

# Nor'East Chapter | Trout Unlimited

## Summer 2010 Newsletter



### Challenging the Naysayers

Growing up in Chicago, I spent the vast majority of my free time emulating the likes of Walter Payton and Michael Jordan. The little fishing I did was relegated to our family's yearly trip up to a rented cottage in the land of cheese and Packer fans. Those were days of bobbers and worms, and it seemed all we ever caught were catfish and turtles. It was great fun. Then came high school and college, and two decades during which I can't recall even touching a fishing rod.

After I met my wife, we began spending a lot of time at her family's camp in the Adirondacks, and as we made the 5 hour drive, I'd see fly fishers wading beautiful stretches of mountain rivers. Though I was intimidated, I decided to try the sport. All it took was catching that first fish (a bluegill) on a dry fly and I was addicted.

But as I scoured the internet for information about my new passion, my excitement waned a bit as I came to realize that the water on the north shore differs greatly from the water of the Adirondacks – in more than just topography. Every internet post depressed me. *"The trout fishing is no good on the North Shore. Try New Hampshire."* *"The water is too warm, trout can't survive here."* *"All you'll find are stupid stocked fish that die by July."*

From the little historical research I'd done, I knew this wasn't always the case. Trout and salmon had been plentiful in the past. With that in mind, I realized I had a decision to make. I could sit idly by and bellyache about the less-than-ideal local trout fishing, or I could get involved and try to do something about it.

Just about a year ago, I chose the latter. I'm glad I did. Over the past few years, if you lived on the north shore and wanted to get involved in a TU project, you worked with another chapter. They all do great work, but time is precious and a local option would obviously have been more appealing. In just a few short months, this chapter has again become a rallying point for people — like me — who see a situation that needs improvement and want to do something about it. As you can see by the events we've had and will continue to have, they revolve around three related themes: **Educating about the resource. Working to protect and restore the resource. Enjoying the resource.**

As we turn our calendars into the fall season, I hope that you will join us. Complaining about a problem is easy. Solving the problem takes work. And like me, I guarantee you'll find the work rewarding. So come on out — together we can prove the naysayers wrong.

See you soon,

Kevin Correa

President

Nor'East Chapter | Trout Unlimited



North Shore Native Caught July 11th

### Around the Bend

**September 13, 2010**

**Sept. Nor'East Chapter Meeting**  
Michael Hackney talks about Do-It-Yourself Rods, Reels and More.  
Ipswich River Watershed Assn.  
6:00PM Dinner (\$5 donation)  
7:00PM Presentation

**September 22, 2010**

**Nor'East Fly Tying Night**  
Join the chapter as we tie flies to raffle at our banquet.  
First Light Anglers  
5:30PM  
Pizza with Donation

**October 24, 2010**

**Nor'East Annual Banquet**  
Come out and support the chapter at our banquet. (See Article for Details)  
Ipswich Masonic Hall  
70 Topsfield Road, Ipswich  
4-9PM

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Nor'East Chapter Banquet**  
**Sunday, October 24, 2010**  
**Ipswich Masonic Hall**

**See Article for Details**

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

## Nor'East Goes Native:



On July 11th, several chapter members broke out the topographical maps and small stream rods in search of native brook trout. Targeting areas on three north shore brooks, the crew divided into small teams and hit the water. We're happy to report that brookies were located in two sections not stocked by the state. In addition to the trout, members documented other fish caught as well as details like water temperatures and the presence of impassable obstructions.

The picture wasn't completely rosy as several barriers to passage were noted along with high water temps and low flows.

Special thanks go to Mike O'Neill for manning the grill at the end of the event. And kudos to Steve Grise on catching his first ever brookie. You can see a short video clip on our website.



This is an ongoing program. While we're planning a similar group outing for the fall, chapter members are going out on their own and reporting their findings. If you'd like to participate, contact [kevin.correa@tunoreast.org](mailto:kevin.correa@tunoreast.org).

**The brookies are there. It's just a matter of finding them.**

## June Meeting Recap:

Chapter member and Ipswich River Watershed Association naturalist, Jim MacDougall, gave a great presentation in which he shared a wealth of information based on his years of work on the Ipswich River. Among other things, those in attendance learned the specific flies Jim stocks in his box in accord with the specimens he's collected on the water.

We can't thank Jim enough for all of the assistance and counsel he's provided.



**Jim MacDougall**

## Donations: Keep 'em Coming!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed items for use in our bucket raffles. Without these donations we'd have to go out and purchase items to raffle off.

So again, we ask that if you have anything new you'd like to contribute, please send it our way.

With the banquet on the horizon, we're also seeking donations to auction off that evening. Thanks again to everyone who has helped on this front.

## Board Members Stuff Envelopes:

Of the few hundred people in the Nor'East Chapter, we had no email contact information for over 200 members. In an effort to get in touch with these members, the chapter's board of directors recently spent an evening putting together a mass mailing.

The board's hard work is already paying dividends as a number of members have gotten in touch and updated their information after receiving the mailing.

This is just one example of the hard work the directors are doing behind the scenes. Thanks for all of your hard work.

## Next Meeting — September 13th

We've got a great speaker lined up for our September meeting. Have you built, or ever considered building a rod? Are you a Do-It-Yourselfer? Then this is the meeting for you.

Michael Hackney, Squan-a-tissit Chapter member and author of the recently released book, *A Reelsmithing Overview*, is a true fly fishing DIY guru. He makes everything from rods and reels to horse hair fly lines and leaders. He also leads workshops in which he teaches people how to build brass and aluminum fly reels using simple hand tools and techniques.

