



# *Connecting Currents*

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The Mohawk Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter Newsletter    Edition: 2025-1

Mohawk Valley Trout Unlimited, Whitesboro, NY

<https://mohawkvalleytu.org>

[mohawkvalleytu@gmail.com](mailto:mohawkvalleytu@gmail.com)

**Monthly Meetings, 6:30 PM 2nd Wednesday of each month (September to May) NY Mills Community Center (confirm location on website or Facebook)**

MVTU Facebook page

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## *Upcoming Meeting Speakers and Topics*

**January 15 6:30 PM - 69 Steakhouse**

**409 Oriskany Blvd, Whitesboro**

**Fly Tying and Swap - Come out and tie some flies, share some stories and extra material, and have a beer. Welcome to non-members and especially beginners.**

February 12 - Outdoor writer Rob Streeter

March 12 - DEC Region 6 update

April 9 - Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust at HCCC (Herkimer)



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## ***Upcoming Events***

### **CNY Fly Tying Symposium and Outdoor Celebration**

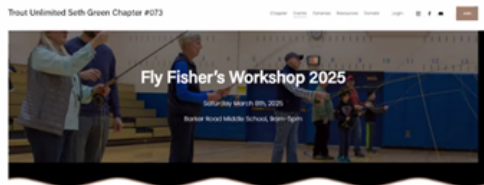
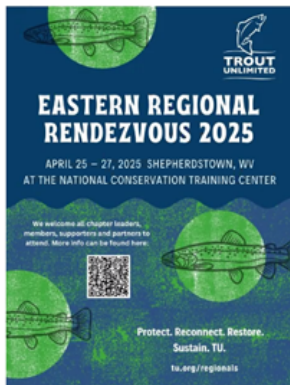
Date: Sunday March 23

Location: Harts Hill Inn, 135 Clinton St., Whitesboro, NY



Fund Raising Goal - \$3000 for 3 more Trout In the Classroom Kits  
 Raffles: \$5 per ticket. Drawing during CNY Fly Tying Symposium.  
 Top prize: Canoe. And Bucket Raffle for other prizes too!

## New York State Events Calendar



**March 8, 2025** - Seth Green Chapter **Fly Fisher's Workshop**. 8 AM to 5 PM, Rochester, NY

**March 23, 2025** - **CNY Fly Tying Symposium**. 11am - Whitesboro, NY

**April 25-27, 2025** - **TU Eastern Rendezvous** Shepherdstown, WV



## Presidents Message

Welcome to our 1st edition of Connecting Currents, the official newsletter of the Mohawk Valley NY Chapter of Trout Unlimited!

It has been a dream of mine for many years that an informational message be available to our members, as well as the general public, in order to keep them abreast of how involved we are in the local conservation community. Now, thanks to a dedicated group of Chapter Directors and Officers of the Mohawk Valley Chapter, it is a reality. We hope you will follow us on Facebook and our Website as well to stay informed about our Chapter's happenings. Many people are not aware of the impact that Trout Unlimited has in protecting our national streams, wetlands, along with the creatures and fishes that inhabit them. The well-being of these waterways and wetlands has a direct impact on our well-being as humans, and they need to be protected. You will find that we are very passionate about this!

In reading this, you will see the many areas of our involvement with the community, state, and national government that we employ to help spread the message that our natural resources need to be protected, but yet enjoyed. You may find interest in helping in some of the areas that we are involved in, so don't hesitate to contact us to volunteer with our programs. Whatever you do as a job or hobby can be of use in one or more of our programs, so volunteer! There are many knowledgeable and talented people that can help us protect what we love now and for future generations. We are all in this together. Better yet, become a member of Trout Unlimited and learn more of what the organization does to limit the damage to our precious national resources.

We hope you enjoy reading Connecting Currents as much as we are pleased to bring it to you. Be well and contact us if we can be of any service to you, or if you need additional information.

