



TAILWATERS

The Newsletter of the Upper Delaware & Beamoc Chapters of Trout Unlimited

Published April, June, August & October

Editor Mark A. Rando April 2008

The President's Pool

I'm sitting here contemplating the authoring of my first President's Pool column fresh from an ice fishing excursion and awaiting tonight's daylight savings time advancement of the clocks. The weather still very much reflects winter with a good amount of snow remaining on the ground. A local bear, apparently hungry, has exited his winter den after a long winter's snooze; ravishing my bird feeders and consuming the seed and suet while reminding me that spring is not far off. The Delaware River has swollen over its banks after recent rains and snow melt and is running at over 23,000 CFS with a temperature of 36.5 degrees at Callicoon. A flood watch remains in effect until tomorrow morning. These observations have become all too familiar this time of year. Hopefully this newsletter arrives along with more spring like conditions.

As your new chapter president, I would especially like to thank our outgoing president, Val Reinhardt, for his past years of service and acknowledge the great experiences he brought to the chapter. We look forward to his continued support as we move forward with well established goals and plans. I'd also like to welcome our new, energetic vice president, Karol Sundholm, a very positive addition to our slate of officers. Karol has taken on this role in addition to her position as membership chair. It's very easy to thank our treasurer and secretary, Sue Brown and Pam Reinhardt respectively, but very difficult to articulate my sincere gratitude and heartfelt respect for the many hours of hard work that they perform on behalf of our chapter. Much of this work is often performed behind the scenes but is most necessary in keeping our chapter viable and functioning smoothly.

After many years of editing *Tailwaters*, Clem Fullerton has elected to relinquish the reins

Cont. on Page 2

UDCTU 2008 Calendar of Events

APRIL	
26-Apr	Chapter Meeting
MAY	
3-May	Willow Planting
24-May	Chapter Meeting **
25-May	Farmers Market
JUNE	
7-Jun	NYSTU Gen'l Council - Roscoe
8-Jun	Farmers Market Tractor Parade
28-Jun	Chapter Meeting + Fishing Outing
JULY	
6-Jul	Farmers Market
19-Jul	Chapter Meeting **
26-Jul	Callicoon Street Fair
27-Jul	Narrowsburg River Fest
AUGUST	
3-Aug	Farmers Market
23-Aug	Chapter Meeting
31-Aug	Farmers Market
SEPT	
6-Sep	Grahamsville Youth Expo
20-Sep	NYSTU Gen'l Council -TBA
20-Sep	Road Clean Up
OCT	
4-Oct	Stream opening, meeting, picnic
NOV	
15-Nov	NYSTU Gen'L Council Pulaski
Nov	Vibert Boxes
DEC	Willow Slip Cutting
	All meetings @ Long Eddy Firehouse Rt. 97 Long Eddy, NY 12760
	** Road clean up after meeting- volunteers welcomed

President's Pool Cont.

to Mark Rando. Clem has worked relentlessly for our chapter as advisor, fly tier, casting instructor, and educator. Clem has never been afraid to get his hands dirty planting willows, cleaning tributaries, and plucking litter. He has also been a catalyst for many of our projects. Clem is a valuable resource and possesses a wealth of information. Although he is known for one hat in particular, it's obvious that he wears many. While I attended various TU functions this past fall and winter other attendees would quite often seek me out and inquire about Clem and his lovely wife Barb who winter in Texas. I couldn't help but notice the admiration, respect and affection expressed by those wishing to send their best regards through me. I realized that Clem is a true ambassador and represents our chapter well. It is with great pleasure that I bestow the official designation upon him, "Ambassador Upper Delaware Chapter".

Our new editor, Mark Rando, has been published in the River Reporter and is a very precise and articulate writer with superb historical knowledge of our area. He is also well versed in various fishing techniques and tackle. Mark is a good friend with whom I've had the pleasure of floating and fishing. I know that you will appreciate his passion for the Upper Delaware and fishing, as expressed through his writing, as much as I enjoy his company.

There are still many challenges and much work to be done. As noted in the "Trout Unlimited Statement on the Delaware River Flows" in regard to the Interim Flow Management Program (FFMP), "While the concept behind the FFMP is indeed the best way to manage the river's flows, the actual water release schedules in the plan will continue to damage the ecosystem of the Delaware River". In addition, the Statement declares, "Under the interim releases the trout fisheries of the Upper Delaware River's main stem will be damaged do to lethal rises in water temperatures and loss of habitat. Additionally, the interim release schedule will continue to harm American shad populations and habitat, dwarf wedge mussels and other fish and wildlife as well as the recreational tourist economy of the Upper Delaware region". Our chapter will continue to support TU's efforts for a more equitable solution to this long term complex issue. As the saying goes, think globally and act locally.

