



Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited

DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

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

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Yikes! Here we are in 2017, facing a new year. The one consolation is that the days are finally getting longer again, so spring will come in due time. I'll try my best to say nothing of politics. At least the election is over... But please don't forget 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 and ad sales for the Banquet Program Booklet.

But first we've some meetings scheduled. Our **January 9th meeting** will feature **Julia Blatt**, executive director of the Mass. Rivers Alliance, who will tell us about all the projects and issues addressed by her organization. Next, on **February 6th**, we're honored to have **Tim Purinton**, head of the MA Division of Ecological Restoration, to speak about his organization's great efforts statewide on dam removal, fish passage, culvert replacements, etc., as a means of improving the health of MA rivers, wetlands and coastal marshes. On **March 6th**, we will have a presentation by **John Black**, a biology student at UMass Amherst from Topsfield (who works part-time at Orvis Peabody), about fishing out in Western MA waters he knows very well. We don't have a speaker for our **April 3rd meeting** as yet, but we're working on that. Our speaker on **May 1st** will be **Dwayne Shaw**, of the Downeast Salmon Federation, to talk about the important conservation projects that his and other related organizations have undertaken in Maine on salmon restoration and other issues in Maine's coastal rivers.

At our last meeting on **December 5th**, we reviewed and endorsed our new Strategic Plan for which many of its projects are already underway. I'm sorry that this plan was not attached to our December newsletter, but hopefully it will accompany this one. Among the projects already begun are: **(1) Develop a NETU Succession Plan** (Tactic 2.2.1), which has resulted in the nomination of Josh Rownd as 2017 Vice President; **(2) Identifying Top Priority Organizations for NETU to Affiliate With** (Tactic 4.3.1) is well underway with a list to be reviewed at our chapter business meeting on January 9th; **(3) Conduct NETU Membership Survey** (Tactic 3.1.1) has led to a draft series of survey questions to be discussed on January 9th; **(4) Banquet/Auction Enhancement** (Tactic 2.1.1) is underway through several productive meetings of the NETU Banquet Committee and a number of trips and other donations already secured for our fundraising auction with many more to come, as will be discussed on January 9th. Please note the attached solicitation letter and form for donations and booklet ads. (Continued on next page...)



Upcoming Events

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 6

John Black on fishing rivers in Western MA

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

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

Continued from previous page...

There are many other activities underway and plans being made in which your active participation will be most welcome! Please come to our **January 9th meeting** and stick around after the talk and bucket raffle for a discussion of what's going on and how you can help! Thanks so much, as always, for your enthusiastic support!

There will also be a **Trout Unlimited Booth** at the **Marlboro Fly Fishing Show** on 20-22 January 2017. The schedule is: Friday (1/20) from 10AM to 6PM; Saturday (1/21) from 9AM to 5:30PM; and Sunday (1/22) from 9AM to 4:30PM. If you can volunteer some time over the weekend at the TU booth with members of CMTU and PVTU, please email Gary Metras (PVTU) at gmetras3324@charter.net or call him at (413) 527-3324 with the hours you have available to help. If you commit to at least half a day in advance, you will likely be able to gain a free admission to the show for that day (though there are limited free tickets available for this booth). While you're at the show, please stop by the Stripers Forever booth and say hello! That's where I will be...

But please come to our upcoming meeting on **9 January 2017** where we will gather together at the IRWA HQ for a nice dinner, an interesting talk by **Julia Blatt of the Mass. Rivers Alliance**, a lucrative bucket raffle and a productive chapter business meeting. Bring your fly fishing friends. Dinner starts at 6:00PM and the talk will begin at around 7:00PM with the business meeting at around 8:00PM. We'll see you then! Happy New Year!

Fred Jennings
NETU President



Kalil Boghdan with a Deerfield River, MA, trout. October 2016.

THE NOR'EAST CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED PROUDLY PRESENTS
**OUR 2017 FUNDRAISING
BANQUET AND AUCTION**
SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH, 2017

4:30PM TO 9:00PM

ADMISSION: \$35.00 PER GUEST; \$280 FOR TABLE OF 8 (PLUS SPECIAL HOST RAFFLE)
LOCATION: DANVERSPORT YACHT CLUB
161 ELLIOTT STREET, DANVERS, MA 01923
QUESTIONS? CALL FRED JENNINGS AT 1-617-605-3150

COME AND HELP US CELEBRATE OUR MANY ONGOING AND FUTURE CONSERVATION PROJECTS!

