



# Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited

## DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

*Protecting, conserving and restoring Massachusetts' Northshore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.*

### GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello all! It has been an eventful month. We had our Strategic Planning Meeting at the end of October, and we've had several Banquet Committee meetings and many discussions regarding our Conservation Committee activities as well. I have also been researching auction tips and tricks for our **2017 Annual Fundraising Banquet** (on **18 March 2017**, so write that down!), and we all need to start thinking about donations for the auction.



Our December meeting will be our regular fly-tying session, after which we will devote a large portion of our chapter business meeting to a review and discussion of our new Draft Strategic Plan, about which we are all very excited. A copy thereof will be attached to this newsletter, so please review it before the meeting and if you're unable to attend please send us your comments and thoughts. There are several slots where we need additional participants so please step up if you want to help us with these endeavors. That will be appreciated!

We also have drafted a survey for our members in accord with the Strategic Plan, to find out what sorts of skills and experience all you people have. There are several of our undertakings for which we are looking for volunteers with specific skills and interests, and others where we are in need of further assistance as well...

I have heard that the steelhead season at the Salmon River in Pulaski, NY, as well as in the various rivers west of there in NY and PA, is not terribly good thus far, though that could change. If people have any news about that to share, please do so. Furthermore, in regard to other fishing adventures that you have enjoyed, we'd love to hear all about them! Please write something up for us to share in our Newsletter and website!

Our mission – to preserve, protect and restore cold water fisheries – involves a wide array of efforts both already underway and in the planning stages for which we will need your help to achieve our ambitious goals and plans. So please come to our regular business meetings, which occur right after the bucket raffle is drawn once our speaker or other activities end – such as the fly-tying part of our meeting on **5 December 2016** or the speaker's talk is over – so you can hear about all of our projects underway or being planned. We need you!!!  
(Continued on next page...)

### Upcoming Events

**Dec 5**

Fly tying night. Bring your tying kit

**Jan 9**

Julia Blatt, Mass. Rivers Alliance on river restoration and the 2016 drought

**Feb 6**

Tim Purinton of the MA Division of Ecological Restoration on dam removals

**Mar 18, 2017**

Mark your calendar: NETU Annual Banquet Danversport Yacht Club

**Jun 16, 2017**

Farmington River Fishing Trip

**DONATIONS? UNWANTED ITEMS?**

Contact Bob Torkildsen if you have any items for the raffle

Have you renewed your TU membership?

[www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org)

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

For the new year, we are lining up some very exciting speakers for you. Our January meeting, which will take place on **9 January 2017**, will feature **Julia Blatt of the Mass Rivers Alliance** as our speaker. Julia will tell us all about the great work of her organization, and I am advocating that NETU become an organizational member of MRA as well. By the way, the **MRA's Annual Meeting and Dinner** will take place on **7 Dec 2016** from 6-9 PM at the First Church in Belmont on 404 Concord Avenue. Find them online and buy a ticket! It promises to be an informative and enjoyable event. Online ticket sales will end on 6 Dec 2016. Don't miss out!

And at our February meeting, which will take place on **6 February 2017**, we will have as our featured speaker none other than **Tim Purinton of the MA Division of Ecological Restoration** to tell us about the many dam removal and stream improvement projects in which MA DER is involved, including Sylvania Dam at the mouth of the Ipswich River. This will be an opportunity to hear about some of their cutting edge projects, and tell him about what we have underway or planned as well. This should be an eventful and productive meeting!

But come to our upcoming meeting on **5 December 2016** where we will gather together at the IRWA HQ to **tie flies and trade lies!** Bring your best fishing stories, and please also stay for the business meeting to follow! As usual, we will have a delicious meal for a contribution of only \$5.00 from 6-7 PM and then the meeting will start at 7:00 with the bucket raffle around 8:00 and our business meeting right afterwards. See you then!!!

