

# New York City Trout Unlimited

*Winter 2011 Newsletter*



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## Saving The Marcellus Shale- “One (Very) Short Step...”

by Roy L. Wulff

In an historic move during the early morning hours of November 30, the New York State Assembly passed legislation that would have imposed a moratorium on all hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” for natural gas throughout New York. The bill, passed first by the Senate this past summer, had been among those held hostage amid wrangling among the Governor, the legislative houses, and the special interests that control so much of Albany’s agenda. As the special session drew to a close, even Assembly members were not aware that the bill would be called for a vote until shortly before voting began. Despite the late hour, the halls of the chamber were still crawling with lobbyists and other “interested” observers from the oil and gas industry attempting to influence the outcome. Yet, despite this well-financed opposition, the bill carried by a vote of 93-43.

This “historic” victory for clean water and sound conservation practices was, by its own terms, to be of very short duration, having built-in expiration date of May 15, 2011 (less than six months from passage). “Knowledgeable sources” predicted the bill would be swiftly be signed into law by Governor Paterson. But the bill would have become law at session’s end even without action by the Governor because it had already passed both houses. Despite this “sunset provision”, conservation advocates anticipated that the necessity of a revised and supplemented draft environmental impact statement (dSGEIS) would further delay the issuance of any natural gas-drilling permits.

But even this limited piece of legislation would not come to “pass.” On December 11, Governor Paterson vetoed the bill, stating his view that, although well-intentioned, it was overly broad and fraught with unintended consequences. Translation: Gas lobbyists and special interests convinced the Governor that it would not be in the State’s interests to prohibit the issuance of additional licenses for certain types of “hydrofracking” for which a limited number of permits have been already issued. Instead, Governor Paterson issued an Executive Order that would only impose a moratorium on “horizontal” fracking, leaving the oil and gas industry to continue building out the necessary infrastructure to support the

## Chapter Announcements

**Winter Meeting: Monday, January 24th- 7 pm:  
Blackstones Pub- 55th Street (between 2nd & 3rd  
Avenue)-**

**Business:** Discuss volunteer roles, 2011 fundraising, and grant goals. NYCTU will need a new webmaster and newsletter editor by 9/1/11. To volunteer, please email: [president@tunyc.org](mailto:president@tunyc.org)

**Guest speaker: Bob Jacklin**, of Jacklin’s Fly Shop in West Yellowstone, Mt.. Come see Bob Jacklin give a talk and breathtaking PowerPoint show on fly fishing the Yellowstone area. Bob Jacklin owns the oldest West Yellowstone full-service fly-fishing shop under original ownership. Jacklin’s Fly Shop has evolved into a premier fly-fishing destination. Bob has been involved with TU and conservation for over thirty years. He has also given free fly fishing lessons every Sunday for 29 years (weather permitting!) and has taught at many indoors shows and clinics every winter. He is one of fly fishing’s most effective educators, and he takes special delight in starting kids fishing. Bob is one the most knowledgeable anglers and most generous people I’ve ever met. Come see his presentation and meet him yourself.

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### Spring Catskill Fishing Trip- May, 20th-22nd.- Catskill Fly-Fishing Center and Museum

If you would like to join us, please send a check made out to NYCTU in the amount of \$75 to:

Michael Parks  
PO Box 4898  
Weehawken, NJ 07086

**For Catskill Trip info please email Roger Olson:  
[rdo@rogerolsonlaw.com](mailto:rdo@rogerolsonlaw.com)**

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**Email News Sign-up-** Go to [tunyc.org](http://tunyc.org) and sign-up. You can also check-off for “on-line NYC TU Newsletters” instead of this paper version. I’m sure you’re familiar with the environmental savings. We’ll keep you in the loop on what we can do to help local coldwater conservation.

