

Ashokan – Pepacton Watershed Chapter #559
Trout Unlimited
Chapter Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2019

7:09: Mark L. called meeting to order.

It was suggested that the reading of previous minutes be omitted for brevity, assuming there were no comments, none were offered. A ***motion*** to accept was forwarded, seconded and so passed.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Jody H. indicating **total cash assets of \$15,252.55**. The accompanying Acid Rain Report indicated 8 storms totaling 6.93 inches of rain with a total weighted average of 5.9.

Mark *motioned* to accept the Treasurers report, this was seconded and so passed.

Mark introduced "**Chrissy Lawler, Director of the Olive Library**" firstly thanked our chapter for the fly rods, reels, and lines. She went on to express the following:

- That the Olive Library was seeking a stronger partnering with our chapter.
- That they are quite open to providing advertising for our chapter.
- That they would like to expand their fly fishing library and were seeking guidance as well as welcoming contributions of books or any things appropriately related to fly fishing in the Catskills.
- That they were open to hosting events of ours and it was mentioned that we found it a great venue for fly tying meetings in the past.

It was announced that the **nominating committee** put forth a **slate of officers and board members for election** as follows:

President: Mark Loete

Vice Pres: Tony Coccozza

Secretary: Thom Frankel

Treasurer: Jody Hoyt

2019-21 board of directors: BJ Leifeld Jr., Victoria Lawrence, Russell Martin, and Roy Meyerhoff.

2019-20 board of directors: Chris Hensley, Chet Karwatowski, Ed Ostapczuk, and Todd Spire.

The chapter's Ex-Facto Past President Director is John Hoeko.

A "**motion**" was made to accept the slate as presented. There were no objections, motion so passed.

Mark L. then spoke of our **chapter**, noting that as the area was not heavily populated our chapter was small relatively small but had a history of considerable community influence going back to the 1970's environmental awakening, due to its passionate and dedicated group of activists. Amongst them was former APW-TU chapter president "**John Hoeko**" whom **Mark L.** presented a "**Rainbow Trout Award**" from our chapter for his decades of work as a dedicated advocate for preservation of our "**Catskill Rivers**" and related environmental issues.

John H. gracefully accepted the award and indicated his desire to revive efforts to have created a by-pass to obviate the effects of a concrete dam at Lake Switzerland at certain times of the year.

It was noted that as a part of the "Woodstock Film Festival" the movie "Land of Little Rivers" would be shown at the "Bearsville Theatre" on October 6th 2019.

It was noted that the "**West Point Cadet**" fishing outing was a great success and noted that "Catskill Chapter" TU members, as well as our own, participated in the event.

It was noted that the rollout of the new "Stream Management System" particulars would be announced in Newburgh on November 4th.

7:35: The meeting was adjourned for 15 minutes.

(Over)

7:50: Meeting reconvenes for talk by “**Art Loomis**: expert at fishing and tying flies for the **West Branch of the Delaware** targeting large brown trout.

Art gave a pretty comprehensive talk about his tactics for this technical water.

The following are highlights of and/or his recommendations for fishing big browns in this water:

- He approaches the stream very cautiously and studies the conditions for some time before fishing, usually to detected rises.
- He fishes almost exclusively dry be they emergers, duns, or spinners.
- He uses 15 to 18 foot nylon leaders with tippets no smaller than 4x or 5x and doesn't use fluorocarbon.
- He stressed casting accuracy and upstream presentations whenever possible.
- He indicated that upstream he tries to put the fly right on the trout's nose.
- If a downstream presentation is required, he tries to put his fly just upstream of a natural.
- He advises horizontal hook sets, particularly with downstream presentations.
- His observations lead him to believe that West Branch fish are everywhere so, in the absence of obviously actively rising fish, doesn't dismiss any water.
- He also indicated that these larger (presumably older and wiser) fish have patterns of behavior unique to each fish so again observation followed by appropriate presentation is paramount.

The talk was followed by displaying the fly patterns he uses. All of them sparsely dressed comparadun fashion. There was not a single nymph in his many boxes.

Respectfully submitted,
Thom Frankel