



Nor' East Chapter

October 2020 Newsletter



IPSWICH RIVER
WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION

voice of the r

ZOOM Meeting
October 5,
6 PM

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j/81589266358?
pwd=b2dhcHFsnZ
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Meeting ID: 815
8926 6358

Passcode: 038264

Contact Info:

President Ben
Meade :
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President's Corner

Ben Meade on Fall Fishing and Osprey.

Dear fellow Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited Members,

A sincere wish to all members of NETU and your family and friends that this note finds you well.

At our virtual September meeting, Wayne Castonguay, Executive Director of the Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA), provided some updates on

1

MEETING

October 5, Richard
Hutchins on Fall Fishing
begins at 6:30 PM

2

CONSERVATION WORK

Howlett Brook Page 7

3

WHERE THE FISH ARE

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initiatives and projects being undertaken by IRWA in the region. Some of that work includes involvement with NETU, so stay tuned!

Our next meeting – October 5th over Zoom – will feature Rick Hutchins from the Three Rivers Stocking Association as our speaker. Three Rivers raises funds and stocks catchable sized brook trout, rainbow trout, and brown trout in several rivers on the New Hampshire (NH) Seacoast every fall. The Lamprey River, the Cochecho River, the Isinglass River, and the Exeter River all receive trout courtesy of this organization. The sections of these rivers stocked by Three Rivers are open under catch and release, single hook artificial lures/fly regulations through the late fall and winter. If you haven't cast for these fish before, I can personally attest that you should! The rivers are beautiful, the trout can be large (20"+ fish are possible), and southern NH is a short drive. I hope to join some other Chapter members in some casts on these rivers this fall and winter.

Speaking of southern NH, I have an enduring memory from the Seacoast from this past summer. It involved fly fishing – but not catching – at least not by me!

While out on a kayak with my wife in Great Bay, we had the pleasure of seeing an osprey swoop down and grab a fish (I presume a small striped bass) in its talons and fly away. It was an incredible sight to behold. Osprey are amazing. What made me chuckle then – and now – was that I had been fly fishing for stripers from the kayak during the whole paddle and didn't catch a thing! Well, this was not the first time an osprey had one-upped my fishing efforts....

In early September, 2011 I took a trip to Jackson, WY to visit some college friends and do a lot of fly fishing. One afternoon, I was casting a fly in the upstream reaches of the fabled Madison River just downstream of the confluence of the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers. I had read about the large trout in the Madison, the number of trout per mile, etc. so my expectations were high. Well, like at Great Bay this past summer, while fishing the Madison I had the



OCTOBER 5, 6 PM REGULAR MEETING ON ZOOM RICK HUTCHINS FROM THREE RIVERS, FALL AND WINTER TROUT FISHING IN SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81589266358?
pwd=b2dhcHFzNzRzbnJNNcklhZ0JaWE83UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81589266358?pwd=b2dhcHFzNzRzbnJNNcklhZ0JaWE83UT09)

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Photo from Three Rivers web page.



pleasure of seeing an osprey fly down at close range and catch dinner. It was a startling – and amazing – sight. Up to that point, I had been fishing the Madison for awhile, it was very late in the day, and I had had no luck. So, I tipped my hat to the beautiful bird, reeled in, and walked to the car. The memory of that osprey is still fresh!

As they say, that is why it is called fishing, not catching. But when you are outfished by a bird – albeit a bird of prey that has developed its fishing abilities over eons – you just have to admit that you have been outdone. With that said, I found these sightings to be exhilarating, as observing wildlife is an extra benefit of time spent fishing. I look forward to sharing water with an osprey again sometime.

Happy fall, and wishing everyone the best. Hope to see you at one of our virtual meetings or a smaller, outside, socially distanced NETU event sometime. As always, please don't hesitate to drop me a line – I would be happy to hear from you. Ben Meade

HELP THREE RIVERS STOCKING ASSOCIATION

Rick Hutchins and his friends at Three Rivers Stocking Association provide a wonderful fall and winter fishery in your backyard with the blessings of the State of New Hampshire but out of their own pocket. If you enjoy the fishing at these rivers, you may wish to send them a donation for their efforts.

