



Nor' East Chapter February 2021 Newsletter

February 1 , Monday Night's Speaker

Vince Tobia,

“Fishing Western New York Steelhead Ally”

Vince's presentation will center on fishing the western NY section of Steelhead alley, which comprises the tributaries to Lake Erie. If time permits he can also discuss fishing the Lake Ontario streams which are a short drive to the north from him. He will be happy to answer any and all questions about his area.



Speaker recruitment and this write-up provided by Kalil Boghdan. Thanks Kalil!

**ZOOM Meeting
February 1,
6 PM**

Speaker begins at
7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85486851303?pwd=RUpiTDMrdUJlYXl5T0Y4Tm84cTY4QT09>

Meeting ID: 854
8685 1303
Passcode: 027574

Contact Info:

President Ben Meade :
Benjamin.K.Meade at Gmail dot Com

Newsletter submissions:
Jim MacDougall, jm3 at iCloud dot com

Treasurer's Report on Last Page

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MEETING

February 1, Vince Tobia,
“Fishing the Western NY Steelhead Ally” 7:00 PM

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ben Meade
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This issue is packed with information. Please take the time and read it to the end.

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Presenter's Bio:

Vince Tobia is the founder/owner of Cattaraugus Creek Outfitters, based in western New York's steelhead alley. He has been guiding and outfitting for over 20 years, having given up a full-time practice as an attorney to pursue his passion. His specialty is guiding for steelhead, lake-run brown trout and smallmouth bass on the tributaries of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Vince also specializes in both DIY fly fishing trips to the Bahamas and Mexico, as well as working with many fully guided lodges in both of those countries, as well as other parts of the world. Vince helped start bonefishing lodges on the islands of Acklins and Great Inagua, in the Bahamas. He has fished in the Seychelles, Venezuela, Mexico, Bahamas, Ontario, Alberta & British Columbia in Canada, as well as Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, California, Vermont, Massachusetts & Florida. Each year he and his assistants lead clients on hosted trips in both fresh and salt water.

Cattaraugus Creek Outfitters has a strong presence on Facebook and also has produced videos for their YouTube page. Vince has been published in numerous magazines, including Fish & Fly, & Eastern Flyfishing, and has numerous photos in Rod Hamilton's new book DIY Bonefishing. He is a member of the Scott Fly Rod pro staff. His website is www.ccoflyfishing.com

He lives in western New York with his wife Leslie, and his children - Vince, Joe, and Mia.

FEBRUARY 1, 2021, 6 PM REGULAR MEETING ON ZOOM

Presentation starts at 7:00 PM

Vince Tobia, "Fishing the Western NY Steelhead Ally"

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85486851303?pwd=RUpiTDMrdUJlYXl5T0Y4Tm84cTY4QT09>

Meeting ID: 854 8685 1303

Passcode: 027574

President's Message

Hello all,

Hopefully this note finds everyone well.

Our speaker/presenter is Vince Tobia of Cattaraugus Creek Outfitters. Vince's presentation will be on fly fishing for steelhead in western NY. Vince comes highly recommended by Art Howe (thanks Art!) who recently had Vince as his guide on a steelhead fishing trip to western NY. Vince and his guiding business also take anglers to many other locales.

More information about Vince, and his business, is here:

<http://www.ccoflyfishing.com/index.html>

<http://www.ccoflyfishing.com/guidedtrips.html>

So, I watched “the movie” this past weekend. Many (or all?) of you are likely already aware of “the movie” – otherwise known as “A River Runs Through It”. It really is an incredible story, non-fictional and very emotional of course, as written as an autobiography by Norman Maclean. Even my wife Mary Beth – who until last weekend hadn't seen “the movie” – said, and I quote: “I didn't expect to like it, but I did!” Put another check in the win column for the combination of Norman Maclean's writing, Robert Redford's directing, and Brad Pitt's acting.

The awe inspiring scenes of the American West in “A River Runs Through It” brings back some wonderful memories of my own travels and fly fishing in that beautiful part of the world. My latest travels there led to the pursuit of a goal that some of you may already be aware of: The Wyoming Cutt-Slam.