Come meet Michael and take the first steps toward building your own equipment. As Michael will tell you, it's easier than you think.

### Meeting Details:

Ipswich River Watershed Association  
143 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938

6:00PM Dinner (\$5)

7:00PM Mike Hackney DIY Rods, Reels and More

Please send an email to [kevin.correa@tunoreast.org](mailto:kevin.correa@tunoreast.org) if you plan to attend the dinner portion of the meeting.

## Nor'East Fly Tying Night at First Light Anglers — Wednesday, September 22nd

Hand tied flies are always a big draw, so break out the vise and tie a baker's dozen of your best pattern to be auctioned at our banquet. Thank you to First Light for hosting the evening. We'll be ordering in pizzas and passing the hat around for donations.

Doors open at 5:30, but get there whenever you can.

First Light Anglers, 21 Main Street, Rowley, MA



**We Have Fly Fishing Classic Hats For Sale**

## North Shore Fly Fishing Classic Recap

After a band of early morning thunderstorms subsided, participants in the inaugural North Shore Fly Fishing Classic hit several spots on the north shore in search of fish.

Fishing was definitely spotty with contestants catching the common north shore 3:1 ratio of sunfish to trout.



Dave Williams took home honors in the warm water division and perhaps due to the fact that he helped with the stocking effort only days before, Kevin Correa took the honors in the trout class. Dave and Kevin were awarded \$20 gift certificates to First Light Anglers, which they both donated back to the chapter.

Mike O'Neill won the registration raffle and was awarded a rod provided by Wild Water Fly Fishing. Mike donated the rod back to the chapter.

Special thanks to Patrick Brown for opening up First Light Anglers early for event registration.

**Mike O'Neill and Tom Schultz**



**Tom Schultz and Dave Williams**

## Call to Action on the Ipswich River

As many of you know, Jim MacDougall is a chapter member as well as the naturalist at the Ipswich River Watershed Association. Following is an email from Jim which presents an opportunity to get out on the Ipswich and make some observations.

**I have been reading the emails from some of you who have expressed concern over the lack of flow in the Ipswich River.**

**I wish to recommend that if you have thoughts and observations from the past 3 months on this, please keep the information organized and in a safe place for us to review some time in the near future.**

**This year is playing out to be significant and to better understand what is happening, I think we will need all of the facts to explain not just the low flow but also some odd bumps in the flow graph. I am also interested if anyone has access to accurate and unpublished rain gauges within the watershed. This summer's trend of severe thunderstorms racing across the state is creating flash flows or no flows depending on where the rain falls. The Ipswich basin has been particularly unlucky with storms moving either north or south of us.**

**I recommend that we consider another area of fact finding: to canoe or walk the river and to locate areas where fish and wildlife are surviving this low flow. If you can get some people out to do some scouting, it would be nice to bring along a thermometer and get a water temperature in the areas where fish are found...**

**Its only the middle of August, I recommend that we make the best of this. Any observation is worth noting...**

**I think we need some action.**

**James MacDougall  
Ipswich River Watershed  
143 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938  
978-857-6826  
jm3@me.com**

If you can volunteer some time, please use the contact information above to get in touch with Jim.

### Education Front: Lynn Public School Students Learn Fly Casting

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, chapter member Zach Johnson led an introduction to fly fishing course for several Lynn Public School students under beautiful afternoon skies. The students learned the basics of the fly cast and were able to quickly put their new skills to work on the huge blue gill population of Flax Pond in Lynn. Zach was happy to report that every student caught a fish by the end of the day!



## Nor'East Chapter Annual Banquet is Back Sunday, October 24, 2010

Save the Date ... Sunday, October 24, 2010 the Nor'East Chapter is holding its annual banquet at the Ipswich Masonic Hall. We are seeking volunteers and donations for the banquet. If you are interested in helping out either prior to, or the day of the banquet, please contact John LeJeune at [jrlejeune@gmail.com](mailto:jrlejeune@gmail.com). Donations of cash, goods and services (fishing related or not) are greatly appreciated.

As this is our major fundraiser, we hope that all chapter members can contribute in some way. We are currently seeking donations from local businesses to auction at the banquet. So if you're friendly with the business owner down the block, stop in and see if they'd like to donate something to be auctioned at the banquet. Additionally we are selling ad space in the banquet program.

### Event Info

**Date:** Sunday, October 24, 2010, 4-9PM  
**Location:** Ipswich Masonic Hall, 70 Topsfield Road, Ipswich, MA 01938  
**Tickets:** \$20 Prepaid, \$25 at the Door, \$10 Children 12 & Under

**\* Please note: We can only accept cash and checks the night of the event.\***

Purchase your tickets by mail or online. To purchase online using a credit card or PayPal account, visit our website at [www.tunoreast.org](http://www.tunoreast.org).

To purchase tickets by mail, complete the form below and mail it by October 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Nor'East Chapter Banquet Ticket Request

Sunday, October 24, 2010

4-9PM

Ipswich Masonic Hall, 70 Topsfield Road, Ipswich, MA 01938

**No. Adult Tickets:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20

**No. Child Tickets:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10

Children 12 & Under

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Your Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of Attendees:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail check payable to **Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited** to:

Nor'East Chapter TU, 3 Ilene Circle, Georgetown, MA 01833

You can purchase tickets online with a credit card or PayPal account by going to the Nor'East Chapter's website at [www.tunoreast.org](http://www.tunoreast.org).

**Looking for Chapter Tee Shirts or the Angler's Guide to Trout Fishing in Massachusetts? You can purchase them both at our website ...**  
[www.tunoreast.org](http://www.tunoreast.org)