

# PAVMONOK

Vol. 36, # 4

December 2008

## T.U. PHILOSOPHY

We believe that trout and salmon fishing isn't just fishing for trout and salmon. It's fishing for sport rather than food, where the true enjoyment of the sport lies in the challenge, the lore, the battle of wits, not necessarily the full creel. It's the feeling of satisfaction that comes from limiting your kill instead of killing your limit. It's communing with nature where the chief reward is a refreshed body and a contented soul, where a license is a permit to use not abuse, to enjoy not destroy our cold water fishery. It's subscribing to the proposition that what's good for trout and salmon is good for the fisherman and that managing trout and salmon for themselves rather than the fisherman is fundamental to the solution of our trout and salmon problems. It's appreciating our fishery resource, respecting fellow anglers and giving serious thought to tomorrow.



Next meeting 7:30 PM

## WEDNESDAY Jan 21

Bob Jacklin presents:  
**Fishing in Yellowstone**

### President's Line



As I write this edition of the President's Line, I am sitting here and reminiscing about the year that has just past as well as others. I think about last year's casting clinics, the spring outing, the banquet, Ed Engle night, the yearly trip to

Montana, and a score of other, well intentioned and meaningful meetings and gatherings. But, I am also thinking forward to this new, upcoming year's festivities, outings and gatherings. I recall a famous writer saying that "Everything old is new and everything new is old" and say to myself, "Man, he nailed that one." It seems to me that although every year we have almost the same outings and activities, that each year, I await them with unabated anticipation. I await them like a kid on Christmas Eve because they all come about new and refreshed.

Let me take the Spring Outing for instance. Even though I have been to five or six in a row, it has **never** been the same thing twice! This past year Sean Gannon and I broke off for a few hours of some of the most peaceful, secluded, and challenging fishing I have ever done up there; not to mention our evening around the campfire that was the most entertaining yet! Although we have been to same area over and over, it is still new and exciting!

Don't forget the yearly pilgrimage some of us take to Montana in late July. I am already planning in my mind (OK, maybe not just in my mind Pete) the following year's itinerary as soon as we get back – if not while we are still there! Think about our "new" January meetings. How they used to be just a typical meeting on a cold winter night. Now, we are featuring well known, nationally recognized guest speakers such as Bob Jacklin along with first rate raffle prizes like the T & T rod and Ross reel we are offering as a grand prize this year!

To put it "in a nutshell," although we do repeat the same activities year after year and month after month, it is because of you, our membership, that I find each meeting, banquet, gathering and outing lively, new, and refreshed. It is because of you, the members, that we have the most prolific and active TU Chapter in the state, if not the nation. It is because of you, the members, that I unabashedly look forward to all of our activities and camaraderie.

In closing, I sincerely hope that each and everyone of you enjoyed your Christmas, Hanukkah, or whatever holiday you chose to celebrate at this wonderful time of year. I would also like to wish EVERYONE of you, our members, a safe, happy, prosperous, and above all, a healthy

New Year!

Best fishes, *Jay Mooney*

**NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** (for new members only)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

TU does not make email addresses available to outside parties, for any reason, ever. Please help us conserve resources by providing your email address.

Enclosed is my employer's matching gift form, plus this new membership application and payment.

SEND APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:



**TROUT UNLIMITED**  
 PO BOX 7400  
 WOOLLY BUGGER, WV 25438

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES\***

- Special New Member Rate (\$17.50)
- Senior (\$20)       Family/Contributor (\$50)
- Youth (\$20)       Sponsor (\$100)
- Regular (\$35)       Conservator (\$250)

For additional membership categories, please call 1-800-834-2419

**PAYMENT METHOD**

- Check       Visa     MC     AMEX     Discover
- Make checks payable to Trout Unlimited

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Canadian membership – please add \$5 per year, all other countries add \$20 per year. Membership contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

To ensure correct New Member Rebate, enter Chapter/Council #:

**L.I.T.U. OFFICERS**

- President:** Jay Mooney (516) 659 3202
- Vice President:** Peter Harris (631) 421 4876
- Secretary:** Rick Lewis (516) 286 6585
- Treasurer:** Tom LoProto (516) 385 8655
- Editor:** Tom McCoy (631) 327 1201
- Publisher:** Sol Harz (631) 581-8173
- Circulation:** Joe Odierna (631) 563-9492
- Membership:** Sol Harz (631) 581-8173

