

Nor'East Chapter | Trout Unlimited

August 2012 Newsletter



Fall Lineup Set

Although we're still in the heat of the summer, the chapter's board of directors has been busy pulling together the schedule for the fall. Right off the top, I want to share with everyone that the chapter's annual banquet will be held on Saturday, November 3 at the Ipswich Masonic Hall.

Also, we're excited to have a great presentation on fly fishing Argentina lined up for our September meeting. Please note that the meeting will be held on the 2nd Monday of the month because of the Labor Day holiday.



Tom Costa giving the trout a break.

We'll be adding a fall river cleanup to the chapter events, so keep your eyes peeled for details.

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

Kevin Correa
President
Nor'East Chapter | Trout Unlimited
www.tunoreast.org

Around the Bend

September 10, 2012

September Chapter Meeting

6:00PM Dinner
7:00PM Mark Foley's "Fly Fishing Argentina" (See Article)
IRWA
143 County Road
Ipswich

October 1, 2012

October Chapter Meeting

9:00AM
6:00PM Dinner
7:00PM Speaker TBD
IRWA
143 County Road
Ipswich

November 3, 2012

Annual Chapter Banquet

Save the date for our 2012 Chapter Banquet. More details to come.

**Have you renewed your TU membership?
Do it today at www.tu.org**

September Meeting Preview

We are pleased to have Mark Foley of First Cast Fly Fishing presenting a 60 minutes slide show about fly-fishing and traveling in Argentina. At age 29, Mark spent one year hiking and fishing the Andes Mountain Range and he is a former Argentina fly-fishing lodge manager. During his presentation, he will take us on a fly-fishing journey from Tierra del Fuego to the border of the Bolivian rainforest. We will see spectacular pictures of the Andes Mountains, wildlife such as the Andean Condor, and of course, lots of photos of wild trout and Golden Dorado. Lastly, Mark will share a few secrets on how to travel on a dime, yet travel in comfort.



About Mark:

Mark is a native of New Hampshire and a graduate from Iowa State University. His love for adventure fishing and traveling has brought him to Africa, New Zealand, Mexico, Central and South America, British Columbia and Alaska. He spent 15 years in medical sales before starting a not for profit, donation only business called First Cast Fly Fishing. In addition, he is a licensed NH guide, a certified fly fishing instructor for the NH Fish & Game, the Phillips Exeter Academy fly-fishing adviser and ODC instructor (outdoor challenge) and a Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge Counselor. Lastly, he is a life member of Trout Unlimited and Federation of Fly Fishers.

Monday September 10, 2012

6:00 Dinner (\$5.00 donation)

7:00 Meeting

Ipswich River Watershed Association

143 County Road

Ipswich, Mass

Gear for Sale

Chapter member Harry O'Brien is helping facilitate the sale of some equipment that belonged to a friend that recently passed away. Following is a list of items for sale:

Orvis 8ft, 2 piece, 8 Wt Battenkill rod with 3 tips

Jim Payne 7.5 ft rod with 2 tips

5 Hardy reels with spare pools, all made in England

If you are interested in any of these items, please contact Harry directly at (978) 468-7282

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2012 Chapter Banquet is Saturday, November 3rd

The chapter banquet is set for Saturday, November 3rd. We will once again hold the banquet at the Masonic Hall in Ipswich.

The banquet is the chapter's major fundraiser and we've done a fantastic job raising money for local conservation efforts. This year we're hoping to significantly boost attendance, and we need your help. We've done okay the past couple years bringing people in, but we'd love to pack the Masonic Hall to capacity, so please spread the word. We have already begun collecting goods for the banquet and we hope you will join the effort in soliciting donations (fishing related or not) from friends, colleagues and businesses you frequent. John LeJeune has once again generously volunteered to track all of the donations, so please contact him at jrlejeune@gmail.com to discuss donations you receive.

