

new york city *Trout Unlimited*

Volume 15, Number 3

June/July 1999

Threat to the Croton's West Branch

by John Keane

The wild brown trout of the West Branch of the Croton River are in danger. A new proposed residential development is threatening the spawning habitat on the best trout stream in the entire Croton System.

The problem, in a word, is siltation. A development along the West Branch in the town of Carmel (Putnam County) threatens to deposit silt in the stream, covering the vital spawning sites for wild trout. Once the spawning habitat is silted over, it will be gone for our lifetime and many generations to come.

Specifically, the new development is building a large basin at the bottom of the hill, near

the stream, to collect stormwater runoff. Such large basins are known to fail, which in this case would deposit silt in the nearby stream. In addition, the large amount of silt which collects in the basin must constantly be cleaned out, or it will run into the stream.

Alternative technology exists to limit the damage—including building a series of small swales in the soil to allow groundwater to be collect in small pools and be absorbed back into the ground naturally. So far, though, these alternatives are not being planned. To make matters worse, the development is As many of you are probably aware, on July

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NEXT MEETINGS:

Saltwater Fly Fishing

Tuesday, May 4, 7 pm

Gen'l Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen

20 West 44th Street
(between 5th and 6th Aves.)

*Local experts will tell you what you need
to know about fishing in the salt.*

Casting Clinic

Tuesday, June 8, 7 pm

(date is confirmed)

**Central Park, East Meadow
Near 5th Ave. and 97 th Street**

*Practice your casting under the watchful
eye of casting pros. There will be extra
rods, but feel free to bring your own.*

(see page 4 for directions)

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Chapter
Trout Unlimited



TROUT UNLIMITED'S MISSION

To conserve, protect and restore
North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

For four decades, Trout Unlimited has been America's leading trout and salmon conservation organization. TU's 95,000 members and 455 chapters across the United States and Canada are actively engaged in the

CENTRAL PARK FISHING: SAFE FOR NOW

by Eric Newman

Last Fall, a proposal was made to ban fishing in Central Park Lake. In response, NYCTU helped organize a rally and cleanup around the Lake; at the same time, NYCTU expressed its opposition to the proposed ban.

The idea of a ban first arose following the death of a Park bird from lead poisoning--possibly from a discarded lead sinker. Bird watchers have claimed that other fishing refuse, particularly monofilament, also poses a risk to birds in the Park.

Opposing a ban on fishing in the Central Park Lake

In recent years, Central Park has become a haven for birds and bird watchers. Many visitors are surprised to learn, though, that the Lake also supports a wide variety of warmwater fish, including largemouth bass, carp, pickerel, panfish and catfish. Both fly and spin casters can often be found around the shores of the Lake seeking bass that reach 5lbs and carp that exceed 20.

At the rally, which was organized by Bradley Workman and NYCTU director Fred Thorner, NYCTU

expressed its support for protecting wildlife in the Park, but we made clear that we believe birds and fishing can co-exist in the Park. We urged the use of more moderate restrictions, such as banning lead and requiring all anglers (and other visitors) to clean up their refuse.

It is certainly clear after the cleanup that there is a great deal of litter around the lake—but most of it is unrelated to fishing. Our collection yielded primarily bottles cans and wrappers—along with a relatively small amount of fishing refuse.

To date, no final decision has been made on the proposed ban, or on other measures to protect wildlife. We will stay in touch with the Parks Department (and the Central Park Conservancy, which helps run the Park) and report on this issue in a future edition of the newsletter. We also plan to hold another cleanup this summer or fall. Watch these pages for the date and place—we hope you'll join us then.

Our Sincere Thanks to these additional contributors to our fund drive *New York City Trout Unlimited*

