



Fellow members,

I am honored to be chosen by current chapter leaders to preside over chapter activities for the coming year. I hope that I will be able to balance work and family responsibilities with the demands required to make the chapter as successful as it has been in the past. I look to past leaders for their knowledge and proven expertise in accomplishing this, as well as working with you, the members, to continue their good work.

To my mind, we are at a crossroads as a chapter. In the 5 years that I have been active in KVCTU, now ENCTU, I have witnessed the dedication of a core of women and men selflessly applying themselves to the betterment of the trout and streams which we, as a whole, enjoy. In general, this core of people have been active in their roles for 10 years or more, some going back as far as 30 years or more. These folks are all approaching retirement, and while they are still as dedicated and passionate about trout, we need to look ahead and start getting the next generation, OUR generation active and engaged. It is time to step forward and become a working member.

To date, ENCTU has over 400 members, by far the largest chapter in the state. Yet, the activities that the chapter conducts; stream cleanups, stocking, Trout in the Classroom, continue to be managed and carried out by the same crew as were in place when I joined this chapter. While their zeal and dedication is to be commended, the time is approaching when they will not be able to sustain these efforts. We need to pass their knowledge and skills on to the next generation of leaders, or lose it forever. We need to step forward and learn from them in order to expand upon the goals of protecting, restoring, reconnecting and

sustaining cold water fisheries in West Virginia.

I need YOUR help, WE need your help, to continue this mission. Please become involved in our activities. Roll up your sleeves, put on your waders, go into a classroom, STEP UP! The board and I will try to present informative and engaging programs through the year in a mixed bag of venues. It is up to you whether we succeed or fail. A few hours a month is not too much to ask. Join us as we teach your children and grandchildren the value of cold, clean water in the TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM program. Right now we have just 5 members trying to manage over 20 schools in Kanawha and surrounding counties.

We need young strong legs to continue placing fingerling trout in surrounding streams, and doing restoration projects. The "bucket brigade" in Cranberry Wilderness is an excellent example of what can be done to restore our streams. Once too acidic for trout, years of volunteers carrying tons of limestone sand, passed hand to hand and deposited in the headwaters, has resulted in Brook Trout re-establishing themselves in the headwaters.

I hope that many of the past divisive issues have been resolved and we can move forward as a united group towards a common goal, simply, giving our children and grandchildren the legacy of cold clean fishable waters. Won't you help?

Mike Sayer

October Meeting Guest Speaker

Ed Wooten, general manager at Harman Cabins on the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River near Cabins, WV. His subjects will be offerings on the North Fork and an Alaskan Coho Salmon fishing trip he made.



Downtown Trout

Wayneboro, VA, at the intersection of I-81 and I-64, reportedly has great catch and release trout fishing right downtown. The South River that flows through the center of town is a Delayed Harvest Fishery stream from October 1st to June 1st.

With the money raised from the annual Wayneboro Fly Tournament, donations from the South River Fly Shop, and visiting anglers, they stock trophy sized rainbow trout. The tournament is in the spring. Last year it was on March 28th, but the date changes apparently.

The Upper South River outside of town has a Special Regulation area. Large mayfly and caddis hatches are reported year round. There are other trout streams in the area too.

For more information, you can check out the city fishing website at the following link.

<http://www.flyfishwaynesboro.com/>

Blue Creek Stocking By Ralph Douglas

The September Blue Creek stocking went really well. In attendance were Don Lyons, his daughter, son-in-law Jeff and Cheryl Trout. Joe Crowder was with his son-in-law Jerry Pane, and grandsons Luke and Levi. Jim Toshi, Heath Tawney, her son and his friend. Don Cossin, Randy Hively, Ralph Douglas, and last but not least Steve Satler with several thousand of his friends. *(Ralph took the photos)*



2016 Loop Creek Stocking



This is the crew, minus Steve Young and I

We had a good turnout this year for the Loop Creek stocking. The weather was good, though a little hot. The brown trout fingerlings were of good size to survive and in great shape. We stocked around 3,800 trout. Max Robertson told me the chapter has been stocking Loop Creek since 1982. If we averaged 4,000 fingerlings a year, that would be 136,000 trout stocked there over the years. If we could just get the blue herons, mink, otters, and water snakes to leave them alone, it would be a fantastic trout stream for Southern West Virginia. Several trout in the 10 to 12 inch range were spotted during the stocking. Max Robertson caught a 17 inch brown trout after last year's stocking.





BROOK TROUT by Nick Karas

Lyons & Burford, New York, N. Y., 1997, 371 pages.

