

Ashokan – Pepacton Watershed Chapter #559
Trout Unlimited
Chapter Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2020

7:09 pm- Meeting called to order.

Treasurers' Report: read by Jody indicating a balance of **\$13,738.99** and **\$637.68** of that is in the **conservation fund**.

Acid Rain Report: was read by Jody indicating for January 6 storms, 5.0 inches of snow, a liquid amount of 2.51 inches, and a weighted average pH of 6.2.

A **"motion"** was made to accept the reports as read, 2nded, and so passed.

Presidents' Report:

Mark L indicated that the date of **April 18th** was confirmed for the **Annual Banquet** to held at the **Catamount** and that there would be **free wine and beer** as well as **hors d'oeuvres** would be served from 5:30 to 6:30.

Discussions & Announcements

The 6 year old **"Trout Tales"** initiative was being managed by **"The Catskill Center"** (formerly Interpretive Center) and that starting with the **April 18th Outdoor Expo** there would be almost 50 events to be announced by pamphlets, mailings and other advertising.

It was mentioned that an updated **"Map of the Esopus"** with the names and locations of its **pools** and other notable fishing features which also needed updating, would be something worth exploring.

Also a **Guide to Fishing the Esopus Pamphlet** might also be something worthy of consideration.

Hank Rope reported that the **"Trout in the Classroom Program"** at the **Phoenicia Elementary School** was stalled due to amount of illness amongst the kids. It was reported that fish doing well in spite of the situation.

Hank Rope additionally mentioned that **Jane W** is retiring from the **"Trout in the Classroom"** program and that **volunteers are needed** for this wonderful and rewarding program.

7:35 pm:

Mark L. announced that **Glenn Debrosky** was ready to start his slide show with commentary regarding his 1988 trip to the "Iliaska Lodge" in Alaska.

Glenn related how he had won the trip in a raffle and was thrilled as he always wanted to go to Alaska and has gone again since the trip he was describing.

Glenn showed the fantastic number of **Rainbows and Sockeye Salmon** they caught which up, to any sometimes over, 15lbs.. This was done, mind you, while dodging the many **"Grizzly Bears"** with the same goal in mind that seemed to appear, sometimes when least expected. They did learn how to cope with/avoid them, though one fellow reached for the rifle he was illegally carrying just about every time they were uncomfortably close. Fortunately no shots were fired and no one was mauled. This occurred on the VanHalen River, if I'm not mistaken.

Glenn reported that the smaller tributaries yielded **Rainbow Trout** in the **22 to 38** inch range. There seemed to be almost as many bears on the tributaries and they were often much closer even as care was taken to be on the opposite side of the narrower water.

A slide of a glacier was displayed and **Glenn** indicated that when he was there recently it was entirely gone! Another disturbing indication of climate change.

8:15 pm – the meeting was brought to and end, though some stayed to have their questions cordially answered by **Glenn**.

The next **APW TU Chapter Meeting** will be on **March 25th**.

Respectfully submitted,

Thom Frankel