JAMES AUSTRIAN
OWEN BEGLANE
JOHN COSACHOV
MICHELLE DEVITO

HARRY ENGEL
JERRY H. LABOWITZ
DANIEL SMITH
GIAN CARLO TREGGI

Keane is president of the Croton Chapter of Trout Unlimited

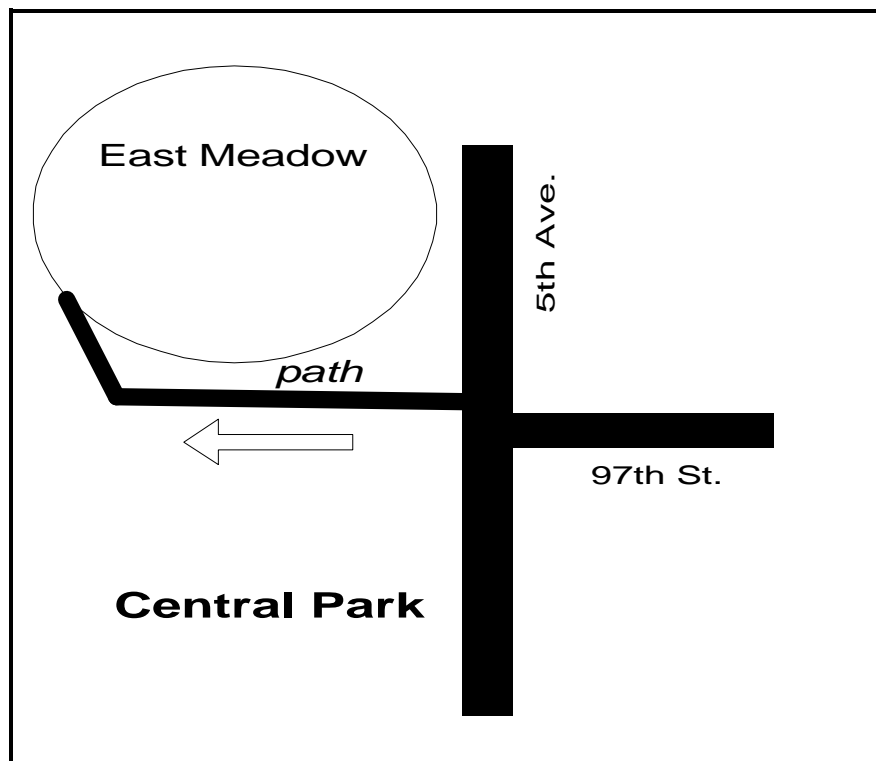
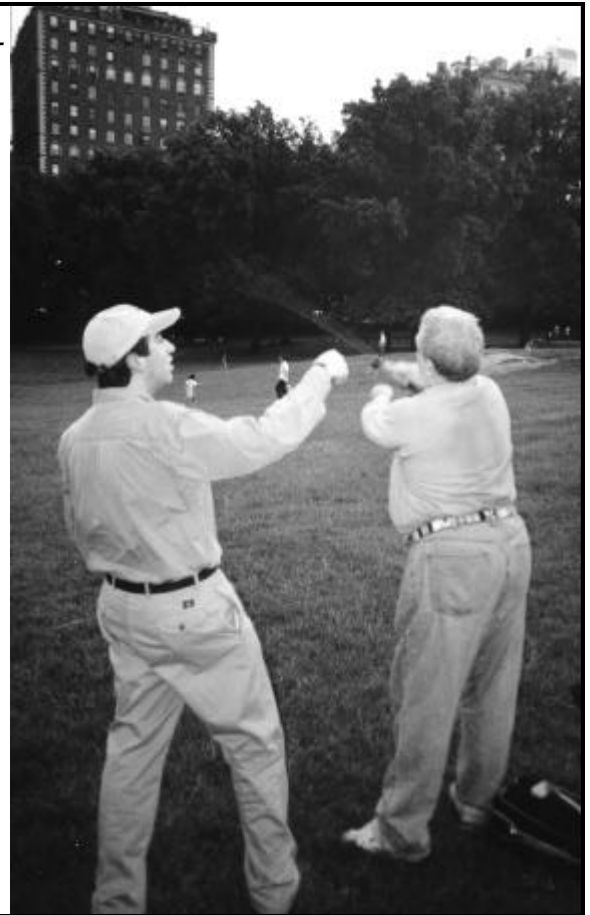
Don't Miss the Casting Clinic on Tuesday, June 8

Our last event of the season!

*Come practice your casting—And get
tips from local pros.*

*The Casting Clinic is held in Central Park
in an area called the East Meadow*

*Enter the Park at 5th Avenue
just north of 97th Street. Follow the
paved path around to the right. The
large grass area is the East Meadow.
(see map below)*



CONSERVATION

by Wayne Tusa

Watershed Wetlands

As many of you are probably aware, on July 1, 1998 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently proposed significant modifications to the Nationwide Wetlands Permit program. The proposed modifications included the option of excluding “designated critical resource waters” from the nationwide permitting program. In response, on November 18, 1998 the New York Army Corps District proposed a more stringent regional permit program for the New York City watershed - which would require individual permits for activities which affect wetlands in excess of 1/3 acre - in lieu of the current nationwide permit program which automatically permits filling of wetlands up to three acres in size. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYSDEP) submitted a number of comment letters in favor of an individual permit program. Unfortunately, apparently due to political considerations, the City withdrew these initial comments from consideration.