Thank you for your kind support. Please check our calendar of events and make plans to attend a meeting, lend a hand, or purchase raffle tickets this season.

Frank Salt

Meeting Reminder
April 26, 2008 – 9:00 AM
Long Eddy Firehouse
Route 97
Long Eddy, NY 12761

UDCTU 2008 Officers

President
Frank Salt
(570)224-0803
w2fas@yahoo.com

Vice President &
Membership Chair
Karol Sundholm
(845) 557-8060
jsundhol.hvc.r.com

Secretary
Pam Reinhardt
(845) 887-4714
reinhardt@hvc.rr.com

Treasurer
Sue Brown
(570) 224-8182
suebrown@localnet.com

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Fall 2007 Vibert Box Plantings

Unfortunately, a bad weather event that occurred the weekend that had been scheduled to do the plantings forced the event to be cancelled. As the fertilized eggs have a limited timetable, our options to reschedule could not be worked out amongst the folks who were going to assist. The chapter will look to resume this program again this coming fall. If you have not participated in this project in the past please consider joining the team this year. We can use the help on both the planting and retrievals. The plantings usually occur around mid November and the retrievals late December through mid January. This is both an interesting and rewarding project and you'll be giving something back to the local fisheries while you learn about the lifecycle of a trout.

Callicoon Creek Update

Anyone who has fished Callicoon Creek and its tributaries the North and East Branch can easily see what lovely streams these are. Unfortunately in their current state they are badly damaged. Encroaching development, poor riparian practices, silting, and impure runoff are just a few of the problems they currently face. Despite this, the potential to improve the fishing in this system still remains. Both our Vibert box and willow planting programs currently include all the Callicoon branches. The chapter's focus on this watershed is easy to understand. Firstly, the Callicoon Creek main stem, East Branch and the North Branch are all known to be Delaware spawning tributaries. Each of these streams possesses sufficient flow and size to offer quality small stream trout fishing opportunities in their own rite.

Callicoon Creek history is rich in fishing tradition and is reported to have been as famous and productive a fishery as the upper Beaverkill and Willowemoc were in the very early days of Catskill trout fishing. Ray Bergman was particularly endeared to the North Branch and wrote about his fishing experiences there in multiple passages in his great classic *Trout*. Based on some of the larger trout that are caught in the North Branch, especially in the early summer, a few of us who regularly fish it suspect there may be some thermal relief areas that Delaware River fish use. Finally, the system has good public access and many of our chapter members often fish these waters.

In assessing the chapter's progress with habitat improvement and Vibert box plantings within the Callicoon Creek system, some of the membership believe that another very critical element currently beyond our direct control that will continue to be a limiting factor in establishing a better fishery is the continuance of applying the standard statewide trout fishing regulations. These allow for all method fishing throughout the entire system and season as well as the taking of five trout daily. With the fishing pressure in the area being what it is, such open regulations will simply not make it possible to substantially increase the number of fish available to be caught in this system no matter how successful our other efforts might be. It became clear that another part of the puzzle to help restore Callicoon Creek fishing would involve working with the NYS DEC to adopt more protective fishing regulations on certain stretches. The system already carries a delayed opening day to protect the spring spawning rainbows as do other Delaware tributaries in Sullivan and Delaware counties. A look at other specially regulated waters within New York and Pennsylvania where a variety of creative regulatory approaches are being currently employed in an attempt to improve fishing quality provided some ready made ideas to draw upon. With the above in mind, a letter was drafted and sent to Michael Flaherty the Regional Fisheries Manager for NYS DEC Region 3 back in August 2007. Two special regulation concepts were included in the letter and are excerpted verbatim here:

- 1) Institute an artificials only, delayed harvest regulation for the 1.7 mile Callicoon Creek main stem from the North Branch junction downstream to the mouth. With this regulation, all fishing would be catch and release from the delayed opening day (first Saturday after April 11th) through June 15th. After June 15th until season close, the bag limit would be 3 fish but still artificials only fishing. The thought here is to extend the availability of the spring stocked trout so that they can be harvested multiple times before being removed from the stream and also to provide some protection to Delaware main stem trout moving within the system.