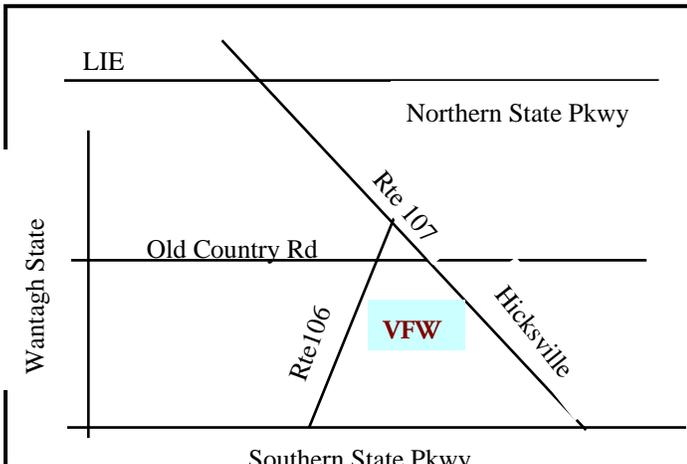
All articles remain the property of the writer and may not be reprinted without prior permission.

Jan 7	Directors Meeting, Ground Round, Levittown @ 7:30 PM <b>**1st WEDNESDAY**</b> *
Jan 21 Wednesday VFW Hall	<b>WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21</b> Featuring <b>Bob Jacklin</b> <b>Fishing in Yellowstone Country</b>
	<b>Special Raffles, Fly Tying and More!</b>
Jan 23 - 25	<b>Somerset Show</b> Discounted tickets available at the meeting
Feb 4	Directors Meeting, Ground Round, Levittown @ 7:30 PM <b>**1st WEDNESDAY**</b>
Feb 17	<b>General Meeting, 7:30 PM</b> Featuring <b>Mary Dette</b>
	Go to <b>www.LongIslandTU.org</b> for a more complete calendar And much more

**Paumonok**

Published monthly September through June by the Long Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Information, photos and articles on conservation and fishing are welcome. Please send material for publication, advertising inquiries and comments to the Editor:

Tom McCoy, 97 Eatons Neck Road, Northport, NY 11768  
 tfm97@optonline.net



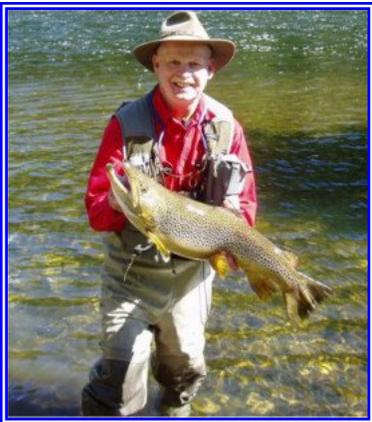
# Fishing in Yellowstone Country

An evening with Bob Jacklin  
Fly Fishing Guide, Fly Tyer and Author  
of West Yellowstone, Montana

**Wednesday, January 21, 2009 @ 7:30pm**

A Special Meeting of Long Island Trout Unlimited  
VFW Hall, 320 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

Bob will also be discussing  
landing his "*Fish of a Lifetime*"  
A 10 lb, 32" brown trout on the Madison river



**Bob Jacklin** has been a fly fishing guide and outfitter in the Yellowstone region for over 36 years and has a full service Fly Fishing Shop in West Yellowstone. He is a world-class fly fisherman, fly tyer, and fly casting instructor. There are few people in the country with as much in-depth knowledge of fly fishing, fly casting, and fly tying as Bob Jacklin. He is a charter member of the Federation of Fly Fishers, holds a Masters Certification as a fly casting instructor and sits on the Fly Fishing Federation's Board of Governors for fly casting instructions. He has been tying flies commercially for over 45 years. In the mid 1960's Bob tied flies with the Southern New York Fish and Game Association every year during the New York Sportsman's Show. Bob still appears at many of the International Sportsmen's Expositions and Fly-Fishing Shows as well as regional programs with the FFF and Trout Unlimited, where he enjoys tying and sharing his wealth of knowledge with others. In 2000, Mr. Jacklin was the recipient of the Federation of Fly Fishers' Buz Buszek Memorial Fly-tying award for his many contributions to the art of fly tying. And on October 23, 2004, at the

Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, Bob Jacklin was inducted into the very prestigious "Fly Fishing Hall of Fame". Bob is also on the pro-staff for St. Croix Rods, Ross Reels, and Cortland Lines.