Fred Jennings  
NETU President

### **PIE-Rivers Annual Meeting**

*Including a look at the 2016 drought, water management, and potential long-term effects on restoration efforts*

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Newbury Town Library, 0 Lunt St, Byfield

\*\*Please RSVP by Friday, Dec. 2nd [rsvp@ipswichriver.org](mailto:rsvp@ipswichriver.org)

#### **Meeting Agenda**

**8:30 Coffee and Networking**

**9:00 Partnership Updates – 2016 Year in Review**

Wayne Castonguay, Executive Director, Ipswich River Watershed Association

George Comiskey, Parker River Clean Water Association

**9:30 Looking Ahead to 2017 – Partnership priorities and opportunities**

**10:00 A state-wide look at the response to the 2016 drought**

Gabby Queenan, Policy Specialist, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

**10:30 Break and Networking Session**

**10:55 Drought effects on fisheries resources**

Adam Kautza, Coldwater Fisheries Project Leader, MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

**11:25 Drought impacts on streamflow and tools to influence water use**

Michelle Craddock, Watershed Ecologist, MA Division of Ecological Restoration

**11:55 Wrap-up and Adjourn**

## FLY FISHING WITH THE NEXT GENERATION – BY BEN MEADE

Almost as long as I can remember, fly fishing has been a large part of my life. It all began with my uncle teaching me the “10 o’clock to 2 o’clock” casting motion at the end of the dock at my grandparent’s summer camp. From that summer, at about the age of 11, I was hooked. Soon, I was riding my bike to a local trout stream from my childhood home in southern New Hampshire. Once a driver’s license and the use of my parent’s old pickup truck came along, I was exploring the main stems of the Souhegan and the Piscataquog - and their many coldwater tributaries - at every opportunity. Skipping ahead almost two decades, life now is much busier, with a myriad of adult responsibilities that limit time spent on the water. In early August, my wife Mary Beth and I welcomed the largest - but most beautiful and awesome - responsibility of all.



Adelaide’s First Fish  
By Benjamin Meade

Baby Adelaide arrived into the world healthy at 5:47 AM on August 2nd. The month of August passed in a blur of sleep-deprived nights, steaming hot weather, and no shortage of stressful moments learning how to care for a crying infant. On our calendar, Labor Day weekend - with the wedding of two friends in the Berkshires - provided a light at the end of the infant care tunnel. Mary Beth and I eagerly and nervously anticipated the trip. It would be our first weekend-long venture into the outside world with our child. As it turned out, the weekend could not have been better. The wedding was held at a lakeside summer camp, the weather was terrific, and the company of good friends all celebrating a loving couple were the perfect respite for the stress of new parents.

Prior to the weekend, with knowledge of the lakeside setting, I had eagerly packed a fly rod (or three) for the trip. Despite Mary Beth’s initial concerns about our close proximity to water and airborne hooks, I quickly discovered that fly casting with Adelaide on my chest in her infant carrier was a safe and rewarding activity. She happily slept – and slept soundly – while her Dad excitedly fly fished for the first time in over a month. The first fish caught in Adelaide’s presence was, fittingly, a bluegill sunfish. As time passes and Adelaide gets older, I will do my best to share my love of fly fishing and the great outdoors with her, while also trying to be careful not to overdo it and drive her away. Even if she doesn’t take up an interest in fly fishing, I can only dream that an upbringing of being dragged along with her Dad on various outdoor pursuits (especially fly fishing excursions) will help to build a knowledge, passion, and respect for the natural world for her. It is my hope that Adelaide’s first fly fishing experience – even if she was happily asleep and unaware - is just the first of many adventures on the water for her. Time will tell!

Ben Meade

## ALASKA TRIP – BY GREG MURRER

My wife, son and I took a “bucket list” trip to Alaska in early September. Visits included Anchorage, Denali National Park and a Holland America cruise along Alaska’s Inside Passage. We lucked out with trip into the Park on an absolutely clear day, which we are told happens about 10% of the time. Wildlife sightings on this trip included moose, grizzly bear, caribou, Dall sheep, bald eagles, golden eagles, sea otters, humpbacked whales, beluga whales and orcas. A stop in Ketchikan was another lucky sunny day given that the town receives nearly 200 inches of rain per year. A river that runs through town hosts all species of spawning salmon and a “real” Alaska fish ladder. Above the ladder were many hundreds of spawning chum salmon, all at least 30 inches in length. No fishing was had on this trip, but fly fishing Alaska for trout and salmon remains on the bucket list.

