Hap-Hazzard News
January 2026

Upcoming Events: Regular chapter meetings are held second Tuesdays of the month, 7 PM; Endwell Fire Station, 3508 Country Club Rd., Endwell on the following dates:

- February 10. Speaker Allen Peterson. Owego Creek Trout Fishing Tour and 2026 plans.
- March 10. Speaker Gian Dodici. How we design stream protection/habitat projects.
- March 14. Cabin Fever Reliever!
- March 28. 12-3 PM. Owego Creek public workshop. Campville Fire Station #3. Rt. 38.
- April 10-12. TU Regional Rendezvous, Roscoe.
- April 14. Speaker TBD
- April 25. Delaware River Cleanup with the Chenango Valley Chapter at the Fireman's Field Park in Deposit. Details to be announced.

New Board Member: We are happy to announce that Russ Livermore has joined our Board of Directors. We now have a full slate of officers. Thanks Russ! Just a reminder - our new slate of officers for 2025-26 is:

- President Bob Mead
- Vice President Allen Peterson
- Secretary Dave Nugent
- Treasurer Tom Miller

Chapter Facebook Pages: It's been brought to our attention that because our new Facebook page is set up as an organization/business page, members cannot post to it, only the administrators can. We are working to make things more interactive for you (we really do want to see what you've been doing) and will let you know what we are able to come up with. https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574024872694.

Message from President Bob Mead

While the days are getting noticeably longer, the weatherman is now predicting the snowstorm of the century. After we finish our shoveling and plowing, why not settle in and tie 2 dozen extra flies to donate to The Cabin Fever Reliever? Seriously, I hope everyone digs through their closets, basement, and garage, to find any and all fishing related items to sell or donate to this year's event. This is the Chapter's ONLY fundraising event, so we really need every member to participate, to build on the momentum and success from last year. Please note the date has been changed to Saturday, March 14th (9 AM – 3 PM), due to a scheduling error at the American Legion.

I was pleased with the turnout (47) at the first joint meeting with BC Flyfishers, and look forward to future gatherings. The primary objective of these joint meetings is to share expenses to attract higher quality speakers or programs that individual clubs might not be able to afford. The "Carp on the Fly" presentation by expert angler Jack Littleton, was well received by all.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Russ Livermore to the Board of the Al Hazard Chapter. Russ has generously agreed to head-up the membership committee. The TU National objective for all chapters is to recruit younger members, particularly women and youth of all ages, to bolster the activities of the chapter. We still need one or two more members to step up and serve on the Board.

Finally, as you curl up next to the fire perhaps with a great book, let your mind wander to the amazing evening from last season where all the biggest fish in the pool ended up in the bottom of your landing net. Why is the average trout fisherman so obsessed with the 20" mark on the ruler? Every big fish story (especially the ones that got away) usually describes the fish as "way over 20." The answer is easy. Most experienced fishermen know that you never let the truth stand in the way of a good fishing story!

Sweet dreams and tight lines,

Bob Mead

Cabin Fever Reliever Info is On-line: Our second Cabin Fever Reliever fishing and outdoor show will be held again at the American Legion hall on Robinson St. in Binghamton on March 14. Last year's inaugural event was a great success so the formula will be pretty much the same. In addition to the rummage sale that Bob mentioned in his President's Message, there will be vendors, food, fly-tiers and special presentations. Vendor and attendee details are set and this year we added the option of online registration and admission (still $5). This is being done to shorten any line at the door. If you want to get a table yourself, please register for a vendor table online at our Cabin Fever web page https://alhazzardtu.org/cabin-fever-2026/ to reserve it because we expect tables to go quickly. If you do Facebook, please consider sharing the announcements to your page to help spread the word. This is our chapter's main fund-raiser so come on down with friends and family and enjoy a great day to start your fishing year.

