

# TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM



On December 5, Ihor Szkolar was honored at the [NYC Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#)'s 40th Anniversary Celebration. Ihor served as the [Croton Chapter](#)'s volunteer Trout in the Classroom Coordinator from 2016-24, helping schools in the East of Hudson Watershed with their TIC programming and organizing volunteers to support hundreds of trout releases. Thank you, Ihor, for eight years of amazing service to TIC, and congratulations on this well deserved award!

## Trout Care During the Holidays

Happy holidays to all! Remember to continue covering your tank with insulation during nights, weekends, and holidays to prevent the water from warming up in the event of a power outage. Below are some additional trout care tips for the winter break, or anytime you leave your trout for a mid-length vacation (7-10 days). For more information, please see [the website](#).

- ◆ It is not mandatory to visit the trout, however checking in to make sure all of your equipment is working properly is a good idea.
- ◆ If you have seen food accumulation in the tank you should rinse your foam filters.
- ◆ Do not feed more before the vacation.
- ◆ Siphon the gravel and add new, treated water right before break; take care not to alter the tank temperature too much during this process.
- ◆ If you do leave food for volunteers to feed the trout, make sure that it is pre-measured to avoid overfeeding, and hide the rest of the food.



## Fry Care Tips



Some baby trout are already exploring their tank, while others are just starting to hatch in their nest baskets! We recommend lowering one corner of the nest basket to allow the brave fish to swim out after trout have been feeding successfully for several days. Smaller fish may need to stay in the basket until they learn to eat and gain mass. **Before letting out the trout, be sure to cover all filter and chiller intakes with mesh to prevent intake of the trout.** You may need to frequently clean these covers to avoid the buildup of waste.

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## Funding Opportunities for TIC in NYC and the Watersheds

Two grant applications are now open for schools in NYC and the Watersheds.

1. [Watershed Agricultural Council's Field Trip Program](#): Helps fund the cost of transportation for your spring trout release trips for 4th-12th grade students and includes an additional guided trip to a reservoir. Learn more and [apply](#) by **Friday, January 10, 2025 at 5 pm.**
2. [Catskill Water Corporation's Watershed Education Grant](#): If you are hoping to start a TIC program, or just need new TIC equipment for next school year, make sure you [apply](#) by **Friday, February 7, 2025 at 4 pm.**

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## Be Water Wise!



Pictured on the left are low water levels at the Ashokan Reservoir in the Catskills last month. Despite recent rains, Despite recent rains, New Yorkers are still encouraged to be water wise and help save water whenever possible. For resources on teaching your students about water conservation, [click here](#).

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## Launch of the Trout in the Classroom Education Module!

We're excited to announce our new Trout in the Classroom Education Module with complementary lessons and resources to help you integrate TIC into your classroom! Lessons include suggested grade bands (ES, MS, HS), vocabulary terms, presentations and activity materials. You can find the TIC education module on [our website](#); we will continue to add more lessons over time, so make sure to check back regularly. For additional lessons, please check out Trout Unlimited's [TIC website](#).



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## Save the Date for DEP's Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest



Amara M., Grades 6-7 Art

NYC DEP's **39th Annual Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest** runs from January 15—March 6, 2025! Second through 12th grade students from New York City and Watershed schools are invited to submit artwork and poetry that creatively express knowledge, appreciation and understanding of NY's shared water resources. For more information, please see [our flyer](#) or visit [our website](#).