*(Continued on Page 4)*

# Trout in the Classroom- Out of one Aquarium, Many!

*by Hendrickson Cahill*

Last year, NYCTU matched a member contribution to fund a “Trout In the Classroom” (TIC) set-up for The Bloomingdale School, a/k/a PS 145, on 105th Street in Manhattan. At a cost of roughly \$1,000, a 55-gallon aquarium, chiller, filtering equipment, chemicals and other supplies were provided to Third Grade Teacher Erick Sanchez, who had been selected through TU National to receive a TIC set-up. Erick was trained

nized by TIC National. John Field and Roger Olson attended on behalf of the Chapter and assisted in releasing those young brookies, then about 3” in length, into the Croton River. The day focused on stream ecology and conservation, and both Johns treated the students to fly-casting lessons. The day also included a long nature hike and picnic lunch. For some of the students, it was literally their first time out of New York City, and the experience



*Epiphany School Teacher Dena Savarese and new tank*

at an all-day seminar in Hyde Park. Lilli Genovesi, our local TIC Coordinator and John Fisher, NY TIC Technical Advisor, assisted in the installation, and PS 145 was provided with a large number of brook trout eggs for the students, as part of their science curriculum, to raise and study.

The program was an incredible success, culminating in Erick and the students participating in an early May “Release Day” orga-

for them was remarkable.

Well, that initial endeavor on 105th Street has now multiplied four-fold. Forward one year: and Erick Sanchez has left PS 145 is teaching at a different school, but the TIC set-up is still on 105th Street. Enter Matt Schatz, now teaching at PS 145. He enthusiastically offered to take up the TIC mantle and continue the program where Erick had left off. This year, however, there was a bit of

misfortune, resulting in the untimely demise of many of the little hatchlings. BUT, showing the strength of this rapidly growing program, Lilli, our local TIC coordinator, has been able to locate an abundance of young fry at PS 107 in Park Slope. As we go to press, the machinery is in place for these replacement hatchlings to be transported from the Slope to the Upper West Side. With the dedication, spirit and enthusiasm shown by Matt and his students, all will surely work out in the end, and they'll all be up at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation for their Release Day and related

the program started, and Lilli has returned to give presentations to the students on ichthyology (okay, fish biology) and the importance of coldwater conservation. The students are looking forward to their trip up to Cross River for Release Day in the Spring. Chapter members are invited to accompany them and experience first-hand the opportunity that the Chapter is providing to these young folks.

At the same time we were considering the Bronx Prep applica-



***NYC P.S. students volunteering to be the next fly casting student with Instructor John Field***

activities.

And, continuing his interest in using TIC as a platform for both teaching science and introducing his students to stream ecology and conservation, Erick Sanchez now has a new TIC set up at his current school. He continues to be in touch with Matt at his former school, imparting his knowledge and experience to ensure the success of the program at both schools. Erick has done more than simply teach his students through the TIC program. He has also enlisted other teachers to create an audio-visual presentation based on last year's activities that can now be used as an instructional tool for new installations supervised by new teachers.

This year the Board again obtained a new aquarium and other necessary TIC equipment, this time for Bronx Prep, a new career and college preparatory school in the Morrisania Section of the Bronx. The program is being overseen by science teacher Brian Erickson who, like Erick, underwent the TIC training program in October and was provided with a complement of brook trout eggs. Bronx Prep has also been a phenomenal success, with the students having successfully reared their little brookies with a 90% survival rate. The students in Brian's class have taken a very strong interest in the program and the science and responsibilities that raising their "pets" has required. Again, Lilli Genovesi and John Fisher, on behalf of TU National/TIC, had an active role in getting

tion, a Chapter member approached the Board and offered that she and her husband would be love to see a TIC project at the Epiphany School, where their children are both students. We put them in touch with our TIC coordinator, and now that school has a thriving population of small brown trout swimming around in an aquarium on East 22nd Street. The kids love to check in on the fish to see how they're doing, and Dena Savarese, their instructor, uses the TIC program to teach different aspects of science and biology, from simple anatomy to the food chain. Last week, Lilli came to Epiphany School and gave an incredibly informative slide presentation on trout anatomy to the students, who were so excited they could hardly stay in their seats when asked to answer questions or comment on what they had learned in class. Afterward, the kids were given outlines of trout on which they used crayons to demonstrate what they had learned during the presentation, ranging from lateral lines to air bladders. The enthusiasm and interest for the TIC program demonstrated by these youngsters was palpable. Oh, and loud!

If you'd like to see this program in action, and take some pride and pleasure in what your organization is down to bring conservation awareness to the children in our schools, please let us know so that we can arrange for you to attend a Release Day, or assist in setting up a TIC installation, or seeing the program at work in the classroom. It's an experience that should not be missed.

