

Nor'East Chapter | Trout Unlimited

January 2011 Newsletter



What's With the Salamander?

Last weekend a friend invited me skiing and I turned him down ... which shocked him, as I'm a former California ski bum. "Let me guess, more trout stuff," he said. "Sort of," I replied, telling him that I planned to attend the Parker River Clean Water Association's annual meeting (which was fantastic, by the way).



It's difficult for non-anglers to understand why we spend so much time and energy for the benefit of fish. To be honest, even after working closely with the chapter for over a year now, I still fumble my way through an explanation of why conservation of trout waters is important. Sure, I can tie it all back to their need for clean, cold water, and the benefits of this water to other wildlife and people, but halfway through my pitch it's not uncommon to see glazed-over eyes staring back at me. *You lost me at dissolved oxygen.*

The question, *Why protect fish?* is part of the larger and even more complex question of *Why protect rivers?* The further you dig into the latter question, the more you see the other issues involved — water rights, commercial interests, storm water management, economic development, and so on.

And while at times I feel completely overwhelmed by the alphabet soup of acronyms (PIEr², LTERs, NERRS, etc.) and scientific jargon, meetings like last weekend's hosted by the PRCWA — add it to the acronyms — offer inspiration. At the meeting, project coordinators gave updates on topics ranging from water quality in the Parker to protecting salamanders and frogs during their migrations. It was clear that all of these volunteers are just as passionate about their projects as we are about protecting trout water. And at the end of the day, we're all working toward a common goal — protecting the watershed.

But when you're just one little piece of the puzzle, it's often difficult to see that bigger picture. The good news is that through continued hard work and productive partnerships, eventually all the pieces of that puzzle should fall neatly into place.

In the following pages, you'll find a partial list of chapter events for 2011. I encourage you to contribute wherever you can. Though your contribution may not seem like much to you, every little bit helps fill in a gap in the puzzle.

Thanks for all your hard work, and I hope to see you soon.

Kevin Correa
President
Nor'East Chapter | Trout Unlimited

Around the Bend

February 7, 2011
Nor'East Chapter Meeting
Andy Bonzagni of Concord Outfitters presents:
"Fishing the San Juan River"
Ipswich River Watershed Assn.
6 p.m. Dinner (\$5 donation)
7 p.m. Presentation
(see article)

March 5-6, 2011
Fly Fish NH Show
Sponsored by Merrimack Valley TU
Pelham Fish & Game Club
Details at:
www.merrimacktu.org

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.

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

January Meeting Recap

We switched things up a bit with the January meeting. Instead of a speaker, we sat around tables, talked chapter business and tied up some flies. You'll be happy to learn that we donated the flies from the meeting to the



Casting for Recovery dinner at The Parson's Table. The auctioned flies raised over \$100 for the local Casting for Recovery retreat.

Thank you to all who contributed to this outstanding cause.



Photos courtesy of John LeJeune.

Collaborating with Boxford and Other Local Towns

In early January, the Boxford Lakes, Ponds, and Streams subcommittee of the town's Conservation Commission invited Kevin Correa and Jim MacDougall of the chapter to a meeting to discuss how the Nor'East Chapter and the town could work together. The meeting was important for a couple reasons. First, it was the committee that reached out to the chapter. The takeaway message from that simple act is that it illustrates how organizations outside of the chapter have taken notice of the hard work we have done over that past year and view us as a legitimate partner in environmental stewardship. Second, Boxford is home to some of the most pristine trout habitat in our area, and if we can work with the town to improve it, we should do so.

Interconnectivity is a serious concern on many of the Boxford streams. For instance, on Fish Brook alone there are 3 dams and 11 culverts.

For this reason, Colin Lawson, TU's New England Culvert Project Coordinator, recently met with a few chapter leaders. The discussion focused on how the chapter can work with local towns in repairing or replacing culverts that impede the movement of fish and other wildlife along natural stream corridors.

In the coming months, the chapter will form small project teams to identify a short list of culverts whose repair or replacement would increase the water available to trout.

The ultimate goal is to then help the town secure funding — through TU and other grant sources — to repair or replace target culverts.

If you would like to take part in the process, or have any culverts in mind whose repair or replacement would reconnect populations of trout, please let us know.

February Meeting Preview

We're happy to host Andy Bonzagni of Concord Outfitters at our February meeting. Andy will give his presentation on fishing the San Juan River. As usual, we'll open the doors for dinner at 6 p.m. and Andy's presentation will be at 7 p.m.

An important note on parking: With all the snow, space is very tight in the IRWA lot. If you do not get one of the traditional "nose in" spots, please park single file (and side-by-side) where possible, making sure to follow the counter-clockwise traffic pattern around the loop. To help facilitate timely departures from the meeting (with as little traffic snarls as possible) there will only be a brief business meeting and no board of directors' meeting after the presentation.

Meeting Details:

Monday, February 7th
Ipswich River Watershed Association
143 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

6:00 p.m. Dinner (\$5)

7:00 p.m. Andy Bonzagni's San Juan Presentation



Sorry trout, you can't get there from here.

Board of Directors Finalizes Committees and Releases Events for 2011

The Nor'East Chapter Board of Directors had a very productive meeting on January 24th. The BOD formalized the following committees:

- Membership
- Banquet
- Meeting/Entertainment/Special Event
- Education
- Environmental Action
- Communications
- Financial Development

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please let us know. We can always use more volunteers.

The BOD also hammered out a general calendar of events for the year. Below is the list of events and a basic timeline. Additional events, like stream cleanups, will be planned. This list is just to give an indication of what's to come. Specific dates will be announced as they become available:

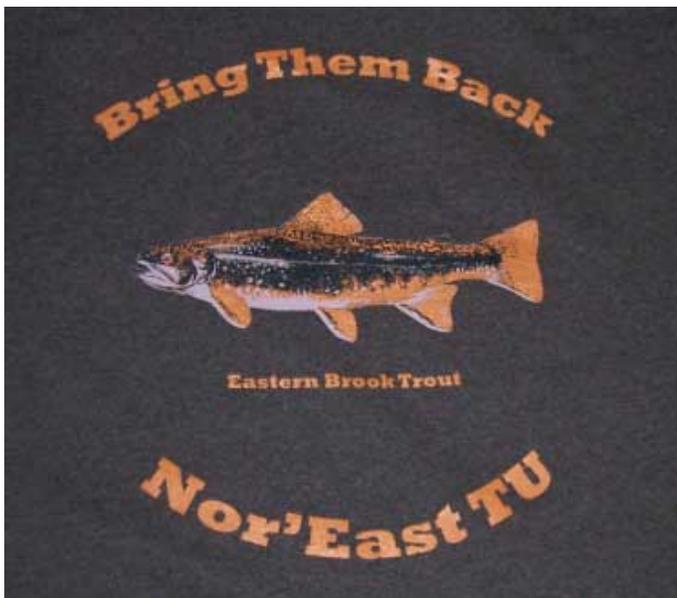
- TU National Stream Cleanup Day — April
- Parker River Paddle/Fish/Cookout — Mid-May
- Nor'East Camping Weekend (The Council's Indian Hollow Event is not happening this year) — Late May
- North Shore Fly Fishing Classic (to include a mandatory trash pickup component) — June
- Nor'East Family Day (casting intros etc.) — Summer
- Annual Banquet — Late October

Visit the Nor'East Marketplace for Chapter Tees and the Angler's Guide

www.tunoreast.org

Chapter Tee Shirts

Still don't have your chapter T-shirt? Act fast as only Large and X-Large are left from this first run of shirts. Shirts cost \$15 and are available online or at the meetings.



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.

