

# Nor'East Chapter | Trout Unlimited



## February 2010 Newsletter

### Setting Goals

As we enter the homestretch of winter, most of us are itching to get out on the water again. We've started cleaning reels, tying flies and maybe booking trips. But one thing that many of us neglect to do is to set goals for the upcoming season. Goals are important because they give you something to strive toward and guard against complacency. They can be straight forward — *I'd like to catch a fish in every month of the year;* or *I'm going to concentrate on fishing wets or streamers more often;* or *I'm going to pass on that stretch of water that always produces and give the pocket water down the road the attention it deserves.*



Over the next couple months we'll be defining the chapter's short-term and long-range goals and we'd like your input. There is a lot happening in our watersheds, and this is your opportunity to help set the chapter's priorities. Hope to see you at the next meeting!

### February Meeting Recap

New Hampshire Writer/Angler Reed Curry made the journey down to Ipswich and gave a presentation on his new book, *The New Scientific Angling: Trout and Ultraviolet Vision*.



Mr. Curry explained why we as anglers should be concerned with the fact that trout see not only the visible spectrum, but also in the ultraviolet. His book is replete with ultraviolet images of trout prey as well as our artificial representations.

It was a fascinating topic as illustrated by the queue of people that formed seeking to buy the book immediately after the presentation concluded.

Once again we thank Art Howe for cooking up a wonderful lasagna dinner, and our hosts the Ipswich River Watershed Association for lending us their facility.

### Watershed Dam Removals

One of the complaints I've heard from TU members is that they don't see local return on their dues. We can no longer say that here on the north shore. In December the Mass Division of Ecological Restoration, with partial funding from TU, removed the first dam in Essex County on Ox Pasture Brook in Rowley. A similar dam removal is being studied at Larkin Road on the Parker River. Our chapter has received explicit requests for support of this dam removal project. We are submitting a letter of support to the Town of Newbury and we ask that any member who can attend the town's selectmen meeting on March 16th do so. Location: Newbury Town Hall, 25 High Road, Newbury, MA 01951.

### Around the Bend

**March 9, 2010**

#### Chapter Meeting at First Light Anglers:

First Light Discusses Their Upcoming Stocking of Sea Run Trout  
7 PM Discussion  
6 PM Pizza Dinner with \$5 Donation  
21 Main Street, Rowley, MA 01969

**March 16, 2010**

#### Newbury Selectmen Meeting

Removal of Larkin Road Dam on the Parker to be discussed. Please attend.  
25 High Road, Newbury, MA 01951

**April 6, 2010**

#### Chapter Meeting at Ipswich River Watershed Association.

Mass. Dept of Ecological Restoration Presentaion and Discussion of the Adopt-A-Stream Program  
7 PM Discussion  
6 PM Dinner with \$5 Donation  
143 County Road, Ipswich, MA 01938

**April 24, 2010**

#### Parker River Guided Paddle/Fish/Cookout

Kevin Correa will lead a paddle through the Crane Pond section of the Parker River in Georgetown and Byfield.  
9:30 AM Meet at Thurlow Street Bridge  
Rain date is April 25





## New Website Up and Running

Thanks to the tireless effort of Tom Schultz, the Nor'East Chapter is now on the web. Over time the website will become an invaluable tool for sharing information and recruiting new members. Be sure to check it out at: [www.tunoreast.org](http://www.tunoreast.org).

Tom, thanks for all the hard work.

## Save the Date for a Parker River Paddle/Fish/Cookout: April 24

Chapter member Kevin Correa will lead a paddle of the Parker River through the Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area. This beautiful stretch of water is home to a vast array of wildlife (including holdover trout, bass and monster pickerel) and is best accessed by canoe or kayak. The plan is to meet at the Thurlow Street bridge (off of North Street in Georgetown) at 9:30AM, paddle downstream through Crane Pond to the Hemlocks section of the river, then fish our way back to the bridge at our leisure. Cookout to follow the paddle. Kevin fished this stretch of the river this weekend last year and happened upon a prolific mayfly hatch. Keep your fingers crossed! Please RSVP to [kevincorrea@hotmail.com](mailto:kevincorrea@hotmail.com) if you're interested in attending and indicate if you have access to a canoe or kayak so that we can match boatless participants with those with an extra seat. Rain date will be Sunday, April 25.



