



Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited

NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

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

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

And now we find ourselves in November? I hate to use the "S" word, but that white stuff is not far off... Let's hope for a mild winter, though I suppose with this drought that we need some more precipitation. Rain is easier to shovel, though...

Enough complaint. There are steelhead westward of us, and winter trout fishing for hardier souls. The rest of us can tie flies and dream about warm weather again. Or maybe plan a bonefish trip or just fly somewhere south for a short while. Whatever floats your boat! New England winters are to be endured, unless you're a skier or a snowbird headed south...

I had a salmon/steelhead trip planned for the Salmon River in Pulaski, NY that I hoped to tell you about, but a day before our planned departure it rained five inches there! Needless to say, we didn't go. The river was café-au-lait and shut out. But we are asking all of you readers to write up your own fishing adventures and share them and your photos with us. The NETU Newsletter is (supposed to be) a participatory process through which we share experience and knowledge. So please help us with this process. Lots of us go fishing in exotic locales or local waters; we want to hear from you all here!

There are many exciting activities and projects either underway or under development in the NETU chapter. Please get involved with these plans. With more participants, we could do a whole lot more for the local conservation of cold water fisheries and diadromous fish. Our resources are limited. Talk to us at meetings. Ask how you might be more engaged! If you can't do that, then donate some funds. We're always appreciative of contributions, whether of time or money, for the project work we do. We have just developed a Draft Strategic Plan with a mess of ideas worth pursuing that you can help bring about (see my accompanying report thereon below in this issue). We will likely be conducting another follow-up survey of our members to ascertain the skills and expertise we might be able to draw upon for these sundry projects. This Strategic Planning exercise is a step forward into a new array of ideas and potential developments in need of YOU!

In the meantime, come to our chapter meetings and our annual fundraising banquet! We are also working to develop additional opportunities going forward, including a "Cold Water, Cold Beer" event in Ipswich, to reflect those started by the Greater...

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Upcoming Events

Nov 7

Gabe Bolin, Trout Unlimited's Eastern Stream Restoration Specialist.

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

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

Boston TU (GBTU) chapter and the Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition (SRBTC) with the help of the MA Division of Ecological Restoration (DER). Indeed, please see the poster on the next page on the upcoming **“Cold Water, Cold Beer 2” event** to be held at the Patagonia Store at 346 Newbury Street in Boston on 15 November 2016 from 7:30 – 9:00 PM, themed **“Trout in a Time of Drought”** with presentations by **Julia Blatt** (Executive Director, Mass Rivers Alliance); **Wayne Castonguay** (IRWA Executive Director); and **Adam Kautza** (MA DF&W Coldwater Fisheries Project Leader). You can get tickets or make donations here: <https://www.gofundme.com/trout-in-drought>. This will be a great event!

Our new *Draft Strategic Plan* addresses the development of some NETU chapter fishing outings and/or adventures, and your participation in the planning thereof would be very welcome. Do we go for one-day trips, weekend adventures, or expeditions to far-off locales for a week or two of great fishing? You tell us. Right now, we’re open to all suggestions...

Our banquet will be on March 18th, 2017, at the Danversport Yacht Club. Please put it on your calendar! And speaking of fun fishing trips, there will be some great opportunities for piscatorial adventures at our 2017 auction, including a mid-June weekend at the **Farmington River** in CT to fish the Sulphur hatch, which is really fun. We’ll have quite a gathering there, as six cabins (each sleeps 5-6 people if necessary, though 3 works better) have been rented by NETU and CMTU people. We also hope for another **Dennys River** trip at our auction as well, along with a day in Western MA on the **Swift, Deerfield, or Westfield Rivers** (or maybe some place that you’ve never heard of)! If you have some ideas on this score, please communicate them to us! These great trips should be hot items. Please think of other great donations for our auction; we want this event to be better than last year, and that’ll be hard to do!

But more immediately, we’re having our **third meeting** of the season on Monday, November 7th at the IRWA HQ at 143 County Road in Ipswich. We’ll have a great dinner prepared by Kalil Boghdan at **6:00PM**, followed at 7:00PM by an interesting talk by **Gabe Bolin, PE**, TU’s *Eastern Stream Restoration Specialist* in Concord, NH. Gabe will talk about stream restoration activities in New England and how they might bear on our own efforts in this realm. After Gabe’s talk, we will have our regular chapter meeting, and please stay for that! We’ll have a brief presentation on our *Draft Strategic Plan* and reports on our other activities as well. So come for a great dinner, an interesting talk and our chapter business meeting at which you will hear what your chapter is doing and planning for the coming years! Thanks so much.

