



Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited

MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

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

Greetings from the President

It's March! Slowly the winter recedes, and with all this warm weather our thoughts turn to fishing again. Maybe some steelhead first, if any are running – I don't hear good things from Pulaski from my expert friends – and perhaps some shad in April? I've tried the latter a couple of times at Rock Village in Byfield but didn't do very well. I'll try again this spring. Gold hooks are the key, I'm told, and there'll be some in our upcoming Auction! Others say "if it's not chartreuse, it's of no use" so I'll tie up some chartreuse (or pink) shad flies. If anyone is better at this, please clue me in. It's a new fishery for me, after reading John McFee's wonderful book called "The Founding Fish". Sharing our knowledge always works better!



I've been working hard on the **Banquet**. Man, do we have some great donations! Guided fishing trips in Western MA, on Cape Cod, in Maine and in Ipswich! An African Photo Safari (wow)! Rods, reels, chest packs, fish hooks, fly-tying materials, and fresh- and salt-water flies galore! We have lots of non-fishing stuff too: Chett Walsh has made two items for us – an awesome box and an antiqued mirror (beautiful!); Fred has made a beautiful green turquoise necklace and earrings, and donated some other nice jewelry as well; books, tote bags, restaurant gift cards, and all sorts of other great stuff! Come to our fundraising banquet! Great meal, great stuff, great people, and lots of fun discussions!!! It'll be a fabulous evening...

But just for the moment, let's focus on what we have right here: **another NETU meeting next Monday, March 7th**, with an exciting presentation **at the Orvis Peabody Store** by our own 2013 Orvis Guide of the Year, Kalil Boghdan, on his adventures with bonefish at Andros Island. We're eager to learn his secret tips and tricks when he's not trying for stripers here in our local waters... Kalil will prove he's no "one-trick pony" angler in his talk! And when you attend this talk (or anytime), please buy some stuff there! This store has been very kind to us, and they will have sandwiches and soft drinks laid out for us too.

And don't forget **our fundraising banquet (19 March 2016 from 5:00 to 9:00) at the Ipswich Masonic Hall, 70 Topsfield Road in Ipswich!** By the time you get this, the Banquet Program Booklet is (hopefully) wrapped up and ready to put to bed; thanks to all those who were responsible for the many ad sales. There's still time to find and/or offer **donations** for our upcoming raffles and auction such as gift cards for meals and services, fishing and nonfishing items, etc. Thanks so much, to all those who have helped!

Please remember that all these efforts go to support our many ongoing **conservation projects**, of which we have many underway right now! Come to our **March 19th fundraising banquet** to hear more on this!

Tight lines!

Fred Jennings
NETU President

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

Upcoming Events

Mar 7 Meeting will be at the **Orvis store** in Peabody where Kalil Bogdan will talk about fly fishing for Bones in Andros, Bahamas. Meeting starts at 7pm, refreshments!

Mar 19 NETU Annual fund raising banquet. Ipswich Masonic Lodge. Conservation award for Wayne Castonguay of the IRWA. Lots of great auction items and a phenomenal dinner included. TICKETS:

www.tunoreast.org

Apr 4 Michael Brukada will talk about and demo fly tying at our usual place the **IRWA**.

May 2 Chart Night! Members show maps and places to go fishing in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Last event this season. Learn where to go and share!

Have you renewed
your TU membership?

www.tu.org

WE ARE VERY EXCITED ABOUT OUR BANQUET AND AUCTION!

(19 MARCH 2016 AT THE IPSWICH MASONIC HALL, 5-9PM)

TRIPS:

