



# Nor' East Chapter

## September 2020 Newsletter



IPSWICH RIVER  
WATERSHED  
ASSOCIATION  
*voice of the r*

**ZOOM Meeting**  
**September 14,**  
**6 PM**

[https://  
us02web.zoom.us  
/j/88167114366?  
pwd=dHBabklyb  
mZpaG5scHhUU  
E5jWXlhQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88167114366?pwd=dHBabklybmZpaG5scHhUUe5jWXlhQT09)

Meeting ID: 881  
6711 4366  
Passcode: 586585

## President's Corner

**Ben Meade catching Brookies and Next Meeting's news.**

While it is not known at this time when NETU will meet in person again, the show will go on regardless. Our first monthly meeting of the fall will be held virtually on **September 14 over Zoom**. Login information is provided on our website and in this newsletter. The meeting will start at 6 PM for open conversation. Our speaker will be **Wayne Castonguay, Executive Director of the Ipswich River Watershed Association, who will begin his talk at 6:30**. Wayne is a wealth of knowledge about the Ipswich River, its watershed, and many of our local North Shore aquatic and terrestrial environments. We are really looking

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### MEETING

September 14 at 6 PM:  
Speaker Wayne  
Castonguay begins at  
6:30 PM

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### CONSERVATION WORK

Willowdale Dam  
Fishpass  
Howlett Brook Page 10

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### WHERE THE FISH ARE

See Page 3

forward to hearing from him! Following Wayne's talk, we will hold our Chapter Meeting. These meetings are open to all Chapter members. As always, there will be updates and ideas passed around for Chapter projects and activities. Please consider joining us – especially since you are able to do so from your own living room!

In mid-July, following a solo hike in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire within a strangely circular mountain range, I fished a small stream in those mountains that is not even shown as a perennial stream on a topographical map of the area. That is as much as I am saying about its location ☺.

However, despite its lack of perennial status according to the United States Geological Survey, I delightedly found this stream to be home to a healthy population of native brook trout. I spent the better part of an afternoon bow and arrow casting a size 12 Woolly Bugger and a size 12 Doodle Bug (barbless hooks, of course) into every likely pool and pocket. The brookies were there, and in good numbers. Not large trout in size, but precious and beautiful. A couple of pictures are included with this letter. This fishing excursion was an absolute joy. It felt like a personal "reset button" of sorts, with exercise, fresh air, and fly fishing all rolled into one.

Writing this letter caused me to dig the March/April 2002 edition of *American Angler* magazine out of my fly fishing library, and I didn't regret it! Under the heading "Fly fishing can be the best kind of therapy" the late William G. Tapply wrote in his *Reading the Currents* column that part of his way of coping with a post September 11th world was to simply go fishing. He followed the urging and advice of his wife and went to go cast a fly in a local pond. He then described a humorous account during this excursion of becoming stuck – then unstuck – during an encounter with some deep mud at the edge of his local pond. It didn't sound like a dangerous situation – just more of a muddy inconvenience. Mr. Tapply's comparison of becoming "unstuck" after this muddy scenario was clearly a parallel to fly fishing his way out of a funk. Along with the humor of the story, this is excellent advice from a well-respected writer. So, there you have it. If you are able to, go fishing! If you do, a request; please share pictures and stories of your catch with your friends at NETU. The Chapter has some avid – and accomplished – anglers! **We would like to hear from more of our membership and their exploits on the water.** Ben Meade, Chapter President.



## SEPTEMBER 14, 6 PM REGULAR MEETING ON ZOOM

### JOIN ZOOM MEETING

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88167114366?  
pwd=dHBabkIYbmZpaG5scHhUUE5jWXlhQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88167114366?pwd=dHBabkIYbmZpaG5scHhUUE5jWXlhQT09)

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## Where have you been?

Reports from the field by our members;

Peter Vandermeulen, Chapter Treasurer, fishing the Connecticut River for Brown Trout at the Moore Dam.



Fred Jennings, Peak Dawn Anglers, fishing Castle Neck Creek for Stripers

Check out the links to his videos! (click on top photo) Fred has some interesting offers for fellow fishermen, like his great newsletter plus much more. Contact Fred directly at: [peakdawn at yahoo dot com](mailto:peakdawn@yahoo.com).