*GET THERE EARLY! Beginning at 7PM Bob will also be conducting a tying demonstration prior to the meeting and will have his books available for autographing.*

Win a Thomas & Thomas Fly Rod,  
a Ross Reel, or  
Baskets of Freshwater or Saltwater Fly tying material

For more information check the web site [www.longislandTU.org](http://www.longislandTU.org) or call Jay Mooney @ 516-221-5599

Members and Non-members welcome!

[www.LongIslandTU.org](http://www.LongIslandTU.org)

## Know a kid age 12 to 17?

### Apply for a Scholarship to DEC Summer Camp

The Chapter is looking for applicants for the Henry Prussen Jr. Scholarship for Young Adults, 12 to 17 years old, to attend the NYS DEC Environmental Education Summer Camps next summer. As of press time the dates for the summer of 2009 have not been made public but you can explore the DEC's website <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/education/edcamps.html> for more information. If you have a worthy candidate please call Bob Lutz (631) 643-4709 or see him at the meeting. The applications must be submitted by early February so get your applicant's name in as soon as possible.

## Banquet Donation Time

How about providing (or soliciting) one or more of these items? All donations will be acknowledged and all donors will receive **15 free Bucket Raffle Tickets!** It's a great way to support TU and the trout!

New or Slightly Used Fishing Tackle (No Garage Sale Items) • Hand Tied Flies • Original Art or Prints • Craft Items • Gift Certificates from: American Express, Simon Mall, Orvis, L.L. Bean, Cabela's, Fly Shop, Car Detail, Full Service Oil Change • Professional Sports Events Tickets • Sports Memorabilia • Theatre Tickets • 1 or 2 nights at a Hotel or a B & B • Electronics such as: Flat Screen Television, DVD/VCR Player, CD/Tape Player, AM/FM Radio, Phones, Microwave Oven, Cappuccino/Esspresso Machine • Power Tools • Restaurant Certificates (Buy one and ask the Restaurant to match the donation) • Lotto Scratch Cards • Bottles of Wine and Liquor • Case of Beer with Cooler • Spa or Salon Gift Certificates for Massage, Nails, Waxing • Luggage • Gift Baskets: of your own choosing and inspiration • Jewelry • Men's or Ladies' Watch • OR ANYTHING YOU THINK WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS, THEIR SPOUSES, FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

### This is our annual fund raiser so please chip in!

If you see one of these you'd like to donate, please call before someone else does: **Peter Dubno** (516 764-0412) or **Boyd Shockley** (516 433-3968)

LITU Annual Banquet  
April 3, 2009

## RED GOLD

### FEATURED AT LINCOLN CENTER JANUARY 6th

The Film Society of Lincoln Center presents an Alaskan take on David and Goliath as its year-round Green Screens and Independents Night programs present the award-winning documentary "Red Gold" at the Walter Reade Theater, Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 6:30 p.m. A post-screening conversation between directors Ben Knight and Travis Rummel, co-producer and Trout Unlimited conservationist Lauren Oakes, and Film Society curator Marian Masone will tackle the issues of watershed conservation and the impact of big business on the environment, followed by a reception. For more information go to:

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

## WANTED

Looking for someone who loves LITU and can spend a few hours a month on their PC putting the newsletter together. Software and templates are provided as well as plenty of coaching and assistance. If interested please email the editor at: [tfm97@optonline.net](mailto:tfm97@optonline.net)

## LONG ISLAND'S FLYFISHING SHOP SALT & FRESHWATER *All Major Brands*

**Able Reels - Bauer - Scott Flyrods  
Tibor/Pate - G. Loomis - Sage  
St. Croix - S. A. Mastery - Lamson - Rio  
Simms - Airflo - Whiting**



"We can outfit you for trips from Montauk to Mongolia."

