



# Gordon's Quill

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## **TGF Conservation Fund Dinner June 9, 2007**

### **Rockland House, Roscoe**

By: Terry McCartney, VP Chairperson Conservation Committee  
Photos by: James C. Aker

**T**he 5th Annual Conservation Fund Dinner will be held on Saturday evening, June 9th, at 6:00 PM at the Rockland House Restaurant in Roscoe, New York. This is not only a fun event where you can meet friends and trade tales of fish that got away, but an important way of helping make sure that Theodore Gordon Flyfishers has the wherewithal to work on those critical conservation issues that we constantly face. The dinner has grown every year and this year looks to be our best ever.



4th Annual Conservation Fund Dinner and fundraiser attendees in 2006.

This year again there will be the presentation of our annual conservation awards as well as the Founders' Fund Scholarship. You can read 2006 TGF Founders Fund Scholar Jessica Steinberg's letter to TGF in this issue of the Quill to help understand the impact of the Founders Fund award. This year's scholarship recipient, Ms. Jessica Rogers, is also an impressive and well-deserving young scholar and she will be at the dinner to accept her award.

We are also very pleased to announce that this year's conservation award winners are Arthur Stoliar and Jim Serio. In addition to ably serving on the TGF Board of Directors for many years, Arthur also ran our incredibly successful Trout in the Classroom program and educated thousands of young people about the importance of freshwater conservation. Jim Serio, *Continued on page 10*



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**President's Message – SPRING '07 GORDON'S QUILL**



The Theodore Gordon Flyfishers has been and still is one of the most active conservation organizations protecting our cold water fisheries. Its rich history extends back to 1963, forty- four years of great fly anglers but, more importantly, dedicated conservationists. I was honored when one of our past presidents, Richard Schager, asked me to serve on the Board of Directors of TGF a number of years ago. Now, after being elected as the new president of TGF, I feel not only honored but greatly challenged to both help and inspire our membership to carry out our organization's mission. We must protect our streams and rivers' wild salmonid populations through conservation, environmental oversight, activism, catch and release policy and education.

The idea of protecting our cold waters fisheries did not strike me recently, but was something that occurred to me many years ago. I learned to fly fish in the Esopus Creek, west of Boiceville, NY. As happens with so many fly anglers, they are hooked after they catch that first trout, especially if it is a wild, beautiful trout. My first was a small, wild rainbow in the Esopus. That rainbow was probably only nine inches but had such energy and speed for its size that I was truly amazed. That introduction to flyfishing in what became my home river is still etched in my mind after decades and thousands of hours fishing rivers in many parts of our country.

The first stream protective action that I probably ever took before belonging to a conservation group was to pick up debris that someone had left at the edge of the water. As I spent more time on the river, I realized that I could help clean a stream every time I went to the river. It was disheartening to have to do this, but now our TGF membership and friends does this every year. Other clubs and organizations clean streams as well, and it takes everyone's efforts, ours and theirs, to try eradicate the litter problem.

Debris along and in the river is damaging, but is not the greatest threat to our trout and salmon rivers. Improper and uncontrolled land development as well as pollution are seriously threatening our rivers everywhere. These threats to our favorite trout streams require not only activism on the part of TGF as an organization but also help from our members acting individually. You are our "eyes and ears" that keep us informed about what you see and hear about possible or ongoing threats along trout rivers.

I have been personally involved with the Esopus lawsuit against New York City since 2000, a case that is still not settled in spite of our recent win in federal court. The river still needs to be cleaned up, which may not happen for years, but we must and will work for that goal.

Fly fishing is a very large part of my life now. I have fly fished and taught fly fishing in many parts of this country. And I have seen similar serious problems everywhere I travel, reinforcing the idea that we, through TGF, need to work hard to protect our home waters mostly in the Catskills and in the tri-state area when needed. Our resources with money and people are limited, but we support what we can with the consent of the Board of Directors.

I want to say one more thing about our organization and that concerns the Board of Directors. They are a very dedicated group of people, each member carrying out important responsibilities. All of their tireless efforts are needed to make TGF the effective and highly respected organization it is. I am very proud of this group and the fact that we have so many young men and women that serve on it; they have the energy of that first young rainbow that I released. At the same time we also have more senior members who provide wisdom and historical memories, and will guide what will be the future of TGF.