FOR ADVANCE ONLINE TICKET SALES, GO TO WWW.TUNOREAST.ORG



To the general membership: If you are planning on donating an item/s for the banquet (and we hope you are) please let someone on the banquet committee know about it or better yet get it to someone on the banquet committee. We are a little more than 60 days out from the banquet and we are trying to itemize and categorize all of the donations. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

The Banquet Committee:

Bob Torkildsen	robert_torkildsen@ltx.com	(978) 335-0678
Kalil Bogdan	downrivercharters@comcast.net	(978) 407-7901
Josh Rownd	jrownd@smma.com	(617) 631-2293
Fred Jennings	peakdawn@yahoo.com	(617) 605-3150

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS AND SHOWS

Date	Time	Organizer	Location and Information	Link
5-Jan-17	6:30 PM	United Fly Tyers	American Legion Post 221, 357 The Great Road, Bedford, MA	http://www.unitedflytyers.org/
9-Jan-17	6:00 PM	Nor'East TU	143 County Rd (aka Route 1A), Ipswich, MA, Julia Blatt, executive director of the Mass. Rivers Alliance	http://www.tunoreast.org/
19-Jan-17	6:00 PM	NE Saltwater Fly Rodders	Northern Essex Community College - Haverhill, MA	http://www.neflyrodders.org/
20/22-Jan-17	9:00 AM	The Fly Fishing Show Marlboro	Royal Plaza Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road West Marlborough, MA	http://flyfishingshow.com/marlborough-ma/
23-Jan-17	6:30 PM	Greater Boston TU	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary. 208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA	http://gbtu.org/
24-Jan-17	7:00 PM	Squanatissit TU	VFW Hall, Route 113 & Leighton Street, Pepperell, MA	http://squanatissit.org/
2-Feb-17	6:30 PM	United Fly Tyers	American Legion Post 221, 357 The Great Road, Bedford, MA	http://www.unitedflytyers.org/
6-Feb-17	6:00 PM	Nor'East TU	143 County Rd (aka Route 1A), Ipswich, MA Tim Purinton, head of the MA Division of Ecological Restoration	http://www.tunoreast.org/
13-Feb-17	6:00 PM	NE Saltwater Fly Rodders	Northern Essex Community College - Haverhill, MA	http://www.neflyrodders.org/
27-Feb-17	9:00 AM	Fly Fish New Hampshire Show Merrimac Valley TU	Executive Court Banquet Facility, 1199 South Mammoth Rd. Manchester, NH	http://www.merrimacktu.org/619-2/
27-Feb-17	6:30 PM	Greater Boston TU	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary. 208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA	http://gbtu.org/
28-Feb-17	7:00 PM	Squanatissit TU	VFW Hall, Route 113 & Leighton Street, Pepperell, MA	http://squanatissit.org/
27/29-Jan-17	10:00 AM	New England Fishing Expo	Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA	http://www.nefishingexpo.com/
2-Mar-17	6:30 PM	United Fly Tyers	American Legion Post 221, 357 The Great Road, Bedford, MA	http://www.unitedflytyers.org/
6-Mar-17	6:00 PM	Nor'East TU	143 County Rd (aka Route 1A), Ipswich, MA John Black, a biology student at UMass Amherst	http://www.tunoreast.org/
13-Mar-17	6:00 PM	NE Saltwater Fly Rodders	Northern Essex Community College - Haverhill, MA	http://www.neflyrodders.org/
18-Mar-17	5:00 PM	Nor'East TU BANQUET	Danversport Yacht Club, 161 Elliott St, Danvers, MA	http://www.tunoreast.org/
28-Mar-17	7:00 PM	Squanatissit TU	VFW Hall, Route 113 & Leighton Street, Pepperell, MA	http://squanatissit.org/

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

NOR'EAST CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2016

Officers

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

Board Members and Committee Chairs:

Membership Cty:	Kalil Bogdan	downrivercharters@comcast.net	(978) 407-7901
Activities Cty:	Fred Boland	fboland1@verizon.net	(978) 443-7293
Web Page Cty:	Geof Day	jrlejeune@gmail.com	(978) 852-6795
Conservation Cty:	Chett Walsh	ctw@shawmut.com	(617) 839-6234
Other members:	James Goodhart	jgoodhart56@aol.com	(978) 463-7755
	Ben Meade	benjamin.k.meade@gmail.com	(603) 724-7828
	Greg Murrer	gmurrerlaw@gmail.com	(978) 887-9714
	Mike O'Neill	mgoneill1@verizon.net	(508) 633-2311
	Josh Rownd	jrownd@smma.com	(617) 631-2293
	Bob Torkildsen	robert_torkildsen@ltx.com	(978) 335-0678
David Walsh	wdpworks@msn.com	(978) 500-7487	

**DONATIONS? UNWANTED
ITEMS?**

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Nor'East Chapter

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

www.tunoreast.org

The New York Times

[Science](#)

Taking Down Dams and Letting the Fish Flow

By MURRAY CARPENTER

OCT. 24, 2016



A view of the Milford Dam. After the removal of two large dams downriver, the Milford Dam is now the first barrier fish face when ascending the Penobscot River. Credit Murray Carpenter

BANGOR, Me. — Joseph Zydlewski, a research biologist with the Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit of the United States Geological Survey, drifted in a boat on the Penobscot River, listening to a crackling radio receiver. The staccato clicks told him that one of the shad that his team had outfitted with a transmitter was swimming somewhere below.

