



# On the Rise

NEWSLETTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED'S WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

September 2015



Lindsay Agness has taught more than 200 ladies to fly fish.

## Lindsay Agness: A Champion and Mentor to Hundreds of New Women Anglers

Lindsay Agness took up fly fishing 10 years ago and was amazed by the lack of women in the sport so she set out to change that for New York State! Lindsay remarks "My wish was to look down stream while fishing and at least see ONE other women on the water – they are really missing out!" So working with the Tug Hill-Black River (589) TU chapter and the DEC Salmon River Hatchery, Lindsay started a women's two day beginner fishing seminar. This educational program was run by volunteers and provided educa-

tion and support for women learning to fly fish. Lindsay along with 19 other volunteers provided about 20 women four hours of class room fly fishing & fly tying instruction along with eight hours of on the water training over a two day period. The TU women fly-fishing seminars have become so popular, one year there were over 50 women on a waiting list!

In 2013, Lindsay got help from some other great TU ladies, Jan Opal & Vicky Lane.

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### EVENT CALENDAR

- Sept. 11-13 — Green River Float Trip (WY)
- Sept. 16-20 — TU Annual Meeting (PA)
- Sept. 26 — 2nd Annual Women on the Water (TN)
- Oct. 10-11 — Troutoberfest Fly Fishing Event (NY)

### Join Us Online

#### "JOIN" OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

More than 850 TU members and leaders, anglers and more have joined our Facebook group for lively discussions and to share information, ideas and support.

Like us today:

- 1) Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)
- 2) Search for "Women of Trout Unlimited" or use direct link [facebook.com/groups/48497943543](https://facebook.com/groups/48497943543)
- 3) Click "Join" and start talking!

## CONTACT US

*The Women's Initiative of TU is made up of women like you who care about our rivers and streams, are passionate about mentoring the next generation and enjoy getting out to fish as often as they can. Don't hesitate to reach out to us for help, advice or support!*

### CHAIR

**Kerri Russell—Arkansas**

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### VICE - CHAIR

**Kelly Buchta—New Jersey**

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### Secretary

**Jackie Jordan—Vermont**

jordanj@orvis.com  
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Find a Women's Initiative member in your state by contacting one of us, or visiting our resource page online at [www.tu.org/women](http://www.tu.org/women)

## RECRUIT MORE WOMEN INTO TU

Did you know that you can help us continue to grow and shape the face of TU by recruiting women like you to join us?

It's easy to do, and even better, [the women you recruit can join for HALF-PRICE! \(\\$17.50\)](#)

Simply send your fishing friends and gal pals to [www.tu.org/intro](http://www.tu.org/intro) where they can join online today.

Along with helping us grow our presence in TU, your local chapter will also receive a \$15 rebate for every new lady angler you sign up!

## FROM THE CHAIR

# Hope to See You in Scranton!

As we are winding down our summer and finishing up our fishing tales, it is time to think forward to the fall! The WI executive team is working hard on our presentation for the TU Annual Meeting in Scranton. I hope many of you will be able to attend. The annual meeting is always a highlight of my year and it is truly amazing to hear the accomplishments of TU staff and volunteers from the past year!



Please consider promoting at your local chapter the current TU offer of a membership upgrade to the benefits of a family membership. This deal allows any member whose spouse/partner or children are also interested in TU to add their family members to their membership for free!

There's a simple form online at [www.tu.org/familymembership](http://www.tu.org/familymembership) to make it fast and easy for members to add the names and information of everyone in their household! (For existing family members of TU, it's easy to add the members of their household at [www.tu.org/familyaddition](http://www.tu.org/familyaddition) ).

Spreading the word about this great offer can be as simple as sending out an email announcement to your membership or as involved (and fun) as hosting a family event allowing women and children to see what TU has to offer.

Also, as you start your planning events for the year, don't forget that TU continues to offer half-priced memberships that can be used to promote women memberships.

Access this offer at [www.tu.org/intro](http://www.tu.org/intro). What's more, your chapter will receive \$15 for every new member you recruit through this website!

