



## Blue Mountains trout news

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

P.O. Box 119, Phoenicia, NY 12464

October 2021

A late-summer Catskill view from the Ashokan Quarry Trail.

**October Meeting:** The October chapter meeting will be held virtually, via Zoom on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>. Several days before this, a link will be emailed granting login access. This month we are fortunate to have Bob Adams, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 3 Fisheries Biologist provide an overview of what regional staff have been doing, specifically on the Esopus Creek watershed. Bob oversees Ulster County and the Esopus Creek watershed. Don't miss this.



**Chapter Online Auction:** Thanks to Todd Spire's able leadership, and supportive donations from chapter members and friends, we are conducting an online auction of many unique, and some, one-of-a-kind items. These are found here: <https://go.tulocalevents.org/ashokan-pepacton-2021>

While the chapter has not been able to conduct many in-person meetings due to Covid, it remains active. We did a second Catskill Heritage Brook Trout Study, took a leadership role in the proposed Ashokan

Reservoir Pumped Storage Proposal earlier this year, continue our acid rain activities, participate with other agencies/organizations on environmental matters--- like the Shandaken Tunnel SPDES Permit, AWSMP, revised NYS Inland Trout Fishing Regulations as they apply to the Esopus Creek, etc. and hold virtual meetings for our membership. We need your help and financial support, please share this Newsletter and auction event with friends and please consider an investment in the wild rainbows pictured above. Thank you.

The auction runs through November 5<sup>th</sup> and items can be inspected at Todd Spire's shop, Esopus Creel on NY 28 in Mt. Tremper.

**Annual Meeting:** The Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter's Annual Meeting was conducted on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at the Catskill Visitors Center, and via email voting. Listed below are current chapter officers/board members.

President: Mark Loete  
Secretary: Thom Frankel

Vice Pres: Tony Coccozza  
Treasurer: Jody Hoyt

2022-2023 board of directors: BJ Leifeld Jr., Russell Martin, Roy Meyerhoff, plus one vacant position.  
2021-2022 board of directors: Chris Hensley, Chet Karwatowski, Todd Spire, plus one vacant position.  
The chapter's ex-facto past president director is John Hoeko.

If you are a chapter member and can help by serving on the board of directors, please contact president Mark Loete at: [mark@loetephoto.com](mailto:mark@loetephoto.com)

Thank you to everyone who participated by voting electronically, or attended the Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Over a dozen member voted electronically and another dozen plus attended the meeting in person. Your supported is much appreciated.

**New York State Freshwater Fishing Regulations:** Don't forget, as of October 16<sup>th</sup> New York State's "catch & release" extended season on inland trout streams, starts, running through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. This means all trout caught after October 15<sup>th</sup> on inland trout streams **MUST BE released unharmed**. Additionally only artificials--- flies and lures--- only, **no bait**, are allowed. Additional details are found in this DEC press release: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/123901.html?fbclid=IwAR0ijxglsOMe2PI87KU96VD5HPzjTVhCa-qXNI3WdrIOovtXQBguj7UzqU> and I specifically call the reader's attention to: [https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\\_marine\\_pdf/tsmprstudy.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/tsmprstudy.pdf) as there are references to planned work on the Esopus Creek watershed, and Region 3, in the coming months. NYS Freshwater Fishing Regulations can be found here: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html>



**USGS summer stream studies:** Barry Baldigo, of the United States Geological Survey (Troy), reported their crews sampled four sites in tributaries to the Esopus and seven sites in the East and West Branches of the Neversink during 2021, mainly to study fishery responses to past and future/planned restorations. The Stream-Management programs in both basins funded these efforts, with some federal match monies provided by the USGS. Crews from the USGS, including interns from SUNY Cobleskill, were assisted by Rondout-Neversink Stream Program personnel and NYC Department of

Environmental Protection (DEP) interns during most surveys. Pictured left, USGS shocking Clothes Pool on West Branch Neversink.

**Acid rain report:** Jody Hoyt reported in September there were 7 measurable storms as measured in Boiceville. These had a 5.8 weighed pH with 9.62 inches of rain. Oddly enough Ida deposited 3.03 inches, while another event left 3.13 inches of rain. By comparison in Sept. 2020 there were 4 such events with a total of 5.66 inches of rain and a 5.6 weighted pH.

**Treasurer's report:** Jody Hoyt reports at the end of September the chapter had \$12,756.80 of which \$11,819.12 was in the General Operating Fund and \$937.68 in the Conservation Fund. And a special thanks to the Neversink Association for a recent \$150 donation to the chapter.

**Membership:** As of this newsletter, our membership remains at 118 members. 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](http://www.apwctu.org/pdfs/TU_membership_brochure2018_web.pdf)

Russell Martin, Membership Chair, can be reached at: [sunyesf@gmail.com](mailto:sunyesf@gmail.com) if you have membership questions or concerns.

**Newsletter:** If you received this newsletter and would rather not, please hit **REPLY** and write **REMOVE** and hit **SEND**. As newsletter production/distribution migrates to Todd Spire, the email address [APW\\_TU@Hvc.rr.com](mailto:APW_TU@Hvc.rr.com) will eventually be discontinued. Stay tuned for additional info.

**Beyond our watersheds and other news:** For you are strictly dry-fly anglers, like my buddies Kevan Best and Joe David, you might really enjoy this blog, and take special attention to the Catskill Ed Van Put piece: <https://www.thefloatingfly.com/the-study>

**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](https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking_water/release_channel_levels.shtml)

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

For now,  
Ed Ostapczuk  
Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021