I would like to thank Peter Smith, our past President, for his three years of service in that job. With deep gratitude to outgoing board members, Arthur Stoliar, Len Bryer and John Happersett, our past treasurer, I wish them well in their pursuit of releasing their dream fish in cold, clean rivers.

Respectfully,

Bert Darrow, President

# Project Access Has Small, But Dedicated Turnout

James C. Aker

The annual Project Access venture that usually opens TGF's season of projects and activities enjoyed an enthusiastic but sparse turnout this year. Those of the faithful that showed up were greeted by storm and flood ravaged ramps that needed a great deal of repair work. In several cases such as Ferdon's Eddie, the ramps were just too far gone even to attempt a repair with the limited crew available.

But many thanks to those good souls that did brave the threatening weather and come out to do what they could. Present were: Cliff Albertson and his wife Anne; Andy and Mark Thompson served as the expert chefs for the Roast Pig barbecue; Ms. Kate Frangos and Ms. Chloe Latare (our



(L to R) Chloe Latare and Kate Frangos work at leveling the path at the Museum.



(L to R) John Barrnco, Jonh Happersett, Mark Thompson, Chris Rossow, and Gloria Happersett enjoy the conversation by the fire.

The ramps at the Museum were fully repaired as was the one at Cairns Pool on the lower Beaverville. Our final effort was at Hazel Bridge pool on the Willowemoc Creek where all hands strove mightily to make a smooth path for wheelchairs and the mobility handicapped to get within fishing distance to the creek.

The weather cooperated rain-wise and all we saw was as the Irish say "a bit o softness" in the air occasionally and no torrential downpours occurred during our time together.

Later that day a "Pig Roast" was held at the summer home of Dr. Glenn Erikson and on the East Branch of the Delaware River. Mark Thompson and his brother Andy had outdone themselves arising at three in the morning to begin the day long process of roasting a full pig over an open fire; a task not for the weak spirited to be sure. Once the fire was started and the embers had begun to collect, a homemade spit was erected and the pig was seasoned and readied for the pit.



(L to R) Andy and Mark Thompson at work preparing the roast pig for hungry volunteers.

The result was quite delicious and enjoyed by all with salads of fresh vegetables, pasta, and cold beer plucked straight from the river. Altogether, it was a good day of hard but rewarding work, good food, and great company. We hope to see all of you out next year.



# Virus Infecting Fish in the Connetquot River

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By Sara Low

**R**eports of a devastating disease affecting the trout in the Connetquot River have caused unease among New York anglers. Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (IPN), a virus that infects fish but not humans, has infiltrated the hatchery at our beloved state park. With no known cure, IPN causes a darkening of color in fish fry and hemorrhages or exophthalmia (pop-eye) in fingerlings. Eventually, the virus can lead to death in fish.


The disease is transmittable from fish to fish but not to humans, whether through handling or consumption. It is not yet known how long the virus has been present in the waters at the Connetquot for it has latent stages during which no symptoms present themselves. The Preserve is working with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to eradicate the disease. In the meantime, thousands of fish will be lost.

In an effort to protect the healthy fish in the Connetquot and fish in waterways elsewhere, the Preserve is banning the use of felt-soled boots in the river, allowing only rubber hip boots to be worn. The porous felt could harbor organisms, which would then be transported to other rivers thus infecting unrelated populations of fish. The use of hip boots for wading anglers has been established so as to limit wading movement.

Anglers can do their part to slow the spread of this or any disease by cleaning equipment properly after each use, especially when moving to a new river.

To avoid transporting stowaways, clean your waders and wading boots using the following solution: 1/4 cup of Clorox (there is no acceptable substitute) diluted in a gallon of water. Let your boots soak for 10 minutes, rinse them off very well and then allow them to dry thoroughly. Soak your net in the same solution and then rinse well.

Clean your lines with a mild soap and water mixture. Soap dries lines, so apply a line lubricant after each cleansing by running the line through a pad moistened with line cleaner. Line cleaners are available at fly shops or from fly line manufacturers.


Get out on the water and go fishing, but please, remember to leave everything where it belongs. 

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## New Jersey DEP Announces Water Quality Protection Initiatives

**D**EP Commissioner Lisa P. Jackson has announced that more than 900 miles of waterways and 1,300 acres of reservoirs that supply drinking water to millions of New Jerseyans deserve special protection from the dangers of development - one of two unprecedented water-quality initiatives unveiled by Governor Jon S. Corzine's administration to mark the 37th anniversary of Earth Day.