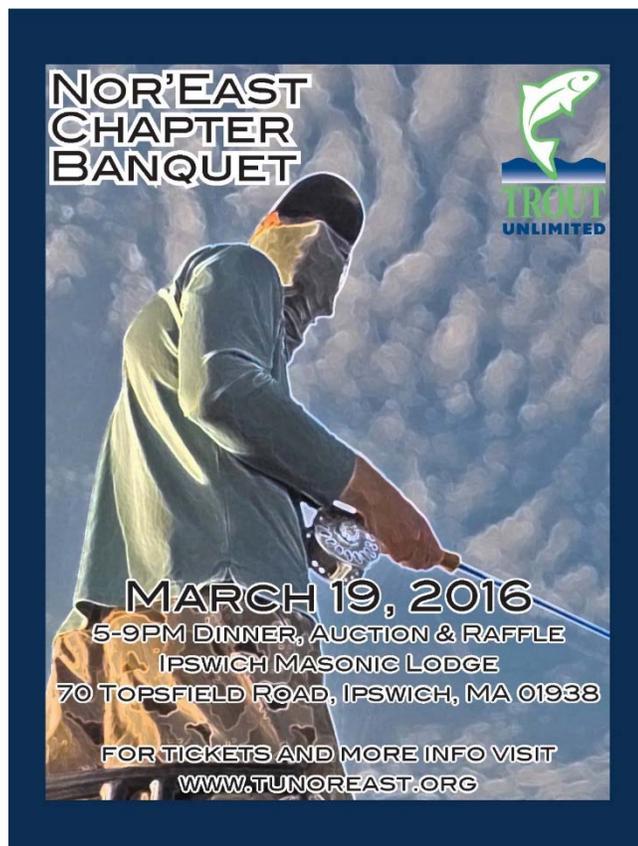
- An exciting African Photo Safari consisting of 6 days and 6 nights – all meals provided – at Zulu Nyala Resort in the wildlands of eastern coastal South Africa (travel expenses not included).
- Striped Bass Fishing on Cape Cod with Dean Clark – includes an overnight at Dean’s, dinner the night before, then breakfast, lunch and a full day on the water in Dean’s self-designed boat (the “Sea Fly”). Dean (MA Co-Chair of Strippers Forever) is an expert fly fisher and teacher; this is a special treat!
- Sea-Run Brook Trout Fishing on the Dennys River in Maine in May or June guided by Geof Day (Executive Director of the Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition), Michael Hopper (SRBTC President), and Dwayne Shaw (Downeast Salmon Federation) with 3 days and nights for up to four people with camp-style lodging and meals provided. A guided tour of the DSF operations there will be included.
- Trout fishing on the Deerfield or Westfield Rivers with Chris Jackson (DRWTU) or Mark Burton (GBTU) – these are two separate full day trips, each for two people, by mutually convenient arrangement.
- Sea-Run Brook Trout Fishing in Red Brook with Geof Day – includes lunch for two and a tour of the Red Brook facilities supported by Trout Unlimited and managed by the Trustees of Reservations.
- Striped Bass Fishing in Ipswich with Fred Jennings (MA State Co-Chair of Strippers Forever and NETU President). Fred will take two people downriver in his canoe, stopping to wade fish in all the good places for striped bass with ultralight trout-weight tackle (2-3 wt. rods) – each trip lasts 7-8 hours, with an informal light lunch provided (usually PB&J sandwiches unless other preferences are made known).
- Shad Fishing and BBQ on the Narrow River in Rhode Island with the Rhody Flyrodders in September – for two people. This is a special invitation to join them in their September outing!

FLIES AND HOOKS:

- Many Boxes of a Dozen or More Flies donated by noted fly tiers such as Dave Skok, Dick Brown, Joe Calcavecchia, Richie Tillman, Kalil Boghdan and several other NETU members. These include freshwater flies, saltwater flies, bonefish flies, shad flies, cinder worm hatch flies, maybe some bass bugs and salmon flies, etc...
- Several Boxes of Assorted Trout Flies (Nymphs, Wets, Dries, Etc.) including 36 wet flies, another with 36 dry flies and terrestrials, one of 61 nymphs, and one of 96 small dry flies and nymphs!
- A Box of 500 Streamer and Nymph Hooks. The Streamer Hooks include 25 hooks each in sizes of #2/0 all the way down to #18, and Nymph Hooks in sizes #1 and from #6 to #20.
- A Box of 250 Gold Jig Hooks (for Shad Fishing) including 25 hooks each in sizes of #3/0 down to #12.

OTHER EXCITING ITEMS:

- Luggage and Totes: A Wader Bag, Reel Case and Cooler Bag from Orvis; a Fishing Travel Bag; Tote Bags; Chest and Fanny Packs.
- A Beautiful Hand-Made Wooden Box and A Beautifully Hand-Made Framed Antique Mirror donated by Chett Walsh – any of those who have seen his donations know what a craftsman he is!
- Jewelry: Several turquoise necklaces and one malachite bead necklace, along with some bracelets, and one special hand-made rare green turquoise necklace with matching earrings.
- Photos and Art Works including several framed prints and photos and two nice unframed prints.
- Books such as Sheila Hassan’s new book, Rich Murphy’s fabulous striper book, other books on fishing and ecology, etc.
- Many Other Valuable Gift Certificates from local restaurants, shops and vendors, museum passes, etc.
- Many Other Gifts such as wine, beer, tools, knives, nets, fly tying materials, clothing, etc..