A book Review by Mike Gilzow

Karas starts off with two amusing tales of “Devil Trout” each reportedly weighing 14 ½ pounds. The first was caught by Daniel Webster, a Massachusetts Senator at the time, in 1827 from Long Island’s East Connecticut River. The fish was weighed on a local flour mill scale and its outline sketched on the wall but no other measurements were taken. A replica was carved on a cherry plank but increased in size by one-third so it could be viewed “more natural” when mounted on a church spire’s weather vane.

The second “Devil Trout” was caught in 1916 by Dr. John William Cook on Ontario’s Nipigon River near the Lake Nipigon outflow. How it was weighed is uncertain but it measured 31 ½ inches in length and 11 ½ inches in half girth. The fish was split in two with half mounted on birch bark and the skin from the other sent to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto for confirmation that it was indeed a brook trout. The half mount was displayed in the Nipigon Museum under a sign that read OLD, DEAD FISH. The mount was lost when the museum was destroyed by fire in 1990.

Both stories have their controversies and alternate versions. There are several versions of the final fate of Webster’s fish: placed in a holding pound for later viewing, eaten by Webster and friends and others. Cook’s fish was reportedly caught by his Ojibway guide who borrowed his fly rod while Cook enjoyed another of his passions, sipping rum by the evening campfire.

Sadly, both waterways have succumbed to “modernization”. Although the East Connecticut, now known as Carmans River, still flows on Long Island, the pool where Webster caught his fish was destroyed by construction of a super highway. The Nipigon was a free-flowing river 30 plus miles to Lake Superior in Cook’s time but now is obstructed by numerous hydroelectric dams.

Almost 4 dozen common names are used for brook trout by Americans, English- and French-speaking Canadians, and various Indian and Inuit dialects. Karas is a trained ichthyologist and sets the record straight as to what a brook trout is with a complete biological description starting with its official taxonomy:

- Order: Salmoniformis (fish with soft-rayed fins)
- Family: Salmonidae (trout, salmon, and whitefish)
- Genus: Salvelinus (an old Germanic name for char)
- Subgenus: Baione (suggested subgenus)
- Species: Fontinalis (living in springs)



One chapter in Karas' book describes several subspecies and the description of their distinguishing characteristics. These subspecies could mate but, like cutthroat trout subspecies, cannot because of the physical separation of their habitats.

The book is full of factual information from early distribution of brook trout following glaciation through early European settlement to modern times and the reasons for loss of habitat. Manhattan Island, in the early 18th Century had brook trout in its rivers and is considered to be the birth place of brook trout fishing in America. We in West Virginia are certainly aware of the causes here. Unfortunately every part of the brook trout habitat, including Labrador, has suffered.

Even the appendices are worth reading. Appendix A gives a state by state listing of the original distribution in the United States. In West Virginia brook trout lived in every stream but, as we know, is now restricted to about 500 streams in seven eastern counties. We have two separate strains, originating on the eastern and the western slopes of the Appalachians.

Appendix B covers the introduction of brook trout to Midwest and Western States. In some, like Idaho, the brookie is considered an invasive species and anglers are required to kill every one they catch.

Subtitled "A Thorough Look at North America's Great Native Trout – Its History, Biology, and Angling Possibilities" Karas' book covers every aspect. The book is available from the Kanawha County Library but, if you are like me, you would want your own copy.

On a personal note, I came away with these two final thoughts

Webster's monster fish most likely was a sea-run trout known as a "Salter". Long Island was quite famous as a destination for them throughout the 19th Century but that habitat has also disappeared and for the most part so have the Salters. Even if large Salters were still there you couldn't pay me enough to fish on Long Island.

Although the Nipigon River is heavily dammed there is fishing at several points accessible by jet boat. What is missing is that the fish may no longer come up from Lake Superior and are much smaller than when Cook fished one hundred years ago. What are still present are the lake-run fish, spending summers there and coming up the tributaries (as far as they can) to spawn. These brook trout, known as "Coasters", are present at the Nipigon River confluence, as they are for quite a number of Great Lakes tribs. These are very appealing to me and are on my list to investigate.

Mike Gilzow



2017 Hunt Show ENCTU Gun Raffle

Henry Lever Action, Octagon Barrel, Open Rifle Sights

- **Caliber:** 22 magnum
- **Model:** Goldenboy
- **Finish:** Blue
- **Stock Frame/Grips:** Wood
- **Receiver:** Brasslite
- **Made in America**

Proceeds go to the **Ernie Nester Chapter of Trout Unlimited** supporting conservation, restoration, preservation and reconnection of coldwater streams

Provided by and Pickup Location:

Spring Hill Rod & Gun
4901 MacCorkle Ave SW
South Charleston, WV 25309
304-768-2090

Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by parent/guardian

\$1.00 per ticket

6 tickets for \$5

12 tickets for \$10

18 tickets for \$15

24 tickets for \$20

30 tickets for \$25

36 tickets for \$30

42 tickets for \$35

48 tickets for \$40

54 tickets for \$45

60 tickets for \$50

Winning ticket to be drawn at 5:00 PM January 22nd
(Need not be present to win)

Tying Your Own

When I first started fly fishing, I was startled to learn how fast I could go through money buying flies. On an average fishing trip I would lose three or four treasured favorites and that was discouraging.