Along with recommending Category One protection for high-quality waters in 11 counties, Commissioner Jackson also advanced a major regulatory proposal that would vastly improve wastewater management statewide.

For more information please see the DEP News Release at [http://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2007/07\\_0023.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2007/07_0023.htm) on the DEP Web site. 

## TGF Founders Fund Scholar of 2006

*An update from Jessica A. Steinberg*



TGF Founder and author of the Clean Water Act Ted Rogowski with Ms. Jessica Steinberg, the 2006 TGF Founders Fund Scholar, at the 4th Annual Conservation Fund dinner last year.

During the 2006-2007 academic year I finished my requisite coursework at both Pace Law School and Bard College. My coursework at Pace Law School included Corporations, Trial Advocacy, and Land Use Law. The coursework at Bard included the Master's seminar and an Endangered Species Act seminar. Additionally, I was a Case Note/Comment Editor for Pace Law Review. I was responsible for editing six students' articles throughout the course of the academic year. Further, I was Professor Bridget Crawford's research assistant (Pace Law School). As a research assistant, I researched, edited, and wrote on various topics, including federal and state tax law, feminist legal theory, and trusts and estate law.

In addition to classes, I wrote a Master's Project, entitled "Appraising Conservation Easement Donations: The Need for More Uniform Standards and Greater Oversight." My article proposes the establishment of uniform appraisal methods and greater oversight by the Internal Revenue Service of charitable contributions of conservation easement donations. It contributes to the fields of environmental law, land use and planning law, and taxation law because standardized appraisal methods do not currently exist. Without such standards, there is the potential for landowners to overvalue their donations of conservation easements to land trusts.

The IRS has recognized this abuse of the tax laws and has threatened to severely limit or eliminate the charitable contribution deduction program for conservation easements. Without this incentive, many landowners may be unwilling to donate conservation easements on their property, which will lead to less land preserved. My proposals of more uniform appraisal methods and greater oversight of the appraisal process will enable the IRS to curb potential abuse of the tax laws and ensure that landowners continue to donate conservation easements on their property in perpetuity.

My joint degree (JD and MS in Environmental Policy) required that I spend four years in school as opposed to the three years I initially planned to spend when I entered Pace Law School. The Theodore Gordon Flyfishers Founders Fund scholarship money helped defray the expenses of this academic year because I applied the money to my tuition balance in the fall semester.

After I take the New York and New Jersey Bar Examinations in July 2007, I will begin work as an Associate at Sive, Paget & Riesel, P.C., the top environmental law firm in New York. I will work on various issues including environmental law, land use and development law, and municipal law. My work will focus on the New York area, particularly the Hudson Valley region. Aligned with the goals of TGF, I will help further "the cause of environmental protection and riparian habitat conservation for the benefit of all" as an environmental lawyer.

The TGF Founders Fund scholarship program is an extremely beneficial program because it enables students like me to work in the environmental field. Plus, it promotes public and private sector work, which both need intelligent, energetic, and motivated individuals to protect and conserve the heritage of the Hudson Valley. I am honored to be the inaugural recipient of this scholarship and hope that the program continues for years to come. 🐾

# TGF in Action

Terry McCartney

We are in the midst of our busiest time of the year. We have a number of active conservation projects underway right now ranging from hands-on stream improvement work to grant applications to educational efforts to regulatory affairs to litigation. It seems that there is never a shortage of challenges to our home waters and we strive to protect and defend them as best we can. Thanks to all of you who already volunteer to help on these projects. If you have never volunteered to help on a conservation project, you are missing out on the most important part of TGF. Get off the sidelines and into the game!

## ***Here is a summary of some current conservation activities:***

**Delaware Flows.** The current flow regime for the Upper Delaware River has expired but is being continued while new flow plans are being considered. The new plan proposed by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), known as the Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP), is flawed and does not do enough to protect the fishery with adequate flows. TGF, along with TU, DRF and others, including Professor Peter Kolesar of Columbia University, have developed and proposed an alternative new flow plan, known as CP2, to the DRBC. CP2 is far from perfect but it is a viable step in the right direction using the DRBC's own computer models that does not significantly increase the number of potential drought days – the number one factor for the City of New York and their excuse for hoarding water in the reservoirs while flows decrease, the water gets hot and fish die. CP2 was presented to the DRBC recently and was accompanied by a letter writing campaign. The indications at this point are that the FFMP has been abandoned and that CP2 is being considered. Other interested groups have demanded minimum flows of 650 cfs but that will never happen because the reservoirs simply are not big enough to hold that much water. and if they were the City would never, ever run them dry and risk a water shortage during a drought. It is our position that CP2 is a good, realistic starting point that the DRBC can and should accept.