## *(Marcellus Shale Continued from Page 1)*

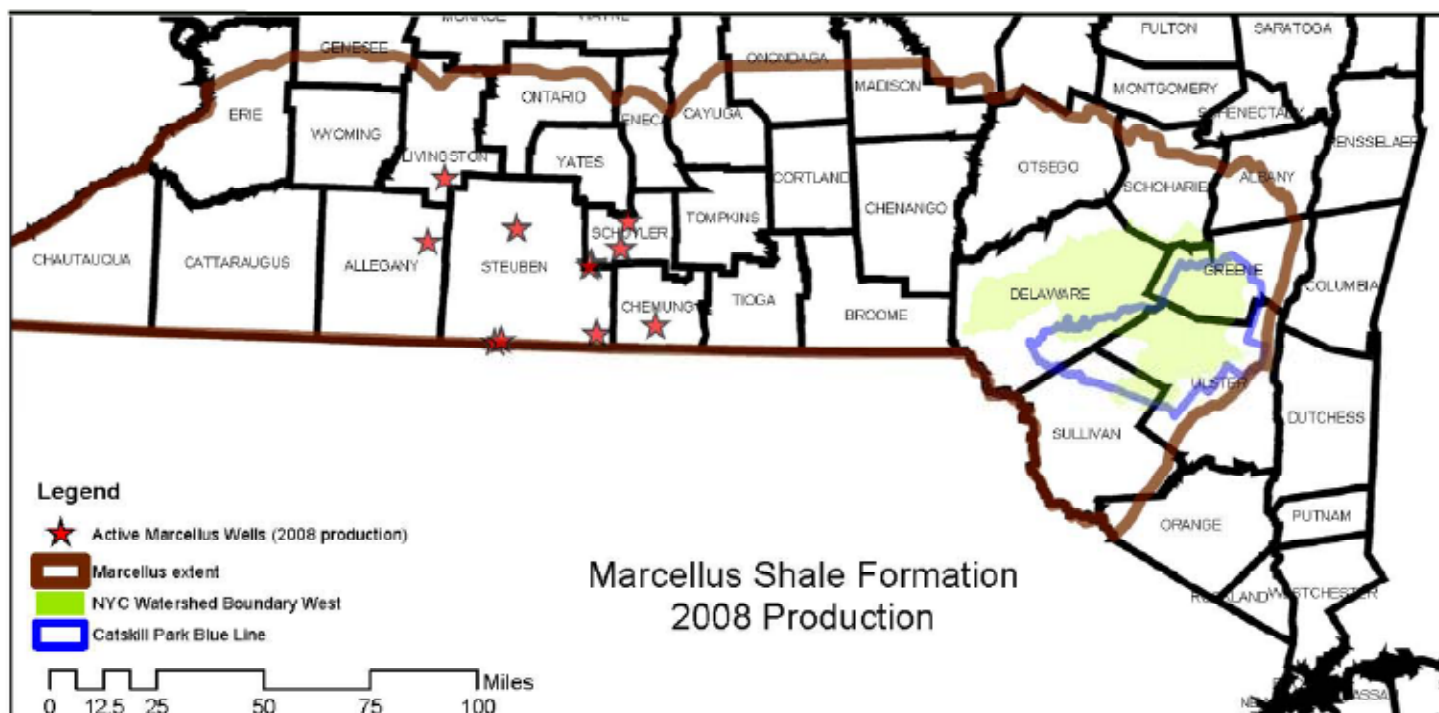
limited number of “vertical” fracking permits already issued, all with the intention of later converting these vertical wells to horizontal fracking.

The prospect of huge royalties offered by industry field operatives has become nearly irresistible to rural residents in the face of the current economic crisis. And the prospect of job creation, coupled with large municipal budget deficits, has caused some local governments on the Southern Tier to jump on the fracking bandwagon without due regard to the longer-term environmental consequences.