2) For the Callicoon North Branch from Gossweyler Pond Dam downstream to the Town of North Branch, institute an artificials only regulation with a 3 fish daily bag limit and 9" minimum size from delayed opening day until July 1. After July 1, this stretch becomes catch and release, artificials only until season close to protect Delaware main stem trout seeking thermal relief. All other sections of the North branch remain as is with current open regulations

DEC Region 3 responded first with a phone call from Mr. Flaherty to confirm they had received the letter and that he was going to assign a biologist to review the matter in more detail. Mr. Flaherty also conveyed an enthusiastic reception towards the chapter's interest and willingness to work with DEC in efforts to help improve the fisheries in his region. Subsequently a two page letter was received from Mr. Robert Angyal, Senior Aquatic Biologist who reviewed our proposal. Key points of this response include the following:

- 1) The last official sampling and survey work in the watershed conducted by DEC was back in 1984.
- 2) DEC has officially graded categories for trout waters. The 1.7 mile Callicoon Creek main stem stretch from Hortonville to confluence was considered "B" grade. North Branch had previously carried an "A" grade.
- 3) They found our suggestion that sections of the North Branch may be used by Delaware main stem trout for thermal refuge to be intriguing but it is currently unsubstantiated.
- 4) The delayed harvest regulation, while used extensively in PA would be new ground for New York and it would be expected that a very strong case would need to be made to get something like that added to the NY Fish code. (but not impossible)
- 5) For the 2008 season they plan to conduct a new electro fishing survey on the watershed and also install 4 or 5 recording thermograph units at multiple sites in the system. These units record temperature once per hour and store the data.
- 6) The updated stream survey and water temperature monitoring data

would provide DEC a basis to decide on whether or not to consider any further the possibility for establishing special regulations in the system.

Needless to say this is very exciting news. Stay tuned for more. M.A.R.

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Fishing Access – Is it TU's Business or Not?

As we made the turn onto DeBruce Road from old Route 17, Clem Fullerton suggested that I reset my trip odometer. Producing an index card which listed all the NYS DEC public access points along the upper Willowemoc Creek, Clem explained that he had referenced them to mileage points from that particular intersection. He went on to tell me that over the course of a number of trips, he and his wife Barbara had endeavored to explore all these access areas. Being a long time fan of the upper Willowemoc, I was particularly excited about that outing as Clem promised I would learn a few new spots that many people didn't know about.

True to his word, we fished two stretches of water on that beautiful September day that I had never been on before. One was a newer access that did not yet even have a DEC sign. The other was a stretch I had passed by many times as it did not seem all that long because it runs behind some private homes right below the parking lot. Unknown to me was the fact that the access easement actually ran quite a substantial distance downstream making it one of the longest stretches available to anglers on the upper Willowemoc. **Cont on pg 5**

Both pieces of water we fished that day were quite nice and afforded one the opportunity to experience the real old time classic Catskill trout fishing; the kind where you can put on a pair of waders, pack a lunch and fish your way down or up a beautiful mountain stream. Both accesses also had safe parking and comfortable routes to the stream. Choosing to fish dries that day, I walked some distance downstream from Clem at each of the spots and fished my way back up. On the first stretch, I was literally fishing in the backyard of a very impressive looking estate but it was *legal*. On one of my casts a healthy brown that taped out at almost fourteen inches inhaled my parachute dry. A bit further down I caught two other nice fish. Clem, who fished further up, also had some success on what turned out to be a very nice fishing outing. We had caught some fish at the second spot as well. On the drive home we discussed the sad reality that the opportunities to enjoy the type of fishing we just experienced, classic small stream trout fishing, were becoming more and more limited each year in our area. This happening as more properties become posted by the owners and the water that remains open is often too crowded to enjoy.

Earlier in the season, while fishing the East Branch Delaware tailwater, which is a much larger river, I had made the acquaintance of another angler. He had traveled some distance from NJ to fish that weekend. While glad to be fishing, he was a bit unhappy that the results had been poor and complained that the expense for gas, lodging and food to come up and fish was getting tougher to justify. Having no success in the pool we had been fishing, he mentioned that he was going to try another spot where he had done well on previous trips and suggested I follow him down if I was so inclined. I was familiar with the area he planned to fish but had not fished there in quite some time so I figured why not. We jumped in our cars and headed down. After parking along Route 30, a somewhat busy state highway, and negotiating a fairly steep bank we began to wade across. The water turned out to be a bit deeper and heavier than it first appeared but we were doing Ok. About half way across, a man riding an ATV seemed to come out of nowhere and told us we had better turn right around as the land on the other bank was his and he didn't want us there. Needless to say we complied. Upon reaching the bank we started out from we began to speak with the man.