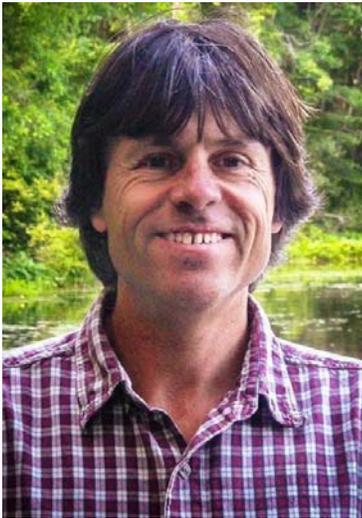


COME AND ENJOY YOURSELVES WITH A DELICIOUS MEAL, GREAT AUCTION, AND TO HONOR WAYNE CASTONGUAY! THERE MAY BE SOME OTHER SURPRISES TOO!

TICKETS: www.tunoreast.org

IPSWICH'S CASTONGUAY TO RECEIVE CONSERVATION AWARD

By David Rattigan Globe Correspondent February 12, 2016



Wayne Castonguay

The [Nor'East Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#) plans to present its first Conservation Award to Wayne Castonguay, executive director of the [Ipswich River Watershed Association](#). Castonguay was selected "for his many years of service to a wide variety of issues associated with fisheries and wetlands conservation in numerous capacities," the chapter said in a statement. During his career, Castonguay has been a marine fisheries biologist at the Division of Marine Fisheries in Gloucester, and both an ecologist and program director/general manager for The Trustees of Reservations. The lifelong Ipswich resident has served on state and federal committees, and on the Ipswich Conservation Commission, Shellfish Advisory Board, and committees on open space, coastal pollution, and storm-water management. The award will be presented at the chapter's annual banquet and auction at the Ipswich Masonic Hall on March 19. Admission is \$25 per person until March 5, \$30 per person thereafter. For more, go to [tunoreast.org](#).

David Rattigan can be reached at drattigan.globe@gmail.com.

NOR'EAST CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROJECTS

People often ask us about the NETU Chapter and what we do. Here are a few of our efforts:

Looking Back...

Lockwood Lane Culvert Replacement (Crooked Pond Brook)

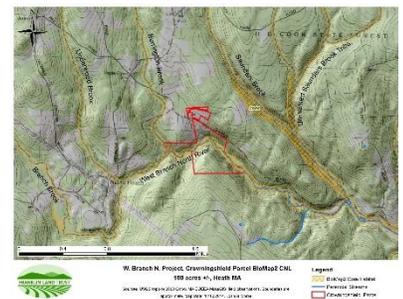
During the fall of 2013, after many months of planning effort, preparing permit applications, negotiating with project participants, etc., two decrepit pipes blocking upstream fish passage on Crooked Pond Brook just above where it flows into Fish Creek were replaced with a large natural stream-bed culvert with an artfully-designed bridge over it just off Lockwood Lane in Boxford.

Crowningshield Land Acquisition

In early December 2014, it came to our attention that 100 acres of land abutting a full mile of pristine trout habitat on the West Branch of the North River, a tributary to the Deerfield River, was coming up for sale in Western Massachusetts, the purchase of which would allow the protection of this stretch of wild native trout stream, if \$50,000 (half the price of the parcel) could be raised by year's end. With the participation of every chapter in the MA/RI TU Council, the Franklin Land Trust was able to acquire this land. Since then, several adjacent parcels have been acquired or protected.

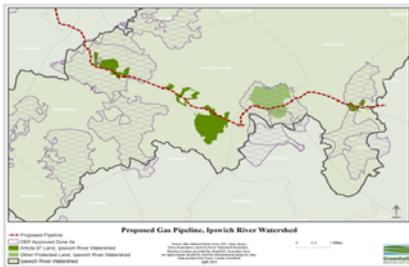
Mill River Cleanup

In May of 2015, a crew of NETU members went into the Mill River in Rowley and removed many bags of trash and some large items from the section of river below the Jewell Mill Dam.



NOR'EAST CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROJECTS (CON'T'D)

Impact on Ipswich River Watershed



Kinder Morgan TGP-NED (Tennessee Gas Pipeline – North East Direct)
In August 2015, the IRWA and NETU leadership presented testimony at two hearings against a proposed natural gas pipeline project that will cross through 11 miles of the Ipswich River watershed, with 3 miles right along the river, routed through protected wetlands and many small streams. With the support of TU National, these stream crossings are being closely monitored so that – if this project is approved – damage to wild trout habitat can be minimized where possible.