Planning a women's event is a powerful way to promote membership at your local level. There are many examples in the Tacklebox that can help you in your planning. Don't hesitate to contact me with questions!

Kerri Russell  
NLC WI Workgroup Chair

# Upper Chattahoochee Chapter Donates to Casting For Recovery

The Upper Chattahoochee Chapter in Georgia focused on Women in Fly Fishing at it's July meeting.

During the meeting, chapter President Jim Harvey presented a \$1,000 donation to Casting for Recovery. Casting for Recovery, based in Manchester, Vermont provides retreats, support and relief for breast cancer patients and survivors across the country through the therapeutic sport of fly-fishing. "It is an honor to support the great work of Casting for Recovery and is important for the mission of UCCTU to grow the community of

fly fishers who actively work for the protection of our precious water resources," said Mr. Harvey.

In addition, guest speaker Diane Minick, Watershed Director of the Upper Etowah River Alliance, presented information about the insects that are prevalent on the rivers and streams of North Georgia and the artificial flies that match them. A special exhibition of fly fishing gear designed for women was also on display.

Chapter meetings are open to all, but this meeting was designed to be of special interest to women



Jim Harvey, president of the Upper Chattahoochee Chapter, presents Beverly Booth, of Casting for Recovery Georgia, with a \$1,000 donation check.

and girls interested in fly-fishing and the work of Trout Unlimited.

More information:

[www.ucctu.tu.org](http://www.ucctu.tu.org) or

[www.facebook.com/ucctu](http://www.facebook.com/ucctu)

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## Lindsay Agness: A Champion and Mentor to Women Anglers in New York

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Together they were able to run 3 women's fly fishing seminars each year around New York State. Over the last nine years, through these educational seminars, Lindsay has taught over 200 ladies how to fly fish and has dedicated over 2,472 hours of lecture and on the water time to promoting women to the sport and to TU's mission! In September of 2013, the NYS TU Council of TU named Lindsay Agness as the Women's Initiative Chair, with both Vicky & Jan at her side. Since 2013, the NY Women's Initiative committee has been up and run-

ning and has been very successful in promoting women's events and outings across NY. Back in 2013, when the WI committee formed, women represented only 5.5% of the NY TU membership. During the Women's free membership drive, female memberships grew to 8.6%. Today NY TU women represent roughly 8.1% of the NY TU population and hope to grow with the new TU family membership initiative currently being launched.

Lindsay's contribution to the women of NY is immeasurable. Not only has she represented NY as the WI State Council Chair, she has also

provided TU National presentations, examples and templates on how to run a successful Women's fly fishing seminar that are available in the TU.org Tackle Box. She also continues to serve her local TU Seth Green Chapter (073) as WI Chair and Membership Chair.

Lindsay is stepping down as the WI Chair for the NY Council. We want to thank you for all of your hard work and continued support of the Women's Initiative and wish you well in your new endeavors! Welcome Vicky Lane in your new role as the NY WI Council Chair!

# Local Events From Chapters Across The Country

Send your chapter's women-specific events for listing in the newsletter



Troutoberfest, an annual weekend of fun, food and flyfishing workshops and seminars in the Catskills of New York, features a whole host of programs specifically designed to get more women out on the water.

## Wyoming

### Women's Float on the Green River

**When:** September 11-13

**Sponsored by:** Seedskadee Chapter

**Contact:** Hillary Walrath

hwalrath@tu.org

307-751-3621

## Tennessee

### 2nd Annual Women on the Water

**When:** September 26

**Sponsored by:** Cinch River TU Chapter

**Contact:** Melissa Maples-Harrell

tio2009@live.com

865-804-5491

## New York

### Troutoberfest

**When:** October 10-11

**Sponsored by:** Beaverkill Angler

**Contact:** Evan Lavery or Matt Nelson

www.beaverkillangler.com

607-498-5194

To post your event in the WI newsletter, send your information to Kerri at [kerri.russell@cox.net](mailto:kerri.russell@cox.net)

**Join the Movement! Become a Women's Initiative Chair for Your Chapter or Council!**

**(Yes, men are welcome to serve as initiative chairs, too!)**

**[www.tu.org/women](http://www.tu.org/women)**