Richard Siberry  
**The Camp-Site Sports Shop**  
1877 New York Ave.  
Huntington Station, NY 11746.  
Tel 631-271-4969

# Dec Meeting

It was the usual food-fest and good cheer with Bob Lutz, our immediate past president, receiving the traditional plaque for his 2 years of service as our leader (and many more as a member and board person). He also somehow managed to continue another tradition - that of the past president winning the Holiday Rod Raffle - a 9wt travel rod - go get 'em Bobby! Next month—Wednesday Jan 21st - Bob Jacklin followed by Mary Dette in February! Don't miss 'em! **Don't forget to bring old fishing mags and other stuff for the VFW's goodie bags.**

# ORVIS®

*A Sporting Tradition*

Since 1856

- Complete Fly-Fishing & Wingshooting Outfitters
- Classic Country Fashions For Men & Women
- Rugged Outdoor Wear
- Distinctive Gifts for the Country Home

*Call for information on our schools and free seminars*

50 Glen Cove Road, Greenvale, NY 11548 (516) 484-1860  
Open daily 10 - 7, Thursday 10 - 8, Saturday 10 - 6, Sunday 11 - 5

## Help for Dangling Leader Material

by Peter Dubno

I usually carry six or seven spools of leader material with me on stream either in my vest or my fanny pack. I mean, you never know when you might have to rebuild a leader starting with 1x or add a piece of 7x tippet to deceive that wary trout that's driving you crazy with one rise after another as he just laughs at your offering. My favorite dry fly tippet is 5x because it's as thin so as to be near invisible and yet strong enough to land a big fish on the Beaverkill. It also casts pretty much the way I like.

I also like to keep my leaders spools either pressed together as multiple spools side by side, in my vest or on a special leader tender that keeps them together but on a loop system that can be clipped to my fanny pack or vest. No matter how you carry your leaders, their tag ends seem to come undone and hang out their proper vest or fanny pack pocket. They also tangle sometimes in my clipper or dingle-dangles on my vest. And then when I switch from vest to fanny pack (they contain their own complement of leader material) I find I always have to check the label to see which is which thickness.

I think I've come up with a pretty good solution to these problems. There is a product on the market called SCRUNCI which girls and women use to tie back their hair instead of rubber bands. They are cloth covered elastic bands, (us guys might call them bungis) and they come in various colors. They fit perfectly over our tippet material spools and hold those tag ends in place where we need them. The brightly colored bands can easily marked with dots from a Sharpie marker to signify the tippet size. 6 dots for 6X, 5 dots for 5X, and so on. I "borrowed" a few from my wife and they work great. Now that's a nice solution to a "hairy" problem.

POWERS & MARSHALL ASSOCIATES INC.

THEODORE J. POWERS, MAI, CRE  
REAL ESTATE ANALYSTS AND CONSULTANTS

190 Willis Avenue • Mineola, New York 11501 • (516) 248-5511  
521 Fifth Avenue • New York, New York 10175 • (212) 682-2040  
Fax: (516) 248-5626 • E-Mail: pm190@aol.com

## Meet our Members

An interview with Tom LoProto - A board member, LITU's Treasurer and the guy who sells all those raffle tickets at every meeting.

**Ed:** When did you first start fishing and how did you catch your first fish?

**TL:** My dad took me to Canarsie Pier off of the Belt Parkway in Brooklyn when I was 6 years old. I used my grandfather's cane pole, red and white bobber, and some spearing (frozen). My dad got me setup and then he sat in his car not more than 20 feet away reading the Sunday paper, having his morning coffee, frequently snacking on some items from the bakery, and periodically dozing off. I managed to land a few snappers. I often wonder how that one particular incident managed to stay with me all these years.

**Ed:** How did you get involved with catching trout?

**TL:** I was working in NYC and one day happened to stop in the Orvis store. I picked up a few magazines and brochures. One of the brochures was for a guide named Ray Ottolich. I called him up, booked a lesson, spent a day with him on the Rondout River; we fished a little, talked a little, fished a little more.

**Ed:** When did you join TU and how did you get involved in the chapter? What offices have you held?

**TL:** While fishing with Ray, he mentioned an organization that he was a member of, Trout Unlimited. I did a little research, found out about the chapter in Nassau County, and joined TU. This was in the year 2000. I started attending the monthly meetings, made a few friends, and was eventually asked to serve on the Board of Directors. I was asked to be Treasurer, a position I still hold today. Aside from the duties of Treasurer, I really look forward and enjoy working on the Banquet Committee. The planning for the Banquet starts 6-7 months prior to the night of the actual banquet. That planning always pays off, as the banquet runs without a hitch.