Geof Day, Executive Director of Sea-Run Brook Trout Coalition, fishing with Fred J (in separate kayaks) and doing some pond fishing on the Cape (of Cod).



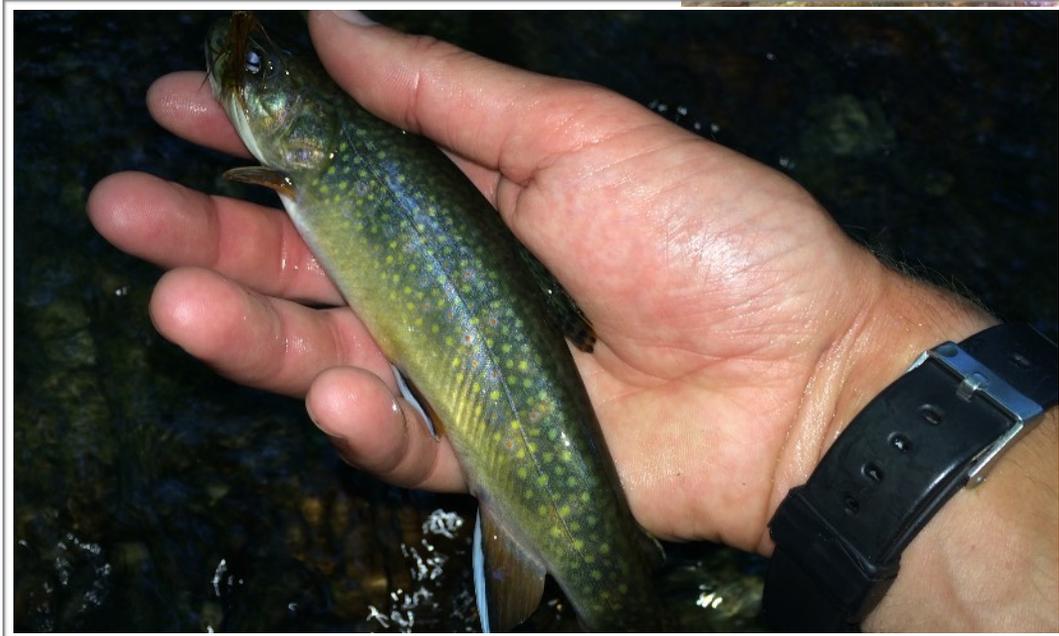
## Kalil Boghdan, Banquet Co-Chair, fishing the Connecticut for smallmouths and the Ellis River for Brookies

“I spent a couple of days smallmouth bass fishing and wild brook trout fishing with a friend who lives in Conway, NH. I had two great days. I left my home at 5:00 am on Thursday, drove two and a half hours and picked up my friend. We then drove about an hour and an half to meet the guide at the put-in. We fished all day for smallmouths on on the first of the two days. That evening, after the drift trip, I stayed at my friend's home and the next day we spent wild brook trout fishing. It was a great two days fishing. One does not have to be away from home for a great length of time to do some great fishing in NH and VT.

The smallmouth fishing was on the Connecticut River in Gilman, VT, and the wild brook trout was on the Ellis River in Pinkham Notch, NH and on the Wildcat River in Jackson, NH. Each of these waters were beautiful and interesting, each in their own way.”



Ben Meade, President, fishing an odd circular mountain in NH.