Contact them at:

<https://threeriversstocking.com/2020-fundraising-drive>



Where the Fish Are:

Chett Walsh, Board member and Conservation Committee Chair writes:

“Fri Sept 25th Fred Jennings had me out on one of his canoe Tide-Ride trips in the Ipswich River. We caught about 7-8 schoolies as we trolled outbound, several productive stops at Hog Island and a few small islands netted us many more. Of course Fred out paced me as I'd expected



Wind only hindered us a bit but I had about 15-16 stripers avg 18” with a few in low 20’s, Fred was up in the 30’s and he was fortunate to get some 26” fish.

Catching healthy schoolies on 6’-6” #3 Rods took a while for me to not panic, having your rod look like a ‘ ? ‘ but not breaking was a



unique experience indeed.

I recommend this trip to everyone as it broadens your perspective on traditional strategies with A-typical aspects: ultra small rods/ 7-wt lines/ weighted flies.

Well worth trying this experience.

TY Fred !

Chett Walsh”

Fred Jennings, Peak Dawn Anglers, still 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.



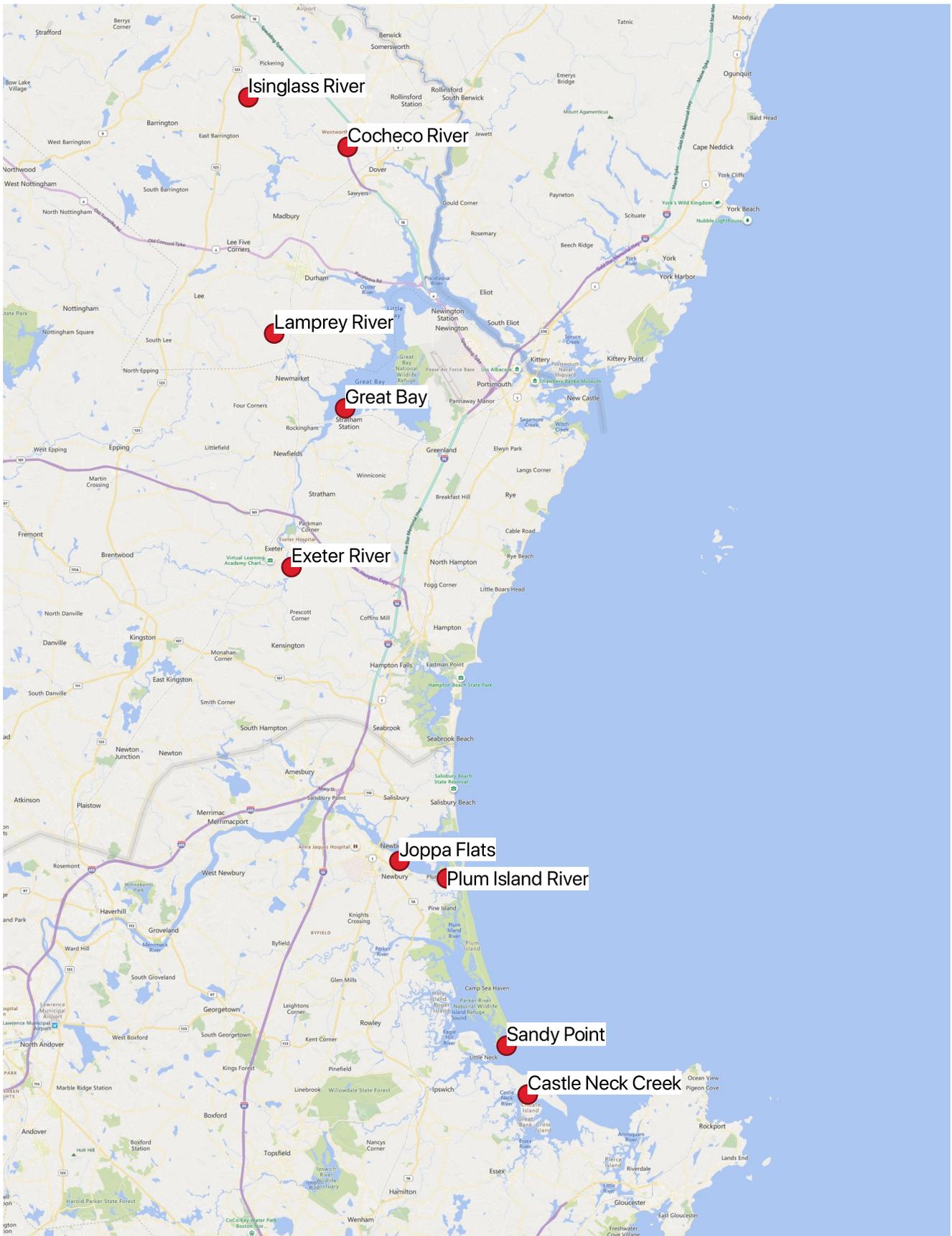
Since access is such a challenge along our ocean coastline, yet the fishing is so good in October. I recommend you hire a local guide. Of course Fred is one and happens to be one the most passionate supporters of TU. Another Board member who offers charters out of Newburyport is James Goodhart. Here is his contact info below. James can find you fish up and down the Merrimack River including Joppa Flats where some big fish hang out. I have added a couple of walk-on areas: Joppa Flats, Plum Island River and Sandy Point. The fish are moving out, so get a line wet and see what you can catch!