Ken Ziobro

President, Mohawk Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited #112

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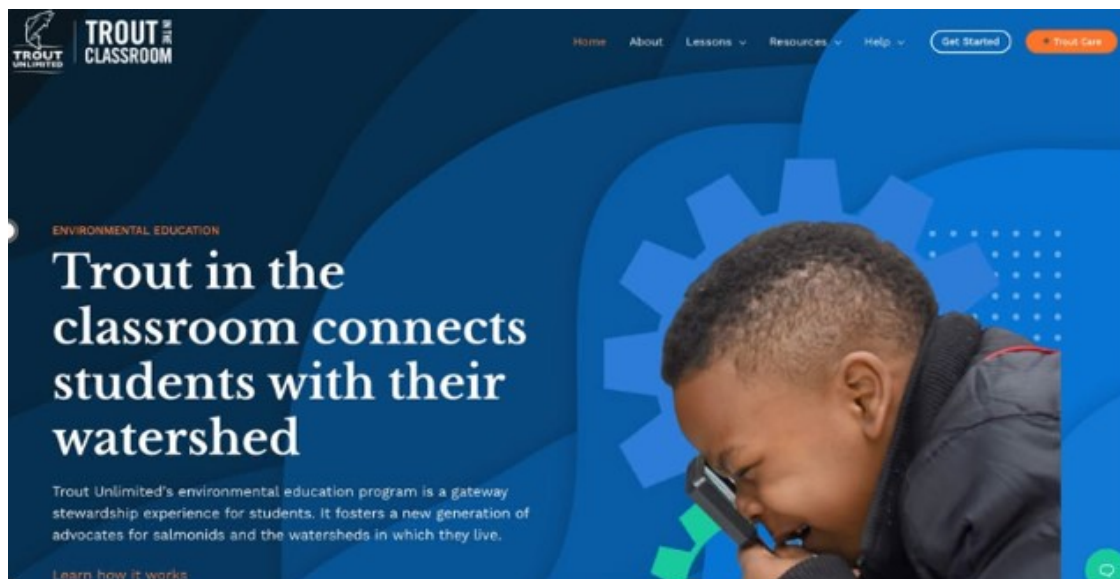
## ***Education***

### **Trout in the Classroom**

Over the years, Gary Bartell, with the excellent contributions from OHM BOCES and SUNY Morrisville, has been making great strides in the resurgence of our local Trout in the Classroom programs. We currently have 22 classes in the region either active or pending. A new team of volunteers, led by Gary, has been formed to help grow the local TIC initiative. To learn more about how you can help or if you know a teacher interested in participating, please contact Gary or email [mohawkvalleytu@gmail.com](mailto:mohawkvalleytu@gmail.com)

## Conservation in the Classroom

In 2024 Jordan Ross initiated a new effort for elementary age kids stream side education. The program takes a class of 3rd, 4th or 5th graders to tiny waterways adjacent to schools and lets them experience the aquatic wildlife found there. With magnifying field tools for examining local insects and fauna, the kid's enthusiasm for learning about stream habitat is greatly enhanced. We hope to increase the number of classes in the spring of 2025. Let Jordan know if you can help or know of an interested teacher.





Student measuring trout at SUNY Morrisville



Showing students stream insects

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## ***Conservation***

### **South Inlet Revival Film Released November 2024**

Trout Power is proud to share with you all, South Inlet Revival.



Transport yourself to the woods of the Adirondacks, in an area near and dear to Trout Power and Trout Unlimited. Feel the importance and depth that surrounds the conversations of brook trout conservation, and the challenges the native brook trout of the Adirondacks have overcome and will continue to face in an uncertain future.

Included as part of a collaboration between Trout Power, [JP Ross Fly Rods](#), [Native Fish Coalition](#), and Trout Unlimited, is a great panel discussion of experts on the topic of brook trout conservation.

A special thank you to the film's faithful director, and founder of Trout Power, Jordan Ross for his dedication to South Inlet Revival!

Now streaming on PBS WCNY link to the film below.

[https://video.wcny.org/video/south-inlet-revival-5xypa5/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR0qQlcLe3iq5P4cPwVdw7YcH5wclX2-YlmFuHeLrSYwWAfpBFDtTj1Fms\\_aem\\_i1\\_RjLmsur0D5EqtFnmIA](https://video.wcny.org/video/south-inlet-revival-5xypa5/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR0qQlcLe3iq5P4cPwVdw7YcH5wclX2-YlmFuHeLrSYwWAfpBFDtTj1Fms_aem_i1_RjLmsur0D5EqtFnmIA)



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**Priority Waters - South Moose River**

National and State TU and the DEC through the Priority Waters initiative have recently identified two Region 6 streams as Priority Waters for native brook trout. One in the Tug Hill Plateau and the other in the Adirondacks.

The South Fork of the Moose River is a pristine remote stream in an ecologically sensitive area south of Old Forge. DEC and TU have selected this watershed to improve its habitat by eliminating all the culverts that prevent the natural movement of trout. Many old logging culverts in the area that are not near roads will need to be removed. This important project will hopefully demonstrate the positive impact of reconnecting sections of streams to restore native Adirondack native brook trout habitat.