## Chett Walsh, Board member and Conservation Committee, fishing the Mascoma River just outside of Lebanon, NH.

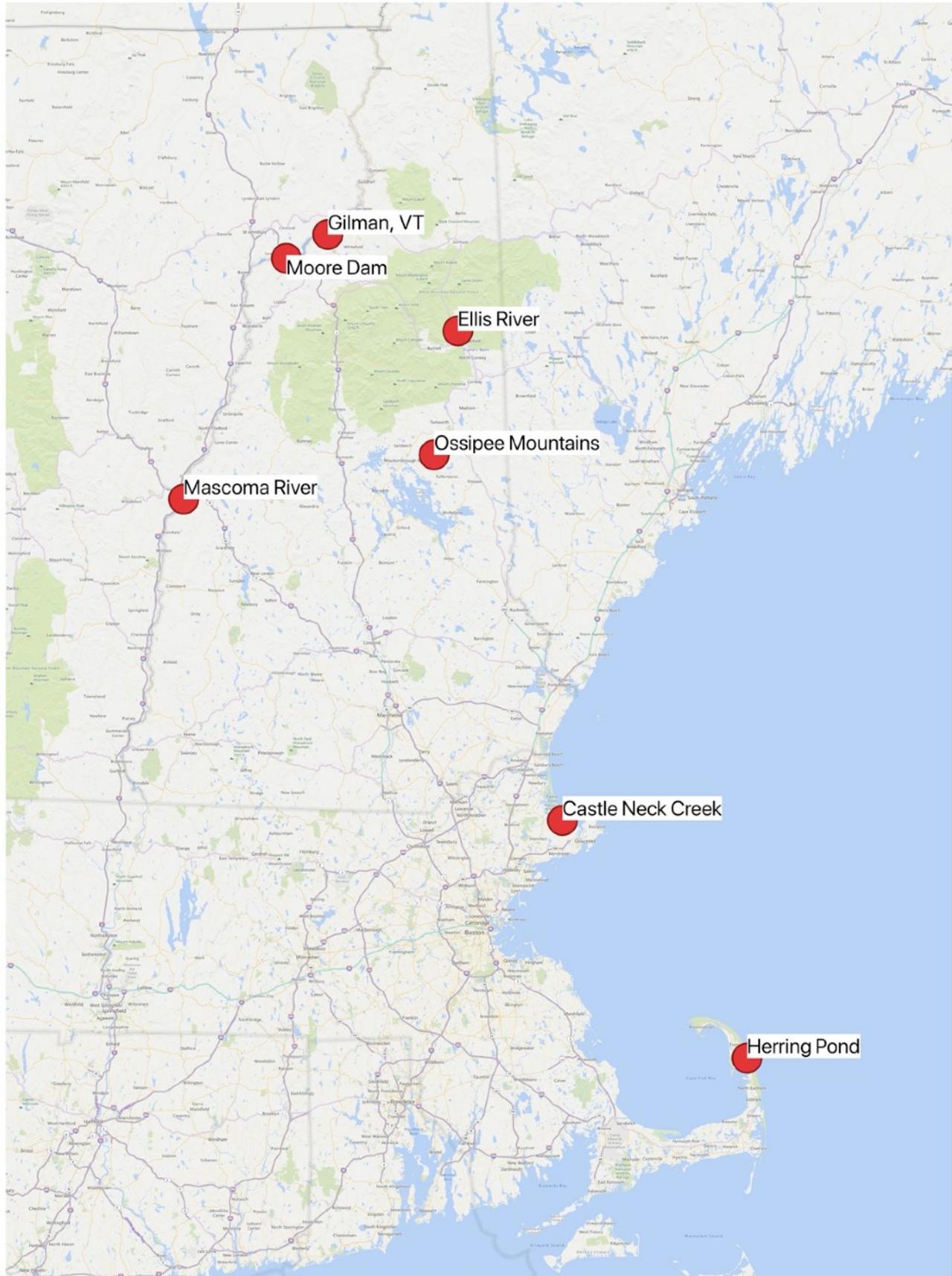
“Hit the Mascoma river between Enfield & Lebanon NH. Water was mid-60’s about 1/2 mile down from dam @ lake. Couple of 4-5” tiny brookies and one decent fight I lost on barbless.....

that’s why we call it ‘fishin’- not ‘catchin’ 🤘🤘🤘

Beautiful setting, nice variety of ripples & scour pools with logs.  
Busman’s holiday.... visited a job at Dartmouth and sniffed out / different spots.”



