



# Gordon's Quill

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## TGF in Action

**W**e are currently planning our conservation projects for the coming year and are fortunate to have a diverse and dedicated group of members serving on the Conservation Committee right now. As you all know from reading your Quills, Bulletins and e-mail alerts over the past several years, there is never a shortage of challenges to our home waters and we strive to protect and defend them as best we can. Our thanks to all of you who already volunteer to help with our conservation efforts.

Conservation work is really the most important part of being a TGF member. We were founded to be a conservation organization and hopefully you joined TGF because you were attracted to our mission and wanted to make a difference. If you have not yet gotten involved, there are many different ways to help, ranging from letter writing to attending public hearings, hands-on stream restoration work and lots more. Do it this year.

The days are long past when we can rely on Mother Nature to provide us with good trout water in which to fish. If you want to have good hatches coming off and wild healthy fish rising to your fly, you have to do something to protect that trout habitat. It is a constant battle to do that in our area and across the country, and as water resources become more and more scarce, TGF must be there and be ready to do whatever is necessary.

Here is a summary of some TGF's current conservation activities:

**Delaware Flows.** We, along with many others, have been working for several years to improve flow conditions on the Delaware. There are no easy answers and we have to continue to move the various governmental entities involved in the process in the right direction. This will take years, if not decades, so it is important for TGF to remain at the table and take reasonable positions as opportunities for change present themselves. Please see the article in this issue by Steve Lieb which explains the specifics of the current situation. Thanks to all of you who participated in our recent letter-writing campaign.

Continued on page 4



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**President's Message**



The year 2007 was very busy for TGF's Board of Directors and its members. We have been involved in a whole host of conservation issues and have worked with a number of coalitions to protect many of our well known Catskill Rivers. Those issues that threaten our rivers vary greatly, ranging from the building of gambling casinos to low water flows to pollution caused by turbidity. A tremendous number of hours have been invested by individual BOD members working on some of these issues. Indeed, all of TGF contributed significantly to our conservation efforts this year by mailing in comments to the DRBC asking for improved water releases for the Delaware River System.

TGF members and friends as well as a contingent of the Boy Scouts of America have worked on various stream projects along the Catskill Rivers, including stream clean-ups, rock rolling at the mouths of tributaries to help spawning trout have access to headwaters, willow plantings along the river banks for stabilization, as well as having built a new Project Access path on the Willowemoc.

The BOD appointed a Finance Committee last year consisting of Board members as well as non- Board members to work on ways to invest TGF funds, and to work on an overall financial strategy for TGF going forward. This committee is new and has shown both great energy and enthusiasm in carrying out their task.

There are many other committees that make TGF a great organization and they all require a great deal of work on the part of our individual directors. TGF's Outings Committee provides all who attend a chance to share our common interest in fly fishing. Last year saw very good turnouts for some terrific outings and we hope to increase the numbers of participants again this year.

Finally, I would like to urge members and their guests to attend our Annual Day Dinner at the Anglers' Club of New York. The seating capacity is limited and our guest speaker, DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis, will provide us with an informative address about the Catskill Watershed and its rivers. There will be many auction items to be won and prizes to be purchased so please make your reservations soon.

Respectfully,

Bert Darrow, President

# Esopus Creek Update

Bert Darrow

P r e s i d e n t

**A**fter nearly a decade of litigation and related meetings, there is still a long way to go before resolution is reached on cleaning up the turbidity problem in the Esopus Creek caused by New York City. The polluted water flows from NYC Schoharie Reservoir through an eighteen mile pipe and into the Esopus Creek at Allaben, NY.

The lawsuit brought by TGF and other coalition members has moved through many different forums that include the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (twice), The United States Supreme Court (twice), a DEC Hearing officer and currently, the New York State Supreme Court. It will not be a surprise if the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, the New York Court of Appeals and perhaps even a return to the federal courts, are added to this list over the next few years.



