

# Sporting Clubs fought to protect Hudson Valley's rivers and streams throughout the 20th Century.



by  
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From the *Woodstock Times*  
[hudsonvalleyone.com](http://hudsonvalleyone.com)

**B**y the end of the 19th century, when the tanning industry had clear-cut hemlocks from Catskills forests, and abandoned farms left big expanses of pasture, there were no wild turkeys in the mountains, and deer had nearly disappeared. Runoff from bare mountain slopes and pollution of creeks by the sludge from the tanneries, combined with over-fishing, had driven the remaining Esopus Creek trout high into the headwaters.