# Locations of Fishing Reports



# Conservation

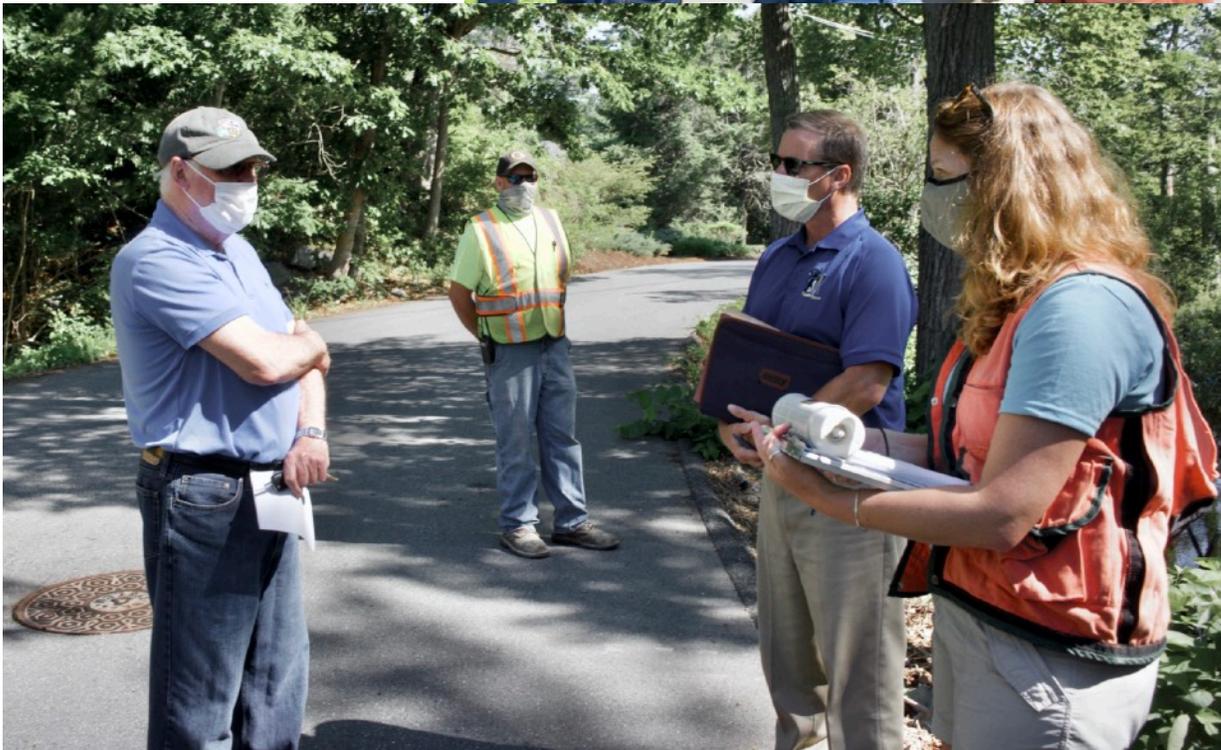
## Members clean out the Willowdale Dam Fishpass

“Thanks go you to Bob Torkildson and Kenny Washburn who made their way to the fish ladder this morning to help with the clean-up. Weir boards were salvaged and stowed. Debris was removed allowing for a nice flow through the ladder.” Kalil Boghdan 8/22/2020.



## Howlett Brook Hood's Pond Culvert restoration

TU members, Greg Murrer (back to) and Michael O'Neill (hat and mask), meet with partners IRWA Caitlyn Shaw (orange vest) and Topsfield Highway staff Travis Good (yellow) to discuss process for replacing the outlet culvert to Hood's Pond which is acting like a dam to all fish migration including Alewives. Greg helped IRWA staff draft the grant application to US Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the project. The grant netted enough funds to assess, engineer, and cover replacement costs for the project. Mike O'Neill, our volunteer registered engineer, is providing survey plans, member Jim MacDougall, provided wetland identification and Greg, a corporate lawyer, is wading through all the red-tape to see the project remains on track.



## Last cast:

First, thanks for making it this far down the page.

Since they saddled me with the task of putting this newsletter together, I will take the opportunity to raise an issue for you to ponder: the connection of Climate Change and trying to save trout, a cold-water fish. I contacted TU's Chief Scientist, Helen Neville and asked her why the web page for TU National is pretty quiet on global warming. She very kindly responded quickly and directed my attention to this web link:

<https://www.tu.org/get-involved/volunteer-tacklebox/council-leader-resources/national-leadership-council/nlc-conservation-workgroups/climate-change-workgroup/>

Although it is deep down on the sidebar of the page, TU is concerned about our influence on the warming trend of our rivers. This warming takes two forms, our CO2 production from power plants, and transportation including air travel and our thermal pollution that comes from paved surfaces and roof tops. We can remove dams, improve stream crossings and protect habitat but without addressing our warming of the waters, it doesn't project out as a program to succeed.

If you care about our conservation work, you may wish to consider this every day by reducing your carbon footprint and working with your community to improve stormwater management. And always conserve your use of water at home all year long.

Jim MacDougall