After seeing that we were good sports he softened and said we could fish there but that in the future we needed to ask him first. He told us how to get to his house for future reference. Enjoying the fishing in that particular stretch that day, I did go back on a few other occasions throughout the season and each time was granted permission to not only fish, but also drive my vehicle across his field down to the river bank and park; certainly a much safer and more comfortable setup than parking on the highway and sliding down a very steep bank to get to the fishing. So, throughout the remainder of the season various friends that I invited to join me returned back to that water and enjoyed some productive outings; a very nice discovery indeed.

As many folks know, there was some controversy within the senior ranks of TU this past year at the federal level when formal statements were made to the public that TU as an organization should not be involved with issues pertaining to fishing access. In short, TU's primary mission is coldwater fisheries conservation; fishing access is a local, state or federal government issue. There was quite a bit of pushback on that position from a substantial percentage of the TU membership. As such, the matter had to be reconsidered and from my perspective, at least, very justifiably so. Naturally, conservation is to a large measure what TU does and what it stands for. I don't think anyone would argue that. However, the fact is that a major driving force behind the conservation efforts to restore and protect fisheries is so that people can enjoy fishing them. While no one would argue that coldwater fishery habitat and its conservation have many other values to the public beyond sport fishing, mostly everyone I know involved with TU are fishermen and fisherwomen. The sport and the conservation thereof are undeniably linked.

Another undeniable fact is that "good fishing" requires both the habitat *and* the ability to get to it for the fishing public. It cannot be forgotten that a substantial portion of the funding that drives organizations such as TU come from the general angling public and is unquestionably tied to the pursuit of this so called "good fishing" and **Cont. on pg 6**

more specifically public fishing not private. Every state in the country is reporting a reduction in fishing license sales and other studies are showing that fishing and other outdoor sports are having less and less appeal with the young. It has to be recognized that this trend if it continues may be the most serious threat there is to the future of the sport. Less access to good quality fishing may quite possibly be one of the most significant factors contributing to the decline in license sales. The result being that the pursuit of the sport continues to increase in both cost and degree of difficulty thereby having less overall appeal for long time fishermen and newcomers alike.

Consequently, maintaining and increasing public access to good fishing opportunities therefore seems to be an area that requires as much focus as conservation efforts if the sport is going to retain a sizable following in the future. In my personal fishing experiences as I'm sure it is with most others, finding reasonable access to good fishing areas is a large part of the game these days. The two experiences referenced above are good examples of just how important and vital fishing access rights are. The subsequent impact to the quality of the sport one can experience is very much linked to access rights. This is basically stating the obvious, but apparently who and how it should be dealt with remains most controversial. I for one cannot see how fisheries conservation and public fisheries access can be realistically treated as separated agendas when the conservation is being largely funded by the general fishing public.

M.A.R.

Piscatorial Wit & Wisdom

... whatever bait you used, worm, grasshopper, grub or fly, there was one thing you must always put upon your hook, namely your heart: when you bait your hook with your heart the fish always bite....

Essay Collection *In The Catskills*
Essay *Speckled Trout*
John Burroughs

"Some fishing is better than others; but there is no such thing as bad fishing"

Francis Francis English Angling Author

Fun Fishing Facts - Did you know that ...???

- In 1896, an avid 27 year old fisherman from Kalamazoo Michigan invented a device to wind line evenly onto the revolving spool of a baitcasting reel. This first level wind reel was eventually patented by its originator William Shakespeare Jr., who later founded the Shakespeare fishing tackle company.

- There exist ancient Oriental paintings that depict Chinese fishermen using fishing reels mounted on poles. Some of these paintings are known to date back to the twelfth century. The earliest known one has been translated to have a title "Angler on a Wintry Lake", a painting by Ma Yuan, c1195. These are believed to be the earliest known references to rod and reel fishing.

UDCTU Membership

Interested in joining us? Contact any one of the officers listed on page 2 for details.

