



Blue Mountains trout news

Newsletter of the Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited, #559

P.O. Box 119, Phoenicia, NY 12464

February 2021

Banner above depicts an Ashokan winter.

February virtual Zoom meeting: On Wednesday, February 24th at 7 PM, the chapter will be hosting another virtual Zoom meeting. After some minor bumps in our first attempt in January, we still had a good turnout. This month we are fortunate to have Bob Adams, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Region 3 Fishery Biologist responsible for the Esopus Creek and Ulster County. Bob will talk about DEC's Esopus Creek 2020 shocking results and potential Inland Trout Stream Regulations for 2021. A separate email on this meeting, and how to join, will be sent out during that week, a couple days before hand, but mark your calendars now.

Esopus Creek: The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) has announced their next semi-annual public meeting, held per the Shandaken SPDES permit, will be on Thursday, February 25th at 10:00 AM. DEP will discuss the progress of activities conducted pursuant to the SPDES permit. The meeting is open to the public, however, due to the Coronavirus it will be held only as a video/conference call using the Teams application. Attendees will have the option to join by phone for the audio portion only, or by computer to access the video feed of the presentations. Both audio and video participants will have the opportunity to ask question or provide comments during the meeting.

If you would like to participate, please email me and I will forward links and how to join this meeting information that DEP sent to our chapter. DEP utilizes a fairly standard format for these meeting, depending on whether they are held in February or August, and they always graciously answer questions put forth to them. We have already submitted several questions regarding the Esopus Creek and Shandaken Tunnel that we anticipate DEP will address. And, if you haven't noticed, NYC recently brought the Shandaken Tunnel back online in late January.

East Branch Delaware River: The chapter's East Branch Delaware River committee, working with Tracy Brown and Caroline Shafer--- our January guest presenter--- both of TU National, and NYS DEC Region 4 Fisheries will be planning several restoration activities benefiting wild trout upstream of NYC's Pepacton Reservoir. More to follow, with requests for membership help, in future newsletters.

Catskill Heritage Brook Trout Study: Dr. Spencer Bruce has informed the chapter that his analysis of brook trout fin clippings collected in 2020, in conjunction with NYS DEC Region 3 Fisheries, has been delayed due Covid impacts on needed supplies. We expected results on our efforts later this year. In the meantime, readers might find this of interest:

https://www.1911forum.com/threads/genetically-pure-brook-trout-discovered-in-northern-new-york.1029301/?fbclid=IwAR0H8I5c4Lq70LoktoXyCf9JxSrfT_rRGhNe7sOZJNX7ARzthXWz6wr9Ozc



Chapter website: Stephanie Blackman and Mark Loete have been working on a redesign of our chapter website and logo, and from what the board has seen thus far, it's an impressive effort. Watch for a rollout of this work in the months ahead.

Acid rain report: Jody Hoyt reported in January there were four measurable storms as measured in Boiceville, NY. These had a 5.6 weighed pH with 2.78 inches of liquid precipitation, including 11.7 inches of snow. By comparison in January 2020 there were 6 such events with a total of 2.51 inches of liquid precipitation, including 5.0 inches of snow and 6.2 weighted pH.



Given the cold weather, and low stream flows in recent days, one can not help but wonder if anchor ice will be a factor impacting our trout waters this winter? One just needs to scan USGS stream gages for New York to see all the ice notifications.

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP): Last call for the AWSMP's "Love Your Stream Video and Art Project" featuring videos, photos, and/or artwork of the Esopus Creek watershed. Check here for details: <http://ulster.cce.cornell.edu/events/2021/02/24/love-your-stream-video-and-art-project>

Treasurer's report: Jody Hoyt reports as of the end of January the chapter had \$13,058.75, with \$12,271.07 in the General Operating Fund and \$787.68 in the Conservation Fund, which is unchanged since last month.

Membership: As of this newsletter, our membership stands at 113 members. This month we welcome Oleh Czmola of Lexington as a new member. As always new TU members can join for half the "regular" membership fee, or \$17.50, of which the chapter receives a \$15 rebate from National. Membership forms:

http://www.apwctu.org/pdfs/TU_membership_brochure2018_web.pdf For membership questions, contact me at: Tailwaters@Hvc.rr.com

Newsletter: This issue was sent electronically to all chapter members and friends that we have valid email addresses. If you received this and would rather not, please hit **REPLY** and write **REMOVE** and hit **SEND**.

Beyond our watersheds and other news: DEC recently announced the opening of a new Red Hill Fire Tower lot and trail, FYI: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/122341.html>



A Kevan Best pick for fly tyers, FYI:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrTy2zFjZ0g&feature=youtu.be>

Notice the reference to Edward R. Hewitt, a famous Catskill fly fisher and hero of mine. With that in mind, I prefer a simple Crowe Beetle on a #18 Mustad 94840 hook, over something tied with foam. If need be, one can add a poly indicator through the black deer hair shell.

Useful links:

Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter Trout Unlimited: <https://apwctu.org/>

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program: <http://ashokanstreams.org/>

CWC Watershed Currents: <https://cwconline.org/watershed-currents-e-news/>

Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District: <http://www.dcsxcd.org/Stream%20Program.htm>

Esopus Creek hatching chart: <http://www.catskillanglingcollection.org/>

NYC DEP Reservoir Levels-Releases:

https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking_water/release_channel_levels.shtml

Rondout Neversink Stream Program: <http://www.rondoutneversink.org/>

Until next time & Happy Valentine's Day!

Ed Ostapczuk

Feb. 14th, 2021