Northeast Regional Rendezvous: Mark your calendars! This year's Northeast Regional Rendezvous will be held at the Roscoe Mt. Club just outside Roscoe NY from Friday April 10 through Sunday morning April 12. There will be a packed agenda of fishing and field events, dinners and social hours, including events at the nearby Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum. There will be a special panel on the history of Catskill fly fishing and three concurrent sessions on conservation, outreach and other topics. The agenda and signup information can be found at: https://www.tu.org/get-involved/volunteer-tacklebox/volunteer-leader-trainings-events/annual-meetings-regional-rendezvous/regional-rendezvous/northeast-regional-2026/.
This is a great opportunity that is rarely held this close to home. Don't miss it!

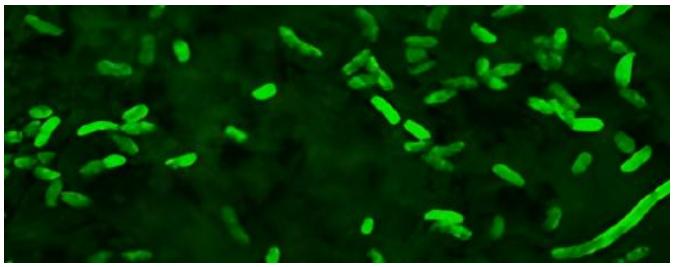
Grants for NY Trout Streams Announced: Trout conservation came up a big winner this month as the State announced the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) and Resilient NY grant awards. In addition to TU securing almost $8.4M in funding for our work, partners across the state also were funded for some great water quality/fisheries enhancement work. We are very excited and relieved to have this level of financial support by NYS during the times of uncertain federal funding. Huge thanks and congratulations to our great TU staff and our partner organization for securing these funds:

Adirondacks: South Branch Moose River fish passage = $1.2M
Saranac: Saranac River fish passage = $327K
Battenkill: Battenkill habitat improvement = $122K
Taconic: Stony Kill fish passage = $601K
Genesee: Trout Brook fish passage = $344K
Upper Delaware: Willowemoc floodplain restoration = $4.7M
Upper Susquehanna: Morris Brook Dam Removal = $1.2M
Oquaga Creek: With Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR**) –** Oquaga Creek habitat improvement = $458K
Fir Brook: With FUDR **–** Fish passage = $220K

Closer to home, in Owego the Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District will stabilize 1,000 feet of Owego Creek at Blodgett Rd. and create a riparian buffer. The project will reduce erosion, improve water quality**,** and protect aquatic habitat. The award is for $264,000. The Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District will also stabilize 450 feet of eroded streambank on Doolittle Creek through regrading the bank slope, planting of native plants and installation of rock vanes in the stream to

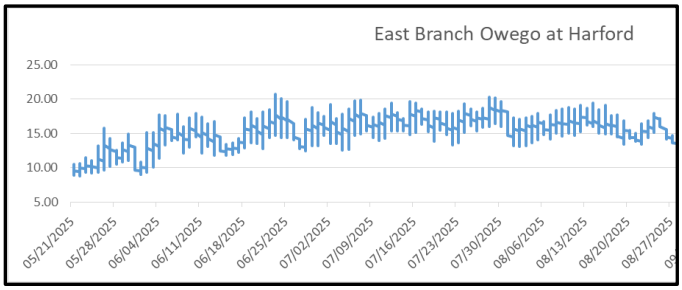
reduce erosion and create stream habitat in the Owego Creek watershed. This award is for $46,165.

Cool Science- Bioluminescence Sampling: As part of our work to assess fish passage issues at the Candor dam, we sought help from the Community Science Institute (CSI) in Ithaca to help in evaluating whether sediments accumulating behind the Upper Candor Dam (situated on Catatonk Creek, a tributary of Owego Creek) might pose an environmental health risk if the dam were to be partially or completely removed. To meet these needs, we landed on performing what's called a Bioluminescence Inhibition Assay (BIA). Traditional chemical analyses detect specific contaminants (such as heavy metals) but they may not capture the effects of untested substances or complex pollutant mixtures. A BIA measures overall biological toxicity, reflecting the cumulative impact of all pollutants present in a water sample, including those not routinely monitored. It is particularly valuable for serving as a rapid screening tool for hazardous spills. The assay assesses acute toxicity by measuring how the bioluminescence of the bacterium, *Aliivibrio fischeri* responds to pollutants. Healthy *A. fischeri* bacteria naturally emit a steady light output, while exposure to toxic substances hinders this output, leading to a reduction in luminescence. An instrument called a photometer allows us to quantify how much light is emitted by the bacteria. The change in light output after exposure of the bacteria to the sample enables us to calculate the toxicity level of the sample. The assay reacts to over 2,700 simple and complex compounds and is used in a wide range of applications. We used this method to assess the sediments at the bottom of the Candor village millpond, above the dam in the summer of 2025 and were pleased to see that the results came back clean. (This information was originally published in Community Science Institute's 2025 Water Bulletin Newsletter)



