

Nor'East Chapter | Trout Unlimited

September 2010 Newsletter



One Person, Many Issues

So a couple weeks ago, after we'd bunched a few cooler nights together, I decided I had to go look for some local trout. I'd checked the USGS data, and on paper it didn't look promising.

But as anglers, we're optimists, so I grabbed a rod and headed out to check a few spots on the Parker. What I found was less a river than a series of interconnected shallow ponds. Several spots that are usually beautiful riffles were reduced to trickles.

Disheartened, I made a few casts and predictably picked up a few bluegills. And as I cast, I had that overwhelming feeling of *What can I, a single person, do about this?* This being a dry river in my own backyard.

As conservation-minded sportsmen, I think most of us have had this feeling, if not about our rivers, than perhaps about our dwindling populations of wild trout. It's true, it's tough for a single person to have an impact on major issues like water withdrawals from our rivers.

But the good news is that you're reading these words, so you're already engaged. As I think back to that walk up the Parker, I recognize that there is a big difference between a year ago and today. Last year, I was an individual not sure how I could make a difference. Today, through my work with the Nor'East Chapter, I'm the same individual, but working with a large group of people toward common goals ... and I know that I can make a difference.

See you soon,

Kevin Correa
President

Nor'East Chapter | Trout Unlimited



Dry Parker River
G. Comiskey Photo

Around the Bend

October 4, 2010

Oct. Nor'East Chapter Meeting
Mass DFW's Steve Hurley presents
"Restoring Salter Brook Trout to
Coastal Mass."

Ipswich River Watershed Assn.
6:00PM Dinner (\$5 donation)
7:00PM Presentation

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

October 2010

**First Light Anglers Stocks
Sea Run Browns in the Parker**
Date is TBA. Call FLA for more details.
(978) 948-7004

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 Chapter Annual Banquet is Back Sunday, October 24, 2010

The Nor'East Chapter Banquet is less than 3 weeks away on Sunday, October 24, 2010. Plenty of people have said that they plan to attend or donate items. Now is the time to go online to purchase your tickets. In order to make the event a success, we need to start with an accurate headcount — which will be impossible if everyone waits until the last minute to purchase tickets (not to mention that we could use the up-front cash). So please go to the chapter website at www.tunoreast.org and purchase your tickets right now.



Original Brookie Painting for Auction

While we have some great donations already — from original artwork and guided fishing trips to a handcrafted reel and fly tying caddie — we can always use more. And there is still plenty of work to do, so volunteer if you can lend a hand. If you are interested in helping out either prior to, or the day of the banquet, please contact John LeJeune at jrljeune@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.

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.

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

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.

October Chapter Meeting Preview

The Chapter will host a presentation by Steve Hurley, Southeast District Fisheries Manager for Mass DFW, this Monday October 4th. Steve is one of the key figures in the sea run brook trout restoration efforts down on the cape and will give a talk "Restoring Salter Brook Trout to Coastal Massachusetts." A discussion relevant to salter restoration on the north shore will follow the presentation.
Public Welcome.

If you plan to come for dinner, you **MUST** RSVP to Art Howe at a3flyfish@aol.com. **We've had a lot of trouble getting correct headcounts for dinner. Please help us on that front.**

Meeting Details:

Monday, October 4th
Ipswich River Watershed Association
143 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

6:00PM Dinner (\$5)

7:00PM Steve Hurley's Salter Presentation

September Meeting Recap

Mike Hackney of the Squan-a-tissit Chapter gave a fantastic presentation on the art and history of reelsmithing. His talk struck a chord with do-it-yourselfers in the audience who raced to purchase signed copies of his book, *The Reelsmith's Primer*.

Mike surprised us with the announcement that he will be donating one of his handcrafted reels to auction at our banquet. Thanks Mike!

Nor'East Chapter Banquet

Sunday, October 24, 2010

Ipswich Masonic Hall

4-9PM

PURCHASE TICKETS TODAY!

www.tunoreast.org

First Light Anglers to Stock Sea Run Browns in the Parker

Fresh off their success stocking brook trout in the tidal section of the Mill River last spring, FLA is preparing to stock sea run browns in the Parker River.

Contact the shop at (978) 948-7004 to learn how you can get involved or donate to the effort.



Have News You Want to Share with the Chapter?

Send it to newsletter@tunoreast.org

Visit the Nor'East Marketplace for Chapter Tees and the Angler's Guide www.tunoreast.org

Chapter Tee Shirts

We have received the first batch of chapter T-shirts from the printer and they look great. This first run of shirts is available in sizes Large, X-Large, and XX-Large. Shirts cost \$15 and will be available at the June meeting.

