

Nor'East Chapter | Trout Unlimited

January 2013 Newsletter



Happy New Year!

With the first real snow of the season still on the ground, many of us have turned to indoor pursuits...diving into that new fly fishing novel or DVD, tying up some new patterns or perhaps building a new rod.

But as you'll see in the following pages, just because winter is upon us, doesn't mean you can't enjoy our rivers.

Chapter member Dave Williams writes of reminiscing while walking the snowy banks of the Ipswich, and John Lejeune offers up a few photos from a recent trip to the Lamprey with fellow chapter members.



If the thought of braving the elements is too much, we hope you will at least join the chapter for our January meeting. Whit Carter of Lakewood Camps will offer up secrets for fishing Maine's Rapid River. The chapter will also hold our annual election. Three board seats will be chosen at the meeting. And finally, we will hold our attendance rod raffle to cap off the evening.

Hope to see you on the 7th.

Warm regards,

Kevin Correa
President
Nor'East Chapter | Trout Unlimited

Around the Bend

January 7, 2013

Chapter Meeting

6:00PM Dinner
7:00PM Maine's Rapid River Presentation by Whit Carter
IRWA
143 County Road
Ipswich, MA

January 18, 2013

MA/RI TU Council Banquet

Marlboro Fly Fishing Show
Royal Plaza Hotel
Marlboro, MA
5:30PM Reception
6:30PM Buffet
Tickets are \$35
(see article)

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

January Meeting Preview:

Join us this month for a presentation on fishing Maine's Rapid River, presented by Whit Carter of Lakewood Camps. The big fishing attraction at Lakewood Camps is the Rapid River. Named the best natural brook trout stream in the lower 48 states, and listed as one of the top 100 best places to fish in the world, the Rapid lives up to this reputation. The Rapid often exceeds fly fishers expectations. Brook trout in the three to five pound range are common. The Rapids River's landlocked salmon must not be overlooked either, they are prolific, and big. Many salmon exceed twenty inches, and three pounds. Landlocked salmon are a great fly fishing challenge, with long runs and lots of fighting and jumping which adds to the excitement.

Find out more at www.lakewoodcamps.com

We will also have our annual business meeting, elections and member rod raffle (winner need not be present). Don't miss out!

Monday January 7, 2013

6:00 Dinner (\$5.00 donation)

7:00 Meeting

Ipswich River Watershed Association

143 County Road

Ipswich, Mass

Save the Date: MA/RI TU Council Banquet January 18, 2013

The MA/RI TU Council is hosting its annual banquet at the Marlboro Fly Fishing Show.

If you plan to attend, please let us know as the chapter has tickets for a table.

Details:

Friday January 18

Royal Plaza Hotel

Marlboro, MA

5:30PM Reception

6:30PM Buffet

Tickets are \$35

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

Save the Date for the Greater Boston Chapter's PastaFest!

Pasta Fest 2013, GBTU's premiere event of the year for chapter members, families, and guests will be held Sunday April 7th at the Hibernian Hall on Rt. 16 in Watertown with the doors opening at 4:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to greet familiar faces and meet new members and guests.

There is a delicious Pasta dinner and loads of gifts, prizes, fishing trips, and outdoor adventures.

GBTU has been a great supporter of the Nor'East Chapter, so if you're free on April 7th we hope you can join them at PastaFest!

Icy Guides, Leaky Waders and Winter Trout

Recently, a few of the guys from the chapter hit the Lamprey in New Hampshire and found some cooperative trout. Photos courtesy of John Lejeune.



GBTU Canoe Auction

The Greater Boston Chapter of Trout Unlimited is auctioning off a beautiful handmade cedar strip blonde canoe. It's 16 feet long and only 45 pounds, made by Butch Barker out of Medway, Maine. Butch used tongue and groove construction throughout, and the detail work is amazing. He kept the weight down by using high tech marine resins.

The money that is raised through this raffle will be directed towards the removal of the Millie Turner Dam on the Nissitissit, right in your backyard. GBTU again is delighted to partner with the Squanattissit Chapter on such an important project, which will have immediate and long-lasting benefits for the trout in the Niss.