New York City has now paid a fine of 5.2 million dollars to the US Treasury and reimbursed all of the plaintiffs in our coalition for expenses incurred in the federal litigation portion of these proceedings after being found guilty of polluting under the regulations of the Clean Water Act.

TGF with its coalition partners has fought long and hard, with the help of Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic, to require New York City to obtain a SPDES permit for its polluted discharges, and we ultimately prevailed in that fight. However, the former DEC Commissioner, Denise Sheehan, issued a decision in July 2006 directing the issuance of the then-draft permit effective August 1, 2006. We are now challenging Commissioner Sheehan's decision and the resulting permit with hopes that the court's ruling will be announced this spring in our favor.

The permit as issued will not meet our goal of cleaning up the Esopus and restore it to the magnificent wild trout fishery it once was. With all the monies expended by parties in this litigation, a huge fine paid to the US Government by NYC, reimbursement of expenses to coalition members and thousands of hours invested by everyone involved, the Esopus Creek is still turbid because of water flowing from the tunnel.

We at TGF as well as the other parties to the original lawsuit look forward to the day when the Esopus will again run "gin clear" and will once again more be worthy of its reputation as one of the country's best trout streams, populated with tens of thousands of wild rainbow trout.

Finally, I would like to thank our coalition members, as well as all those at Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic, Karl S. Coplan, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Dan Estrin and the many students that have made this whole process possible. We will fight on for the Esopus.



**Project Access** PA Day will be held on April 26, 2008. In addition to repairing the paths, we will also plant willows along the Beaverkill and Willowemoc. Please join us as this is an easy way to get involved in TGF's conservation work. We meet at the Catskill Flyfishing Center and Museum at 9:00 AM, provide tools, so you only need to bring some work gloves and a willing spirit. There will be a cookout and some fishing after the work is done.

**Beaverkill River Adopt-a-Stream Efforts** We adopted the Beaverkill several years ago as one of the inaugural members of the Federation of Flyfisher's national Adopt-a-Stream program. Every year, in addition to rock-rolling, tree planting, and our Project Access work, we also have several clean-up days on the Beaverkill. We also are planning several tributary improvement projects on Horse Brook, Russell Brook and Horton Brook. Please join us when we publish the dates for those important projects.

**Catskill Casinos** We finally won this fight recently. Please read the article in this issue by John Barone explaining this crucial victory.

**Belleayre** This will continue to be a hot button topic as the Environmental Impact Statement is reviewed and commented upon. Please see the article by John Barone in this issue about the Belleayre development issues.

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

**Conservation Fund Dinner/Clearwater Junction 2008** Please join us on June 6-7 in Roscoe for our annual fly-tying extravaganza and then on Saturday night, our awards dinner. In addition to some wonderful camaraderie and fundraising to support our projects at the dinner, we also recognize those who have done meaningful work in protecting trout habitat in our home waters and award the Founder's Fund scholarship to a promising young student. The CJ is fast becoming one of the biggest fly-tying events in the country, certainly the biggest in the Northeast.

*Please make it a habit to check the TGF web site for events on the calendar. The Conservation Committee meets 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, 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 [mccartney@aol.com](mailto:mccartney@aol.com).*

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## Casinos in the Catskills

John Barone

In January of this year, U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne made a final administrative decision to reject the two pending Catskill Casino applications, along with about more than a dozen other "off-reservation" casino proposals around the country. This decision effectively ended the threat of casinos along Neversink River and at the Monticello Raceway. Officially, Kempthorne rejected the Catskill applications because the casinos would be too far from the sponsoring Indian tribal reservations (350 miles for Monticello and more than 1,000 miles for the Neversink).

There is no doubt that the several years of environmental work, which included comments submitted by TGF with regard to the Neversink Casino Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the many letters from our membership written to Sullivan County Legislators, New York State Senators, Assemblymen, the Governor and Secretary Kempthorne, played a key role in killing the Catskills proposals.