Greg Murrer



Spawning Chum Salmon – Greg Murrer



Alaska Fish Passage– Greg Murrer



Mt. Denali – Greg Murrer

## TYING THE MOP FLY

From The Wall Street Journal  
Oct 17, 2016.

## Fly Fishing Renegades Are Cleaning Up—With Kitchen Mops

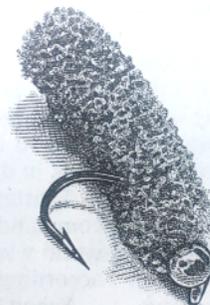
\* \* \*

In a slap at purists, some enthusiasts  
use mop strands to out-catch rivals

By JUSTIN SCHECK

Standing in a chilly Adirondack river, Lance Egan made a bold move in his bid to win the U.S. National Fly Fishing Championships in June. He tied on the mop fly.

In a tradition-bound sport, where purists lure fish with tiny ersatz insects crafted of feathers and fur, the mop fly doesn't look much like a bug. In an affront to tradition, it instead looks exactly like what it is: a fuzzy strand cut from a cheap mop and tied to a hook. Mr. Egan uses fluorescent greenish yellow.



The mop fly

For more than a century, the aim of fly-fishing purists has been to woo trout with imitations of the insects they eat—whether olive-hued mayflies floating downstream after mating or emerging midge pupae; never part of a mop.

The catch is fish love the mop fly. “When it works, you roll with it,” says 38-year-old Mr. Egan of Lehi, Utah, a top competitive fly-fisher.

Others aren't biting. “I don't want to sound, like, arrogant, but I'm almost too

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## FLY

Continued from Page One

proud to fish it,” says Pennsylvania competitive angler Sam Plyler.

Mr. Plyler says the mop fly is great at catching trout, eliciting aggressive, un-trout-like behavior from fish usually content to wait for food to drift their way. Too good, he says. The mop fly tilts fly-fishing's delicate balance between man and trout.

“Where do we draw the line?” Mr. Plyler asks.

The mop-fly debate points to a contradiction at the heart of fly-fishing. If catching fish is the sole goal, then earthworms, nets, even sticks of dynamite are more effective than man-made flies. Fly-fishing handicaps anglers to effec-

tively level the competition.

“It's an absurd sport,” says Simon Cooper, whose fly-fishing school sits near South England's River Test, arguably the birthplace of modern fly-fishing. “If you were fishing to eat, you wouldn't be fly-fishing.”

Andreas Topintzis let out a profanity when he recently saw a mop fly for the first time. He is general manager of the Salisbury and District Angling Club, which controls miles of English “chalk-streams,” spring-fed rivers that are a bastion of fly-fishing tradition.

The club has an egalitarian ethos that casts aside British fly-fishing's upper-class exclusivity. All are welcome for a modest fee when their name comes up on the membership's four-year waiting list.

Members, however, are

urged to conform to trout angling “the true way,” Mr. Topintzis says: Cast upstream and only with flies imitating specific insects.

Traditional flies customarily comprise natural materials. One favorite of Mr. Topintzis, the Klinkhammer, is traditionally made from seal fur and rooster neck feathers to mimic a metamorphosing caddis fly. He also likes making flies from the buoyant feathers “that are around the duck's bottom.”

In contrast, Mr. Topintzis says, the mop fly is silly.

The mop-fly debate is rooted in the Victorian era. In the late 1800s, angler Frederic Halford popularized handmade flies that float on a river's surface and deemed them the most sporting trout-catching method. He studied the trout diet through “endless autopsy of fish and the patient search-

Mop Fly  
(Continued  
next page...)

## UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS AND SHOWS

| Date         | Time     | Organizer                | Location and Information  | Link  |
|--------------|----------|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1-Dec-16     | 6:30 PM  | United Fly Tyers         | American Legion Post 221, 357 The Great Road, Bedford, MA               | <a href="http://www.unitedflytyers.org/">http://www.unitedflytyers.org/</a>                       |
| 5-Dec-16     | 6:00 PM  | Nor'East TU              | 143 County Rd (aka Route 1A), Ipswich, MA                               | <a href="http://www.tunoreast.org/">http://www.tunoreast.org/</a>                                 |
| 6-Dec-16     | 8:30 AM  | PIE-Rivers               | Newbury Town Library, 0 Lunt St, Byfield                                | <a href="mailto:rsvp@ipswichriver.org">rsvp@ipswichriver.org</a>                                  |
| 12-Dec-16    | 6:00 PM  | NE Saltwater Fly Rodders | Northern Essex Community College - Haverhill, MA                        | <a href="http://www.neflyrodders.org/">http://www.neflyrodders.org/</a>                           |
| 27-Dec-16    | 7:00 PM  | Squanatissit TU          | VFW Hall, Route 113 & Leighton Street, Pepperell, MA                    | <a href="http://squanatissit.org/">http://squanatissit.org/</a>                                   |
| 2-Jan-17     | 6:00 PM  | Nor'East TU              | 143 County Rd (aka Route 1A), Ipswich, MA                               | <a href="http://www.tunoreast.org/">http://www.tunoreast.org/</a>                                 |
| 5-Jan-17     | 6:30 PM  | United Fly Tyers         | American Legion Post 221, 357 The Great Road, Bedford, MA               | <a href="http://www.unitedflytyers.org/">http://www.unitedflytyers.org/</a>                       |
| 19-Jan-17    | 6:00 PM  | NE Saltwater Fly Rodders | Northern Essex Community College - Haverhill, MA                        | <a href="http://www.neflyrodders.org/">http://www.neflyrodders.org/</a>                           |
| 20/22-Jan-17 | 9:00 AM  | The Fly Fishing Show     | Royal Plaza Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road West Marlborough, MA     | <a href="http://flyfishingshow.com/marlborough-ma/">http://flyfishingshow.com/marlborough-ma/</a> |
| 23-Jan-17    | 6:30 PM  | Greater Boston TU        | Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary. 208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA      | <a href="http://gbtu.org/">http://gbtu.org/</a>   |
| 24-Jan-17    | 7:00 PM  | Squanatissit TU          | VFW Hall, Route 113 & Leighton Street, Pepperell, MA                    | <a href="http://squanatissit.org/">http://squanatissit.org/</a>                                   |
| 27/29-Jan-17 | 10:00 AM | New England Fishing Expo | Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA   | <a href="http://www.nefishingexpo.com/">http://www.nefishingexpo.com/</a>                         |
| 2-Feb-17     | 6:30 PM  | United Fly Tyers         | American Legion Post 221, 357 The Great Road, Bedford, MA               | <a href="http://www.unitedflytyers.org/">http://www.unitedflytyers.org/</a>                       |
| 6-Feb-17     | 6:00 PM  | Nor'East TU              | 143 County Rd (aka Route 1A), Ipswich, MA                               | <a href="http://www.tunoreast.org/">http://www.tunoreast.org/</a>                                 |
| 13-Feb-17    | 6:00 PM  | NE Saltwater Fly Rodders | Northern Essex Community College - Haverhill, MA                        | <a href="http://www.neflyrodders.org/">http://www.neflyrodders.org/</a>                           |
| 25-Feb-17    | 10:00 AM | Merrimack Valley TU      | Executive Court Banquet Facility, 1199 South Mammoth Rd. Manchester, NH | <a href="http://www.merrimacktu.org/619-2/">http://www.merrimacktu.org/619-2/</a>                 |
| 27-Feb-17    | 6:30 PM  | Greater Boston TU        | Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary. 208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA      | <a href="http://gbtu.org/">http://gbtu.org/</a>   |
| 28-Feb-17    | 7:00 PM  | Squanatissit TU          | VFW Hall, Route 113 & Leighton Street, Pepperell, MA                    | <a href="http://squanatissit.org/">http://squanatissit.org/</a>                                   |

### Mop Fly (Continued...)

ing of their entrails,” a friend wrote in a 1914 recollection recently republished by London’s Flyfishers’ Club.