**Neversink Quarry Repairs.** Almost a year ago we were approached by the owner of the Woodbourne Lawn & Garden Sand & Gravel Mine in Fallsburg for assistance in designing an environmentally appropriate solution to the flood damage done to the buffer land between his quarry ponds and the Neversink River which have been blown out twice in the past few years during flood events. With the volunteered help of Marit Larson, an environmental scientist and daughter of longtime TGF member Gerry Sobel, Conservation Committee member Mark Thompson worked tirelessly to research and develop a two-phase plan that was acceptable to the owner, to the DEC and to us. At his own expense and working with Mark and Marit, the mine owner has done significant (and ongoing) heavy equipment work to shore up a breach made during the '06 flood. That work was recently followed by willow planting by a working party of TGF and Neversink TU chapter members on May 19. Phase two of the plan will involve work in the riverbed and along the banks and will require DEC permitting. This was the first effort of this type by TGF and so far it has been extremely successful and has cost us very little in terms of out-of-pocket expenses. Mark Thompson deserves high praise for his efforts on this project!



**Project Access.** PA Day was held on April 28, 2007. All of the ramps, with the exception of the Ferdon's Eddy angler's lot site, were repaired. Ferdon's was washed out so thoroughly by the flood waters that it must either be relocated or shored up with some large rocks before the path can be replaced. After the work was completed, Conservation Committee member Glenn Erickson hosted a pig roast at his house on the East Branch. This year we enjoyed the assistance of a group of Boy Scouts led by Max Lieb who repaired the Angler's Lot above the CFFCM as his Eagle Scout project (photo below). We need more member participation on this program next year. Please keep it in mind.

**Beaverkill River Adopt-a-Stream Efforts.** We had a clean-up day on May 20 and picked up two pick-up truck loads of trash along the Beaverkill. We have another clean-up day scheduled for September 15 – please put it in your calendar and come out and help. In addition to our semi-annual clean-ups, rock-rolling days and our project access work on the Beaverkill, we also are presently working on several projects to improve the spawning tributaries.

**On Russell Brook,** we have been working with the DOT, DEC and the local community to explore the possibility of making the washed out road permanent. Instead of repairing the damage done to the streamside black-top road (Russell Brook Road just past the trailer park), we have recommended that the road simply stop where the last flood washed it out and a trailhead type parking lot be built so that hikers and fishermen could utilize the surrounding area. There are some issues to work out but we are hopeful that we can get something done. Glenn Erickson is taking the lead on this project.

**On Horton Brook,** along with TU and the DEC we are part of a coalition called the Horton Brook Conservation Initiative (HCBI) whose goal is to solve the long term problem of gravel from an upstream DEP property clogging the mouth of Horton Brook after every high water event. We hope that the DEP will join the group soon and work toward solving this ongoing problem.

**On Horse Run Brook,** we are developing a proposal to obtain federal, state and local funding to make the brook passable to spawning trout once again. There is an impassable culvert several hundred yards upstream from the mouth that must be corrected for the brook to be of any use to spawning fish. This will be our major focus for the next year or so and there is plenty of work to do from writing grant applications to field survey work to taking photographs of the stream.

**Catskill Casinos.** As you know, the casino on the Neversink about which we have been so concerned is stalled and the only casino presently moving forward is one planned for the Monticello Raceway. Back in October, we filed a letter of opposition to the project proceeding without a full environmental impact statement (EIS) being completed as required by federal law. The lead federal agency on the project, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, has decided to bypass an EIS despite the many significant issues raised in response to the initial Environmental Assessment (EA) that was filed and commented upon unfavorably by us and many other environmental groups.

We have opposed that decision and some other groups, including the Sierra Club and others, have started litigation against the BUA. Since that particular project does not directly impact the watershed and, while it will cause environmental problems, we feel our resources and efforts are best spent on watershed battles. If the Neversink Casino rears its ugly head again, we'll have our hands full.

