

Catskill Mountains Trout Unlimited

To conserve, protect and restore New York's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds



Chapter Meeting Wednesday January 17, 2018, Marriott Courtyard, Kingston NY, 6:30 PM

Jeff Yates, national Director of Volunteer Operations for Trout Unlimited, on the Future of TU: Building Community Around Conservation & Fishing

TU has always been strong as an organization thanks to its collection of more than 400 local chapters and state councils working to improve local streams, educate local youth and engage local communities in our conservation mission.

Now more than ever, that model of thinking globally and acting locally is not only appealing to volunteers, but vital to the survival of wild and native trout in watersheds across the country.

Jeff, who lives across the Hudson River in Connecticut and has been a TU member since he was 11 years old, will discuss examples of how TU chapters like the Catskill Mountain Chapter are growing their impact and expanding their reach with a focus on building a community to protect local rivers.

Calendar

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| January | Women's Initiative Get Together
January 20, 2-4 pm
91 Clifton Ave, Kingston
(Liz Higgins' house) |
| February | Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, February 21
Marriott Courtyard
Kingston, NY 6:30 PM |
| March | Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, March 21
Marriott Courtyard
Kingston NY, 6:30 PM |
| April | Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, April 18
Marriott Courtyard, Kingston
NY, 6:30 PM |

Pardon Our Appearances!

You may have noticed that the layout of this newsletter isn't up to our usual standards. For the past two years Ted Hoover has been doing layout on the newsletter. Now that he's stepped up to President, I've agreed to take over editing the newsletter. I'm still getting up to speed on the software, and I hope to have the newsletter looking a bit better by February.

Thanks for your patience!

-Andrew

FAD Renewed for 10 years

At the tail end of 2017 New York State Department of Health approved the City's request to renew the Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) until 2027. In plain English, New York City won't have to filter water for at least another 10 years. This is great news for TU and other conservation groups. CMTU had written a letter in support of the FAD renewal back in September.

The FAD is the document that requires New York City DEP to monitor water quality in the watersheds that provide its drinking water. In exchange for not being required to build multi-billion-dollar filtration plants, New York City agrees to invest heavily in watershed protection. So this is the document that underwrites excellent programs such as the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program and funds much of the stream restoration work that the AWSMP and other stream management programs do. This is also the document that underwrites the SPEDES Permit. Without the FAD, millions of dollars that the City spends on land preservation and stream management in the Catskills would disappear.

As a part of this new FAD, New York City commits to acquiring more streamside acreage or conservation easements. In the past 20 years, the

City has protected over 140,000 acres through this program. The new FAD also includes an additional \$3 million to support the Streamside Acquisition Program being run by the Catskill Center.

The requirements the FAD outlines are pretty specific. For example, the document requires the stream management programs to complete 100 stream projects throughout the system by 2027 (page 55). These are the kinds of projects that Adam Doan informed us about at our November meeting. Because of its specificity, the FAD document is long (120 pages). So over the next few months, CMTU will be looking closely at it to see what it includes (and what it leaves out). One important thing the document does include, though, is a 5-year review. DEP had requested that the Department of Health omit the 5-year review, but CMTU, along with other groups such as Hudson Riverkeeper, argued strongly that it remain. A lot of things can change in 5 years, so it's very important to be able to react to changing conditions. For that reason, we're glad to see that the Department of Health listened to us.

The FAD document is available online at https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/nycfad/docs/fad_final_december_2017.pdf

Trump Administration Proposes Major Cuts to Conservation Funding

The 2018 Federal budget submitted by the President contains significant cuts to conservation programs that protect and restore clean water. Overall, the budget proposes a 30% cut to the EPA's budget. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is slated for a 66% cut. And the highly popular, bi-partisan Great Lakes Restoration Initiative will be eliminated altogether! These are funds that make a real difference in coldwater streams around the country. The cancelling of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is particularly painful. My parents lived in Rochester back in the 1960s, and they talk about how you couldn't go to the beach because it was covered in dead and rotting fish. Today, the Great Lakes are home to thriving populations of steelhead, brown trout, and several species of salmon. My dad, who grew up in Ohio, still can't believe that it's possible to catch steelhead in Cleveland! While the Great Lakes have come along way, we all know that the successes are fragile. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is an interagency program designed to identify environmental threats in the Great Lakes and coordinate responses across state lines. Read Dave Karczynski's great article on the projects it does in the recent issue of *Trout*. Or check out the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's website at <https://www.glri.us/index.html>.