Recently, TGF Board member John L. Barone wrote an article for the Times-Herald Record setting forth the reasons that make Secretary Kempthorne's recent decision a major turning point in the fight against casinos in the Catskills. 

# The Clearwater Junction 2008 Fly Tying Show

## June 6th & 7th

The 4th Annual Clearwater Junction Fly Tying Show will be held on June 6th and 7th, at the Rockland House in Roscoe, NY. Once again some of the finest tyers from the United States and overseas will demonstrate the art of fly dressing to aid riparian and fishery conservation. Classic tackle, rod builders, artists, antique books, author book signings, presentations, local artisans, kid's activities and the 5th Theodore Gordon Flyfishers' Conservation Fund Banquet and Awards on Saturday evening will contribute to a show for all of the family.

This year's show will be the largest and most impressive yet with 65 superb tyers, cane rod builders, working artists, classic tackle vendors, events for children, excellent door prizes and afternoon lectures.

Fly tyers from almost 20 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. The tyers attending, listed below, are experts in all disciplines of fly dressing; from tiny Catskill dry flies, to colorful salmon, steelhead and saltwater flies, to bucktails and streamers, to expertly rendered nymphs, incredible realistics, North Country spiders, wets and everything in between. The assembled line-up will provide an incredible exposition of the fly dresser's art.

Bob Mead (NY)	Bill Chandler (VT)	John Hvasta (NY)	Bud Bynack (NY)
Steve Thornton (England)	Jamie Daly (PA)	Elmer Hopper (NY)	Dave Ulmer (OH)
Dave Brandt (NY)	Alex Cerveniak (MI)	Jim Serio (NY)	Eric Austin (OH)
Ted Patlen (NJ)	Rich Bogardus (NY)	Deb Duran (RI)	Michael Norton (NY)
Joe Fox (NY)	Roy Christie (N. Ireland)	Mark Romero (AR)	Aaron Hirschorn (NJ)
Stan Fudala (NH)	Bob Lindquist (NY)	Geoff Schaaque (NY)	Matt Grobert (NJ)
Allen McGee (GA)	Tim Wohland (NY)	Keith Ciesla (NY)	John Bonasera (NJ)
Harry Wallace (Scotland)	Graham Owen (CA)	Levern Brum (NY)	Bob Osburn (NY)
Ralph Graves (NY)	Richard Strolis (CT)	Bill Heckel (IL)	J.B. Martin (NJ)
Charles Barton (Belize)	Mike Schmidt (OH)	Jack Pangburn (NY)	Nick Rubicco (NY)
Clem Fullerton (NY)	Frank Swarner III (PA)	Bud Guidry (LA)	Paul Boss (MI)
Peggy Brenner (NH)	Mark Thompson (England)	Frank Audino (NY)	Shawn Davis (NY)
Mike Hogue (NY)	Jim Froio (NY)	Anton Rist (NY)	
Tom Babcock (PA)	Andy Brasko (NJ)	Dan Caruso (NY)	
John Collins (NJ)	William Newcomb (NY)	Chris Del Plato (NY)	
Tom Berry (AR)	Cliff Albertson (NY)	Misako Ishimura (Japan)	
Ron Gheradi (NJ)	Paul F. Murphy (NJ)	Richard 'Griff' Griffin (OK)	
George Cherundolo	Norma Kawecki (MD)	Michael Johnson (AZ)	
Leslie Wrixon (MA)	Bruce Corwin (NJ)	Ed McQuat (Scotland)	

*Continued on Page 8*

## Membership Committee Expanding

Jim Aker, Chairman of the TGF Membership Committee, has been doing yeoman's duty in the past three years as a one-man membership committee. However, his success has increased the need to spread the work among other TGF members. So Jim is looking for those who would like to work with him on the Membership Committee to help spread the word about the good work of TGF and enroll more and new members.

Please contact him at [jaker@ixnetcom.com](mailto:jaker@ixnetcom.com) if you'd like to be part of the growth of TGF's membership.