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Practical Fishing Tips for the Yankee Angler by Chuck N. Hope

Despite my best efforts and undaunted searching, the whereabouts of Willy Landem still remain a mystery and Clem Fullerton continues to be as tight lipped as ever on the matter. But some good fortune has come to my efforts. In researching Willy's family tree, I was able to connect with a long lost cousin of his that left Texas many years ago; the result of a major family feud that included Willy himself. After spending some years in Alabama, Willy's cousin Chuck N. Hope wound up taking a job up in New York City and now **Cont. on pg 7**

resides in New Jersey of all places, my home state. Also, it turns out Chuck is a very avid fisherman too and is familiar with many of the same waters we fish. While Chuck has no idea where Willie is these days, nor cares to, he was very eager to offer some of his self proclaimed fishing expertise to this newsletter's readership by way of providing a useful tip or interesting story for each issue. Chuck confided in me that he has never felt totally comfortable living amongst Yankees but that he has grown accustomed to it and points out that we Yankees need a lot of help with our fishing.

BEAMOC Chapter News

I hope everyone had a good winter. The fishing season is almost upon us! It will soon be time to turn those plans made during the winter into reality. Our meetings will resume in April. They are on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum. The dates will be listed at the end of this note.

On a sad note Edward Eckel passed away on February 4, 2008. Ed was a resident of Roscoe and a long time member and contributor to our chapter. He is now fishing on the other side where the weather is always great and the fish are always rising. Tight lines Ed.

On Saturday, April 26th we will have a stream clean up & planting. We will meet at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum at 9:30am and then depart from there. We are planning on doing some planting on RT 206 were the flood of 2007 ravaged the area. Bring a friend!

The State Council Meeting will be held at the Rockland House again this year on Saturday June 7th. They will also hold their Executive Board Meeting on Friday evening at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum. Once again, all of the arrangements were made by Manny Zanger. Thanks Manny!

It looks like the Horton Brook Project will get off the ground this year. NYC DEP will be doing a lot of work to improve the area. We will be helping out with the rip rap and also doing some planting. The NYC Chapter has offered their assistance to us with this project. We look forward to working with them. As details and dates are set I will let you know.

So I agreed and starting with the next issue Chuck will send me a new and useful fishing tip or story which I will faithfully publish here in his column.

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Evan Lavery

BEAMOC Chapter News Cont.

This summer there will be an Orvis Days at the West Branch Angler in Hale Eddy on June 20, 21 & 22. We will have a booth set up for the weekend. I am looking for volunteers to help man the booth for a few hours. Please contact me if you can help out. It will be a great opportunity to promote our chapter and also to have a look at things offered for sale and demonstrations they are having. Take a look at their website www.westbranchangler.com to see what is happening. Keep checking back as they are adding things weekly.

The Fly Tiers Rendezvous will be held this year at the Rockland House on April 19th during the day. It is a great opportunity to meet a lot of tiers and even learn a few things! They also have a little flea market so you can look for those items you need.

You can contact me at 607-865-8740 or by email at tburdick2089@yahoo.com . I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings and gatherings.

Todd Burdick
President
Beamoc Chapter

BEAMOC Meeting Dates

Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum at 6:30pm
April 3rd
May 1st
June 5th
July 3rd
August 7th
September 4th
October 2nd
November 6th
December 4th

The Editor's Post

For the past 14 years, the membership of the Upper Delaware & Beamoc TU chapters had the great pleasure of reading the newsletters lovingly created by Clem Fullerton. Last fall, Clem asked me if I would like to try my hand at assuming editorial responsibilities for our chapter newsletter. He felt it was time to step down. As I enjoy writing I thought I might give it a try and have agreed. Needless to say, Clem is a tough act to follow and I have some very big shoes to fill. Clem's love for the sport of trout fishing and its conservation is as deeply genuine as any I have ever seen. This is reflected in his writings which are witty, honest and down to earth. If you have ever had the good fortune to enjoy a fishing outing with Clem you'll notice that he enjoys casting bamboo rods and silk lines. On occasion he may resort to fishing wet flies and nymphs on a graphite rod, but this is about as "impure" as his fishing gets. Watching Clem along a trout stream, you'll see a man who is truly happy just to be there. Hopefully we'll still get to enjoy Clem's writings for some time to come in his River Reporter Column *The Compleat Tangler*. With the exception of divulging the whereabouts of his Texas fishing buddy Willy Landem, Clem has been most gracious in sharing every aspect of the newsletter production with me so hopefully I am way ahead of the curve in starting out. This is my first effort and I hope it was both enjoyable to read as well as informative.

Please join me in giving a big tip of the hat to Clem for his many years as editor and the many fine newsletters he put out. but Clem be advised I *will* track down Willy somehow!

We'll leave the really important stuff to the big shots – let's go fishin.
Yours truly,

Mark A. Rando

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