**Capt. James C. Goodhart of Shadowcaster Charters,
Newburyport, MA 01950 (978) 463-7755**

www.shadowcastercharters.com



Locations of Fishing Reports



Conservation

Howlett Brook Hood's Pond Culvert restoration

The Hood Pond (Pond Street) culvert replacement Project is part of a larger project to restore stream continuity throughout the Howlett Brook Sub-Basin. Funding for the Project comes from a \$163,500 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant that was prepared by Kaitlyn Shaw (IRWA), Greg Murrer (TU'NE), Mike O'Neill (TU'NE), and Colin Lawson (TU National) and an anticipated grant from MASS DER under its Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program.

The Project will occur in two phases: Pre-Construction and Construction. Pre-Construction is expected to be completed by November 1, 2020 and includes: (1) Wetlands Delineation (Jim MacDougall); (2) Existing Conditions Plan (Jim & Mike); (3) Site Survey (Scott Cerrato); (4) Geotechnical Report (Drilex Environmental & John Turner Consulting); and (5) Preliminary and Final Design Engineering (TEC, Inc.). Once Pre-Construction is complete, a Notice of Intent –now being prepared by Greg Murrer – will be submitted to the Topsfield Conservation Committee to approve Construction. Greg, Mike and Jim will be working on the MASS DER grant application for Construction funding to the extent NFWF funding does not cover all of the Construction costs. That grant application will be submitted in March 2021 for what should be a “shovel-ready” Project. Our hope is that the Project will be completed in August 2021. Greg Murrer.



Last cast: Who is in charge the store, as it were.

President – Ben Meade

Vice President –

Treasurer – Peter Vandermeulen

Secretary – Gregory Murrer

Directors:

Kalil Boghdan

Geof Day

James Goodhart

Geoff Klane

Fred Jennings

Tom Leahy

Mike O'Neill

Bob Torkildsen

Chett Walsh

David Walsh

Ken Washburn

Committees

Conservation Committee Chair: Chett Walsh

Meeting Programs Chair: Ken Washburn

Meeting Dinner Committee Co-Chairs: Kalil Boghdan, Mike O'Neill, Ken Washburn

Banquet Committee Co-Chairs: Kalil Boghdan, Josh Rownd, Bob Torkildsen

Newsletter Editor: Jim MacDougall, pro tempore

Webmaster: Geof Day