



# Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited

## FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

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

### Greetings from the President

Oh my! We're already up to February. One even has some fugitive thoughts of fly fishing coming soon. Though with so little snow, one could probably do some steelhead fishing in Pulaski or further West in PA or even OH streams (OH has had some pretty good spring steelhead fishing in past years)... Dreams of fishing is what we do in the winter, unless you head south to warmer climes for bonefish, tarpon, etc.



Soon it'll be March, and then April. It won't be too long now. We could use some more precipitation at this point – did I really say that? Well, let's hope for rain: it's so much easier to shovel! But our streams could use the water. Right now, without more water, we could well run dry come summer. Rain gods should heed my entreaties; snow gods stay home, or at least stay in the mountains for all these skiers!

For the moment, let's focus on what we have right here: **another NETU meeting this Monday**, with an intriguing presentation by Michael Hackney on 3D printing of fly reels. Perhaps he'll print one up for our raffle table! I'm very much looking forward to see how this magic is performed and whether it really can produce a reasonably useful and durable fly reel... I don't suppose he'll be printing a fly line already installed on the spool! But it'll be interesting to see what this new technology can actually do here...

We'll have another excellent meal, provided by Mike O'Neill, served at **6:00PM**, and then the meeting will start at **7:00PM** with a bucket raffle (bring some stuff for the raffle!) and an interesting talk, after which we'll have our meeting. Don't forget the date of **our banquet (19 March 2016 from 5:00 to 9:00)**! And **please sell some advertisements** for our banquet booklet! The prices for advertisements are as follows: \$100/page; \$60/½ page; \$40/¼ page; and \$25/business card (1/8 page). Also **gather up some donations**, such as gift cards for meals and services, fishing and nonfishing items, etc. Thanks so much!

Please remember that all this effort goes to support our many ongoing conservation efforts, of which we have several underway right now! Come to our meeting after the talk to hear a lot more about them!

Tight lines!

Fred Jennings

**DONATIONS? UNWANTED ITEMS?**  
Contact Bob Torkildsen if you have any items for the raffle or the banquet

### Upcoming Events

**Feb 1** Michael Hackney will talk about 3D printed fly reels.

**Mar 7** Meeting will be at the Orvis store in Peabody with Michael Brukada.

**Apr 4** Kalil Bogdan will talk about fly fishing for Bones in Andros, Bahamas.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

The Nor'East TU Annual Banquet will again be held at the Ipswich Masonic Hall on **March 19**

Have you renewed your TU membership?

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

## BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

As the new year has started, the time came to elect new board members. Nor'East Trout Unlimited is run of course by volunteers that spend some of their personal time to help the organization function. If you are interested in becoming more actively involved get in touch with Fred and he will be happy to help you figure out which committee might benefit from your help.

This year's election was for primarily the position of Treasurer since John LeJeune decided after many years of highly appreciated hard work and effort to not stand for re-election. Tom Leahy, who had this position in the past, volunteered to take on this role again and so, by unanimous vote was elected to the Treasurer position. Fred Jennings will continue as President, Kenny Washburn as Vice President and head of the Program Committee (which organizes speakers and events), and Peter Vandermeulen as secretary. Other board members and committee heads are listed on the back page of the newsletter.



Boxford Culvert Before...and After...



## 3D PRINTED FLYREELS

3D Printing has become all the rage and is rapidly changing certain manufacturing processes, particularly for quick-turn, small run parts. There are many 3D printers on the market today printing many different materials including metals, plastics, powders etc. 3D printing has been used for rapid prototyping and to study how to separate co-joined twins. I attended a medical conference recently where Stratasys (a top tier 3D printing company and one of my customers – full disclosure) demonstrated how they could take a CAT-scan image of the liver of a co-joined twin, print it in 3D so that the surgeons could study which blood vessel to the liver should go with which child prior to starting the (high risk) operation. If you are interested look at this link:

<http://biomedical.materialise.com/blog/separating-conjoined-twins-help-3d-printed-model>.