# Delaware Flow Management Plan

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*An Improvement, but... It can be Improved*

Steve Lieb

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) and the parties to the 1954 Supreme Court Decree that established control over New York City's reservoirs in the Upper Delaware Basin are currently considering adoption of an interim Flexible Flow Management Plan (FFMP) that will control water releases into the Neversink River and the East Branch, West Branch and main stem of the Delaware River. The FFMP is a step in the right direction as it provides environmental gains and represents a significant victory for advocates for cold water fisheries.

TGF has given measured support to the interim FFMP as it is now proposed, but has asked the DRBC to consider changes to the plan before it is adoption.

Several years ago TGF, along with a coalition of conservation groups, including Dr. Peter Kolesr at Columbia University and Jim Serio of the Delaware River Foundation began to develop a new approach to improve management of water in the New York City Reservoirs that serve as headwaters for the fishery in the Upper Delaware Basin. This approach is called Adaptive Release and is based on the intuitive principle that in years when there is more water in the reservoirs, more water should be release to maintain and improve the fishery and the river environment. When less water is available less water is released, so that risk to the water supply is minimized.

Within this framework, the Coalition has developed a number of water management plans with the goal to improve the fishery without risking the water supply. Any release plan must take into account the fact that protection of the water supply is of paramount concern of the parties that control these reservoirs.

The interim FFMP uses the Adaptive Release concept. The Coalition has been able to influence the DRBC to consider Adaptive Release by backing up all of its proposals with hard scientific data and hours of computer modeling, to demonstrate effects on the environment and to the security of the water supply. This approach has gained the Coalition credibility with the DRBC and decree parties. Given the powerful interests that control this resource and the vital role it plays in the region, we believe that maintaining a place at the table is the best way to advance the cause of the fishery and the river environment.

The FFMP replaces a complex system of "banks," where certain quantities of water held in the reservoirs could be released to achieve particular temperature and flow targets in the river system. While this system of banks was intended to provide benefit to the fishery, in reality the rivers suffered. At times banks were used up and additional water could not be released at critical times of the year, regardless how much water was in the reservoirs. In addition, the old systems resulted in drastic changes in water flow, disrupting the habitat.

The FFMP provides a simpler system where minimum water releases for specific seasons through the year are set. Drastic swings in flow within each season are reduced and there is no danger that conservation banks will be used up, cutting off releases at critical times of the year. Water releases under the FFMP are determined based on seasonally adjusted reservoir levels and an estimation of the amount of water diverted from the reservoirs to supply New York City.

As currently proposed, the FFMP includes two release tables: one for New York City diversions of 765 million gallons per day (MGD) and one for a diversion of 800 MGD. Minimum water releases for each of the three Upper Delaware reservoirs are specified by the tables in amounts that depend on whether the reservoir level is above normal, normal, or in a drought condition.

One release level that has been of particular concern is the release during the summer from Cannonsville into the West Branch under normal "L2" reservoir levels. Under the FFMP, that release would be 260 cubic feet per second (CFS). While this is less than optimal, it does represent a modest improvement over the previous release plan that would have provided 225 CFS.

The interim FFMP, as it is now proposed can be improved significantly. TGF members can help to influence changes to the plan before it is implemented and advocate for improvements over the three-year review period. Some improvements include:

■ **Basing Releases on Realistic Water Usage.** *This is an approach proposed by Dr. Kolesar and Jim Serio which they call "Augmented FFMP". It takes better account of the waters actually available for release by adding two additional sets of release tables to account for New York City diversions of less than 700 MGD and less than 600 MGD. Currently, interim FFMP assumes, at a minimum, a New York City diversion of 765 MGD. In fact, over the last ten years New York City's diversions have been much less, averaging 536 MGD. Significant increases in flow can be provided with no increased risk to the water supply when a more realistic estimate of diversions is taken into account. These changes reduce spills and provide larger voids in late summer modestly reducing the risk of flooding.*