Shad, alewives, blueback herring and other migratory fish once were plentiful on the Penobscot. “Seven thousand shad and one hundred barrels of alewives were taken at one haul of the seine,” in May 1827, according to one historian.

Three enormous dams erected in the Penobscot, starting in the 1830s, changed all that, preventing migratory fish from reaching their breeding grounds. The populations all but collapsed.

But two of the dams were razed [in 2012 and 2013](#), and since then, fish have been rushing back into the Penobscot, Maine’s largest river.

“Now all of a sudden you are pulling the cork plug and giving shad access to a truckload of good habitat,” Dr. Zydlewski said. Nearly 8,000 shad have swum upstream this year — and it’s not just shad.

More than 500 [Atlantic salmon](#) have made the trip, along with nearly two million alewives, countless baby eels, thousands of mature sea lamprey and dozens of white perch and brook trout. Striped bass are feeding a dozen miles above Bangor in waters closed to them for more than a century.

Nationwide, dam removals are gaining traction. Four dams are slated for removal from the [Klamath River](#) alone in California and Oregon by 2020.

Just a few of these removals have occurred on such large rivers, which play an outsized role in coastal ecosystems. But the lessons are the same everywhere: Unplug the rivers, and the fish will return.



Biologists measure a young salmon at Milford Dam, in Milford, ME. Credit Murray Carpenter

In the [Elwha River](#), on Washington’s Olympic Peninsula, engineers removed two dams, one more than 200 feet tall, from 2011 to 2014. Afterward, chinook, chum and sockeye salmon, along with steelhead trout, quickly moved upriver, said Jeffrey Duda, a research ecologist at the Western Fisheries Research Center of the U.S.G.S.

“Once you remove these dams, migratory fish will probe into the watersheds,” Mr. Duda said.

And there are more subtle changes. The migratory salmon quickly began enriching the food web of the Elwha River with oceanic nutrients. A year after the Elwha Dam came down, Mr. Duda and his colleagues found chemical signs of marine-derived nutrients in the blood of American dippers, small aquatic songbirds that forage in rivers.

But the turnout has rarely been as vast as it has on the Penobscot.

Like other large coastal rivers, the Penobscot once funneled millions of pounds of fish inland from the ocean each spring. But fish populations suffered in the 1800s as fishing pressure increased, water quality diminished and, most consequential, dams blocked the fish from their spawning grounds.

Until 2013, fish ran a gantlet of three large dams in the first 10 miles of the Penobscot above head of tide, near Bangor. [The Penobscot River Restoration Project](#), a consortium of government and tribal agencies, conservation groups and hydropower companies, spent \$60 million to remove the first two dams and to install a fish lift at the next dam upstream.

In June, the group dedicated the last piece of the project, a bypass channel around a dam on an upriver tributary.

Before the dams came out, biologists began studying the river's fish to better understand the baseline conditions. "We asked the question, 'Who's knocking at the door?'" Dr. Zydlewski said.

Shad were so diminished that fewer than 20 had passed the fishway of the former Veazie Dam over several decades. But Dr. Zydlewski and his colleagues, using sonar, documented a small population that persisted below the dam.

Everything changed with the removal of the Veazie and Great Works dams, Dr. Zydlewski said.

This year, precisely 7,846 shad ventured upriver, past the two demolished dams and through the fish lift at Milford Dam, which is now the first obstacle fish reach. Other shad, like those Dr. Zydlewski was tracking beneath the boat, stayed downstream; he and his colleagues say they are not sure why.

Another research team, led by the University of Maine's Michael Kinnison and Gayle Zydlewski (who is married to Joe Zydlewski), discovered a previously unknown population of the endangered shortnose sturgeon in the Penobscot, near Bangor. Since the dams have come down, some of the sturgeon have nosed upstream into the newly free-flowing river.



A salmon in a holding tank at the fish passage facility in Milford, ME. Credit Murray Carpenter

The Penobscot also hosts the nation's largest run of Atlantic salmon, another endangered species. Historically, salmon runs may have numbered 60,000, but recent returns fell to less than 1,000, and as low as 250 in 2014. Among the salmon's challenges is changing climate, bringing warmer waters and unfavorable conditions at sea.

In predam days, salmon were far outnumbered by shad and their smaller cousins, alewives and blueback herring, also known as river herring.