In response, Robert Kennedy, Jr. of Riverkeeper, Inc., in concert with a number of other environmental organizations, submitted a detailed letter to the Army Corps in support of an individual permit program for the New York City watershed. NYCTU provided a letter generally supporting Mr. Kennedy’s position. The City reportedly subsequently rescinded its withdrawal of NYCDEP’s comments.

NYCTU Conservation Committee

The NYCTU Conservation Committee meets periodically to consider conservation issues and make recommendations to the NYCTU board regarding contributions, activities and the chapter’s official position on issues. Chapter members interested in actively participating in the NYCTU Conservation Committee—are encouraged to contact one of the Committee’s co-chairs - Wayne Tusa at 212-369-5400 or Lemuel Srolovic at 212 421-2150.

Wayne Tusa is an environmental consultant and a director of NYCTU

Strategic Planning: Mapping NYCTU's Future

by Wayne Tusa

In February the NYCTU Board of Directors established a Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). The SPC's purpose is to develop a plan to guide the activities of NYCTU over both the short and long term.

The members of the SPC are David Blinken, Priscilla Garston, Tom Walek, Gerry Wendrovsky, Bill Wilson, Susanne Weiser, Fred Thorner and Wayne Tusa.

We have begun holding a series of monthly meetings, which will continue over roughly the next six months, to complete our work.

Here's a brief summary of the strategic planning process

Stakeholders (Interested Parties)

The SPC has finalized the selection of stakeholder groups to be considered in developing the Strategic Plan. They are: active chapter members; inactive/prospective chapter members; chapter volunteers and potential financial supporters.

Stakeholder Needs

The SPC will complete a review of the recent member survey to identify the primary members' needs. We've begun a survey of current and recent volunteers to assess the needs of that stakeholder group and we'll also assess the needs of inactive/prospective Chapter members and potential financial supporters.

The SPC will review the current and past chapter programs and activities to assess whether these activities meet the needs of the selected stakeholder groups. This review effort will include programs and activities relating to Membership, Conservation, Fund Raising, Programs/Trips, Communications and Chapter Administration.

Objectives

The SPC will develop proposed near and long term objectives to more closely align the Chapter's programs and activities with the needs of the stakeholder groups. We will consider and recommend objectives that will improve the Chapter as both a conservation and recreational organization, consistent with stakeholder needs and available resources.

One Year Plan

We will develop a one year plan with proposed objectives, actions, responsibilities, and schedules to meet the most pressing needs as well as significant near term opportunities.

Five Year Plan

We will develop a five year plan to meet the longer term objectives of the Chapter, including improving the Chapter as both a conservation and recreational organization.

Strategic Plan

The final step will be a written Strategic Plan for review and approval by the NYCTU Board. Once approved, this Strategic Plan will be used to guide the activities of the Chapter over the short and long term. It will also serve to communicate the results of the strategic planning process to members, volunteers and other potential stakeholders.

For additional information or suggestions relating to the strategic planning process, please contact Wayne Tusa at 212-369-5400

[We will periodically update the progress of the Strategic Planning Committee in the Newsletter, Ed.]

Wayne Tusa is an environmental consultant and a director of NYCTU

Calendar of Events

The NYCTU newsletter's calendar is open to angling clubs and conservation organizations from throughout the New York metropolitan area. For submissions, please contact the editor. (Abbreviations: **New York City Trout Unlimited/NYCTU**; *Theodore Gordon Fly-fishers/TGF*; *Long Island Fly Rodders/LIFR*; *Juliana Berners' Anglers/JBA*).

May

Tuesday, May 4—**NYCTU Monthly Meeting**

SALTWATER FLY FISHING

Gen'l Society of Mechanics, 20 W 44th St.,
7pm

Tuesday, May 11—**TGF Luncheon**

Speaker to be announced

Williams Club, 24 East 39th Street

12 Noon-\$20

June

Tuesday, June 8—**NYCTU Monthly Meeting**

CASTING CLINIC

Central Park-East Meadow
97th Street & 5th Ave, 7pm

(see page 4 for directions)

Join Trout Unlimited - or sign up a friend!