Bioluminescent gram negative bacterium, Aliivibrio fischeri.

More Cool Science - HOBO Data Sample: We have been busy plotting and analyzing the stream temperature data from the 28 HOBO temperature loggers we had recording data hourly from May through October of last year throughout the Owego Creek watershed. The results are very interesting and valuable for understanding the system and making management decisions. An example of what we are seeing is below. It is the hourly temperature profile (Degrees C.) of the East Branch of Owego Creek at Harford (north of Richford) from May through August. We were very pleased to see that the temperature there was always below 20C, which is the upper limit of brook trout optimum. Some temperature profiles all the way down near the village of Owego were almost as cold, showing the importance of cold groundwater in maintaining good trout temperatures. These data loggers will be used again this year in different locations to keep building a thermal map of the system.



Owego Creek 2026 Planning Underway: Get ready for a big year with our Owego Creek program! Our Christmas Trees for Trout drive was very successful with over 100 trees collected (so far). We are in discussions with two landowners regarding potential habitat projects using these trees to improve trout spawning and habitat. We are also working with TU staff to identify locations for IR drone flights to document important coldwater springs as well as coordinating with DEC on setting up this year's electrofishing sampling areas. Volunteers will be needed again to help with our State Forest Initiative to help DEC identify locations for habitat projects on State Forest streams in the Owego system. We also hope to complete our assessment of possible brook trout reintroduction streams and make a recommendation to DEC by the end of the year. Details will be announced at our annual Owego Creek public workshop on March 14 from noon to 3 pm at the Campville Fire Station #3 on Rt. 38 north of Owego Village.

Dam removal video: Our friends at the Leon Chandler chapter up in Ithaca have alerted us to a really neat video about a nice little dam removal project in California on a wild trout stream. The local connection that makes it especially interesting is that their member Kirk Klingensmith's cousin owns the land that the dam was on. Check it out: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDzvw1JnhPQ

Respect the Redds: There's recently been some increased attention to the importance of learning to recognize and avoid redds while wading our local trout streams (Brook and brown trout have Fall redds and Rainbows have Spring redds). Here is a link to a short video on how to recognize and respect redds.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVIol18qVM8

Limestone Creek Redd Survey: Meanwhile in Syracuse, the Iroquois chapter completed their follow-up 2025 redd survey on Limestone creek in November. Their first survey was November of 2022. That year, 15 definite redds were identified with another 8 listed as possible. This was over approximately 3-1/2 miles of stream from Fayetteville to Manlius. No surveys done in 2023 or 2024 due to illness and flooding. The 2025 survey was coordinated by Dave Schrader. Dave reports that in 2025 they found 31 definite redds and 7 possibles in the same stretch. This study will conclude in November 2026 with the third and final sampling effort.

DEC Announces Release of Final Adirondack Brook Trout Pond Management Plan

The DEC announced on January 5 that it released the final Adirondack Brook Trout Pond Management Plan. DEC's new plan identifies the current risks, challenges, and opportunities that will guide the State's management actions at Adirondack brook trout ponds for the next 15 years.

It has been 46 years since the original DEC plan for managing pond-dwelling brook trout was created. Some important or interesting parts of the plan include:

- Maintenance and expansion of heritage broodstock waters.
- Creation of a citizen science brook trout pond angler partnership program and deployment of a citizen science survey to provide information on angler use, catch, and harvest.
- Uniform fishing regulations.
- New baitfish restrictions.
- Consideration of climate change in management actions.

A final copy of the plan and more information about Adirondack brook trout pond management can be found on the DEC website.