

Nor'East Chapter | Trout Unlimited



March 2010 Newsletter

Spring: A Season of Growth

It's this time of year, when we've managed to bundle several sunny 50 degree days together, that I start to pay attention to the window screens. Because in only a few short weeks, the first of the large mayflies begin resting there on the mesh. And that's about as overt a signal as you'll get that really good fishing has begun on the north shore. If you're not yet ready to hit the water looking for holdovers, spend the next few weeks tying up the flies you'll need for the early season. *Not sure what you need? Come to our next meeting and find out.*

As this winter season draws to a close, we look back and see the resurgence of our chapter. It's been no small feat, and we should be proud of the work we've done. But as we look ahead to spring and beyond, let's continue to work hard and build on the foundation we've created. There's plenty of tough — and rewarding — work ahead. We hope you'll come be a part of it.



Important Dates: Dam Removal Hearings

One of the most important things we can do as a chapter is to advocate for changes that will positively affect our watersheds. Saying that we stand for something is nowhere near as effective as *showing* we stand for something. Let's show that we want the dams on the Ipswich and Parker Rivers removed. Please attend the following meetings:

March 29, 2010

Ipswich Mill Dam Removal Hearing

Meeting before Ipswich Board of Selectman seeking endorsement for dam removal feasibility study.

7:30PM Ipswich Town Hall

25 Green Street, Ipswich, MA 01938

March 30, 2010

Larkin Dam Removal Public Information Meeting

Meeting before Newbury Board of Selectman discussing completed feasibility study.

7:00PM Newbury Public Library

0 Lunt Street, Byfield, MA 01922

Please contact kevin.correa@tunoreast.org if you plan to attend either of these meetings

Around the Bend

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April 6, 2010

April Nor'East Chapter Meeting

Mass DER Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator helps the chapter define our local work projects.

Ipswich River Watershed Assn.

6:00PM Dinner (\$5 donation)

7:00PM Presentation

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

(see article more details)

May 21-23, 2010

Indian Hollow Camping Outing

Annual Council Meeting Weekend

Free Camping. Free Lunch. Great Fishing.

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

April Meeting Preview

If you've yet to make a meeting, this is one you'll want to attend. Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration's Acting Director Tim Purinton and Adopt-A-Stream Program Coordinator Carrie Banks will give a presentation about the Adopt-A-Stream program. After the presentation we will discuss where and how best to focus our restoration efforts.

Your input is valuable and we want to hear it. Please attend the meeting.

Meeting Details:

Tuesday April, 6, 2010

Ipswich River Watershed Association
143 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

6:00PM Dinner (\$5)

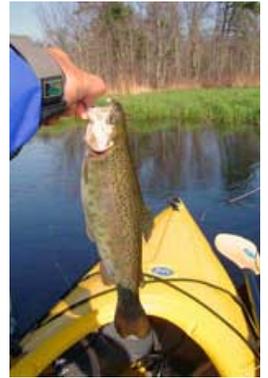
7:00PM Adopt-A-Stream Presentation

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. Please RSVP to kevin.correa@tunoreast.org 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 Recap

Our March meeting was attended by 40+ people, packed (perhaps appropriately) like sardines into the back room at First Light Anglers. Patrick Brown led a discussion of First Light's upcoming April stocking of salter brook trout in the Mill River.



In addition to taking up a collection to help defray the cost of this privately funded program, Nor'East has offered to assist in any way we can — from float stocking, to assisting in the development of an angler data collection system to help analyze the program.

We will be seeking volunteers to assist with float stocking. The date(s) will be determined by the water temperature, but are anticipated to be in mid-April. If you are interested, please contact Tom Schultz at tom.schultz@tunoreast.org.

With respect to chapter business, we called for volunteers to serve as chapter executives and board members. These positions will be finalized at our April 6 meeting. Please see our website (www.tunoreast.org) for a complete list of candidates.

And finally, the evening ended with a TU tradition — the bucket raffle. First Light's generous donations augmented the contributions of several members and made for a highly successful raffle.

We'll be holding bucket raffles frequently, so if you have anything new to donate, please do so — fishing related or not.

Thanks to everyone who made it such a successful meeting.

Volunteer Opportunity: Parker River Fish Counters Needed



The Parker River Clean Water Association needs volunteers to count migrating alewife. There is a scheduled training session on March 29th at the Newbury Library (located at 0 Lunt Street, in Byfield). Because this training session conflicts with the Dam Removal hearing before the Ipswich Board of Selectmen, PRCWA is offering a special training session for Nor'East members.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please send an email to kevin.correa@tunoreast.org so we can coordinate a time and date for this special training session.

Possible Sea Run Trout have been spotted in the past during the counts and clearly we'd like to know about them too.

Chapter Membership On The Rise

If you've attended the meetings, you've seen it first-hand, and the data sent down to us from TU national supports what we've seen — memberships are on the rise.

Over the next month we'll be unveiling a new incentive strategy to further boost new memberships.

If you think someone you know might be interested in joining, please invite them to a meeting and direct them to our website.

Last Cast:

Evolving Thoughts on Trout Management

Jim MacDougall is a naturalist from Topsfield, and we are proud to say, a Nor'East Chapter Member

It was in the cafeteria at the St. Paul airport, June 2005, that my evolution of thought regarding trout was rekindled.

St. Paul Island is a small island in the middle of the Bering Sea and home to about 500 Aleut and 500,000 Northern Fur Seals. There are no trout there. But there are seals and sea birds. Millions of sea birds, mostly alcids (auklets, murrelets and puffins) which look like flying black and white footballs with whirring wings, fulmars, kittiwakes and cormorants. Its the birds that brought us to the Island and how I met Ray J. White.