<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____</p> <p>Occupation _____</p> <p>Chapter New York City #447</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my employer's matching gift form, plus my membership application and payment.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Please send me information on TU's Grassroots Activists Network.</p> <p>SEND TO: Trout Unlimited P.O. Box 1335 Merrifield, VA 22116-9801</p>	<p>Please check membership category*:</p> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Regular Membership (\$30);</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 3 years (\$80)</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership (\$35);</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 3 years (\$90)</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring Contributor (\$75);</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Century Contributor (\$150)</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Conservator Membership</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life (\$750)**;</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Family Life (\$850)**</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student Membership (\$15);</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership</td><td></td></tr></table> <hr/> <p>Payment Method</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check (Make checks payable to TROUT UNLIMITED) <input type="checkbox"/> Charge</p> <p>VISA/Matcard (circle one) # _____ Exp. _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p>Membership contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Life Memberships, any amount over \$100 is tax deductible.</p> <p>* Canadian memberships - please add \$5 per year, all other countries add \$20 per year Contact TU National Office for foreign life memberships</p> <p>** No further dues</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Membership (\$30);	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 years (\$80)	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership (\$35);	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 years (\$90)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring Contributor (\$75);	<input type="checkbox"/> Century Contributor (\$150)	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservator Membership		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life (\$750)**;	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Life (\$850)**	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student Membership (\$15);		<input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership															

Bead Head Nymphs

by Eric Newman

Open any fly fishing catalogue these days and you're sure to find a long list of bead head nymphs. Nearly every nymph imitation—from hare's ear to pheasant tail—has had one of those metal beads stuck to its nose. I suspect bead heads on dry flies are just around the corner.

Of course bead head nymphs have proliferated for a good reason—they work. The brass bead gets the fly deep and it adds some flash that often, but not always, attracts fish. Plus, the weight is non-toxic and easier to cast than a leader with split shot attached.

Tying bead heads is relatively simple, but there are a few important things to keep in mind.

BEADS: COLOR AND SIZE

Beads come in four colors—gold, silver, copper and black. Gold is by far the most popular choice. Black is useful at those times—such as bright sunny days—when you want the weight but not the flash. If you're only tying a handful of black bead heads, just dab some black laquer or nail polish on a colored bead after securing it to the hook.

The usual widths of the beads are 3/32", 4/32" (or 1/8"), 5/32" and 6/32" (or 3/16"). The middle two sizes will meet most of your needs.

HOOKS

The obvious choice for a bead head nymph is a wet fly or nymph hook. However, it can be hard to get the bead onto their thicker wire. Instead, try dry fly hooks. If the bead head leaves too little room on the shank, switch to an extra long dry fly hook, like Tiemco's #5212.

On more bit of advice on bead head hooks: don't forget the old adage about square pegs in round holes. For these flies, avoid hooks like Mustads made with square wire; they make it difficult to slide the bead past the bend. Instead, look for hooks using round wire like Dai-Ichi or Tiemco.

With these basics in mind, let's tie a bead head nymph.

THE BEAD HEAD RED FOX SQUIRREL NYMPH

This is a bead head variation on Dave Whitlock's classic, all-purpose nymph. (The same basic design would also work with hare's ear.)

Materials

Hook 2XL dry fly hook 12-18

Bead gold or black bead, size to suit

Tail tuft of fox squirrel guard hairs

Abdomen soft red fox squirrel fur (from the pelt's underside), with a bit of antron mixed in

Thorax darker mixture of fox squirrel fur from back and underside, also with antron (or use appropriate synthetic dubbing)

Hackle mottled brown hen or partridge

Steps

1. Crimp down barb and slide bead around hook bend (smaller hole first). Tie on and build dam of thread behind bead to hold it firmly against the eye.
2. Tie on the tail, equal in length to about 1/2 - 3/4 of bare shank length (i.e. shank not covered by the bead).
3. Dub tapered abdomen about 2/3 of bare shank length.
4. Dub thicker, darker thorax about 1/4 of bare shank. Tease out thorax.
5. Strip fibers from **left** side of a soft hackle feather (that's the left side looking at the front, dark side of the feather when held upright-stem pointing down), Tie stripped hackle in and take two turns in front of thorax. (This is sometimes called the "belt" method of soft-hackling.) Hackle should not extend past hook bend.
6. Dub a tiny amount of thorax material in the small gap between hackle and bead then carefully whip finish or half hitch directly behind bead.

I've had particular luck with this fly in the early season. Fish it dead drift through likely spots, especially deep cuts. Be sure to let the current lift the fly at the end of the drift. When I fished the Carmans last Spring, that seemed to be the only time the fish would hit.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Threat to Croton's West Branch
- Tying Bead Head Nymphs
- Planning the Chapter's Future

NYCTU News by E-Mail

You can now receive notice of NYCTU meetings and events by e-mail

If you wish to join the NYCTU e-mail list
send your e-mail address to:

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