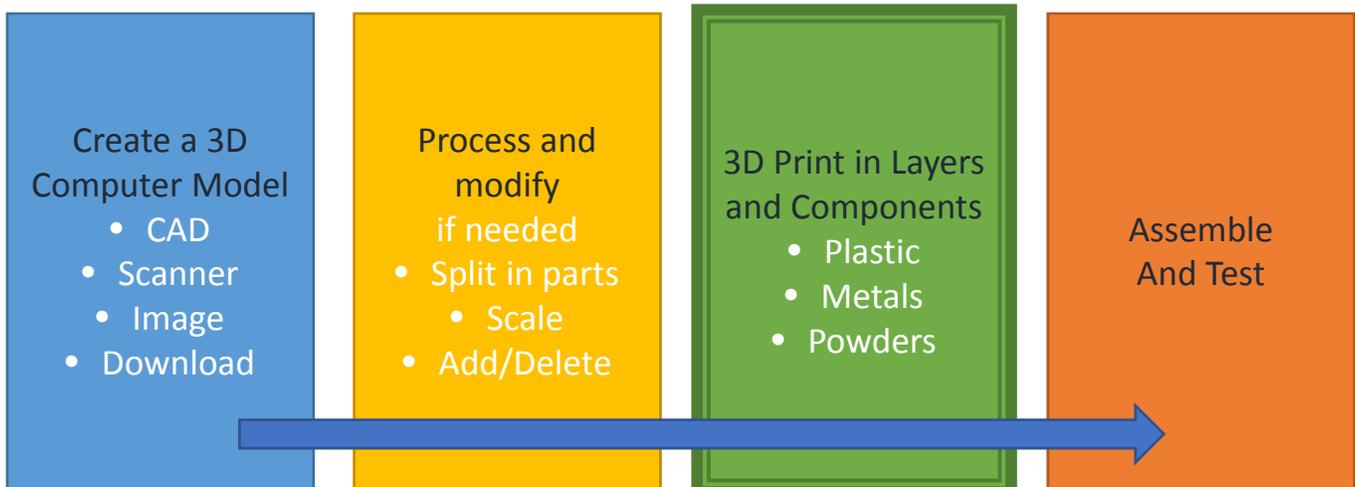
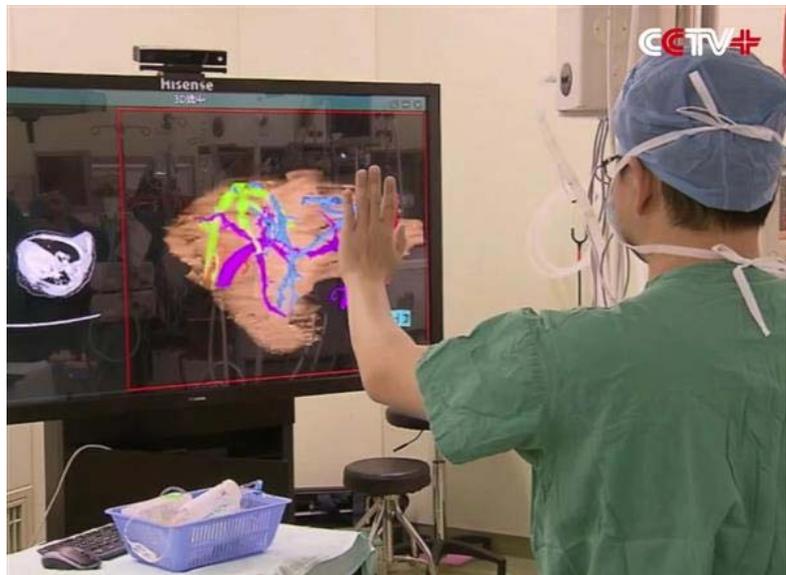
By studying the model ahead of time, the surgeons could envision where to cut and how to re-route blood vessels thereby making the operation much lower in risk to the children. On a less-serious

note: this Monday Michael Hackney will show us how a 3D printed fly reel is made. Starting with a 3D Computer Aided Design (CAD) a number of parts will be printed and assembled into a fully functional fly reel. Ever worried about how salt water is affecting your reel? A entirely plastic printed reel should not care about salt exposure. Other benefits would be that you can make it larger or smaller if you wanted it to or print it any number of funky colors and patterns.

The 3D printing fly-reel starts with

a model you can download from Michael's website: <http://www.eclecticangler.com/3d-printed-fly-reels/> . Here you can download plans, or order your own customer reel.