Mr. Halford’s followers blamed the early-20th century work of G.E.M. Skues for dragging down the sport. Realizing trout eat more submerged bugs than floating ones, Mr. Skues advocated flies that sink to the riverbed. A 1938 debate between Mr. Skues and a Halford loyalist failed to mend the rift, says Mr. Cooper, the fly-fishing instructor.

The modern rise of competitive fly-fishing renewed the dispute. Anglers developed new bottom-hugging flies—including the mop fly—that attracted fish and derision.

A predecessor to the mop fly, the so-called squirmy wormy, was made with rubber from a ball. It has since been “shamed and ridiculed,” says

its American inventor, David Hise, who calls himself the king of trash flies.

The Czech fishing union banned the squirmy wormy from competitions after a U.S. team used it to win a European contest. “I never will fish with this, and I hope every clever and real flyfisherman is in the same boat,” says Martin Musil, a nuclear-power-plant worker who heads the union.

The mop fly originated with a visit about 10 years ago to a North Carolina dollar store that sold a chartreuse mop with thick microfiber nubs. “I just saw that thing and thought it would work,” says Jim Estes, a 72-year-old retiree. He cut off some pieces and tied them to hooks weighed down with metal beads. Trout devoured them.

He passed them to his stepson, a competitive angler. Lo-

cal guides soon caught on. On some rivers, says North Carolina competitive angler Michael Yelton, “you could just go in there and mop up.”

Mr. Cooper, the English fly-fishing instructor, recently tried one for the first time. “It looks like a food pellet,” he said. The farm-raised trout in his pond ate it up.

Mr. Cooper, whose company Fishing Breaks manages miles of chalkstreams, was skeptical the wily brown trout of his rivers would be so easily lured after a life in the wild.

Wearing a fishing vest embroidered with his name, Mr. Cooper plopped a mop fly upstream past two trout. The bigger one attacked.

“I think we can conclude the mop fly is a magnificent invention,” he said, reeling in another mop-caught trout. He asked where to buy the mops.

Know of any other events that our members might be interested in?  
Send an email to Peter Vandermeulen, [vanderm@comcast.net](mailto:vanderm@comcast.net)

## NOR'EAST CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2016

### Officers

|                         |                    |  |                |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------|
| President:              | Fred Jennings      | <a href="mailto:peakdawn@yahoo.com">peakdawn@yahoo.com</a>         | (617) 605-3150 |
| Vice Pres./Program Cty: | Ken Washburn       | <a href="mailto:kenwashburn1@gmail.com">kenwashburn1@gmail.com</a> | (781) 718-7766 |
| Treasurer:              | Tom Leahy          | <a href="mailto:tomleahy@msn.com">tomleahy@msn.com</a>             | (781) 820-1050 |
| Secretary:              | Peter Vandermeulen | <a href="mailto:vanderm@Comcast.net">vanderm@Comcast.net</a>       | (978) 270-3972 |

### Board Members and Committee Chairs:

|                   |  |  |                |
|-------------------|--|--|----------------|
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| Activities Cty:   | Fred Boland  | <a href="mailto:fboland1@verizon.net">fboland1@verizon.net</a>                   | (978) 443-7293 |
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### DONATIONS? UNWANTED ITEMS?

Contact Bob Torkildsen if you have any items for the raffle



Photo of folks (except for Geof Day) at 10/22 NETU Conservation Committee meeting...by Fred Jennings



## Nor'East Chapter

*To conserve, protect and restore Massachusetts' northshore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.*

[www.tunoreast.org](http://www.tunoreast.org)