*Modify the flow target at Montague, New Jersey. Under the 1954 Decree, releases must be sufficient to provide a minimum flow of 1850 CFS in the Delaware River at Montague, New Jersey. Unfortunately, meeting that target on a daily basis has resulted in rapid swings in release levels, particularly during the summer, leading to unnatural flows in the rivers and disruption of the aquatic ecosystem. The FFMP should include a provision where the flow target at Montague is adjusted on a seasonal basis, rather than a fixed target. It should be adjustable within each season to reflect actual environmental needs including salt water intrusion into the lower Delaware Basin. It should also be managed to achieve a weekly average flow as opposed to daily flow target. This will reduce rapid swings in river flow, which create conditions that are harmful to the river environment and detrimental to recreational use of the river;*

Σ ■ **Better Assessment of Drought Risk.** *The management of the reservoir system could be improved by adopting a better approach to evaluating water supply risk. Currently drought risk is assessed by calculating hypothetical reservoir levels based on historical data for the period from 1928 until 2001 using the OASIS computer model and comparing those levels with so-called drought curves that are meant to show when the system is in a drought condition. The DRBC and the decree parties measure of water supply risk by determining "total drought days" over that historical period and have taken the position that any release plan must not increase this "total drought days" figure.*

*Basing drought risk on this single figure is unrealistic. It greatly overestimates water supply risk and results in releases that are unnecessarily low. Instead, water supply risk should be based on a variety of variables.*

■ **Additional Seasons.** *The FFMP now includes five "seasons" or periods in the year with discrete minimum release amounts. By dividing the year into more seasons and accounting for additional reservoir levels, the FFMP will better reflect ecological and hydrological factors through the year.*

■ **Bring OASIS Up To Date.** *The OASIS model should be updated so that the data set is current. As it is now implemented, water supply data since 2001, including data from the recent series of floods, is not included in the database. And OASIS should be maintained so that new data is added on an annual basis. In addition, OASIS should be integrated with modeling of the entire New York City reservoir system.*

TGF and its partners in the Conservation Coalition have worked diligently to improve the management of the Upper Delaware reservoirs. The interim FFMP is a step in that direction. But more can and must be done. With only modest changes to FFMP, significantly more water can be made available to the fishery with no increased risk to the water supply. And sensible changes to how the rivers are managed will improve the river environment. TGF will continue to work to influence these changes.

The DRBC is accepting public comments on the FFMP until March 3, 2008. The plan is expected to be implemented sometime in early summer. Once adopted, the FFMP will be reviewed on an annual basis for the next three years.

There is the opportunity now to urge the DRBC to adopt improvements to FFMP and for continued advocacy through the three year review period. Details about the interim FFMP can be found on the DRBC's website at [http://www.nj.gov/drbc/notice\\_FFMP\\_Dec2007.htm](http://www.nj.gov/drbc/notice_FFMP_Dec2007.htm). TGF members are urged to become informed and contact the DRBC. Written comments can be submitted to the DRBC:

Via e-mail to [paula.schmitt@drbc.state.nj.us](mailto:paula.schmitt@drbc.state.nj.us) By mail to Pamela M. Bush, Esq., Commission Secretary, DRBC, P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

By fax to 609-883-9522 

## 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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*Continued from Page 5* The Clearwater Junction 2008 Fly Tying Show

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 possess an evocative quality, perfectly capturing the spirit of fly fishing.

At 11am each day the children's fly tying lessons will begin. Led by experienced instructors, they will learn the rudimentary skills involved in fly tying. All equipment will be supplied and every child attending will be entered in a daily draw to win a fly tying kit. At 1pm the fly casting lessons begin for the kids and again all equipment is supplied.

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

The show promises to be our biggest and best yet and more information is available at [www.clearwaterjunction.com](http://www.clearwaterjunction.com).

### **The reason for the show?**

**Conservation** - The show is not about fly-tying. It is not about fly-fishing.

## **It is about Conservation.**

It 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.

