



NOR'EAST CHAPTER #154 - PRESIDENT'S DESK:

John Strong, one of our Chapter's 'Founding Father's', was able to explain to me, new people would be coming forth to fill Chapter Board of Director seats and lead the Chapter back to former prominence. John held the Chapter dear to his heart through all the days of his life. He introduced the Rangeley Maine area to me, by offering to have an annual Board of Directors meeting at his place in Maine. Through the years, the annual meeting has taken place in the Rangeley area. We've not acted on much; we've tried a couple of times to get going again. We've donated our funds to worthwhile TU causes. Last Spring I told my existing friends and longtime BOD members, I was getting very tired of just holding on. I was going to make one last push to re-organize our Chapter. If it did not happen I was going to tell all those on the Nor'east TU Chapter roster, I'd be joining another Chapter of TU, and I'd suggest they also join another Chapter to become more involved with TU. I was fortunate to be MA/RI Council Treasurer for the last three and a half years - keeping my TU interests up to date and representing our Chapter as President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Conservation, Delegate etc. Many understood the situation I was in - One last effort.

Well, the ambers were still warm after-all. We had a meeting at Dr Chris Meehl's Animal Hospital. New people arrived with the common interest of getting this Chapter going again. The following people attended our November 18, 2009 meeting: Tom Schultz, Kevin Correa, Kenny Washburn, Art Howe, and I - Tom Leahy. The new energy coming out of this meeting could be felt - we are moving on with the revival of our Chapter.

The Ipswich River Watershed Assn has made their House available for us to use, through Art Howe. Art also became our executive 'chef' and put on a great spaghetti supper with a \$5.00 donations - looking to cover all costs and donate the balance to the IRWA. Warren Winders was our guest speaker on 'Sea run Trout', which sparked more interest leading to our February meeting. Local rivers we want to know more about are the Parker, Mills and Ipswich. Locally, we also have our stripers (usually spell it strippers) to entertain us when getting to a trout stream or pond is not available. We

are planning to have a local fishing trip to one of our rivers. We've discussed involving youngsters with fishing opportunities, river, pond bank clean up, fishing for sea run trout, working with various watershed groups and environmental needs of our area.

New people came forward again, being: Fred Jennings, Zach Johnson, Tom Wooldridge, Bob Torilkdsen, and Mike O'Neill. We are all working together for you, and I hope to see you all together in February. You will find new friends, ability to share fishing stories and concerns. You will also have the sense of accomplishments re-building the Chapter and supporting TU.

John Strong was right again. He taught me it was not how far you could cast, but how the fly was presented to the fish. Presentation was everything.

Tom Leahy

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