I will try to bring in my 3D printer this Monday and hopefully we can get one of the reels printed right there in the meeting on my Makerbot printer. Continued...



## 3D PRINTED FLYREELS (CONTINUED)

Makerbot ([www.makerbot.com](http://www.makerbot.com)) builds a printer that can be used at home and prints in plastic (ABS or PLA). The printer is a table top unit that can be used to print the fly reel parts. A software package slices the parts and prints them layer by layer in the printer. Come take a look Monday and listen to Michaels presentation!

Peter Vandermeulen

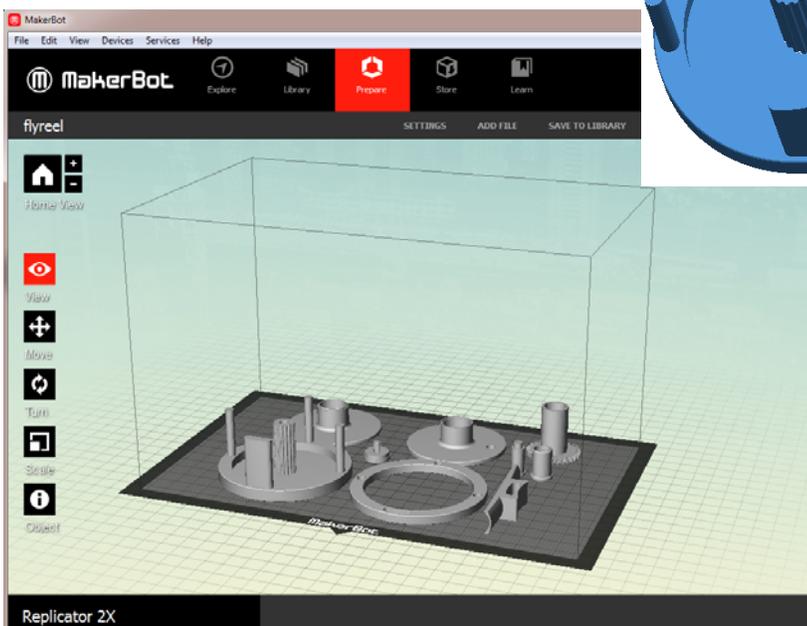


Makerbot 3D printer



CAD Design of Flyreel

### 3D Makerbot Software



## FLY SELECTION

Casting a fly in the Wild, to succeed, demands some preparation. First, thread is wound on a hook, constructing a bed for feathers and glue. Next, tail and body are wrapped, then overlaid with hair or wings. Eyes may be attached – or not – to complete the appearance of forage. Thus we fashion these shapely illusions to imitate what we believe fish are after, and we've versions for every occasion. In brooks and freshwater rivers, we use streamers, nymphs, wets and dries of various hues and types. In salt, we take crabs and clousers for flats, deceivers – sized to what we observe – fished through channels and drifts, sliders and poppers stirring the surface.



Stocking up on designs, so to be ready for each event, however, does not even usher us out of the house. Somehow we must slide these artful likenesses into an aquatic concert alien to understanding. Casting calls for rods and lines set up, prepared for any contingency, and the ability – only achieved through practical effort in time – to throw a fly out into the Wild and make it appear realistically active. Finding fish is also essential. Learning where they will lie entails a lot of fishing experience, searching in stealth for strikes at the fly. Especially in a saltwater river, where everything aspirates with the tide, time on the water reveals secrets otherwise safe from us. Somehow we need to understand this setting enough for success. So we are faced in angling with – above all – a challenge to reason: we exercise skill in casting elegant dressings on points of steel, and try to

work our representations into vitality through rod and line. A lot of fishing activities squander resources – attention, time, money and energy (as our four-way allotment) – to unrequited demands. We miss a lot in not trying new ways – styles of retrieve, flies, settings, sunrise, stages of tide, terrain – as learning is how we improve. Fishing, at least, is honest. The effort demands sincerity in its bright translations of truth into feathered deceptions of vital life: fish shall not turn to anything other than Nature's Song or its proper reflection. No one doing it wrong corrects such problems save through trial and invention: only experience shapes solutions. Search and stealth in angling guide us surely through this game. Understanding the process – in its dynamic concatenations – holds the key to success in this setting. ...[CONTINUED...](#)



From Fred Jennings, *Nature's Song*, Chapter Four – Casting the Fly and Chapter Five – Fly Patterns.