For more information on the proposed cut to conservation funding, see Mark Taylor's article on TU's blog: <https://www.tu.org/blog-posts/trump-administration-budget-ignores-americans-desire-for-clean-air-water>.

Or better yet, go to Standup.tu.org (<http://standup.tu.org/funding-conservation/>) and let your representatives in Congress know that you support conservation funding and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative!



Interested in becoming a Member of Catskill Mountains 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](#).

Conservation Banquet

A great time was had by all at our annual conservation banquet. Nearly 60 people attended this year! Dr. Keith Tidball of Cornell University gave a great talk on citizen science. Bucket raffles and silent auction items abounded. There was lots of good conversation. And as always, Stonehedge Restaurant laid out a tasty feast.

In all, the chapter raised nearly \$2000 to use toward conservation work in the coming year. Thanks to all who helped organize the banquet and solicit auction items. Thanks especially to Bill Shaw, Ron Urban, William Strugatz, Mike Malloy, Dr. Leonard Pickard, Andrew Higgins, Ted Hoover, and Don Stauss.

Special thanks also to Mark Loete of the APW Chapter of TU, who donated a beautiful framed print of a wooly bugger from his "Art from Artifice" show.

We couldn't have done it without the support of our generous sponsors. These local businesses all contributed to our banquet:

A Razor's Edge Barbershop in Kingston
 The Angler's Den in Pawling
 CrossFit Midhudson in Highland
 Gunk Haus in Highland
 Herzog's Home & Paint Center in Kingston,
 Kenco Outfitters in Kingston
 Rino's Pizza in New Paltz
 Thruway Sporting Goods in Walden

These national companies supported us as well!

Fish Pimp
 Royal Wulff Products
 Rio Products
 The Folstaff Company
 Patagonia



Anne Bloomfield & an Esopus Brown Trout

Calling TU Women! You Are Not Alone!

Are you tired of being the only women at TU meetings? Do you want to meet other women who have an interest in fly fishing, preserving cold water fisheries, and watershed conservation?

You are invited to a meet-and-greet with women of our TU Chapter and other interested women on **Saturday, January 20 from 2-4pm** at Elizabeth Higgins' house 91 Clifton Ave, Kingston, NY 12401.

Come help plan the 2018 activities for the new women's initiative of the Catskill Mountains Chapter of TU.

Can't make that date but you still want to provide input and be involved? Please complete this survey: <https://tinyurl.com/TUWomen>.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Liz Higgins at liz.higgin@gmail.com.

Who's Your Favorite Fly Tying Writer?

As winter sets in, my thoughts always turn from fishing to tying. While there are untold number of fly tying tutorials available online, I still enjoy reading books on tying, as it allows you to really understand the tier's approach. Two of my go to tying books are by Charlie Craven. *Charlie Craven's Basic Fly Tying* (2008) is the book that got me going with tying, and I still turn to it regularly. What sets this book apart is that it's so well organized. Craven doesn't just give you recipes and pictures. Each fly recipe teaches a new technique. So by the time a new tier works his way through *Basic Fly Tying*, he should be able to tie most styles of flies.