Fred Jennings
NETU President



The team hard at work...
photo by Geof Day

IT'S HERE! COLD WATER-COLD BEER 2: NOVEMBER 15

Dear Council Members and Cold Water-Cold Beer Enthusiasts,

The Fall Session of Cold Water-Cold Beer Event “Trout in a Time of Drought” will be held on November 15 at 7:30 pm. Register here (<https://www.gofundme.com/trout-in-drought>). If you can't come, you can still support the cause!

This hot summer was the driest in the region since 1956: Massachusetts has been in a drought emergency. Experts in policy, watershed management, and fisheries biology will join with us at the Boston Patagonia Store on Newbury Street to network and to present on drought impacts on our rivers and fisheries.

Patagonia has graciously offered their store after hours. Ipswich Brewing will provide complimentary refreshments, including a beer specially developed to support the Ipswich Watershed Association. Proceeds will go to conservation efforts supported by the event's sponsors.

Our panelists:

Julia Blatt, Executive Director of Massachusetts River Alliance
Wayne Castonguay, Executive Director of the Ipswich Watershed Association
Adam Kautza, Coldwater Fisheries Project Leader, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Our last meeting sold out quickly, and we expect brisk activity this time. We hope you will join us for cold beer, lively networking, trout stories, and expert information on the drought.

Sincerely,

The Cold Water Cold Beer Planning Team



REPORT ON NETU STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

By Fred Jennings, 30 October 2016

With the able guidance of Ray Gagnon of Gagnon Associates (www.ThinkGagnonAssociates.com), seven NETU Board Members met together at IRWA HQ on Friday evening and all day Saturday, to brainstorm, discuss and develop a *Five-Year Strategic Plan* for the chapter. We had expected to finish up by lunchtime on Sunday, but we worked together so effectively that we completed our work by the end of Saturday. It was a great experience and we have come up with a *Draft Strategic Plan* for chapter approval.

The process that Ray took us through was of some interest. I will offer only a brief description of its central details. On Friday evening, after some pizza and a very brief introduction, Ray guided us through a “SWOT” analysis of NETU’s Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, as a means of setting the context for a more intense review of future potentials and plans on Saturday. We then reviewed each of these lists for their most important concerns. Here are the results of what we identified as the key aspects of each SWOT part:

STRENGTHS: our technical expertise and our partnership with IRWA (and other organizations);

WEAKNESSES: low membership participation and a lack of social activities (along with stagnated initiatives and poor community outreach);

OPPORTUNITIES: the variety of our conservation projects and potential connections to other like-minded organizations (along with getting involved in more press-worthy activities and Jim MacDougall)

THREATS: habitat reduction and emerging political/cultural trends (along with the lack of a succession plan and competition from other similar organizations).

On Saturday morning, we had a round of introductions and then discussed some implications, concerns and expectations with regard to the process in which we were engaged, and Ray set forth some “ground rules” for our discussion. Then we were off and running! The first thing Ray had us do is to brainstorm possible goals and undertakings for the chapter, with the caution not to filter or evaluate any idea so offered. Each suggestion was written in heavy black marker on a white 4” x 6” index card and taped to the wall with no sorting or order.

Once we had about 40-50 white index cards up on the wall, Ray had us all approach the wall and – without any talking – simply start to bunch them together in groups that seemed similarly-oriented, and then place yellow index cards above each group with what we thought were appropriate labels for that group. If we disagreed with a label someone else had put up there, we were invited to put a second (or third) label up there saying what we thought that group comprised. In this way, the chaos of all those cards slowly resolved into an order.

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Chett Walsh...
photo by Geof Day

REPORT ON NETU STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS (CONTINUED)

At that point, we all sat down again, with about 7-8 groups of index cards on the wall, and we voted on which categories seemed most important, coming up with four (within which most of the cards in the other groups could be and were incorporated). At that point, we went through each of the four groups (that we could see on the wall) and defined each of those four categories and deliberated on how to state a GOAL consistent with that group of cards. Once we had those four GOALS articulated in a manner that captured the primary issues in each grouping, we broke out into separate sessions to come up with STRATEGIES (and TACTICS within each strategy) that would specify some means to reach those goals. Then we also assigned people and timetables to each of the tactics specified, as Ray insisted that if we didn't do that, implementing this Strategic Plan and achieving a successful follow-through and outcome might become a problem for us.

The four GOALS that we identified for the NETU chapter were as follows, with some indication of strategies:

CONSERVATION: *“Become a leading advocate for coldwater fisheries conservation on the North Shore”* by a strategy of following through on the conservation projects already underway along with an organized search for native trout in the headwaters of the Ipswich River and developing an inventory of rivers in the NETU area and assessing them for possible improvements (fish passage, stocking, etc.).