**Ed:** What is it that keeps you coming back to TU?

**TL:** Most importantly, it is feeling good about making a difference in preserving our rivers. Equally as important is the fact that in the past 2-3 years, I've made 40-50 new friends. Trout Unlimited, both local and national, draws a certain type of individual. You can almost stereotype that individual. They're caring, passionate, patient, appreciative, friendly, honest, loyal, and giving. Who wouldn't want to be associated with an organization like ours? When you think about it, anyone who cares about saving a trout must be a special person.

**Ed:** What is your fondest fishing memory?

**TL:** My dad took me fishing my very first time when I was 6 years old and as I told you, *he sat, watched, and felt good that I was having a good time.* The second time I fished with my dad, which unfortunately turned out to be our last time, was 40 years later. I invited him to join me on a float trip down the West Branch of the Delaware. *He sat, watched, and felt good that I was having a good time.* Some things never change.

**Ed:** What is it about fishing you love so much?

**TL:** The planning, the imagining, the whole aura of flyfishing is what keeps me coming back for more. Sometimes fishing on a small stream, the quiet, the solitude, under a canopy of trees, the sun peeking through, and then seeing a rise. At that moment in time it's as if nothing else matters.

**Ed:** Your favorite stream?

**TL:** It depends. When I want to find solitude, it is definitely Willowemoc Creek. It is intimate, challenging, and scenic. When I want big and sprawling, rough and wild fishing, it is the Madison River in Montana. When I want to do a float, nothing compares to the West Branch of the Delaware. But if I had to pick one, it would be the West Branch of the Delaware. The West Branch is scenic, challenging, and full of the unexpected; one minute an eagle is soaring overhead, the next minute you are focusing on a rise a few hundred yards away, and other times you can find yourself just staring at the presence of the river.

**Ed:** Your favorite Fly?

**TL:** I caught my first trout on a Tan Elkwing Caddis, so I have a loyalty to that fly; besides it's very easy for me to follow on the water. However I also get a charge when throwing streamers from a drift boat, and watching a huge brown dart upwards from the rocks and follow (and sometimes take) my fly.

**Ed:** Most memorable fish?

**TL:** The last one I caught and the next one I am thinking about catching.

**Ed:** Advice for new TU'ers?

**TL:** Join a committee in our chapter, do a cleanup, become a member of the board. Before long you'll have new friends, you will look at things very differently, you will have a greater appreciation for fly fishing, and you'll feel like you are making a small difference.



Tom with a West Branch Brown

# Fly of the Month



## Caddis Emerger

*By Richard Haimes of Art Flick TU, submitted by Tony Jones*

A rather simple fly to tie that has excellent results when fished either alone or as a dropper to a Caddis dry fly, is the emerging Caddis. It

resembles the soft hackle flies of Sylvester Nemes.

### *Fly Tying Directions:*

*Lacquer hook and wrap, tying thread from eye of hook past bend of shank so that a definite curve of the body is visible.*

*Dub appropriate colored fur and taper body from beyond bend to approximately the length of the hooks shank.*

*Tie in Partridge feather and either wrap or beard barbules so they extend slightly beyond the bend of the hook.*