**New No-Kill Areas.** We are soliciting comments from the membership on the possibility of re-establishing a no-kill section on the Esopus and establishing a new no-kill section on the East Branch. Please send us your views on those ideas by e-mail or good old-fashioned letter.

**TGF Conservation Publications.** We are currently working on developing TGF handbooks on effective letter writing and stream improvement techniques. If you are interested in helping with the research or assist in writing or publishing these handbooks, please contact us.

In addition to this regular column in the Quill, the Conservation Committee has also started publishing a synopsis of each regular committee meeting in a newsletter entitled "Raising the Hackle" on the TGF web site to keep the membership informed of current activities. Please make it a habit to check the TGF web site for events on the calendar.

The Conservation Committee meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 113 East 37th Street in New York City for most of the year and on Saturdays at noon in Roscoe during the summer (usually at the Reynold's House). Our meetings typically last about an hour and a half.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Terry McCartney at 212-684-1880 (days) or 914-835-1961 (nights/weekends) or by e-mail at [conservation@tgf.org](mailto:conservation@tgf.org) or [mccartneyt@aol.com](mailto:mccartneyt@aol.com).



# The Clearwater Junction 2007 Fly Tying Show

June 8th & 9th

Mark Thompson, VP, Conservation Committee Co-Chair

On Friday and Saturday, 8th and 9th of June, TGF will hold the 3rd Clearwater Junction Fly Tying Show at the Rockland House in Roscoe, NY. The show runs from 9am to 4pm.

This year's show will be the largest and most impressive yet with 65 superb tyers, a cane rod builder from Japan, working artists, 3 classic tackle vendors, events for children, excellent door prizes, afternoon lectures and even a scroll saw artist.

Fly tyers from over 10 States and as far as the U.K. have donated their time and their skill to aid TGF's conservation efforts and to advance TGF's mission. Bob Mead, Dave Brandt, Stan Fudala, Ralph Graves, the U.K.'s Roy Christie, Tim Wohland and Debbie Duran will be joined by over 50 skilled experts in all disciplines of fly dressing. You may find anything from tiny Catskill dry flies, to colorful salmon, steelhead, and saltwater flies, buck-tails and streamers, expertly crafted nymphs, incredible realistics, North Country spiders, wets, and everything between. The assembled line up will provide an incredible exposition of the fly dresser's art.

Roscoe's award winning watercolorist Jack Yelle will paint a fly-fishing scene during Saturday's show. Jack studied with Edgar Whitney, the Dean of American watercolorists and his paintings have an evocative quality, capturing the spirit of fly-fishing. Michael Simon specializes in subaqueous scenes of salmonids. His work has graced many national magazines and his illustrations were used in Gierach's "Trout Bum". Michael will exhibit his work at the show.

At 11:00 AM each day the children's fly tying lessons will be led by experienced instructors. They will learn the rudimentary skills involved in fly tying, with all equipment supplied and every child attending entered into a daily draw to win a fly tying kit. At 1:00 PM the fly casting lessons begin for the kids, again all equipment is supplied.

Companies and individuals have responded generously to the TGF's request for door and draw prize donations for the show. Prizes include tackle, gift certificates for stores, restaurants and hotels, signed books and much more.

Each afternoon at 1:30 PM Roy Christie, accomplished UK tyer and conservationist, will give his talk "Tying Emergers and How to Present Them", which has been seen at shows all over Europe. Roy invokes memories of the Kennet, Test and Itchen rivers when explaining the design history of his emergers and talks in detail of his 'sunken tippet' presentation method. This is a must see before heading off to Cairns Pool for the evening hatch!


Carmine Lisella of the Jordan Mills Rod Company, Larry McCarthy of Beaverkill Traders and Bob Selb of The Classic Fly Fisherman will be exhibiting and selling their collections of classic rods and reels. Rods by Payne, Leonard, Gillum and many more will be on display.

The show promises to be our biggest and best yet and more information is available at [WWW.CLEARWATER-JUNCTION.COM](http://WWW.CLEARWATER-JUNCTION.COM).

The reason for the show...Conservation!

The show is not about fly-tying. It is not about fly-fishing. It is about conservation.

Clearwater Junction is about raising environmental awareness and donations to carry out the hard work necessary to save our most precious resources: our rivers and streams. Proposed mega-developments, easing of environmental regulations, casinos, polluters and disease present an ever-growing threat to the health of our riparian habitat and cold water fisheries. The Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc. has stood alone or in coalition to fight these battles and control these threats and has done so since 1963.