Willowdale Dam Fish Ladder

For the last two years, NETU members have worked with the Essex County Greenbelt Association to maintain the existing fish ladder at Willowdale Dam in Ipswich to facilitate the passage of diadromous fish such as trout, herring, eels and alewives. NETU Conservation Committee Chair Chett Walsh designed a full set of adjustable boards that have been very effective in regulating flow across different Ipswich River water levels. Now a new fishway will be constructed on the north side of the river (near Foote's) to facilitate the passage of fish!



Larkin Dam Removal

The Larkin Dam on the Parker River (just below Route 95 in Byfield) is scheduled for removal in late 2016. The fish ladder at this dam has failed, and the dam no longer serves any purpose.

Bostick Dam Removal

The Bostick Dam on the Ipswich River in Middleton is scheduled for removal in 2016.



Middleton Road Culvert Replacement (Crooked Pond Brook)

Upstream of the Lockwood Lane culvert on Crooked Pond Brook that was replaced by NETU in 2013, another culvert under Middleton Road in Boxford is scheduled for replacement in late 2016. The new culvert will be an open concrete box that will be 12' wide and 70' long, and has been designed – as was the Lockwood Lane culvert – by our own Mike O'Neill, with regulatory assistance in the permitting process by Attorney Greg Murrer (both NETU Board members).

Mapping and Exploring the Headwaters of the Ipswich River Tributaries

A joint project between NETU and IRWA was initiated during last fall to map and explore the many Ipswich River tributary headwaters with two purposes: (1) to search for and find any currently-unknown remnant populations of wild native brook trout that may continue to survive in these streams; and (2) to identify and prioritize blockages to fish passage in these areas. This project was initiated in October 2015 by Fred Jennings (NETU President) and Wayne Castonguay (IRWA Executive Director), and will be coordinated by NETU Board member Ben Meade. This will be a multi-year project dovetailing with another project currently underway by IRWA and TU National to assess the viability of stream crossings in the Great Marsh area of Northeastern Massachusetts.



NOR'EAST CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROJECTS (CON'T'D)

Looking Forward...

Jewell Dam Fishway Project (Mill River)

After some preliminary discussions and explorations, NETU is currently exploring the options for installing a new fishway at this dam. We have examined the site, talked with the dam owners, and are researching the most effective ways to restore fish passage at this long-standing obstruction. With a new fishway, almost the entire Mill River system will be opened to migratory diadromous fish. In the meantime, we hope to have a "bucket brigade" this spring to get spawning alewives past this dam.



Peabody Dam Removal or Fishway Project (Howlett Brook)

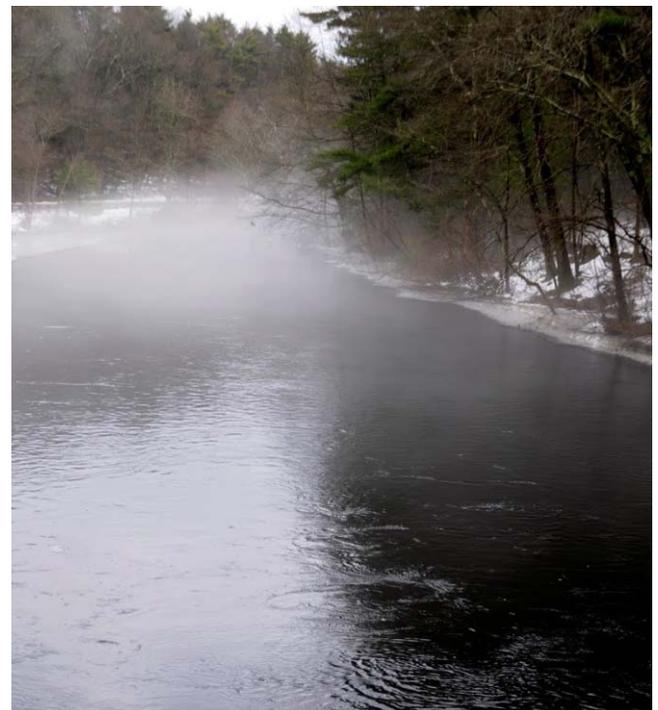
Howlett Brook is one of the most important tributaries of the Ipswich River, yet not far above its outlet there is a dam – that once had a working fishway – blocking any passage of fish from the Ipswich River into this stream. We are currently exploring ways to reestablish some sort of fish passage that will allow migratory fish species to access the rest of Howlett Brook.