The chapter has a standard solicitation letter you can bring into vendors that includes information about the chapter and our Tax ID. Please contact Kevin Correa at kevincorrea@hotmail.com if you would like a copy of the letter to help solicit donations.

Thanks in advance for the help. More details on the banquet to come.

Chapter Casting Clinic a Big Success

The first casting clinic sponsored by the chapter was a huge success as 30 people came out to either learn to fly cast for the first time, or hone their casting skills.

Federation of Fly Fishers certified instructors Mike McCue and Rich Kovars generously donated their time, considerable skill and patience in teaching everyone from novices to seasoned casters.



We can't thank them enough. If you missed out on the event and are looking for instruction, Mike and Rich both teach as part of the LL Bean Outdoor Discovery School. Be sure to look them up. Rich works out of the Burlington, MA store, and Mike is at the flagship store in Freeport, ME.



PIER² and the Fish Kill on the Ipswich **by Jim MacDougall, Ipswich River Watershed Association**

On May 28, Susan Burnett-Halling observed the season's first fish kill on the Ipswich River. The following day she reported it to Scott Santino, Master Naturalist, at Mass Audubon's Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary. Scott just happened to be paddling the river on the 29th with the Proctor School 6th graders when he noticed "a large number of dead pickerel...a couple of the living pickerel seemed to have sores on their bodies."

Scott, and Mass Audubon, are members of the Parker, Ipswich and Essex Rivers Restoration Partnership (known as "PIE r squared" or "PIER²"). The partnership was organized by the Ipswich River Watershed Association 3 years ago and includes all the Federal, State, local and non-profit organizations conserving land and managing it for fish and wildlife. The purpose of this partnership is to improve efficiencies of all the members through sharing of equipment, ideas, knowledge and to develop a common set of goals that will hopefully allow us to succeed in restoring the ecological functions of these 3 rivers that flow into the Great Marsh estuary. Over the past 3 years, we have met, discussed individual needs and goals, listened to experts on fish and wildlife, and read the latest scientific publications on ecology. These meetings have introduced us, first-hand, to the limits and aspirations of all the nature people in the region. Through this network, we have begun to lean on each other for support and guidance to make each of our missions more attainable. The ultimate mission is to restore the fish, wildlife and functions of the natural systems of the Parker, Ipswich and Essex Rivers and the Great Marsh.

As part of this partnership, Ipswich River Watershed has become the regional coordinator for a nation wide effort to assess the impacts of road crossings on the movements and migrations of fish and wildlife. It is referred to as the Stream Continuity Inventory. We have 3 capable interns and on May 29th, Brian Kelder, Ryan O'Donnell and I were out teaching ourselves and the interns on the method of measuring bridges and culverts (stream crossings). We happened to visit the new horse bridge over the Ipswich River at Bradley Palmer State Park looked into the river and saw dead fish. One Brown Bullhead and one Pumpkinseed. We passed it off as fishermen's flotsam until I got back to the office and saw Scott's email message about his dead fish upstream. My reaction, "This is not good."

I sent a message to many of our PIER² partners including Todd Richards, senior fisheries biologist for the Mass. Dept of Fish and Game and he forwarded my message to Richard Hartley, the department's fish kill point-person. Rich called me directly and initiated an official fish kill report and we agreed that I would collect more information.

To date, we have found small numbers of many types of fish from Wenham Swamp to Ipswich center (a stretch of river about 10 miles long) and including Brown trout, Red-fin pickerel, Chain pickerel, Brown bullhead, Yellow bullhead and Pumpkinseed. Had we been able to collect fish the first day, we might have the necessary information to determine what caused the fish to die. Was it a natural event or one caused by a poison? It's too late to find out. But our partnership worked. We were able to communicate and mobilize our network to an event that each of us alone would not have either recognized or known how to react to it. Together we observed a fish kill, we notified the appropriate authorities and we are better equipped to respond to the next such event and determine why fish die in these rivers.

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