

Nor'East Winds

Newsletter of the Nor'East Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Happy New Year!

Our December meeting drew a standing room only crowd. Seriously. And no, it wasn't a tiny room. It's clear that the core of the chapter is growing stronger. But we know there are more of you out there. So we hope that with the new year and new decade that the (many) existing members out there who've been on hiatus from TU will decide to re-enter the fray. And that those of you who've never attended a TU meeting will come out and see what we're all about. Either way, we hope to see you soon.

Warren Winders' Talk Highlights December Chapter Meeting

It's not too often that a highly publicized event lives up to the hype. Warren Winder's talk at the NorEast Chapter's December meeting proved to be one of those rare occasions.

To many attendees' surprise, the wooded drive leading to the Ipswich River Watershed Association's headquarters was lined with cars soon after the doors opened for the spaghetti dinner served up by chapter executive chef Art Howe.

Though plenty are familiar with the sea run brook trout restoration work Winders has spearheaded at Red Brook on the Cape, the meeting provided many their first opportunity to hear about the project from Winders himself.

And while the Powerpoint presentation Winders had prepared was specific to the efforts TU and others had made at Red Brook, the discussion that followed focused on the viability of such a project on the North Shore.

Can the success at Red Brook be duplicated on the Parker, Mill or other local river? That's the \$25,000 question for which the large and diverse crowd – which included representatives from the Parker River Clean Water Association and the Ipswich River Watershed Association – hope to find an answer.

Truth is that Winder's presentation and the discussion that followed raised as many questions as they answered. *What is the current state of wild trout on the North Shore? For which rivers have water quality assessments been conducted?*

There may be plenty of questions we need to answer, but the good news is that local habitat restoration and fish passage improvements are already under way.

Tim Purinton, Acting Director of Mass Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration, attended the meeting and pledged his support for TU's local efforts. He noted that the removal of the lower dam at Ox Pasture Brook in Rowley was funded in part by a grant from Trout Unlimited. "This project will improve access to fish habitat and restore tidal fresh marsh, a rare wetland type," he said.

So what are the next steps with respect to a sea run fishery on the North Shore? We plan to meet with Mass Wildlife's local fisheries biologist to get up to speed on the current knowledgebase as it pertains to both geomorphic surveys and water quality assessments in our local waters. With that in mind, we will be extending an invitation to both the state's biologist as well as the regional NOAA biologist to speak at our February chapter meeting.

As the date nears, we'll send out more specific information.

(Continued)



January 2010

Around the Bend

Mark your calendars with these upcoming events:

January 16th
MA/RI Council Banquet
Marlborough, MA
(see article)

February 11th
Chapter Meeting
Ipswich, MA
(more details to follow)



Warren Winders

We'd like to thank several people/organizations for making the December meeting such a success:

Big thanks go out to Jim McDougal and the Ipswich River Watershed Association for offering up their wonderful facility for the meeting; and kudos to Art Howe for getting the gathering under way with a hearty meal. We thank Warren Winders for making the trip "Up North" and sharing the wisdom he's gained over the years working at Red Brook. We appreciated the opportunity to meet with Marlene Schroeder and the folks from the Parker River Clean Water Association. Finally, thanks to Tim Purinton of Mass DER for coming out and getting us up to speed on the state's dam removal projects.

There was a lot of energy at the meeting and it's clear that for the chapter to flourish and do its part in preserving and protecting our rivers, we'll all need to work together.

The MA/RI Trout Unlimited Council Banquet

FYI: In lieu of a January chapter meeting, members are encouraged to attend the banquet. Please contact Tom Leahy at tomleahy@msn.com to reserve a seat with our chapter. The NorEast Chapter is donating member tied flies to the auction as well as some other items.

The MA/RI Trout Unlimited Council is planning its annual banquet to once again coincide with the Marlboro Fly Fishing Show. This year's banquet will be held Saturday, January 16, 2010 starting 5:00PM at the Holiday Inn, Marlboro – just ½ mile down the road from the Fly Fishing Show. We are sending each chapter banquet tickets and hope each chapter will have a representative group attend. We are inviting exhibitors and celebrities from the show and it will give us a chance to socialize while enjoying a great Italian buffet, bucket raffles, silent and live auctions.

Any and all donations to the bucket raffle or auctions would be **greatly** appreciated. Guided trips to favorite fishing spots are enormously popular as are hand-tied flies. We'd be happy to make arrangements to pick up donations prior to or during the show, or donations can be brought to the banquet.

The Council is working very hard to accomplish the goals of Trout Unlimited in Massachusetts and Rhode Island and the chapters' support is critical to that end.

Hope to see you in January!

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NorEast Fishing Outings in the Works

We're planning some "Get to Know Our Rivers" fishing outings for 2010. These will be in the form of a morning work party, followed by afternoon fishing, guided by a member familiar with a particular area of water. An example would be a Parker clean up followed by a float down through the Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area (home to fabled holdover browns). If you have suggestions or would like to guide a trip, let us know. Stay tuned for more details.

Want to share information with the chapter? Please send correspondence to the newsletter editor, Kevin Correa, at kevincorrea@hotmail.com.

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