Please make the effort to support this show and help TGF continue to protect these resources. 



# TGF Assists in Neversink Quarry Repairs


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*Mark Thompson, VP, Conservation Committee Co-Chair*

**D**uring the disastrous flooding in the Catskills at the end of June 2006, the Neversink River breached the buffer at the Woodbourne Lawn & Garden Sand & Gravel Mine in Fallsburg, NY and began to flow through the quarry ponds. Warm, discolored water flowed from the ponds as the river rejoined its natural course.

Bob Scheinman, the mine owner, requested TGF's assistance in designing an environmentally appropriate solution to the flood damage done to the 100ft buffer. With the volunteered help of Marit Larson, an environmental scientist, a two-phase plan was drawn up. Phase one was completed on Saturday May 19th. The phase one design included refilling the breached berm, armoring the wall, installation of erosion control fabric and planting live willow cuttings which TGF members Jeff and Erin Phelan collected from the nursery at Vassar College. The planting team included Mark Romero and 4 members of the Neversink Watershed T.U. chapter (of which Jeff is the President). After 3 hours of hard work the cuttings were planted through the armored wall, along the crest of the berm and along the banks on either side of the restored berm. Bob will continue to water the plants throughout the summer and an evaluation on whether a late fall replanting will be needed later in the year.

Phase two will be a habitat restoration plan for the full-length of the owner's property. This is a much larger project and will require much planning and preparation which is ongoing.

We would like to thank Marit Larson for lending her professional expertise, Jeff and Erin Phelan for arranging the plants, Mark Romero and the Neversink Watershed T.U. for providing the labor for this important TGF project. 

a longtime TGF member and director of the Delaware River Foundation, has dedicated his life to improving the trout habitat on the Delaware and its tributaries, perhaps most notably bringing an experienced and knowledgeable voice of reason to the recent flow regime debate. Please join us at the dinner to acknowledge the lifelong conservation efforts of these two outstanding men.

Also this year there is the 3rd Annual Clearwater Junction Fly Tying Event the day before, on June 8th and 9th, so you can make a long weekend of it including some time to fish the local waters. See the article below for further details.

You should already have gotten the invitation and raffle tickets to the Conservation Fund Dinner as well as follow-up announcements through the usual mail and e-mail circulation system. Watch for further details and tell your friends now to save this date as well. You can contact Terry McCartney at Conservation@TGF.org if you haven't gotten tickets or need other information about this event. We can take a limited number of people at the door but to be guaranteed a seat at the dinner, please reserve in advance.



Conservation Committee Chairperson Terry McCartney presents the 2006 Conservation and lifetime achievement awards to Doc and Mary Fried and Joan Wulff

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## **Fish-Killing Virus Spreading in the Great Lakes**

Susan Saulny

*CHICAGO, April 20* — A virus that has already killed tens of thousands of fish in the eastern Great Lakes is spreading, scientists said, and now threatens almost two dozen aquatic species over a wide swath of the lakes and nearby waterways.

The virus, a mutated pathogen not native to North America that causes hemorrhaging and organ failure, is not harmful to humans, even if they eat contaminated fish. But it is devastating to the ecosystem and so unfamiliar, experts said, that its full biological impact might not be clear for years. It is also having a significant impact on the lakes' \$4 billion fishing industry.

There is no known treatment for the virus. As a result, scientists are focusing on managing its spread to uncontaminated water — quite a challenge since the Great Lakes are linked and fall under the jurisdiction of several states and provinces in Canada.

"Updates over the winter suggest it has spread further than we thought, even last year," said John Dettmers, a senior fisheries biologist for the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"It's really early," Mr. Dettmers said. "As much as I'd like to say we know exactly what's going on, we don't. We're all sitting here on the edge of our chairs waiting to see how bad it's going to be this year."

When it was first detected about two years ago, the virus had affected only two species in a limited amount of water. But it has aggressively spread to other areas and other fish and is now being confirmed in Lake Huron after infecting Lakes Ontario and Erie, Lake St. Clair, the St. Lawrence River and the Niagara River. It is suspected in Lake Michigan as well, although there is no official confirmation.

Last year, the virus, called viral hemorrhagic septicemia and known as V.H.S., caused untold thousands of dead fish to wash up in places like the eastern shoreline of Lake Ontario, a warning sign that scientists said could just be the tip of the iceberg in terms of what is going on underwater.

