



Above is a wild brook trout that succumb to an Ausable Bomber in the cool waters of East Branch Neversink

September/Annual Meeting: Notice is hereby given that the chapter's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 26th at an outdoor venue. The meeting will start at 1 PM and run until approximately 3 PM during which time election of officers and directors will occur. Afterwards members are invited to fish the Esopus Creek. Several days prior to the 26th, another email will be sent to all members in good standing listing the exact meeting location and providing a list of officers and directors being put forth by the nominating committee. It will also provide details on how to vote via email in the event you can not attend. If you would like to serve, or have candidates you wish to put forth, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Tony Coccozza at: Flyfish@hvc.rr.com or President Mark Loete at: mark@loetephoto.com with your input.

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP): AWSMP, in cooperation the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Trout Unlimited, is hosting "Family Fun and Fish Day" at Kenneth Wilson State Campground at 859 Wittenberg Road, Mount Tremper, NY on Saturday, September 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is FREE to all participants, except there is a \$6 fee/car to access the NYS Campground.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, all participants, not from the same household, are requested to maintain at least six feet of distance apart and to wear masks if this is not possible. **Registration forms must be filled out and received prior to the event. The last day to register is September 15th.** Participants who fail to fill out the required forms, fail to adhere to Covid-19 safety guidelines, or fail to follow staff direction will not be allowed to participate in the program. All fishing supplies will be provided, though you are welcome and encouraged to bring your own if you have them. No fishing license is required.

For more information, to register, contact Brent Gotsch at 845-688-3047 ext. 103, or by email at bwg37@cornell.edu. Help is always needed. If you can help, please contact Brent.

AWSMP continues to conduct a number of Working Group watershed meetings, which various chapter members participate in. The last such meeting was held on July 1st and was for Stream Access and Recreation.

Esopus Creek/SPDES Permit: On August 26th New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) conducted its semi-annual Shandaken Tunnel SPDES Permit review meeting virtually, via Internet. The meeting was chaired by David Warne, Assistant DEP Commissioner with participants from DEP, NYS DEC, NYS Health, Greene County Soil & Water, CCCD, various individuals plus Mark Loete, Tony Cocozza, and myself on behalf of our chapter. DEP reviewed past and present water conditions in the Schoharie Reservoir and Esopus Creek at the time, plus the status and costs of ongoing rehabilitation projects at the Schoharie Reservoir and Shandaken Tunnel.

It is anticipated that DEP will need to shut down the Shandaken Tunnel for approximately six weeks late October or November to complete all scheduled work on the Tunnel. It is also anticipated that a High Level Outlet (HLO) in Gilboa Dam will be in place by 2027, allowing for downstream Schoharie Creek water releases.

Acid rain report: Jody Hoyt reported the following results for the months of June, July, and August. In June there were 6 measurable events as recorded in Boiceville; these had a 6.0 weighed pH with 2.14 inches of rain. In July there were 11 measurable events; these had a 5.7 weighed pH with 8.86 inches of rain. In August there were 4 measurable events; these had a 5.1 weighed pH with 8.00 inches of rain, clearly Henri and Ida making their impacts on the region.

By comparison in June 2020 there were 7 such events with a total of 4.24 inches of rain and 6.2 weighted pH. In July 2020 there were 8 such events with a total of 4.13 inches of rain and 5.6 weighted pH. And in August 2020 there were 9 such events with a total of 6.45 inches of rain and 5.4 weighted pH.

There's little doubt about, Climate Change is really influencing our weather, and ultimately will affect our wild trout fisheries. It has already with floods--- like that of Christmas 2002--- that wreak havoc on watersheds. NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) recently declared July 2021 the hottest month on earth ever: <https://www.noaa.gov/news/its-official-july-2021-was-earths-hottest-month-on-record>

With summer behind us, perhaps a little late for the season, you still might find this of interest:

https://www.ausableriver.org/blog/how-does-hot-weather-affect-trout-fishing?utm_source=ADK_Explorer&utm_medium=The_Waterline&utm_campaign=how-does-hot-weather-affect-trout-fishing&mc_cid=06dfcf52eb&mc_eid=9eb3dcc66e



Membership: As of this newsletter, our membership stands at 118 members. This month we welcome Joe Winslow of Shokan. 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

Russell Martin has assumed Membership Chair responsibilities and can be reached at: sunyesf@gmail.com

I will assist Russell in these matters. Thank you Russell!

The chapter conducted membership outings, evenings fishing the Esopus Creek, on June 23rd and July 28th. Over fifteen members and friends attended each event, and then enjoyed pizza at the Boiceville Inn afterwards, recounting stories of wild rainbow trout caught those evenings.

Chapter OnLine Auction: Given Covid restrictions, and our limited ability to gather, Todd Spire will be putting together an OnLine Auction for our chapter. This will help refill chapter conifers so we can continue to effectively function and respond to important issues, like the recently proposed, but highly ill-conceived, Ashokan Reservoir Pumped Storage application before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Watch for details on the auction in the near future. Thanks Todd!



Olive Day: On Sept. 11th, Jody Hoyt, Victoria Lawrence, Russell Martin, Roy Meyerhoff, and myself represented the chapter at Olive Day, held at Davis Park in West Shokan. A couple members stopped by and while engaging the general public we potentially recruited some new members. We also took part in a special September 11th Remembrance conducted behind our booth.

Peekamoose Blue Hole Permits: As of Sept. 16th, daily \$10 day-use permits are no longer required to hike, fish along the upper Rondout Creek at the Blue Hole. These will most likely be required by May 15th, 2022. In 2021 DEC instituted a permit system for the Peekamoose Valley Riparian Corridor and it seemed to be a very successful way of cutting down over-utilization, abuses, and garbage at this pristine environment.



Immediate left is a Rondout Creek brook trout, caught after obtaining a day-use permit, in total solitude.

Treasurer's report: Jody Hoyt reports at the end of August the chapter had \$12,530.80, of which \$11,743.12 was in the General Operating Fund and \$787.68 in the Conservation Fund.

Newsletter: This is the first newsletter since our last one of June 14th following a summer recess. They will be monthly again with this issue 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**.

In a couple months production and distribution of the newsletter will be taken over by Todd Spire. I assumed the editor's job, for a second time, in January of 2014, following in the capable footsteps of Hank Rope. I've enjoyed it and look forward to the talents Todd Spire brings to this position. It's a vital piece of communication to all our members, friends, and colleagues of the various agencies and groups we work with.

Jerry Bartlett Angling Collection: The Jerry Bartlett Angling Collection of the Phoenicia Library has some new and exciting Podcasts available. One features our own Jody Hoyt, with others, discussing Ray Smith, the most famous outdoorsman of the Esopus river-valley. FYI: <http://www.catskillanglingcollection.org/news.html>

Beyond our watersheds and other news: *The New York State Conservationist* celebrated its 75th birthday: <https://cloud.3dissue.com/129417/129610/151833/AugustSeptember2021NYSCons/index.html>

If you missed it, the Time and the Valleys Museum held a program on *The History of Wintoon: A Grand Neversink Estate* by Laura Brock. FYI: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEVmQ9e0qoo>

Perhaps a bit edgy in parts, but while exercising on the treadmill, I happened upon this YouTube video on stocked versus wild trout: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6brH5Kpy6m0> Blast past any unintended advertisements.

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,
Ed Ostapczuk
Sept. 15th, 2021