Last year I picked up *Tying Nymphs* (2016), and found myself tying up a bunch of flies from it. The Frenchie, in particular, became a go to fly for me last year. If I had one complaint about Craven's books, it's that he sometimes values a fly's looks over its fishing ability. For example, his instructions on tying soft hackle wets advocate a swept back hackle that looks great in the vise, but restricts the hackle's action in the water. But the plus side of that pride in appearances is that he pushes you to be the best tier you can be. As he says in his excellent introduction to *Basic Fly Tying*, "if you're going to do something, do it right. Don't justify poor technique and ugly flies with the comment 'It will still catch fish.'" On top of his excellent tying instruction, Craven is a generous and witty writer. His description of the Pat's Rubber Legs fly (aka the Girdle Bug) has to be one of the funniest pieces of writing in fly tying literature. If you're new to tying, *Charlie Craven's Fly Tying* is the book you should start with. And if you've been tying for years, Craven still offers a lot. I was in Dette flies one day and someone told Joe Fox about a technique for mixing hare's ear dubbing that he'd picked up from Craven. Fox replied, "Charlie Craven is just so cool."

Join the Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee will be meeting on Thursday, January 25 from 6:30-8:00 at Schatzi's Pub in New Paltz. We'll do planning for our Earth Day tree planting and decide on projects for 2018.

For more information about the Conservation Committee, contact Andrew Higgins at AndrewHiggins@protonmail.com or call 845-802-3861.



Renno Budziak catching a brown trout on Esopus Creek in May

Do You Want to Write for the CMTU Newsletter?

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

From the President

Why I belong to TU Ted Hoover

As the incoming President of Catskill Mountains Trout Unlimited, it is difficult not to reflect on the purpose and history of the chapter. As I read about some of the history of the chapter, past presidents, and countless hours put in by members working to preserve clean, cold water fishery in NY, it is an impressive list.

Every now and then someone will ask me about Trout Unlimited, its history and purpose. It often comes from friends, family members, or colleagues that have no connection to trout fishing.

This question is often followed by "Why did you become a member of Trout Unlimited?" or "Why do you volunteer your time to Trout Unlimited?" as many of them know that the demands of family and work often supersede everything, and leave very little time to volunteer for anything. At first, I was not sure. Is it about the fish? Is it about the fishing? Is it about clean, cold water? Is it about preserving our angling heritage?

The easy answer would be to say "Yes," but it's more complex than that. I did not come from a family of anglers. I came from a family of coal miners and dairy & potato farmers in western Pennsylvania whose focus on the outdoors often took the form of hunting, despite living on a farm that bordered the head waters of a trout stream, Chest Creek. My early attempts at bait fishing, self-taught with my younger brother, often ended with very little success. We often had more fun helping to stock the stream in the spring than on our occasional fishing adventure in months following.

I also lived in an area that had lots of streams that were not as well cared for. My grandparents lived along the banks of the West Branch of Blacklick Creek. During my childhood, this creek, as well as many other in the area, were contaminated by coal waste, "bony" piles, and other mining activity in the surrounding area. I crossed more than one of these streams each day my way to school. Unfortunately was this normal.



It was not until I became an adult and moved to the Hudson Valley that my interest in angling expanded as my wife and family spent lots of time in the Adirondacks and Catskill mountains, rivers, and lakes. My interest in conservation also expanded as I observed New Yorkers struggling to clean up the Hudson River and trying to address the impacts of acid rain in the region.

So why do I volunteer for Trout Unlimited?

I believe we are allowed to have nice things. We are allowed to have clean water and clear air. And we are allowed to have good trout fishing. We do not have to compromise our environment for prosperity. Sometimes not breaking something is the easiest way to fix something. When I first got involved, I thought it was about volunteering to help a sport I love. That is only part of it. Just as in fishing, it often takes an angler time to understand that is often not just about the fish. I volunteer for TU for the fish, the fishing, and to be a responsible steward of our environment for current and future generations.

If you are a member of our chapter, thank you. If you want to get involved in the chapter to support our efforts, please do. If you want to go fishing, to get outside, to get on the stream, and to catch a few trout, let me know, so we can remind ourselves why we do this.

Tight Lines,
Ted

Chapter Information

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



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