In anticipation of the dam removals, state biologists in 2010 began stocking lakes in the Penobscot watershed with the herring; fish that swam up the Penobscot this year are their progeny.

This strategy proved effective on the neighboring Kennebec River, where the Edwards Dam was removed in 1999. There, river herring now return by the millions and support a commercial fishery.

John Banks, the director of the Penobscot Indian Nation Department of Natural Resources, said his tribe long relied on migrating fish like salmon and shad for sustenance, and used river herring to fertilize their gardens.

"It's just fantastic to see the river coming back to life so quickly after the dams have been removed," Mr. Banks said. "And the alewives are so key to this. They are the keystone species that helps drive the whole river ecosystem."

River herring are prey for everything from ground fish to seals. And because they are so numerous, they serve an ecological role as prey buffers.

Juvenile Atlantic salmon, for example, are more likely to avoid predators when migrating seaward through schools of river herring, which allow them to sneak out through the crowd.

Much of the Penobscot's recovery has been subtle, but some indicators of the river's link to the ocean are quite conspicuous. Recently, seals showed up in the river, miles above the old Veazie Dam.

Dr. Zydlewski sees the annual migratory cycle as a grand spectacle of predators and prey.

"You don't see the fish, but it's hard to miss the eagles and osprey. Just like striped bass, they follow the food," he said. "It's a shadow of what it once was, but it's exciting to see how it might come back."

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Dear Friend,

The Nor'East Chapter of Trout Unlimited is holding its fund raising banquet on **Saturday, March 18, 2017**. We hope that you will consider supporting our chapter by **making a donation** to be included in our auction and/or **purchasing an ad** for our Banquet Program Booklet (see back of this page for *advertising rates* and *examples of past auction donations*). This annual banquet has proven to be our best fund raiser as individuals and businesses generously donate goods and services in the name of local environmental action.

Trout Unlimited is a national conservation organization of over 140,000 members dedicated to the conservation, protection and restoration of North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. The Nor'East Chapter is TU's presence on the north shore of Boston.

Locally, our projects are aimed at improving stream flows, restoring habitat, assuring fish passage and educating the public on the benefits of clean rivers.

The funds we raise at our banquet go directly toward our local conservation, education and outreach programs.

To date, funds we have raised have been used for programs and projects like:

- Purchasing equipment to allow students to raise trout in local school classrooms
- Paying for culvert replacements allowing for North Shore streams to flow freely
- Researching and implementing local dam removal and fishway projects where feasible
- Purchasing supplies necessary for stream cleanups and other river habitat improvements
- Paying speakers honoraria for educational presentations at public meetings

Please know that we greatly appreciate any support you can offer, and that your contribution will be listed in our banquet program.

Thank you for your time and generosity.

Sincerely,

Frederic B. Jennings Jr.
NETU President

Trout Unlimited is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational, charitable organization, and all monetary or property donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Tax ID 510208529

NOR'EAST CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET
Saturday, March 18, 2017

NETU AUCTION PROGRAM BOOK – AD OPPORTUNITIES RESPONSE FORM

Full Page Ad (5" x 8")	\$100	_____	Quarter Page Ad (2½" x 4")	\$40	_____
Half Page Ad (4" x 5")	\$60	_____	Business Card Ad (2" x 3½")	\$25	_____

Name: _____ Company: _____

Street Address: _____

City/Town _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

TU CONTACT PERSON: _____ Telephone: _____

Checks payable to: Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited Amount Enclosed: _____

Please return this form with a business card or camera ready art work no later than Friday, March 3rd, 2017 in order to ensure acknowledgement in the program book. Send payment and art work to:

Michael G. O'Neill, 109 Lowell Road Apt 313, North Reading, MA 01864

SOME EXAMPLES OF NETU AUCTION ITEMS DONATED IN 2016

GIFT CERTIFICATES (for restaurants, classes, personal training, cleaning services, supermarkets, etc.)

FISHING FLIES AND EQUIPMENT (fly boxes, fly rods, reels, nets, chest/fanny packs, tools, totes, etc.)

FLY TYING MATERIALS AND TOOLS (vises, hooks, feathers, thread, pliers, glue, bucktails, necks, etc.)

BOOKS AND ART WORK (fishing books, fishing prints, framed photos/flyes, hand-made jewelry, etc.)

MISCELLANEOUS GIFTS (wine/beer, coasters, vases, briefcase, travel bags, tools, grill sets, clothing, coolers, hand-made boxes, tools, knives, greeting cards, gas grille, chairs, binoculars, cameras, etc.)

GUIDED FISHING TRIPS (Ipswich, Cape Cod, Red Brook, Deerfield, Swift, Dennys, Kennebec Rivers...)

* * * * *

Trout Unlimited is incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization, and all monetary or property donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tax ID # 51-0208529