I decided I had to learn how to tie my own flies, shortly after I joined Trout Unlimited. I signed up for a class taught by Jason Hodges. Although he was a really great instructor, it took me several months after I finished the class before I could tie a few types of flies of sufficient quality to stand up to heavy fishing. Using the fundamentals he taught us, it just took lots of practice. I am still an amateur compared to many ENCTU members, but I have fun tying.

I still remember the thrill of catching my first trout on a fly that I tied myself. It was a black wooly booger and the trout was caught in the Elk River.

Jason taught us that fly, a soft hackle fly, and a "Usual", among others. To this day, the "Usual" is my go to dry fly when trout are being picky. I first was drawn to it because it used the exotic fur from the foot of a snowshoe rabbit. After I started using it, I found it stayed dry much longer than others I used, without floatant.

This is due to the natural oils in the fur.

I have also found that when it becomes totally soaked, and sinks, I still catch trout with it. I discovered that one evening when it had become dark enough I really didn't want to continue to fish much longer. I left the Usual I had on the line alone when it went beneath the water. I think in that wet condition and in low light, it may appear to be similar to an egg pattern. I caught a 3 pound brown trout on it in that condition that evening. I have caught several since that time with a Usual in a similar condition.



One of my Usuals

If you haven't tried fly tying yet, give it a try. If I can do it, anyone can. You don't have to make a work of art to catch a trout, though some fly tyers do. We have great instructors in our chapter and classes will start early next year.

Harry Moran

ENCTU Trout Lines Newsletter
Harry E. Moran II – Editor
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ENCTU Awards Nominations

It is that time of the year again, that we make this announcement requesting your input of nominees for our chapter awards to be presented at our Annual Banquet in March. Many of you have been actively participating in outside events, working on projects and conducting other chapter work that deserve recognition.

*Please find on newsletter **Page 9** the **Nomination Form** to complete the fulfillment of your prospective award nominees. Submission of nominees can begin anytime. Deadline: December 8, 2016*

Submit your completed form/s to: Homer Sweeney or one of the Awards Committee members at their respective emails:

Charlie Krepps cmkrepps@suddenlink.net,

Sandy Latimer isljr@juno.com,

Tom Moody scpeebod@yahoo.com,

Jeff Nelsen jeffnelson@suddenlink.net,

Homer Sweeney tu166@suddenlink.net,

Jack Williams jackwilliams1@gmail.com,

Steve Young shy1wv@suddenlink.net

Mike Sayre Mike.Sayre@hotmail.com

Trout In The Classroom

It is getting close to “egg day” for Trout In The Classroom participants. Our over 20 schools will receive their trout eggs to place in their school tanks to start the yearly project. This is repeated each year near the last of October. Students and teachers watch over the hatching and raising of their trout in the schools to learn about water purity, biomass, the trout life cycle, water chemistry, and associated stream insects that trout feed on. In May, each year, the students stock their trout in local streams, with the help of TU volunteers.

The few volunteers that do all the work in this program are reaching retirement age and older. We need younger members to step forward to support one or two of these schools each. It is a great program and a lot of fun. It is mostly a support role, but an important one, especially for the future of trout and our streams in this state. The students learn important life lessons in this project too. The project also is a great tool in the teaching of math, science, and chemistry through practical application.

Please consider volunteering a little of your time to help our chapter and the students. If you want a trial run to check it out or want to volunteer, contact Homer Sweeney or Ralph Douglas to discuss it. (Homer Sweeney - tu166@suddenlink.net / Ralph Douglas - rdouglas38@suddenlink.net)



ENCTU AWARD NOMINATION FORM

9-1-2016

Your Name:

Date:

Nominee:

List Recommended Award:

List Reasons Why Nominee Should Receive Award:

Give nomination form to: **ENCTU Awards Team Chairman**

ENCTU AWARD NOMINATION FORM

9-1-2016

Your Name:

Date:

Nominee:

List Recommended Award:

List Reasons Why Nominee Should Receive Award:

Give nomination form to: **ENCTU Awards Team Chairman**



Scheduled Events

Membership meeting – South Charleston Library – October 11 at 7 PM

Board Meeting – South Charleston Library – October 25th at 6:30 PM

Guide To The Catch and Release Trout Streams Of West Virginia

Maps, Tips, Hatch Charts, & Lodging Info. \$10.00 Each

All proceeds benefit the Ernie Nester Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Call Jason Hodges 407-547-5446

Email: wvflyfishr@gmail.com

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