Tickets sell for \$25 each or five for \$100. Only two hundred tickets have been printed. The drawing will be held when all the tickets are sold. We are 40 percent there right now. To purchase tickets or to get more information, contact me at the address, e-mail and phone below. These tickets would be great stocking stuffers.



Regards,
Peter Schilling

Peter Schilling
16 Hummingbird Hill Road
Falmouth, MA 02540
508-540-2045

PMACDS@aol.com

Have you checked out our website lately?

**Sign up for news and updates at
www.tunoreast.org**

The River in Winter - A Time for Reflection by Dave Williams

The Ipswich River is my home water. I have fished it off and on since I was 10. During the winter, I like to visit some of the places I fish in the headwaters area of the Ipswich River. I like to see how the river looks, acts, and behaves in these cold, frozen days of winter. I like to reminisce about some of the days fishing I have had over the past season. However, walking along the river in the winter is most importantly a time of reflection.

As I stop at a pool well upstream, I think back to the early '60's when my father would drive us right up to this spot almost underneath rt. 93. This was where I saw the first fly fisherman on the Ipswich. He was at the head



Sight of my first Ipswich River Trout when I was 10.

of a little riffle – one of the few in the headwaters – casting downstream. I can't remember if he caught anything, but the place stuck in my mind. A couple of years later, in the summer after sixth grade, my buddy Brian and I rode our bikes to this very spot 2 or 3 times a week all summer. This was a 6 mile round trip from our homes. We caught Pickerel, Yellow perch, Largemouth bass, Sunfish, and Horn pout. We would see big schools of Suckers but could never catch one.

As smart-ass 6th graders are often wont to do, we sometimes did foolish things. Like the time we

stopped fishing, took our rods, and scrambled up the bank of Rt. 93 and ran across the southbound lane. In those days there was a big opening in the meridian so you could look down and see the river. Well, Brian and I thought that would be a good place to fish. We caught lots of Sunfish, and being wise guys, we threw them onto the highway. One day I caught a small brown trout, my fish trout of the summer there. As I was admiring this great fish, we hear the woop-woop of a state police car. He pulls right up onto the meridian and marches over to us, saying, "What the hell are you two doing?" I said, 'We're fishin'! Look at this trout I caught!' holding it up to him. He says back, "I don't give a good G*\$#*% what you caught, get out of here and don't ever come back!" Needless to say we quickly crossed back across the highway, scrambled down the bank and returned to fishing. There is no longer access to the river here as a housing development went in there years ago.

There is another riffle that flows under a bridge further downstream and this is where I caught my first, local trout. My father drove us here and I put on one of those red, Uncle Josh salmon eggs. I carefully walked out onto some rocks at the head of the fast water and lobbed the salmon egg in. Bang, a nice, stocked Brook trout. We had it for dinner that night. The state stopped stocking the river here for a number of years when the Ipswich was really running low. However, since the local town has stopped using its gravel-packed wells as a source of drinking water, the flows in the river in this area are much higher and more consistent. For the past three years, the state has stocked this area



twice a spring. I have had some very enjoyable times fly fishing this area the past couple of springs.

I like exploring parts of the headwaters I haven't fished much. My first, fly-caught Ipswich River trout came as a result of this exploring. I bushwhacked through a wet, grassy area and came upon trout rising. I lost one, and then caught a big, stocked Rainbow on a Hornberg. Just upstream of here, is a tributary of the river. I walk along the tributary until it dumped out into the Ipswich. I noticed that it has scoured out a nice hole there. Last year I caught a large Brook trout there. There is also another tributary I want to check this year.

Further downstream in the next town, there are several holes that I have recently begun fishing. The state is generous with their stocking along here, but I have been enjoying the fishing experience by walking well away from the stocking sites. It forces me to be more observant of the water and makes me think like a trout. Even though I catch fewer fish, I enjoy this style of fishing.

As I reflect back on the times spent fishing the Ipswich River, I also get excited for the next season and the hope excitement it offers.



Nor'East Chapter

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———— www.tunoreast.org ————