“Fracking” involves the blasting of millions of gallons of water, infused with sand and laced with a “toxic brew” of chemicals down into the substrata through deep wells. These wells are drilled to depths of up to 5,000 feet, and, with horizontal fracking, the wells are extended outward in a circular fashion for up to another 5,000 feet. The pressurized water and chemicals blasted into the rock formation breaks down the shale layers, allowing trapped pockets

“waste water,” however, often come other toxic chemicals and dangerous minerals that would otherwise remain dormant and far below the surface. These include various corrosive salts, heavy metals such as barium and strontium, and radioactive elements including radium and uranium. No serious studies have been conducted to ascertain whether New York has the necessary infrastructure and resources to handle literally millions of gallons of this contaminated water on a daily basis. Nor have adequate scientific studies been conducted to determine the impact of extracting all of this water from the region’s streams, ponds, lakes and reservoirs, the latter being the source of nearly all of our drinking water.

While Governor Paterson’s Executive Order has been hailed by conservation advocates, including Catskill Mountain Keeper, as “the most significant step taken anywhere in the United States to date to slow down and stop the issuance of drilling permits and to recognize the risks to our water”, documented studies and recent incidents have shown that both vertical and horizontal drilling have seriously contaminated drinking water in areas as close to us as Dimock, Pennsylvania.



of natural gas to escape and follow the drill holes up to the surface for collection. This method of natural gas extraction is brought to us by Halliburton, Inc.; late of BP Oil Spill and Dick Cheney fame. Claiming proprietary and patent protections, Halliburton has refused to disclose what chemicals go into the brew being used to shatter the ground beneath our feet throughout the West and in Pennsylvania. But recent studies and public hearings have revealed that benzene, ethylene glycol, methanol, hydrochloric acid, ammonium chloride, biocides and petroleum distillates are included in the mix being forced into the Marcellus Shale formation.

Before extraction of natural gas can even begin, this toxic water/chemical infusion process must be reversed and the brew returned to the surface, where it must be transported by tanker trucks to holding ponds or other disposal facilities. Along with this returned

Governor Paterson’s Executive Order requires that the revised dS-GEIS be completed by June 1, 2011, followed by a public comment period of not less than thirty days and, if deemed appropriate, additional public hearings in the Marcellus Shale region and NYC. So, while a substantial victory has been achieved through the conservation activism of the past few years, the limited duration of this moratorium only affords time to redouble efforts to prevent the introduction of “fracking,” with all of its attendant dangers, into our Catskill and Delaware River watersheds until all of the science is in, public hearings have been conducted, and the oil and gas industry have demonstrated that they have the capacity and, more importantly, the will to exploit our natural gas resource without inflicting harm on our clean water, our fish and game habitat, the environment, and the natural beauty that defines these regions.

# Book Review

by John Field

René Harrop has been on my radar for the many years he's been contributing to Fly Fisherman Magazine. His creative use of CDC and blending Catskill style, parachutes, biot bodies, dubbed thoraxes, Coc de Leon tails, etc. with elegant proportions, makes him a unique fly designer. I was waiting to meet him last summer at the F.F.F. Conclave in West Yellowstone and ask him to autograph his new 2010 book, **Learning from the Water**, when a freak tornado prevented me from reaching him. When it was safe to cross the street, the legendary Trout Hunter had left the building. Maybe on my next trip out west I'll catch up with him.

From watching his fly tying DVDs, I see he is a quiet, contemplative man with a deep love and connection with nature. He is part Native American and sometimes wears native jewelry and a feather earring. He has lived in his riverside home on Idaho's Henry's Fork, since 1968. He used to guide and tie on contract but now runs a fly business called House of Harrop which incorporates the talents of his wife Bonnie and children, Leslie and Shane. He is also author of his 2003 book release, **Trout Hunter- The way of an Angler**. He also stars in a collection of fly tying DVDs and videos.

In addition, René is a gifted artist using pencil and watercolors to depict mayflies and other natural subjects. His artwork is included in this new 213 page book, **Learning from the Water**, published by Stackpole Books in 2010. Insect photography is by Toshi Karita and many fishing, tackle and casting photos were taken by René's wife, Bonnie Harrop. All the flies pictured are tied on barbless hooks.

In his new book, René finally shares all the really intriguing fishing lessons he's learned in his 56 years on the water. He hasn't earned the nickname Trout Hunter for nothing. His predilection is mainly for catching large rainbows on top. These fish are particularly difficult in his homewaters because of the slowly flowing currents which promote fly drag and give trout early warning of your approach. René breaks down every essential part of the fishing process essential for success and has written chapters covering them.