Our chapter members can help make this regional project successful in three ways:

- 1) Spread the Word - about the good work that our state and national TU and NYSDEC are doing in our local region to friends and neighbors who visit the Old Forge region of the Adirondacks and appreciate the value of preserving native ecosystems.
- 2) Volunteer to help with the difficult work ahead when requested. It may involve removing culverts and restoring habitat. Many of the work areas cannot be reached by construction vehicles.
- 2) Contribute to support this effort by donating to the TU Priority Waters project



## **West Canada Creek FERC Relicense**

The Final Environmental Assessment for the FERC Hydropower License for West Canada Creek has been released – see link below to learn how the new FERC rules will impact stream flows.

[https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession\\_num=20241031-3008](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_num=20241031-3008)



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## **Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission**

As many have heard, an important watershed in our region, the Oriskany Creek, has become a target for our local municipalities to enhance the infrastructure in order to combat flooding, manage storm water, enhance recreation, land use, and development.

The Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission is holding meetings/information sessions in the upcoming months, and we encourage everyone to join these sessions if they can. Our TU membership and local community are our strongest advocates for our freshwater fisheries, and it will be pivotal to advocate for the protection of this important watershed.

Link to the full Oriskany Creek Watershed Sediment & Debris Management Study pdf file below

[https://oneidacountyny.gov/assets/Planning/Oriskany\\_Creek\\_Watershed\\_Sediment\\_Debris\\_Mgmt\\_Study\\_-\\_Final\\_for\\_Release.pdf](https://oneidacountyny.gov/assets/Planning/Oriskany_Creek_Watershed_Sediment_Debris_Mgmt_Study_-_Final_for_Release.pdf)



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## **Sauquoit Creek Clear Cutting for Solar Farms**

Over the past year there has been two attempts to clear cut forest on upper reaches of Mud Creek (a Class A trout stream tributary of Sauquoit Creek). The first in the town of Kirkland proposed clear cutting approximately 60 acres for prime forest adjacent to the stream. The Town of Kirkland Planning Board wisely determined that a full environmental impact assessment was required from the initial SEQR. The status of this project is uncertain.

However, the same developer has proposed another solar project in the heart of the forest less than a mile from the Kirkland project on land adjacent to Sherrill Brook Park. This proposal for this project is also to clear cut another 60 acres of forest on two tributaries of Sauquoit Creek. This project is currently waiting for the formal application from the developer to the New Hartford Planning Board.

Hopefully the Town of New Hartford will recognize the importance of preservation of forests to habitat protection, trout survival and storm water drainage on this watershed that also affects many residents and businesses in New Hartford and Whitesboro. Sauquoit Creek has suffered through many years of uncontrolled development. Is it time to say enough? Member input to the New Hartford Planning Board may help restrict this potential development project.

Upper Sauquoit Creek Flood Study Final Report link below

<https://oneidacountyny.gov/assets/Planning/SauquoitCreekBasin/Maps-Documents/Upper-Sauquoit-Creek-Flood-Study-FINAL-Report-6-13-23.pdf>



Potential Clear Cutting Projects west of Sherrill Brook Park in Sauquoit Creek Basin



## State – Drought affecting New York State waters

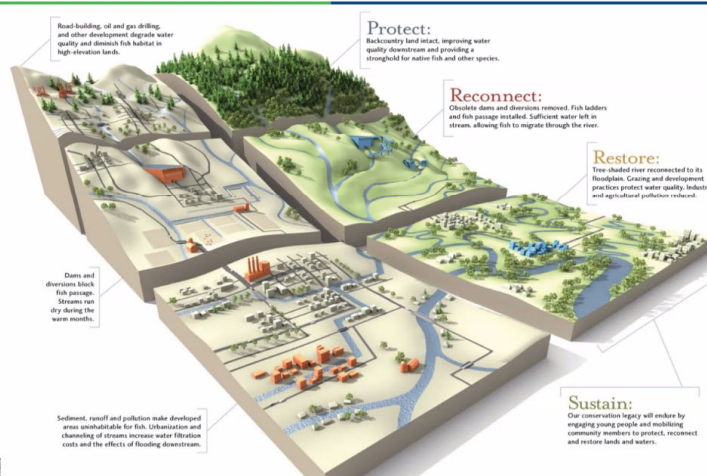
New York State was recently in a statewide "Drought Watch" status. Due to recent snows and rains the drought has passed for now. Drought status determinations are based on a State Drought Index that uses New York State specific attributes, so it may differ somewhat from national drought assessments. In addition, local conditions may vary, so some areas of the state may make their own determinations of drought stage using locally-focused criteria.