LEADERSHIP: *“Strengthen the NETU Team”* by improving our Annual Banquet, developing other social events, seeking out additional grant opportunities for raising and/or providing funds for good projects.

MEMBERSHIP: *“Assess, Develop and Engage Our NETU Membership”* by conducting a survey of NETU members to assess their demographics and skills, initiating youth programs and more regular fishing opportunities, and through additional educational programs and outreach efforts.

OUTREACH: *“Develop and Enhance Partner Relationships and Public Communications”* with better public relations programs and branding, more effective use of social media and of our website, and by promoting and developing stronger relationships with external entities and other related TU groups.

Additional details will be provided at our upcoming NETU Chapter Meeting on November 7th about this new *Draft Strategic Plan*, and a lengthier and more intensive discussion thereof is planned for our NETU Chapter Meeting on Monday, December 5th. Stay tuned! And thank you for your ongoing attention to this process and for whatever level of support and participation that you are willing to provide. Please come to our meetings!

Fred Jennings
NETU President

SMALLMOUTH BASS, ANYONE?



Smallmouth fishing can include some casual casting with poppers and...

While the name of our group is **Trout Unlimited**, how about showing smallmouth bass some love? The smallmouth is a splendid fighter, especially on a fly and is very likely to go airborne. It has the major advantage of coming into their own in late July and August, when the trout are harder to find. While you can find smallmouth in lakes, we much prefer fishing for them in rivers since they go deep in the summer. You can, of course, use the same five weights for smallmouth that you use for trout, although eight weight rods and lines are handy when you tie into a

good one, especially if there is woody structure around, as there so often is. We want to connect with those of you in the TU community who have also developed a fondness for smallmouth bass. We could meet over supper and a few beers (or whatever) to see what we can learn from each other and to discuss what we could offer to others.

Where is there good smallmouth fishing in this area and Northeast Region? How could the Merrimack River be accessed more effectively? Which nearby areas in abutting states offer promise? Which fishing camps offer good smallmouth opportunities? What trips might we be able to pull together? Are there programs/resource people on this fishery that we might offer to the TU members?

But the first question is: What is the level of interest? Does it make sense to proceed with this? The next step, getting together to explore the matter, is a small one. If you would like to take it please contact David at davidmccauley@comcast.net. You can also reach me by phone at 978-283-3068. At this point, we are just looking for expressions of interest and we will then find a time to get together. Hope to hear from you!

David McCauley



... some heart-thumping moments trying to keep this 19 incher from racing back into the line-breaking timber from which it emerged. Either way, it is a pleasure.

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS AND SHOWS

Date	Time	Organizer	Location and Information	Link
7-Nov-16	6:00 PM	Nor'East TU	143 County Rd (aka Route 1A), Ipswich, MA	http://www.tunoreast.org/
14-Nov-16	6:00 PM	NE Saltwater Fly Rodders	Northern Essex Community College - Haverhill, MA	http://www.neflyrodders.org/
15-Nov-16	7:30 PM	Cold Water-Cold Beer 2	Patagonia Boston, 346 Newbury St, Boston, MA	https://www.gofundme.com/trout-in-drought
22-Nov-16	7:00 PM	Squanatissit TU	VFW Hall, Route 113 & Leighton Street, Pepperell, MA	http://squanatissit.org/
27-Nov-16	6:30 PM	Greater Boston TU	Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary. 208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA	http://gbtu.org/
1-Dec-16	6:30 PM	United Fly Tyers	American Legion Post 221, 357 The Great Road, Bedford, MA	http://www.unitedflytyers.org/
5-Dec-16	6:00 PM	Nor'East TU	143 County Rd (aka Route 1A), Ipswich, MA	http://www.tunoreast.org/
12-Dec-16	6:00 PM	NE Saltwater Fly Rodders	Northern Essex Community College - Haverhill, MA	http://www.neflyrodders.org/
27-Dec-16	7:00 PM	Squanatissit TU	VFW Hall, Route 113 & Leighton Street, Pepperell, MA	http://squanatissit.org/
2-Jan-17	6:00 PM	Nor'East TU	143 County Rd (aka Route 1A), Ipswich, MA	http://www.tunoreast.org/
5-Jan-17	6:30 PM	United Fly Tyers	American Legion Post 221, 357 The Great Road, Bedford, MA	http://www.unitedflytyers.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	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/
27/29-Jan-17	10:00 AM	New England Fishing Expo	Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA	http://www.nefishingexpo.com/



Greg Murrer
Photo by Geof Day

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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Rowley River Brookie, Chris Whalen

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.

www.tunoreast.org