

Catskill Mountains Trout Unlimited

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



Chapter Meeting: Thursday October 19th, 2017, Marriott Courtyard, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM

We have a very busy agenda this month. In addition to our annual elections (see newsletter article on our elections) and a brief business meeting we have a very interesting agenda this month.

Our speakers will be Jordan P Ross, Founder and John Montefusco the CEO of Trout Power.

Trout Power is a new grass roots trout advocacy organization that is based in central New York. Founded and lead by Jordan P Ross, owner of Ross Rods and Reels, Trout Powers' stated mission is "to change the world by honoring clean water not by its clarity, but by the wild trout that live in it." For the last two years Trout Power has been working to document a unique heritage strain of brook trout that are native to the Adirondack region since the last ice age. Working with DEC Region 6 fishery biologists, Trout Power volunteers have been collecting fin clip samples for DNA analysis throughout the watershed, documenting the presence of a unique strain of wild native brook trout.

(<https://troutpower.blogspot.com/>)

Please make some time to come out. I hope to see you there!

Calendar

October Chapter Meeting Thursday October 19th, 2017, Marriott Courtyard, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM

Note: Chapter elections will be held at this meeting

Speaker: Jordan P. Ross, President JP Ross, Founder of Trout Power

November Annual Conservation Banquet Saturday November 4th, Stonehenge Restaurant, Esopus NY

Chapter Meeting Wednesday November 15th, 2017, Marriott Courtyard, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM

Speaker: Leslie Zucker, AWSMP

Trout T'Ales Event @ Keegan Ales Thursday November 30th: 6:30PM - 8:30PM

December Annual Christmas Party Thursday December 14th, Fair Street Church Kingston NY

Chapter Elections in October

October is election month for CMTU. We need to elect officers and board members. The terms of all the chapter officers are up this year, so this is an important election. In addition, we have two slots for the Board of Directors to vote on.

Because our chapter bylaws limit officers to 2 consecutive 2-year terms, Ron Urban's term as Treasurer is ending. He'll still serving as a board member, though, in addition to doing the many other things he does for the chapter. Thank you, Ron! William Strugatz has agreed to run for Chapter Treasurer. William is currently serving as State Council Treasurer, so we'll be in good hands.

Ryan Williams has generously agreed to serve a second term as Secretary. Thanks, Ryan!

The other big change in chapter leadership is that I've decided to step down as President. Ted Hoover has agreed to run for President. I will run for VP instead, so I'm not going very far.

In addition, we have 2 board of director positions to vote on. Don Stauss is running for another 3-year term, and Anne Bloomfield, who was recently appointed to the board, is running for a 2-year term.

Here's the final slate of candidates put forward by the Nominating Committee:

President: Ted Hoover
Vice President: Andrew Higgins
Treasurer: William Strugatz
Secretary: Ryan Williams
Board of Directors (2 positions): Don Stauss (through Dec 2020), Anne Bloomfield (through Dec 2019).

As always, nominations from the floor will be accepted.



CMTU Annual Conservation Banquet, Saturday, November 4th, 2017

The Catskill Mountains Chapter of Trout Unlimited invites you to our **53rd Annual Conservation Banquet**, 6:00 PM, **Saturday, November 4th**, at the **Stonehedge Restaurant** on Route 9w in West Park, NY. 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.

Our speaker will be, Dr. Keith Tidball works in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University where he conducts research, extension, and outreach activities in the area of ecological dimensions of human security. His talk will introduce Citizen Science in its many forms as related to cold water fisheries, with some fun examples and discussion about future opportunities.

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

DEC Reviews Trout Stream Management Practices

by Andrew Higgins

DEC is considering making major changes to the way it manages trout streams. That was the message from Fred Henson, DEC's Coldwater Fisheries Unit Leader, at a meeting in New Paltz on October 5th. Several members of CMTU, along with TU members from the APW and Mid-Hudson chapters, went to hear Henson and offer their thoughts about how DEC should manage trout streams. As Henson explained, the current system, called CROTS (Catch Rate Oriented Trout Stocking), was first implemented in 1990, and Henson noted that a lot has changed since then, including angler attitudes and environmental patterns. Because CROTS considers only the average catch rate of all anglers, it leads to an emphasis on stocking. But many of today's anglers value the chance to fish streams with healthy populations of wild fish. That was certainly the message that came across at the meeting, as many people spoke about the value of wild fish, and urged DEC to shift its emphasis from stocking to habitat management. In particular, several people criticized DEC's practice of stocking over wild fish, which studies show actually decreases the overall trout population.

This meeting was just the first step in DEC's review. As Henson said, they're "taking the pulse of anglers" to find out what they value. They're holding meetings in all the DEC regions. Once those meetings have concluded, Henson will publish a report on them. At that point, DEC will consider policy changes. It's New York State, so of course nothing's going to change fast. But this is a real opportunity to shift DEC's focus from stocking hatchery trout to enhancing populations of wild fish. It's my hunch that many of the folks who work for DEC would welcome such a change, but since they're a state agency, they'll need political cover.



That's where TU comes in. We'll need to raise our voices at the local and state level, telling anyone who will listen about the environmental and sporting benefit of wild fish.

If you'd like to chime in on this issue, DEC will be holding another Region 3 meeting on Oct. 26th (6:30-9:00) in the Cortland Town Hall. For a complete list of meetings, see <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111015.html>.

