Happy Holidays!

As 2011 winds down, I hope that everyone finds a little time to relax—or even fish—over the holiday season.

The 2012 Chapter Calendar is already starting to fill up. We’ll hold our first meeting of the new year on the **Second Monday**, January 9th at the Ipswich River Watershed Association. We’ll send out more details on the evening’s speaker, but we have some important business at the meeting as well.

In addition to reviewing the chapter financials with the membership (where does all the money come from…and where does it go?) we’ll be holding our elections for officers and board members. Plenty of vacancies to fill, so if you are interested in getting more involved in the behind-the-scenes work of the chapter, please send me an email at kevin.correa@tunoreast.org.

Be sure to check out the list of upcoming events to see what’s on the docket. In addition to the Marlborough Fly Fishing Show and Council’s annual banquet, the Fly Fishing Film Tour will be rolling into town on March 4th—and we’re hosting this year, so spread the word.

I want to thank you all for your hard work in 2011. The chapter continues to grow and contribute meaningfully to local environmental advocacy and action. We couldn’t make progress without you. I look forward to working together in 2012.

Happy Holidays!

Kevin Correa
President
Nor’East Chapter | Trout Unlimited
The Nor’East Chapter to Hold Elections
January Chapter Meeting
January 9, 2012

Please note that we will hold our January chapter meeting on the Second Monday, January 9th. We’ll quickly run through the chapter financial statements to give everyone a feeling for the state of the chapter.

The other major agenda item is the election of both officers and board members. If you’re interested in any of the officer or board positions, please let me know by sending an email to kevin.correa@tunnoreast.org.

This is also your last chance to get in on the attendance rod raffle. You have received once chance to win the rod with every meeting you’ve attended. Your attendance at the January meeting counts toward the raffle, so come on out and you might just go home with a new rod.

We’ll send out a meeting reminder with more details on the night’s presentation in advance of the event.

See you there!

Monday, January 9th
Ipswich River Watershed Association
143 County Road, Ipswich
6 p.m. Dinner (with $5 donation)
7 p.m. Presentation

Congratulations Art Howe!

The MA-RI Trout Unlimited Council elected Art Howe to represent the Council’s interests within TU’s National Leadership Council.

Art has been a huge asset to the chapter and we’re confident that he will make a great addition to TU’s NLC.

Congratulations, Art, and thank you for all you’ve done for the chapter.

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

The Town of Newbury’s selectman recently voted to leave the dilapidated Larkin Road Dam in its current state. This is a heated issue and Chapter President Kevin Correa recently submitted a letter to the editor of the Newburyport Daily News stating the chapter’s support for the dam’s removal.

We would like to keep this issue on the front burner in Newbury, so we urge chapter members—particularly those in Newbury—to become active in the debate. Following is Kevin’s letter:

To the Editor:

The decision of the Newbury selectmen to leave the Larkin Road Dam in its current state has received much attention over the past few weeks. I write this letter with the hope that the discussion will continue and that residents of the town will take the initiative to further educate themselves on the matter.

I am confident that in doing so, residents will come to the same conclusion that the state and federal experts have—that the dam should be removed, and that “the potential threat to downstream well water quality is minimal to non-existent.”

Currently, the sticking point for several public safety officials is the potential harm that removal of the dam could pose to the water supply. I don’t fault these officials for proceeding with caution regarding removal of the dam. However, they have not offered any technical evidence to support their position that the dam should remain. Further, arguing that the dam should remain as a safety precaution (to help mitigate hazardous material spills from I-95) is counterintuitive as the crumbling dam itself presents a safety hazard—and major liability for the town.

The Parker River was once the centerpiece of a healthy river ecosystem. Today it is not, and dams like the Larkin Road Dam are a significant part of the problem. Clearly our organization—Trout Unlimited—is interested in restoring wild populations of trout and salmon to our north shore rivers. The bigger picture, however, entails restoring a vibrant river ecosystem that provides clean cold water for human populations along the river as well as for the inhabitants of the river.

Communities across the nation are removing large and small dams to restore rivers and their natural ecosystems. According to American Rivers, a national river restoration group, approximately 1,000 dams have been removed in the U.S. Beyond allowing for greater use and recreation for Newbury residents, the Larkin Road Dam’s removal could have positive implications well beyond the town’s borders. No doubt you’ve read of the demise of herring populations in the Parker River. Removing the dam could potentially bolster these populations, directly benefiting the marine fisheries of the Commonwealth and the economies reliant on them.

On the North Shore, most of us have neighbors or friends that either fish commercially, or captain fishing charters. Fishing has always been an important part of the local economy and the herring that rely on the Parker are essential to the future of these industries.

I hope that the residents of Newbury will further educate themselves about the Larkin Road Dam removal. The Town of Newbury has a rich history of protecting its natural resources. Removing the Larkin Road Dam would be a big step in restoring a resource that is in significant decline.

Kevin Correa
President
Nor’East Chapter | Trout Unlimited
Embrace a Stream Grant Application

Working with the Town of Boxford and Colin Lawson—TU’s Culvert coordinator—the Nor’East Chapter recently submitted a grant application to replace a culvert on Crooked Pond Brook in Boxford. Replacing the culvert would provide passage to prime spawning habitat for brook trout from Fish Brook.

Though many have been involved in the continuing process, the chapter would like to make special note of the efforts of Greg Murrer, Jim MacDougall, Mike O’Neill, Thomas Wooldridge, John LeJeune and Kevin Correa.

Greg Murrer has done a fantastic job drafting the grant application as well serving as a liaison with the Town of Boxford.

Hopefully the chapter will receive some funding to move the project forward.

Thanks for your hard work.

Chapter to Host the Fly Fishing Film Tour

The chapter is proud to announce that we are sponsoring the fan-favorite Fly Fishing Film Tour. As in years past, Chunky’s in Haverhill will be the venue.

More details to follow, but we wanted to get the information out there so you can help spread the word. Save the date!

March 4, 2012
Fly Fishing Film Tour
Chunky’s Haverhill
371 Lowell Ave., Haverhill
6 p.m. Doors Open
7 p.m. Show Starts
Tickets are $15

Please be sure to visit the chapter website at www.tunoreast.org for past newsletters and information on chapter projects.