many other diseases—and while there are Lyme vaccines for dogs on the market, there are no vaccines available for humans. So take extra precautions as you head out fishing. Rather than offering advice about how to prevent tick bites, I'll point you to this page from the New York State Department of Health:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/>



Interested in becoming a Member of Catskill Mountain Trout Unlimited

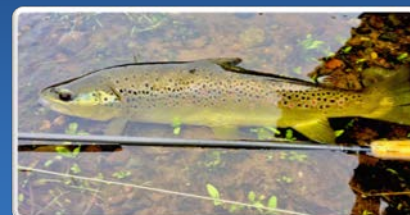
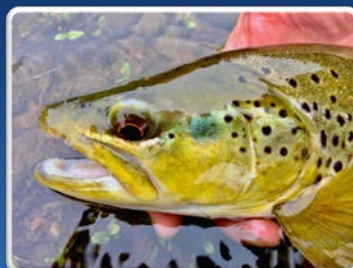
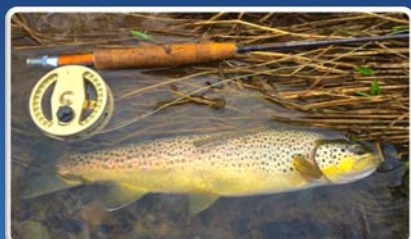
Trout Unlimited is America's leading coldwater conservation organization. Our hope is that clean, cold, fishable water exists for generations to come, but we can't do it without the support of committed anglers and conservationists like you. Click here to [become a new TU member](#) and see all the great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

Articles for CMTU Monthly Newsletter

We are always looking for articles, photos or stories for our monthly newsletter. If you have an article, photos, news for the Catskill Mountain TU community please contact Ted Hoover at the chapter email. catskillmountaintu@gmail.com

Chapter Meeting Location

March's meeting will be held at the Marriott Courtyard, Kingston NY [map](#)



Courtesy : Ed Meyer

From the President

Stand Up For Trout

It's May and the fishing is starting to heat up. Just last week the Hendrickson hatch on the Delaware was going gangbusters. Given the season, I'd like to be writing this column about fishing. Better yet, I'd rather *be* fishing! But I can't write about that now because this is a perilous time for coldwater fisheries in the United States. The current administration in Washington has proposed drastic funding cuts and rule changes that could undermine longstanding bipartisan environmental protections that we've taken for granted over the past 20 years. The proposed federal budget slashes funds for the EPA by 31%! The Pebble Mine, a proposed open pit metal mine in the pristine Bristol Bay area of Alaska, home to some of the world's greatest salmon runs, is being revived after TU and other conservation organizations thought they'd stopped it. Public lands, which hold some of our nation's most important trout streams, are in danger of being turned over to states which don't have the resources to protect and manage them.

These aren't partisan issues. I know that we have members from all across the political spectrum, and that's important. That's one of the reasons why I'm proud to be a member of TU. No matter what our political leanings, we come together to conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries. Given the drastic threats those fisheries are facing now, it's more important than ever to let your voice be heard.

Of course, it's easy to say that. But if you're like me, you've got work and family responsibilities. You've got bills to pay and housework to do. It's hard to keep up with all the issues swirling around, much less to find time to take action. And let's face it, we're all a little burned out on politics after this past election.

Trout Unlimited recognizes this, so they've set up a special page to help us all keep track of the biggest threats to cold, clean water. Go to standup.tu.org and you'll find information on the major issues that TU is engaged in,



along with action alerts and easy ways to share your thoughts with elected officials. If you can do this, I promise that over the coming year I'll work to share more ideas about how we can be more effective advocates for North America's coldwater fisheries. Whether you love Trump or hate him, let him know that you love trout.

Tight lines,

Andrew

Chapter Information

President: Andrew Higgins
Vice President: Ted Hoover
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Treasurer: Ron Urban
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Ron Urban
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