These chapters include fly storage systems, leader design, stalking feeding trout, his unorthodox casting and presentation techniques, and even closing the deal with proper netting. Admitting that "Dry-fly fishing drives my angling consciousness", René writes that if you utilize knowledge to identify which subsurface food trout are currently keying-in on and imitate it, your subsurface fishing will be as challenging and rewarding as your fishing on the surface. René is an all stages kind of fly tyer and angler. Despite the cool

trend to carry everything in a chest pack, René carries 16 fly boxes to cover the inevitable overlap of flies and different stages of insect emergence.

You may be surprised to read about his preference for approaching trout from slightly downstream and using a curve cast presentation. You might wince knowing René suggests using leaders from 14 to 25 ft. in length. No, this book and his recommendations are not for beginners to trout fishing. If you are trying to get to the highest level of trout fishing enlightenment, this is the inspirational book for you. You will find fly tying ideas and trout hunting techniques that will keep you occupied for quite a while.

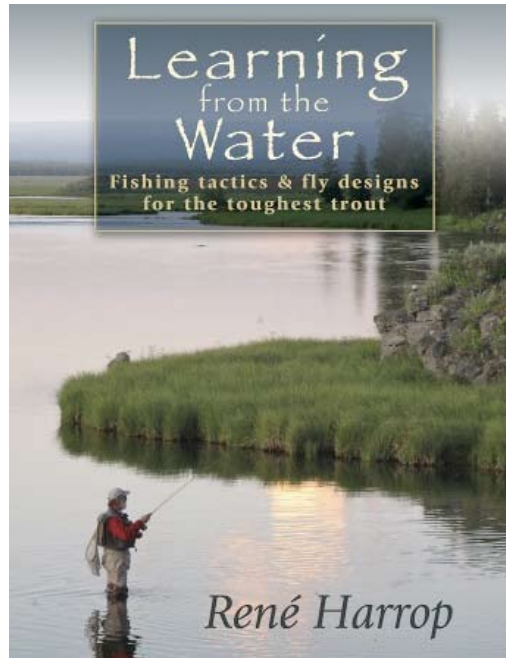
Despite the notion shared by some, fly fishing for trout isn't easy to master. This book was written by someone who has done so. The author also incorporates personal anecdotes which are entertaining, but really illustrate the hardships and time he has spent attaining his level of experience and enlightenment.

René pays homage to fellow Western guides with whom he's shared the water in the chapter titled *Men of the Water*. Some of the names he mentions and has had the pleasure of associating with are; Rich Pains, Bob Lamm, Mike Lawson, Will Godfrey, Bob Jacklin, and Bud Lilly, among others.

Ten of the chapters are dedicated to individual mayfly subspecies, caddis, midges, hoppers and beetles. He covers Flavs, Callibaetis, Tricos, Pale Morning Duns and Baetis. Toshi Karita's photos of the major stages of emergence of caddis and mayflies are the best I've seen, and the printing reproduction make them look tack sharp. There are above-water and underwater images, too, which are really helpful. René has included recipes for tying the imitations to all the most important western bugs and in all their important stages. This is far from just a how-to book.

Although we probably all like to catch big trout and inflate our feeling of self worth, this book and its title are really about the way of respecting nature and interacting with it intelligently. Throughout our lives, we have the opportunity to evolve as outdoorsman and anglers through dedication. René Harrop makes many references to his advancing age and now has the opportunity to give to us some of what he has learned from his waters. But he also shows us the depth of what is waiting for us to learn from our waters, too.

*John Field is a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and also a student of his waters.*



# Interview- Katy Dunlap

TU's Eastern Waters Project Director  
with Duncan Blair

**D**uncan Blair recently spoke to Katy Dunlap, TU's Eastern Water Project Director. Katy, a graduate of the College of Environmental Science & Forestry at Syracuse University and Vermont Law School, started with TU this past July. Working out of New York's Finger Lakes region, Katy focuses on improving state-level water policy in the Northeast.

## What excites you most about working for TU?

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of working for TU is the opportunity to focus on one core mission - protecting, conserving and restoring coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Of course, the incredible wealth of expertise from the national level to the volunteer base, is an important asset to the organization and a valuable resource for my work.