Thanks to CMTU members Ted Hoover, Don Stauss, Anne Bloomfield, Jayne Henson, Andrew Higgins, Ken Maher, and Ron Urban for attending the meeting.



Fish the Historic Connetquot River, Monday November 6th, 2017

On Monday, November 6th, Bill Shaw will be leading a group from CMTU to fish the Connetquot River on Long Island. The Connetquot is a famous stream in American fly fishing lore. In the early 1800s, it was one of the most famous trout streams in America, fished by none other than Daniel Webster. After the Civil War, it became the first American stream to be stocked with brown trout. It was also home to the South Side Sportsmen's Club, which counted Vanderbilts, Carnegies, and Roosevelts among its members. A state park today, the river is a vibrant fishery. In addition to the browns, the stream holds rainbows, stocked brookies, and a population of native sea run brook trout. Don't miss the chance to fish this historic fishery!

The CMTU has reserved the Connetquot River State park for fishing on Monday November 6 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, \$ 40 per person. November is a great time for fishing the Connetquot. The water is cold, but the air temperature is still warm and the fish are hungry. A few notes: The lower section below the hatchery is generously stocked and is wadable. For those who want more of a challenge, the upper section above the hatchery is not stocked. The over brush makes it a challenge to the skilled and undaunted. Finally, there is a pond near the Administration Building that is loaded with fish. There are 2 boats with life preservers available.

Anyone who is interested should contact Bill Shaw for further information and planning. Bill can be reached at whshaw10@frontier.com or 845-366-0913.



NYSDEC: Trout Stream Management Meeting Series - Fall 2017

A Series of Public meetings have been scheduled by the NYSDEC presenting how DEC currently manages trout streams. It will include a presentation of key findings of a [2015 statewide study \(PDF, 2.6 MB\)](#). This will be followed by a 90-minute discussion period aimed at identifying the measures of trout stream angling quality most important to this segment of New York's the angling public.

A 2nd Region 3 meeting has been scheduled

When: Thursday October 26th, 2017

Time: 6:00 - 9:30PM

Where:

Cortlandt Town Hall
(Vincent Nyberg General Meeting Room)
1 Heady Street
Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

See DEC website for more details.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111015.html>

Fishing with West Point Cadets Volunteers wanted

The Mid-Hudson Chapter of TU is organizing a fishing outing for a group of West Point Cadets on Sunday October 29th from 10am-3pm on Esopus Creek. The groups plan to meet at the Catskill Interpretive Center around 10:00 and disperse to a few locations. Come back or meet up around noon for a bite and then fish till 3:00 ish. If you are interested in helping, please email catskillmountaintu@gmail.com to sign up.



New Chapter Women's Initiative Coordinator

Liz Higgin has agreed to become CMTU's Women's Initiative Coordinator. She is working to member and classes for women. Thanks Liz.

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

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](#).



From the President

Andrew Higgins

Stocking Over Wild Fish

Last spring I took my new 3wt to one of my favorite brook trout streams, a place Russell Yess had introduced me to several years ago. I'd usually fished it in the fall, when the brookies were bright with mating colors. This time, I hit the stream in May. As I pulled off the road, a DEC Conservation Officer checked my license and mentioned that I was in luck because the stream had just been stocked. I knew this stream was stocked, but I didn't know that stocking was done this far upstream. When I got down to the brook—it's about a quarter mile off the road—I got a savage strike on my first cast, and caught the first of many hatchery browns that I'd catch that day.

I suppose it sounds churlish to complain about catching fish, but I'd come here after brook trout, native fish that I knew lived and reproduced in the stream. In the fall, I'd had no problems catching brookies. But suddenly they were nowhere to be seen. Each pool I cast into contained an eager brown, ready to hit anything remotely resembling food. This worried me. In his masterful book *An Entirely Synthetic Fish*, Anders Halverson explains how stocking can actually reduce the overall population of trout in a stream. Stocked trout frequently die off within a few months or weeks of being stocked, but while they're in the stream they compete with wild fish for lies, forcing them to expend more energy, and they eat a large portion of the food available in the stream. As we all know, wild animals have evolved to fill specific niches in nature. They're finely tuned organisms, without a lot of margin for error. Dumping several bucket loads of hatchery trout over wild fish is like having a bus load of people show up for dinner just as you take that steak off the grill. After the stocked trout die off or get caught, there are often fewer wild trout in the stream because they've had to expend extra energy fighting for lies and food.

On this day, I finally found a brookie about 500 yards upstream from the stocking point. I'm heading back there soon, and I expect to find the brookies back in control of



the stream and the browns long gone, as it should be. After all, this is a wild brook trout stream, and every one of those is precious. But I wonder how many brookies didn't make it through the season because of the extra competition. Our Catskill brook trout face enough pressure from development and climate change. They shouldn't have to compete with stocked fish as well.



Chapter Information

President: Andrew Higgins
Vice President: Ted Hoover
Secretary: Ryan Williams
Treasurer: Ron Urban
Directors: Bert Darrow
Ron Urban
Russell Yess
Ed Meyers
Don Stauss
Bill Shaw
Mike Malloy



Website: www.cmtu.org
Email: catskillmountaintu@gmail.com
Facebook: Catskill Mountain Trout Unlimited

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P.O. Box 1487
Kingston, NY 12402

[Recipient]

Address Line 1
Address Line 2
Address Line 3
Address Line 4