*Whip finish and apply lacquer the head.*

*Hook: Tiemco TMC 2487BL (barb-less) hooks sizes 12-18*

*Tying thread: Olive, Black or Brown*

*Body: Olive, Dark Grey or Reddish brown dubbing*

*Hackle: Hungarian Partridge*

## Sore Feet Relief for Waders

By Peter Dubno  
On a recent trip to Montana where I was in my wading boots day in and day out for 2 weeks straight, I noticed that the soles of my feet at night got pretty sore. I do realize that I wade into some pretty hairy spots and a bumble around the rocks and boulders a lot but for some reason my soles never quite felt this sore. When I got home I disinfected my boots by dipping them in a 10% bleach solution (I have a big plastic tub that was once used for storing shoes under a bed) and let them dry outside in the sun. When dry, I started to carry them inside my house when one of the boots dropped from my hand and some sand came out. Upon some further tapping of my boot along side the garbage pail I notice more sand and a few small pebbles came out. The more I tapped the more sand and pebbles, though the amount slowed. So I dug a little deeper into why my boots collected and held so much debris. I took out the removable innersoles of the boots and even more sand and pebbles came out. Then I inspected my innersoles. Which in my boot's case (LL Bean's) were perforated so that water would not create as much suction when my foot moved in the boot. I held the inner sole up to the light and Lo and Behold, each perforation contained a tiny pebble. Inside my boot I was walking on trapped tiny pebbles and not the comfy innersole foam I thought would cushion my steps. I took a toothpick and pushed out the tiny pebbles onto a piece of white paper and I was quite surprised to see the amount and size of the pebbles my inner-sole had collected. No wonder my feet were sore. The remaining trapped sand and pebbles came easily tumbling out of my boots. I easily re-placed the innersoles inside my boots. They are now a comfy as new. Now I check my boots after a few wearing to insure those innersoles have not collected pebbles. Now that's relief.



## Please Patronize Our Friends and Supporters

**Bob's Canoe Rentals** on the Nissequogue - (631) 269 9761 - [www.canoerentalslongisland.com](http://www.canoerentalslongisland.com)  
**Bradley Custom Fly Reels** - [www.firbrookflies.com](http://www.firbrookflies.com), (845) 439 4046, Rich & Barb Bradley  
**Capt. Brett Greco** - Fly Fishing Guide MT & FL, [www.grecosonthefly.com](http://www.grecosonthefly.com), (406) 640 2627  
**Capt. Eric Lund** - Islamorada flats fishing - [ewlund@hotmail.com](mailto:ewlund@hotmail.com) - 305 393 0663  
**Camp-Site Sport Shop** - [campsite1@aol.com](mailto:campsite1@aol.com), (631) 271 4969, Richard Siberry  
**Charles Neuner** - Fine Hand Crafted Split Bamboo Fly Rods, (631) 598 3863  
**Cross Current Guide Svc.** - Joe Demalderis - Orvis Endorsed [www.crosscurrentguideservice.com](http://www.crosscurrentguideservice.com)  
**Delaware River Club** - [www.mayfly.com](http://www.mayfly.com); (570) 635 5897  
**Fins to Feathers Ltd.** Taxidermy - (516) 847 0087, Rich  
**Glacier Bay Sports** - Kayak Rental - Northport (631) 262 9116  
**Hooks & Brooks Guide Service** - [www.ny-fishingguide.com](http://www.ny-fishingguide.com), (631) 589 0065, Mark Malenovsky  
**Northwoods Rods** - (516) 221 5599, Jay Mooney - Peter Harris - Making bamboo...affordable  
**Long Island Flyrodders** - Meet 1st Tuesday @ VFW 55 Hickory Lane, Levittown @ 7:30, [www.lifr.org](http://www.lifr.org)  
**Massage Therapy** - (631) 585 4855, Jane Ferlise  
**Northport Rod and Reel** - (631) 368 7335 - Bait, tackle & friendly advice - Dave Flanagan  
**Orvis Greenvale** - [www.orvis.com/intro.asp?subject=546](http://www.orvis.com/intro.asp?subject=546), (516) 484 1860, Dean Santilas  
**Powers & Marshall** - Real Estate Analysts & Consultants, (516) 248 5511, Ted Powers  
**RiverBay Flyfishing Outfitters** - [www.riverbayflyfishing.com](http://www.riverbayflyfishing.com), (631) 842 2880  
**Sawdust & Stitches** - shadow boxes, art and more - <http://www.sawdust-stitches.com> (717) 774 3893  
**West Branch Anglers Resort**— [www.westbranchresort.com](http://www.westbranchresort.com); (607) 467 5525

# Pawmonok

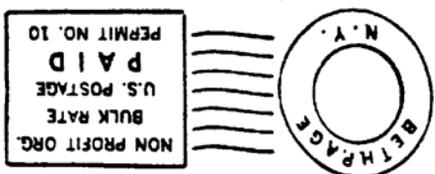
Published by the Long Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Tom McCoy, Editor  
97 Eatons Neck Rd  
Northport, NY 11768

## Dec 2008

Join Trout Unlimited - Help Preserve Our Cold Water Fisheries  
Membership Application on Page 7.

DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER  
PROMPTLY



WEDNESDAY 1/21, at 7:30 PM

## Fishing Yellowstone Country

Presented by

**Bob Jacklin**

Come early for fly tying

Email Subscribers - See page 9 - 11 for:

Fishing report from the Cattaraugus  
and Montauk

Monthly Meetings  
On the 3rd  
Tuesday  
At 7:30 PM

Hicksville VFW  
Hall  
320 So. Broadway,  
Hicksville, NY  
January Only  
On WEDNESDAY  
1/21

# The Fishing Report

**Cattaraugus Creek**, Western New York, the season is fall, the hour is early; and LITU Vice President Pete Harris can't get the smile off his face!

This steelhead was caught on a section of Cattaraugus Creek on the Seneca Indian Reservation on 11/3/08 on an egg pattern not long after daylight, making for a great beginning of that day on the water. Nothing like fighting a big, beautiful steelhead to get the blood flowing! I was with the Long Island Flyrodders fishing the "Cat" and Oak Orchard Creek, a tributary of Lake Ontario along with Howie Solomon, Mike Gelber, and Dave Minassian, who did a wonderful job of planning the trip. The steelhead fishing on the Cat was assisted by Reelaction Guides. The weather in the Buffalo area was beautiful for that time of the year as the picture indicates. We were very lucky as they got a ton of snow about a week later.



## Montauk Adventure by Tom McCoy

Montauk in October is supposed to be nirvana but I had an opportunity to buddy up with a friend who had a reservation on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The guide assured him it would be a great time to go, as long as the hurricanes stayed away. (Last year we tried to go and ended up heading back to bed after an early morning call to our cell phone that the seas were unfishable due to storms. That day Paul Lehmann made this reservation, a year ago. Guides, the good ones, tend to be booked in this season.)

And so on a September Tuesday I was up at 3 AM and headed out East to meet Paul and Robin (as in Batman and...), the guide, at the West Lake Town Ramp. I pulled into town at 5:45 and Mr. John's Pancakes wasn't even stirring yet. I went to the deli across from Gosman's dock that always caters to fisherman and other early risers and got some breakfast. Before I could wolf down my egg sandwich the cell phone rang and it was Paul. He was at the Exxon in town.

We arrived at the dock followed shortly by Robin and his 25' Scout, a center console with a 225 Yamaha four stroke – amazing how quiet it ran. He said he can leave it on as he approaches a school of fish without disturbing them. With wind out of the northeast and a 6 foot swell predicted, I was thinking he won't have to worry about sneaking up on any schools today. Temperatures were forecasted to be in the high 60's but I dressed warm none the less knowing the ocean can be cool – and wet – regardless of the air. Long-johns, fishing shirt, thermal vest, sweat shirt all covered by my rain jacket. I had a cut off pair of boot foot waders with my yellow and blue fishing boots from E&B Marine – are they still around? I figured I could shed items as the day warmed but as we headed back in at 4 that afternoon, I had taken nothing off.



We headed out of the inlet and immediately hit nasty swells - sloppy as the wind came from east north east and the tide was running from the south. The boat had a Vee up front but was flat bottomed toward the stern which made for some jarring pounding. As we got out by the lighthouse it was worse and I was wondering how the hell we were going to fish this slop. As we came around the point toward Turtle Bay, we were in the lee of the wind a bit and it seemed to settle down.

I brought my 9 foot 9 wt. rod with an intermediate sinking line. Paul brought two, one similar to mine and one with a sinking line. That one never left the holster. Robin also had some spinning outfits in case we couldn't handle the fly lines in the wind and sea as well as his own assortment of fly rods. The boat was not big in any sense. The fore deck was three tiered so that, were it a quiet day on the back bay, one could step up to the bow and fish like they do in the Keys. Today no one was going up there. In fact it was damn hard to just keep your balance in the pit of the bow section, falling to the seat or my knees more often than standing up straight. The gunnels were also not ideal for leaning and fishing, especially when trying to attract an Albie as you need to tuck the rod under your arm and strip in with both hands, one after the other, to keep the fly moving. This was almost impossible to do without falling. Meanwhile the fly line is all over the deck and as we rocked, I continually was stepping on it or leaning against the gunnels with the line in between. The aft section was no better except if you positioned yourself in the corner you could lean into the back of the helm bench and brace each foot, one on the stern and the other either port or starboard, depending on which side you were fishing. This was as good as it got.