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quantity/current-drought-conditions>

## National TU – TU's Approach to Conservation

<https://www.tu.org/get-involved/volunteer-tacklebox/council-leader-resources/national-leadership-council/national-conservation-agenda/>

### TU's Approach to Conservation (National Conservation Agenda)



- Protect
- Reconnect
- Restore
- Sustain

## ***Helpful Links***

Mohawk Valley Trout Unlimited	<a href="https://mohawkvalleytu.org/">https://mohawkvalleytu.org/</a>
New York State TU	<a href="https://newyorkcouncil-tu.org/">https://newyorkcouncil-tu.org/</a>
National TU	<a href="https://www.tu.org/">https://www.tu.org/</a>
NYDEC Region 6	<a href="https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/freshwater-fishing/places-to-fish/north-central-ny">https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/freshwater-fishing/places-to-fish/north-central-ny</a>
NYDEC Interactive Fishing Map	<a href="https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/freshwater-fishing/places-to-fish/trout-stream-fishing-map-guide">https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/freshwater-fishing/places-to-fish/trout-stream-fishing-map-guide</a>
US Geological New York Streamflows	<a href="https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=real&amp;r=ny&amp;w=map">https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=real&amp;r=ny&amp;w=map</a>
TU Priority Waters Interactive Map	<a href="https://prioritywaters.tu.org/explore-the-map/">https://prioritywaters.tu.org/explore-the-map/</a>
Trout in the Classroom	<a href="https://www.troutintheclassroom.org/">https://www.troutintheclassroom.org/</a>

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## ***MVTU Board and Contacts***

### Officers

President– Ken Ziobro [kziobro@twc.com](mailto:kziobro@twc.com)  
Vice President – Alvin Montana [ahmontana2@hotmail.com](mailto:ahmontana2@hotmail.com)  
Treasurer- Steve Priervo [spriervo@gmail.com](mailto:spriervo@gmail.com)  
Secretary– Rick Bach [rickback@ymail.com](mailto:rickback@ymail.com)

### Directors

Director Emeritus – Chris James [cristoefisher@yahoo.com](mailto:cristoefisher@yahoo.com)  
Bob Janiga – [r4janiga@gmail.com](mailto:r4janiga@gmail.com)  
Bryan Kimball – [bryank09@gmail.com](mailto:bryank09@gmail.com)  
Stu Miller - [stummill67@gmail.com](mailto:stummill67@gmail.com)  
Jordan Ross – [jpross@jprossflyrods.com](mailto:jpross@jprossflyrods.com)

Region 6 Vice President and Director Jordan Ross – [jpross@jprossflyrods.com](mailto:jpross@jprossflyrods.com)

Trout in the Classroom – Gary Bartell [gbartell80@gmail.com](mailto:gbartell80@gmail.com)

Conservation in the Classroom - Jordan Ross – [jpross@jprossflyrods.com](mailto:jpross@jprossflyrods.com)

Website - Bryan Kimball – [bryank09@gmail.com](mailto:bryank09@gmail.com)

Newsletter - Stu Miller - [stumill67@gmail.com](mailto:stumill67@gmail.com)

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## ***Membership Information***

### **Mohawk Valley Chapter Member Survey**

Keep an eye out for a Mohawk Valley Chapter Member Survey coming in the near future by email. The goal of this survey is to help determine the priorities, activities and events that are preferred by our local members. Members who complete the survey will be entered into a \$50 gift certificate raffle.

If you have any questions about your membership or would like to volunteer to participate in any chapter activities, please email [mohawkvalleytu@gmail.com](mailto:mohawkvalleytu@gmail.com).

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## ***Field Trips***

We are hoping to get some local and more distant fishing trips organized for chapter members. If anyone is interested in spearheading a day trip to a local stream or multi-day trip to more exotic regions we'd love to have your help. Email [mohawkvalleytu@gmail.com](mailto:mohawkvalleytu@gmail.com) for more information.





## ***Share the Fun***

Submit photos of your 2024 or recent fishing adventures.

Submit your fishing or nature photos for the next newsletter.

Email to [mohawkvalleytu@gmail.com](mailto:mohawkvalleytu@gmail.com)



[View email in browser](#)

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