Mark Thompson

# Reading Theodore Gordon

The inspiration for Theodore Gordon Flyfishers is, of course, Theodore Gordon himself. He did leave us some notes and articles but these have been rather difficult to find most of the time.

For example, if you'd like to browse through a copy of *The Complete Fisherman: The Notes and Letters of Theodore Gordon*, edited by John McDonald, published by Nick Lyons Press in 1989, you can find it on Amazon where there are a few used copies. But you're facing a minimum cost of \$125-\$150 for this work, and if you want a collectible copy, it's more like \$350 when you can find it. For me that's not a casual book purchase, I'll admit.

However, there is a new series of small books that I've just found that now includes **Theodore Gordon on Trout: Talks and Tales from a Great American Angler**, edited by Paul Schullery and published by Stackpole Books, 2007. It is a little work of 145 pages, about 4x5 in dimensions, and has very nice period illustrations from *The Speckled Brook Trout*, 1902, as well as a portrait of Theodore Gordon himself. For \$16.95 list price it's well within the range of a casual purchase or even an impulse buy!

Paul Schullery is editing this series, which already appears to include three other works, **Halford on the Dry Fly**, **Norris on Trout Fishing**, **Skues on Trout**. He's written a great deal on Yellowstone which you can locate if you search him on Amazon or on Google. I must admit that

I didn't know much about his work as an author or editor, so I looked him up and include the following information from PBS's series, *Great American Lives*.

"Paul Schullery is an adjunct professor of American Studies at the University of Wyoming, and an affiliate professor of history at Montana State University. In recognition of his work as a historian and nature writer, Montana State University presented him with an honorary doctorate of letters in 1997. In 1998, the University of Colorado Center of the American West presented him with their Wallace Stegner Award, given for a sustained contribution to the cultural identity of the American West. Scullery is an avid hiker, fly fisherman, photographer, and wildlife watcher, and continues his writing and historical research."



The rationale for the series is put succinctly by Paul Schullery: "The lessons and excitement of these older works will only survive if we keep reading them.", an idea I like and which for me applies to Theodore Gordon in particular.

So, it's worth your while to take a look at this series and perhaps get yourself a pocket size copy of Theodore Gordon that you can carry on the train or subway to refresh your knowledge of the man whose name our conservation group honors.

David H. Miller, Editor  
*Gordon's Quill*



# TGF Member in the Forefront Of Environmental Conservation

TGF member Ian White is concerned about the environment and asked himself what lasts longer, Empires, buildings or monofilament? Monofilament, probably. It lasts up to six hundred years.

So what happens when we have a wind knot or tangle and have to change tippet or a leader? We stuff the discarded line into our vest pocket, and later find it stuck in our zipper or wrapped around our knot tyer or hook sharpener-if we're lucky. If not? We reach into our pocket and accidentally pull the line out and drop it into the water or onto the bank where it eventually ends up wrapped around a bush, a heron or a trout.

Ian is currently a PhD student at Cornell Medical College working in Genetic Medicine and Cancer Biology, but in his spare time he's an avid angler. As an active member of TGF, TU and FFF and as a conscientious angler, he's very committed to avoiding any personal contribution to the deterioration of trout habitat, which includes fouling it with waste monofilament.

So, he has invented the monoMASTER, which is a small, light-weight new tool that can be attached to a fishing vest or stored in a pocket or tackle box and used to conveniently store all waste mono generated while fishing. It's received an early enthusiastic endorsement:

"Anything that reduces pollution is essential in our time, but a device that does it with such ease and enjoyment is a downright miracle. MonoMASTER is a 'must-have' for every serious angler" (Richard Friedenbergl - screenwriter, "A River Runs Through It").

Waste mono dropped onto the bank is routinely picked up by conscientious anglers, but this isn't always effective. Despite all our efforts we are not able to do much about the tangles of waste line accumulating under the water line to the detriment of wildlife habitat and water management efforts. This mono continues to accumulate over generations and, with over 40 million anglers on US streams, every inch of waste mono matters.