An Angler's Guide

An Angler's Guide to Trout Fishing in Massachusetts could have been called "The Spot Burners Guide to Trout Fishing In Massachusetts." This book really is a must if you fish around the state. It lists everything you need to know from hidden holes to flies. \$20.

A Record Setting Summer

Records fell on our rivers this summer, and they weren't for largest trout. As we all know, the recent rains are welcome after an intense summer drought. Below are reports from the Parker River Clean Water Association and the Ipswich River Watershed Association.

Parker River Watershed Update by Marlene Schroeder of PRCWA

Pictures are truly worth a thousand words as the photos of the drought conditions in the Parker River illustrate the drought conditions experienced this summer and the plight of wildlife dependent on the river.

Flow statistics from the Parker River USGS gauge in Byfield indicate that the flow data this year will be the lowest flow in the history of the Parker River noted on the Byfield gauge. Already 2010 has the lowest 20 days of flow on record Mean daily flow in August is typically 6.7 to 7.3 cubic feet per second but the gauge this August was reading a flow of only 0.01 cubic feet per second. Last year the flow was 8 to 20 cfs.



**Parker River Resident
George Comiskey Photo**

Related to understanding the drought situation is the ongoing battle over what constitutes a "Safe Yield" withdrawal of water from streams by water suppliers. For some years river protection advocates have been at odds with the State over the definition of "Safe Yield." There have been ongoing discussions and committee meetings that have yet to satisfy the concerns of river advocates.

Safe Yield refers to how much water can be pumped from the river by water suppliers and still leave a safe amount of water to protect river ecosystems. The State has failed to meet its own requirements regarding safe yield and doing required pumping tests before issuing water permits for the amount that can be pumped by a water supplier.

River advocates united under the River Alliance umbrella group have been working to develop a definition and formula for "Safe Yield" but there still exists considerable differences between their recommendations and what the State is proposing. At this point the State's proposal is suggesting that a "Safe Yield" for the Parker could allow up to ten times more water to be pumped from the River than is currently being allowed – although the River is dry in a number of places! Go Figure!

Ipswich River Watershed Update

by Jim MacDougall of IRWA

The flow in the Ipswich River this year reached new lows with the official drought that was declared by DEP well after periods of no rain and very low water. The river responded in a new way. This is the first drought to affect the river since the Town Of Reading discontinued use of its groundwater wells by the river. And that portion of the river remained flowing throughout the summer, a demonstration that the river does flow during droughts if not pumped dry for watering lawns.



The Ipswich Mills Dam

Another surprise is that the many beaver dams up and down the main stem of the river where often the only places that held sufficient water to hold fish. I did a quick survey of fish in Wenham Swamp in late August and found most of the fish were either just below beaver dams where there was a deep hole or in the deep channel leading to the lodge.

There are still areas of the river being pumped dry, Lubber's Brook in Wilmington and Martins Brook in North Reading. The main stem of the river from Middleton to the Ipswich Dam had a net loss of water. There were many times this summer when there was more flow in Middleton than was flowing into the ocean in Ipswich. The influence of water withdrawal on the health of the lower Ipswich is still significant even with water conservation. The ray of hope is that beavers seem to play a positive role in holding fish during these stressful times.

In Memoriam...

Thoughts on the Passing of Herman Nelson

by Tom Leahy

Dear Nor'East Chapter members,

Please take a moment to reflect on all the good tasks you've done, and appreciate the foundation you've assisted in restoring for future generations. Today if possible, also take a moment to remember Herman Nelson. Those that knew Herm through the Chapter, we will remember a fisherman who was happy, good natured and fun to fish with. Being a bit loquacious, Herm always had a story to entertain with, and it always seemed to end with laughter. I traveled a few miles with Herm, got to know him some. Others of you knew him much better than I. We all got to see him embrace Trout Unlimited.

His passion for the Chapter was clear as he moved from general member to Board of Directors, onto Banquet Chairman (Best banquet I've ever been to – with his friend Garnett 'Ace' Bailey – killed in 9/11 plane crash, guest speaker 'Chief' John Bucyk) a year of planning and hard work went into this event, with Herm at the helm. We unkindly rewarded him by electing him to be Nor'East Chapter President. He never recovered from our gratitude. He never lost interest in the Chapter, perhaps because those were good days for Herman Nelson, and us.

For those of you not lucky enough to have known and seen Herm in action; the next time your solitude is broken by a raging fish, which stuck as you daydreamed, leaving you startled and fishless, remember other fishermen were here before you, as the rings fade away. Herm, I remember such a day, it was fun fishing with you.

Tom Leahy