## FLY SELECTION (CONTINUED)

Fly and theory selection are at the center of fly fishing and economics. Two opposing approaches seem most prevalent in this process: do we try to imitate the reality of what (we think) fish are eating, or do we seek attention, assuming fish will hit what is seen? Attractor flies work – assuredly – though we often don't know why. An instrumentalist does not care, as long as we're catching fish! After all, that is the purpose of fishing, and flies succeed if they work. We can never know why anyway. We use an attractor, kill a few fish, have fun, and that's the whole story! Yet there is something missing from this. "One cannot help but feel uneasy in the face of so much ingenuity." Attractor flies are usually bright: red and white, yellow, chartreuse, anything catching the eye of fish. I often joke that flies in stores are wrought with two things in mind: to be easy to tie (simple is quick; quick is cheap; cheap brings profit), and to catch fishermen (not always fish)! Any garish color will do, and whether it works is up to the angler. And still – for reasons unknown – attractor flies get fish.



Is it dramatic coloration that enhances predation, or that brightness shows in a crowd? The reason all fish share white stomachs and darker backs is to blend with the sky and bottom for better protection. Attractor flies are flashy, and thus easy to see in the water. As a flyfishing teacher remarked, the reason no light-hued nymphs appear in the stream is that they've been eaten! So try a brighter, more visible fly if a darker one doesn't work. It may attract some attention...! In any event, if fishermen used only one or two types of fly, how would fly shops sell all their stuff? Everyone needs at least two or three samples of each design to be safe! For whatever reason, fly shops sell an impressive variety of fly patterns, simply to lure more dollars from the wallets of eager anglers. Attractor flies support The System, regardless of whether they work, enhancing the profits of fly shops and tiers. Attractor flies succeed: they catch fish, the only standard that matters. So will beliefs steer reason.

**CONTINUED...**



## FLY SELECTION (CONTINUED)

Or is even this incomplete? Perhaps attractor flies succeed because they are catching fishermen! In any event, we gauge our results by adding up numbers and balancing sums. So how does that make us happy? A long time ago ... I asked ... why we fish: “Do we fish to eat ... for ego ... for relaxation ... for ranges of vision ... relief from madness ... peace, solitude, time to think and a sense of balance”? I also endorsed the notion of process as an important dimension of how we think about all we do. ... Our world turns on the issue. Where imitation aims to mimic the actual look of prey in the water, attraction is not so contained. The latter approach even tries to look different, to stimulate a response. There is no limit to what type and style of flies ... are actually used, since explanation is not the goal: learning gives way to outcomes as a measure of our success. The goal of fishing collapses down to the number of fish we subdue...



If fishing is done to learn – to understand aquatic environments well enough “to imitate truth as best we can with theory or fly” – then a human urge for explanation supersedes simple prediction, and the purpose of fishing evolves beyond the mere capture of fish. So we advance ... to real learning and inquiry, and to a search for accurate understanding of fish in their alien realm. We also may find truth ... out in the waters on which we search. The quest for real explanation is inductive and therefore uncertain, just like casting a fly to the depth. Thus we observe and imitate what we see, and try it out in new realms. So we make feathers on hooks appear realistic, and move them much as alive: “vital lines stretching into worlds we cannot inhabit.” Again, the process signifies so much more than merely its outcome – over which we have little control – that an account displaces our richer realities. ... We must search – in doubt – for realism if we seek understanding.

Fred Jennings



## 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:

|                   |                 |  |                |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|----------------|
| Membership Cty:   | Kalil Bogdan    | <a href="mailto:downrivercharters@comcast.net">downrivercharters@comcast.net</a> | (978) 407-7901 |
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| Web Page Cty:     | John Lejeune    | <a href="mailto:irlejeune@gmail.com">irlejeune@gmail.com</a>                     | (978) 852-6795 |
| Conservation Cty: | Chett Walsh     | <a href="mailto:ctw@shawmut.com">ctw@shawmut.com</a>                             | (617) 839-6234 |
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Steelhead in Erie, PA. Fred Jennings

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any items for the raffle



## Nor'East Chapter

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

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