Some of us may be aware of clean up days on rivers like the Salmon where hundreds of pounds of monofilament line and leaders are collected each year. Unfortunately on other streams it just accumulates and entangles itself everywhere. Ian's invention will do its part to prevent this in the future as we do ours.

We think you'll be hearing more about this important environmental initiative by a TGF member and we're proud to tell you about it at an early stage. Watch for it in your late Spring fly fishing catalogs!

**For more information about the monoMASTER please contact Ian White.**

**Tel. 802-236-3185**

**Email: [ian@grasshopperproducts.com](mailto:ian@grasshopperproducts.com) Web: [www.grasshopperproducts.com](http://www.grasshopperproducts.com)**



# Save the Dates!

## TGF Activities

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It's Spring, almost, and there are a number of TGF activities that are about to kick off. Here's a list for you to use to update your calendars so you don't miss these important conservation events!

TGF Annual Meeting and Dinner, Anglers' Club	March	14
TGF Project Access	April	26
Clearwater Junction Fly Tying Show, Roscoe, NY	June	6 -7
TGF Conservation Fund Dinner, Roscoe NY	June	7

## Luncheons

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These dates are planned but final arrangements will be announced by e-mail and on our website, [www.tgf.org](http://www.tgf.org).

TGF Luncheon at the Union League Club	March	11
TGF Luncheon at the Union League Club	April	8
TGF Luncheon at the Union League Club	April	22
TGF Luncheon at the Union League Club	May	21
TGF Luncheon at the Union League Club	June	17

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## Belleayre Resort Development An Update

TGF has continued to monitor the issues concerning the Belleayre Resort Development after having signed the Agreement in Principle on September 5, 2007, which was advanced by Governor Spitzer, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Crossroads Ventures and others. Most recently, TGF, along with The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Natural Resources Defense Council, New York Public Interest Research Group, Zen Environmental Studies Institute, the Riverkeeper and Trout Unlimited's Catskill Mountains Chapter submitted comments to the DEC with regard to the scoping process for the developer's Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("SDEIS").

In general, our organizations believe that the draft scope provided a comprehensive list of issues to be covered in the supplemental environmental review process for the lower-build alternative of the Belleayre Resort. However, our comments highlighted several areas of remaining concern, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- The potential adverse environmental impact of 19 lodging units proposed for the highest point of the Highmount portion of the proposed Belleayre Resort.
- The Highmount Spa Access Road leading up the mountain to the 19 lodging units mentioned above. This is the one major section of roadway in the entire lower-build alternative project that would be constructed on slopes greater than 20 per cent.
- The potential adverse consequences of Belleayre Ski Center expansion.

TGF expects that the final scope and the SDEIS will provide the opportunity for a comprehensive discussion of the above-stated issues, and provide that appropriate alternatives and mitigation measures will be properly addressed. We want to emphasize that in addition to our detailed review of the lower-build alternative, our organizations plan to scrutinize very carefully the forthcoming details of the proposed Ski Center expansion, once the Draft Unit Management Plan is released.



# Hotlines

## Use to Report Environmental Spills and Other Incidents

So, what do you do if you see a spill, or some other environmental incident, or someone violating game or other laws outdoors? You can report these by using these numbers.

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<b>New York City Watershed:</b>	1-888-1120-SHED
<b>Connecticut:</b>	1-800-842-4357
<b>Pennsylvania:</b>	1-570-675-1143 (Game Commission) 1-570-477-5717 (Fish & Boat Commission)
<b>Massachusetts:</b>	1-800-632-8075 (Mass. Environmental Police)
<b>New Jersey:</b>	1-800-WARNDEP
<b>EPA Hotline</b> for New England includes: Mass., Conn., Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont	
<b>1-888-EPA-TIPS</b>	

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