The technique out here is simple: cast, even a modest cast will do as long as it is straight. Then, and this is important, point the rod tip toward the fly followed by the stripping. If you don't point it, the strip merely moves the tip and not the fly. I thought Robin was going to clock me one until I finally got it. The wind was usually positioned so that we could cast with it. When it was in our face, because a school suddenly came up on the opposite side, even a cast well loaded and aimed often fell in a pile of loops along side the boat. Rather than trying to figure out the "into the wind" cast, I just went with it and passed up the windward fish. Luckily for us, there were plenty on both sides most of the time.



We get settled off Turtle Bay and can see all the surfcasters along the beach and the school of Albies well out of their reach, with thousands of birds working over them. My first cast was successful – in hooking a seagull. They were so thick it was inevitable. My next cast went well enough but I was having difficulty with the stripping. First of all the boat was in a tidal drift so even if I pointed my tip toward the fly it wasn't long before the line was at right angles to the tip. Paul hooked up first and the fish tore off line and went immediately into his backing. I went to pull my line in so he could work his fish and in so doing hooked up as well. It was the same drill – line flying off the huge reel with knuckles being bashed by the spinning handle and into my backing. Paul brought his to the boat as I continued to fight mine. Keep in mind this is a fly rod with a fine tapered tip and no butt section to speak of. The fish has all the leverage. He finally tired out enough so I could bring him to the boat and a fine Albie he was! The three of us were laughing and slapping each other and going on how unbelievable it was, first few casts and two terrific fish. There are days when that just don't happen, as you well know.

As we celebrated, the pod moved toward the beach and the surf casters – and the rocks and breaking waves; did I mention the 6 foot swell? We reset ourselves and went in after them. Robin had to nose the boat into the waves to prevent being side swiped and we had to deal with the wind. We hooked up and then they moved back out side again.

We hooked, lost and landed a bunch more when suddenly there was this red hew to the water – Bass! There were hundreds of them of all sizes smashing this little bait fish about an inch and a half long. The first one in was small, maybe 26 inches. The rest were bigger with the largest of the day being one I caught using a different technique. Instead of stripping the fly in, I just let it settle in the midst of the pod and then twitched it once it sank and BAM! He was 34 inches and 16 pounds.

There were blue fish mixed in as well and Robin kept saying "Fish to the ones with the stripes." (No kidding, Sherlock – but how?) The blues would grab the fly and because they were tied with circle hooks which lodged in the edge of their mouth, the line didn't break off, at least not right away. Big blues, powerful; running off the reel and fighting like you know they can. I must have lost 10 or 15 flies to the blues.

You know how a blue can look like a torpedo shooting through a school of bunker? Maybe the surge creates a splashy wake 4 -5 feet long? Well we saw something do that only it created a torpedo like wake of about 50 feet long! Robin said it was probably a blue fin tuna.

I don't know how many fish we hooked and boated but there were more than we could physically handle. At one point Paul and I were sitting just looking at all these fish surrounding the boat. My legs and knees were banged up, muscles sore, my hands raw from all the stripping and slamming and reeling; in fact almost a week later they were still sore. The seas were tremendous – thrilling. It felt so good to be alive out there. I never gave a thought to the danger involved. It was exhilarating. Robin later mentioned that about three boats a year are capsized in surf like this.

Robin had promised a full day meaning until dark (6 PM) and we had left the dock about 6:45 AM. At three PM we headed for Shagwam (north side of the light) and the seas were still sloppy but smaller. There were birds working a spread out school and we edged the boat to the front of it. Two casts and we had to move again. I was determined to get a hook up and worked my butt off to do so losing two hits due to adrenaline – tugging too hard to set the hook. Finally I had one on and he gave us a good run but turned out to be another blue. We then headed for the back side of the jetty that protects the inlet to do some calm water casting. Paul and I looked at each other and told Robin just to head in – we had had the day of our lives and it was time to go.

*Here is Robin's email for those interested: [csicAgain@hotmail.com](mailto:csicAgain@hotmail.com)*