Willowdale Forest Culvert Replacements (Gravelly Brook)

There are several culverts in Willowdale Forest near the Ipswich/Topsfield line in dire need of repair or replacement. We have inspected these installations and are exploring options for the improvement of fish passage by replacing these inadequate culverts.

Summary...

As you can see, NETU is very active in many aspects of coldwater fisheries conservation. We are now engaged in fundraising efforts to allow us to pursue our ambitious plans for restoration of fisheries in Northeastern Massachusetts streams and rivers. Please join and support us in our ongoing efforts such as described above. Thank you very much!



Fred Jennings, NETU President

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SHOWS

Date	Time	Event Organizer	Location and Information
Sat, Feb 27	9-4	TU Merrimac Valley	Manchester, NH, Executive Court Banquet, 1199 South Mammoth Road. Fly Fish NH.
Mon, Mar 7	7-9	Nor'East TU	Peabody, MA at the Orvis Store. Kalil Bogdan will talk about fly fishing for Bones in Andros, Bahamas. Monthly meeting.
Thu, Mar 3	6-9	United Fly Tiers	Bedford, MA. 357 Great Road, American Legion basement. Monthly meeting.
Sat, Mar 12	8-2	Plum Island Surfcasters	20th Annual Fishing Show, Newburyport, MA at the Hope Church, Hale Street.
Mon, Mar 14	6-9	Salt Water Flyrodders	Haverhill, MA at North Shore Community College. 100 Elliott Street. Monthly meeting.
Sat, Mar 19	9-12	Salt Water Flyrodders	Malden Anglers, Malden, MA. Fly tying clave.
Sat, Mar 19	5-9	Nor'East TU	Ipswich, MA. Masonic Lodge. Fundraising Banquet. www.tunoreast.org .
Sun, Mar 20	10-4	Wayside Inn	72 Wayside Inn Road, Sudbury, MA. Fly tying and rod building demo. Free.
Mon, Apr 4	6-9	Nor'East TU	Ipswich, MA at the IRWA. Michael Brukada will talk about and demo fly tying. Monthly meeting.
Thu, Apr 7	6-9	United Fly Tiers	Bedford, MA. 357 Great Road, American Legion basement. Monthly meeting.
Mon, Apr 10	6-9	Salt Water Flyrodders	Haverhill, MA North Shore Community College. Monthly meeting.
Mon, May 2	6-9	Nor'East TU	Ipswich, MA at the IRWA. Chart Night! Members show maps and places to go fishing in MA and NH. Monthly meeting.

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

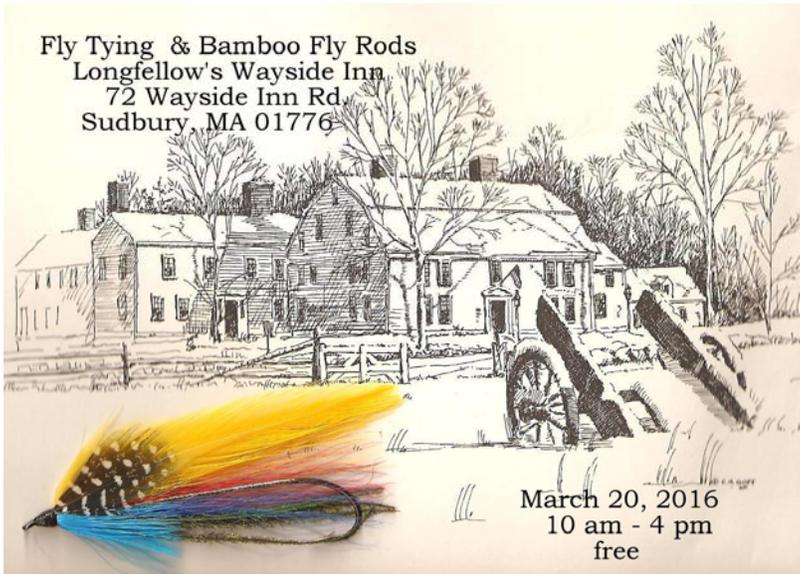
NOR'EAST CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2016

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Steelhead in Erie, PA. Fred Jennings

DONATIONS? UNWANTED ITEMS?
Contact Bob Thorkildsen if you have
any items for the raffle



Nor'East Chapter

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

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