## March Meeting Announcement: Sea Run Trout Discussion at First Light Anglers

**Note that this meeting will take place at First Light Anglers in Rowley.**

The March chapter meeting will take place on March 9th at First Light Anglers. Pat Brown will give a talk on FLA's efforts to restore the sea run trout fishery on local rivers. Included will be discussion of their scheduled April stocking and what assistance our chapter can offer to their efforts.

As most of you know we are truly fortunate to have an invaluable resource like First Light in our back yard. Please attend the meeting and support them in this endeavor.

Details:

**6:00 PM Pizza Dinner with \$5 donation**

**7:00 PM First Light Talk**

**21 Main Street, Rowley, MA 01969**

## Chapter Business:

### Seeking Candidates for Chapter Offices

Our goal is to hold elections for chapter offices at our April 6 meeting. To accomplish this we would like those who wish to be considered for the following offices to submit an email expressing interest and indicate which office(s) you would be willing to hold: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Nominations will also be accepted. Please send emails to [kevincorrea@hotmail.com](mailto:kevincorrea@hotmail.com) no later than March 20th.



**The Mill River**

*The Nor'East Chapter is dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring Massachusetts' north shore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.*

## An Essay on the Ipswich River and Grassroots Conservation

**Jim MacDougall is a naturalist from Topsfield and, as you will read, an angler. The following is reprinted with his permission.**

*Up and down the Ipswich River are groups of volunteers who keep an eye on the condition of the river. They are called Stream Teams. Each group has its own style but it is the river and the health of the river that are their common focus. One thing is clear, it is their observation and enhanced appreciation for moods and maladies of the river that have enriched their communities understanding of our impact on our environment. It is homegrown, seeing-is-believing conservation.*

*The Stream Teams should be proud of their efforts to restore the flow of water in the river because their efforts are working. It is reported that the river flowed under the Mill Street Bridge in Reading for the first time in over 3 decades. Reports from Topsfield show that the demand for water from July to October was reduced by 20% from conservation measures alone. The communities of Wenham, Middleton and Danvers have all adopted strict conservation measures for drinking water during summer drought periods. The thoughts of a healthy river spring to mind if the trend continues and people acknowledge that we have a water budget and must live within it.*

*The next big hurdle is to consider restoring the ecosystem of the river now that it looks as if we may have enough water to support an ecosystem. In short that means to make a shift of the composition of fish from the johnny-come-lately pond species that are taking advantage of the poor water conditions and promoting the riverine species, hall- marked by a restoration of the Eastern Brook Trout.*

*Why is the Brook Trout the focus of a restoration program of the native fish in the river? Two reasons: It is a keystone species and it has a following. Being a keystone species, its requirements are the most challenging to be restored. If you can restore the water quantity and quality to support Brook trout, you will meet the needs of all the other native species that are also disappearing from the river and being supplanted by non-native warm-water species like Crappie and Bluegill. The Brook Trout also has some sex appeal. There is an organization called Trout Unlimited, a very influential and very large society with a bit of clout. If we choose to hallmark another important native species like the Creek Chubsucker, you can see that we may not be able to mobilize the members of the Chubsuckers Unlimited.*

*There are two ways to look at the fish in the river. The first, which has been the official approach for some decades, is to assume that the river can only support fish from April to July and one must assume that after that the river is too warm or too dry to support trout. One problem with this approach is that it ignores all of the other life forms in and around the river that could benefit from a healthy native fish community. One life form would be us.*

*A second view would be to recognize that the Ipswich River was always a good river for supporting Brook Trout and that with the new trend in conserving water and allowing the river to flow again, it may support a breeding population of Brook Trout once again. It is my conjecture that there remain some outer tributaries which are holding some small native Brook trout, breeding away and probably too small be noticed by fishermen. There are still a couple of pristine reaches of these tributaries. Gravelly Brook, Crooked Pond Brook, Mosquito Brook. I would like to think that Fish Brook still has some potential and the most recent studies clearly show that the water quality does remain high even during the dog days of summer.*

*For fishermen like me who had given up on the river as a trout destination, I am beginning to think differently. I will be getting out the fly tying gear this winter and dress up some little black stonefly patterns, Blue duns, Light Cabills, a few muddler minnows and some buggy little nymphs. I am going to put on the waders in June and later in August to assess where the fish are holding. With the price of gasoline, I would like to think that I do not have to travel long distances for quality fishing, in a quality habitat with beautiful scenery.*



### We Want to Hear From You

Have information you'd like to share with the chapter? Send it to our newsletter editor at [kevincorrea@hotmail.com](mailto:kevincorrea@hotmail.com).