## What are your primary duties?

The overall goal of my work is to improve streamflow protection in New York, Pennsylvania and throughout New England. This can be done in a number of ways, but the primary goals are robust and comprehensive state-wide laws and regula-

tions covering water withdrawals or streamflow criteria.

## Are there opportunities to pass good bills in state legislatures next year?

Yes, there is always a chance that good bills can be passed, but the best opportunities next year are in New York, with Massachusetts falling in line next. This past year, a good water-withdrawal-permitting bill passed the New York State Senate but was not taken up in the Assembly, which means we have to start from scratch again next year. In general, there was not opposition to the water withdrawal bill, but the bill was choked by political maneuvering between the Assembly and the Governor's office. So we'll need TU members' voices as we reintroduce a similar bill again in 2011. Connecticut also has good streamflow regulations in the pipeline thanks in large part to the work of Connecticut TU members and my predecessor Kirt Mayland. These regulations are currently being reviewed by CT's legislative regulatory review committee. If approved, they will become the tightest streamflow regulations in the East.

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## New York City TU Members Receive a 10% Discount at Orvis NY



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**Are you involved in the Marcellus Shale drilling issue?**

Oh, absolutely. That issue has taken a huge amount of my time since I started. As I mentioned, streamflow protection is my overall goal, but Marcellus Shale drilling will have major impacts on streams and flows, and so TU has to get involved to make sure that coldwater resources are protected and that drilling doesn't cause irreversible harm to natural resources. I am heavily involved in the issue, as are TU members, chapters and councils throughout the region, in addition to other TU staff, including Dave Sewak in southwestern PA.

**What are the next steps in New York State on Marcellus Shale?**

Well, Governor Paterson just released an order that imposes a moratorium on horizontal drilling and the use of hydraulic fracturing (or "hydrofracking") through July 1, 2011. We are still concerned about vertical wells that could proceed during this time, and we are hopeful that a new Environmental Impact Study will be undertaken that is more accurate and complete than the existing study. Stay tuned for action alerts which will tell NYC-TU members how to get involved

*Duncan Blair is a NYCTU Board Member and works for TU National's Headwaters Youth Education Initiative.*

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## ***Aquatic Invasive Species- What Anglers Can Do***

Scientific evidence has proven that transporting anglers' equipment, particularly felt soles, is responsible for moving some AIS (alien invasive species) such as whirling disease spores, Didymo, and New Zealand mud snails between watersheds. And the result can be disastrous.

Due to its porous nature, felt may have the potential to transmit other AIS, too. While biologists and others may recommend the use of chemical treatments for their working equipment, there is no single chemical treatment that will kill all the various various AIS.

**Therefore, TU recommends that anglers practice clean angling and inspect, clean, and dry their equipment.**

When traveling between drainages, inspect your waders and nets for sediment, debris, and plants. Thoroughly clean with water (hot water if available), and use a soft brush to clean seams and folds in waders and shoes. Whenever possible, dry your equipment as well because desiccation will kill some AIS. While these simple recommendations will not guarantee the prevention of all AIS movement, they will help reduce the risk of spread and help protect our precious trout and salmon resources.

**»The Clean Angling Pledge: Please practice clean angling. Always inspect, clean and dry all equipment. Never transport any fish, plant or animal, alive or dead, between water bodies.**

## **New York City TU Chapter:**

President ..... John Field (president@tunyc.org)  
Vice President .....John Gilliland (vicepres@)tunyc.org)  
Treasurer ..... Michael Parks (mbparks3434@hotmail.com)  
Editor-in-Chief .....John Field (president@tunyc.org)

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Submissions, comments and suggestions for the Newsletter are welcome, please email them to president@tunyc.org.

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Visit the New York City Trout Unlimited Chapter's website:

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

*Meeting Schedule and Announcements  
Chapter Events and Fishing Trips*

*(Image courtesy of Dave Whitlock, www.davewhitlock.com)*

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**NYCTU 2011 Winter Meeting**  
**Monday, Jan. 24th, 7 pm**

**Blackstones Pub**  
**55th Street between 2nd and 3rd Ave.**

**Guest Speaker: Bob Jacklin**  
**“Fly-Fishing the Yellowstone, Mt Area”**

**Free appetizers, cash Bar**  
***Raffle: Sage ZXL 9’ #5 fly-rod and an Orvis reel***