The five Great Lakes — Superior, Erie, Huron, Michigan and Ontario — hold 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water.

"We anticipate that this will continue and get worse over the next few years," said Dr. Jim Casey, associate professor of virology at Cornell University. "We fear there may be more widespread presence of the virus."

One of Dr. Casey's colleagues researching the virus, Dr. Paul Bowser, a professor of aquatic animal medicine, added, "This is a new pathogen and for the first number of years — 4, 5 or 10 years — things are going to be pretty rough, then the animals will become more immune and resistant and the mortalities will decline."


No one is sure where the virus came from or how it got to the Great Lakes. In the late 1980s, scientists saw a version of V.H.S. in salmon in the Pacific Northwest, which was the first sighting anywhere in North America. V.H.S. is also present in the Atlantic Ocean. But the genesis of a new, highly aggressive mutated strain concentrating on the Great Lakes is a biological mystery.

"We really don't know how it got there," said Jill Roland, a fish pathologist and assistant director for aquaculture at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "People's awareness of V.H.S. in the lakes was unknown until 2005. But archived samples showed the virus was there as early as 2003."

Scientists pointed to likely suspects, mainly oceangoing vessels that dump ballast water from around the world into the Great Lakes. (Ships carry ballast water to help provide stability, but it is often contaminated and provides a home for foreign species. The water is loaded and discharged as needed for balance.)

Fish migrate naturally, but also move with people as they cast nets for sport, for instance, or move contaminated water on pleasure boats from lake to lake.


The United States Department of Agriculture issued an emergency order in October to prohibit the movement of live fish that are susceptible to the virus out of the Great Lakes or bordering states. The order was later amended to allow limited movement of fish that tested negative for the virus.

"Getting rid of it is extremely hard to foresee," said Henry Henderson, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Midwest office in Chicago. "These species spread, and reproduce. It is a living pollution" 



## **Former President steps down from the Board of Directors**

Longtime Director and former President of Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Peter Smith, has resigned his post as a Director and stepped aside to spend more time with his family. Peter, an attorney at law, joined TGF in 1992 and served as a Director many of those years. He occupied the post of Secretary and in the last three years served with distinction as President of TGF. He has been an unflagging advocate for cold water fishery conservation and the TGF mission. Although he remains a member in good standing, his wit and wisdom will be missed at Board meetings. Good luck Pete and tight lines.

Elected to the directorship vacated by Mr. Smith, Steve Lieb brings his own brand of expertise and enthusiasm to the TGF Board. Steve, also an attorney at law, is an active member of the Conservation Committee and has been our point man with respect to the fight to institute the CP2 plan on the Delaware River. Steve is well spoken and understands the complexities of negotiating agreements with coalition partners, communities, and regulatory agencies. We look forward to his active participation in board meetings and activities. 

## ***In Memoriam***

### ***Founder and Life Member Donald F. Leyden***

It is with deep regret that we announce that TGF Founder and Charter member Donald F. Leyden passed away on December 12, 2006. Mr. Leyden was a noted artist, fly fisher, fly tier and speaker since the 1940s, and he was a co-originator of the TGF Arts of Angling program.

Mr. Leyden was an active participant in TGF programs, projects, and activities for many years. But in recent years age and infirmity prevented his active participation. Nevertheless, he continued to support TGF and its mission. Only last year he sent us a message of encouragement and exhorted us to "Keep up the good work!"  
Gone fishing on other rivers at 86 years of age, Mr. Donald F. Leyden, Founder, Theodore Gordon Flyfishers.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATES REMINDER**

Members, please note that if any of your contact information changes, whether address, telephone and most importantly E-mail address, you should send the information to Jim Aker at [Membership@TGF.org](mailto:Membership@TGF.org) or send a note via US mail to:

**James C. Aker**, *VP Membership Chairman*,  
Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc  
P.O. Box 2345 Grand Central Station,  
New York, NY 10163-23245.

It's important that you keep this information current, in particular your e-mail address, since more and more of our information is now being distributed primarily by e-mail (e.g. the monthly TGF Bulletin and luncheon announcements) as a more efficient and economical way of keeping in touch with the membership.

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### **Gordon's Quill**

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P.O. Box 2345 Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163-2345  
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### **Address Correction Requested**