I was filming the birds and he was photographing them. We eyed each other from a great distance across a treeless grassland. It wasn't until dinner time at the only eatery on the Island, the airport cafeteria, that we found ourselves within ear shot so I took the lead and sat down at his table with his wife to talk about filming birds.

I am getting to the age when I can begin to appreciate the evolution of thought which eventually leads, I hope, to wisdom. An example begins with my
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Announcing the 2010 Attendance Raffle

If the desire to keep up to speed on chapter happenings isn't enough to get you to attend our chapter meetings, perhaps a chance to win a new fly rod can do the trick.

We are implementing a year-long Attendance Raffle. Here's how it works. For every meeting you attend, a FREE ticket with your name on it will be entered into our year-end raffle. At the end of the year we will pull a name to see who wins the rod. Obviously the more meetings you attend, the more chances you have to win.

To be eligible, you must be a member of the Nor'East Chapter in good standing and with dues paid up to date.

And please note, those who attended earlier 2010 meetings will receive appropriate credit for their attendance.



Thank You To Our Friends

at the Ipswich River Watershed Association

As many of you know, the Ipswich River Watershed Association routinely plays host to our chapter meetings. Their Riverbend property affords us as comfortable a meeting space as anyone could wish for. We thank them and urge you to visit their website to see if you can assist them in any of their endeavors. www.ipswichriver.org.

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first real appreciation of the Eastern Brook Trout. It happened in 1963 when I caught my first wild trout in the Rocky Branch of the Saco River in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Even then we knew it was a native fish. The stocked fish were blocked from swimming up into the Branch by a waterfall. The fish we caught were 5-8 inches and had the brightest and most distinct oranges, whites, blacks and mossy greens of any fish we had ever seen. We would hike 4 miles into the lean-to; go fishing, build a fire and cook beans, bacon and fresh trout. In the evening, we'd hang around the fire, drinking beer and talking trout. We knew then, at such an early age, that we had something special and we took pride in our special fish.

I was subsequently trained in the traditional fish and game style at Univ. of Maine. I learned the differences between browse and pucker-brush, gamebirds and dickey birds and the virtues of hatchery raised fish. Browse is comprised of the shrubs and small trees that deer and moose prefer to eat, pucker brush is everything else and something we did not need to learn. The same philosophy held true for birds, we learned every aspect of the anatomy and behavior of the gamebirds and nary had to glance up at a passing dickey bird. Of course we learned that hatcheries could supply all the fish that any fisherman would care to catch. None of this sat well with me, even at the time. I had a sense that dickey birds were important, that pucker-brush had a more important role in the world and I had seen the wild trout of the Rocky Branch and they were very special in all regards compared to the fish in the hatchery.



At this time and completely unbeknownst to me, Ray White, a fisheries biologist for the State of Wisconsin, was publishing his "Guidelines for Management of Trout Stream Habitat in Wisconsin." It was a landmark and very controversial publication. It, for the first time, recognized the importance of unspoiled streams as habitat and the duty of fish biologists not to over-manage them. This was the birth of what is now called Conservation Biology - the science of understanding and preserving biodiversity through habitat preservation and restoration. It is the underlying science that guides today's conservation efforts. Ray, as a Professor at Univ. of Michigan and Univ. of Montana, later went on to hone his philosophy on wild trout and had the courage to publish his thoughts in science journals and within the pages of Trout Unlimited's "Trout" magazine. His ideas were not well received by the traditional thinkers of the day; mainly those state and federal biologists who ran fisheries programs that had invested heavily into hatchery stocking. It was the easiest way to put fish in front of fishermen where the habitat had been impaired or destroyed. One such state was Massachusetts.

In 1988, Massachusetts passed a law that governed how to address the growing conflicts of using the water in our rivers. Cities and towns wanted it for drinking water, fishermen wanted it for fishing, canoeists wanted it for navigation and farmers wanted it for irrigation. The drinkers won and pumped the river dry. The hatchery-trained fish biologists of the time were asked, does the river drying up in August or September have an effect on the fish in the river? Their answer was no. They stocked the river with fish in April every year. The fish were caught by fishermen by the end of June. So it really did not matter to the fish if the river was dry after that. This was 20 years after Ray's seminal work on protecting habitat. It was this attitude that extinguished my concern for the trout of the Ipswich and my evolution of thought regarding trout stopped.

The person who was sitting at the table in the St. Paul airport cafeteria, whom I thought was just a fellow photographer of birds, turns out to be one of the pioneers in the conservation of biodiversity. We quickly found our common ground on wild trout conservation. For me there is no greater thrill than to find a kindred spirit and mentor. One who can reinforce and more importantly challenge my way of thinking. It sharpens the clarity of truth. It electrifies the senses. This chance meeting restored my energy to help the Eastern Brook trout in the Ipswich River and to continue my evolution of thought on trout.

A similar evolution of thought has been progressing since 1987 at MassWildlife. The fisheries biologists are now working very hard at preserving and restoring fish habitat. They have been actively representing the importance of maintaining flows in over-stressed rivers like the Ipswich. They have developed lists for each river which represent what fish a healthy river should support.

The evolution of thought on trout is showing signs of a growing wisdom. One that is based on direct observation, recognition of the interdependency of all species and most importantly the profound affect that we have on our environment. If we are to maintain our environment - our home - we need to maintain all the pieces. Through the evolution of thought, we are learning that all the pieces are necessary if we are to save the whole. If we are to save the trout in the Ipswich, our first step is to conserve the water we use around the house and leave some for the rivers to flow.

We Want to Hear From You

Have information you'd like to share with the chapter? Send it to our newsletter editor at newsletter@tunoreast.org.