In September, 2011 I traveled to Jackson, Wyoming to see college friends, to hike, and to fly fish. I had previously read of the Wyoming Cutt-Slam in the April, 2005 edition of *American Angler* magazine (thank you, Philip



Monahan) and had that goal on my bucket list. On this trip in 2011, after research, exploration, and

incredible fishing, I completed it. As a tangible outcome of my personal love of traveling, exploration, trout and fly fishing, it is my greatest achievement. A few pictures are included with this letter.

The goal behind the Wyoming Cutt-Slam is to fish for, and catch, four of Wyoming's native cutthroat trout subspecies in their native waters. Pictures have to be taken of each, then with supporting documentation need to be sent to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Upon receipt of these items, and following review by their staff, Wyoming Game and Fish sends a beautiful certificate, medallion and decal to the angler. If you have contemplated a fly fishing trip to Wyoming and would like to learn more, please reach out - I can't recommend this goal enough. If you are reading this and you have completed the Wyoming Cutt-Slam, also please reach out. I would love to reminisce and compare notes!! This type of camaraderie between anglers is one of the best things about being involved with NETU. In the depths of this winter and the COVID-19 pandemic, we can all use more camaraderie!



All the best to everyone. 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.

Thanks, all, and looking forward to seeing you (virtually!) on February 1st, 2021!

Ben Meade, President

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>

MassWildlife Considering Increasing License Fees

MassWildlife is seeking input from anglers, hunters, trappers, and other interested members of the public and has scheduled three virtual information sessions on February 4, 6, and 9, 2021 that will include a short presentation and an opportunity for discussion.

As you may have heard, for the first time since 1996, MassWildlife is considering an increase in freshwater fishing and hunting license fees. Over the past 25 years, we've been able to maintain high quality services and programs through the responsible management of funds without raising fees. But with inflation up nearly 67% since 1996; increased agency responsibilities; and steadily increasing state-mandated costs, revenue has not been meeting expenses for several years. As a volunteer in our program your feedback is important. MassWildlife encourages you and other interested members of the sporting community to attend one of these sessions to learn more about MassWildlife's programs, how MassWildlife is funded, and why a license increase is needed. After the presentation, you will have an opportunity to ask questions and to provide feedback. You can also provide comments by using an online form or by mail to: MassWildlife Re: License Fee, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

Information Sessions Schedule

- Thursday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m. Join the Zoom session using your computer, tablet, or smartphone by clicking this link with Passcode SghJ6i, or you can join by phone by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering the Meeting ID: 894 4078 3155 and Passcode: 464676 when prompted.
- Saturday, February 6 at 10 a.m. Join the Zoom session using your computer, tablet, or smartphone by clicking this link with Passcode Vv0kX6, or you can join by phone by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering the Meeting ID: 896 0545 9093 and Passcode: 578518 when prompted.
- Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m. Join the Zoom session using your computer, tablet, or smartphone by clicking this link with Passcode u5S0rA, or you can join by phone by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering the Meeting ID: 841 5314 1920 and Passcode: 564737 when prompted.

We hope you can attend. You can find more details at: mass.gov/masswildlife-funding and please feel free to share this information with others in your network.

Thank you,

Susan Langlois

Hunter Education Program Administrator
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581
p: (508) 389-7824 | e: Sue.Langlois@mass.gov
mass.gov/masswildlife | facebook.com/masswildlife

Thank you Fred Jennings for bringing this issue to our attention.

Fishing Local - submitted by Kalil Boghdan

A Wilsons Lodge Experience.

Wilson's Lodge is located 15 miles outside of Greenville, ME, and is on Moosehead Lake at the East Outlet to the Kennebec River. Bob Torkildsen and I have been visiting Wilsons now for several years and we have come to learn that the the wade and drift fishing can be excellent. Below are some photos of trips we have taken and of some of of the fish we have caught. As "fishing can be fishing" we have come to understand that some days are better than others. But for the most part the fishing is pretty good.



The entrance to Wilsons Lodge on the East Outlet of the Kennebec River



Bob netting a nice brook trout.



Bob's brook trout



Heading down river.



Owner and Guide, Scott Snell holding Kalil's trophy 25 inch Brook Trout (released).



It was a great day of fishing.



Bob scoring again.



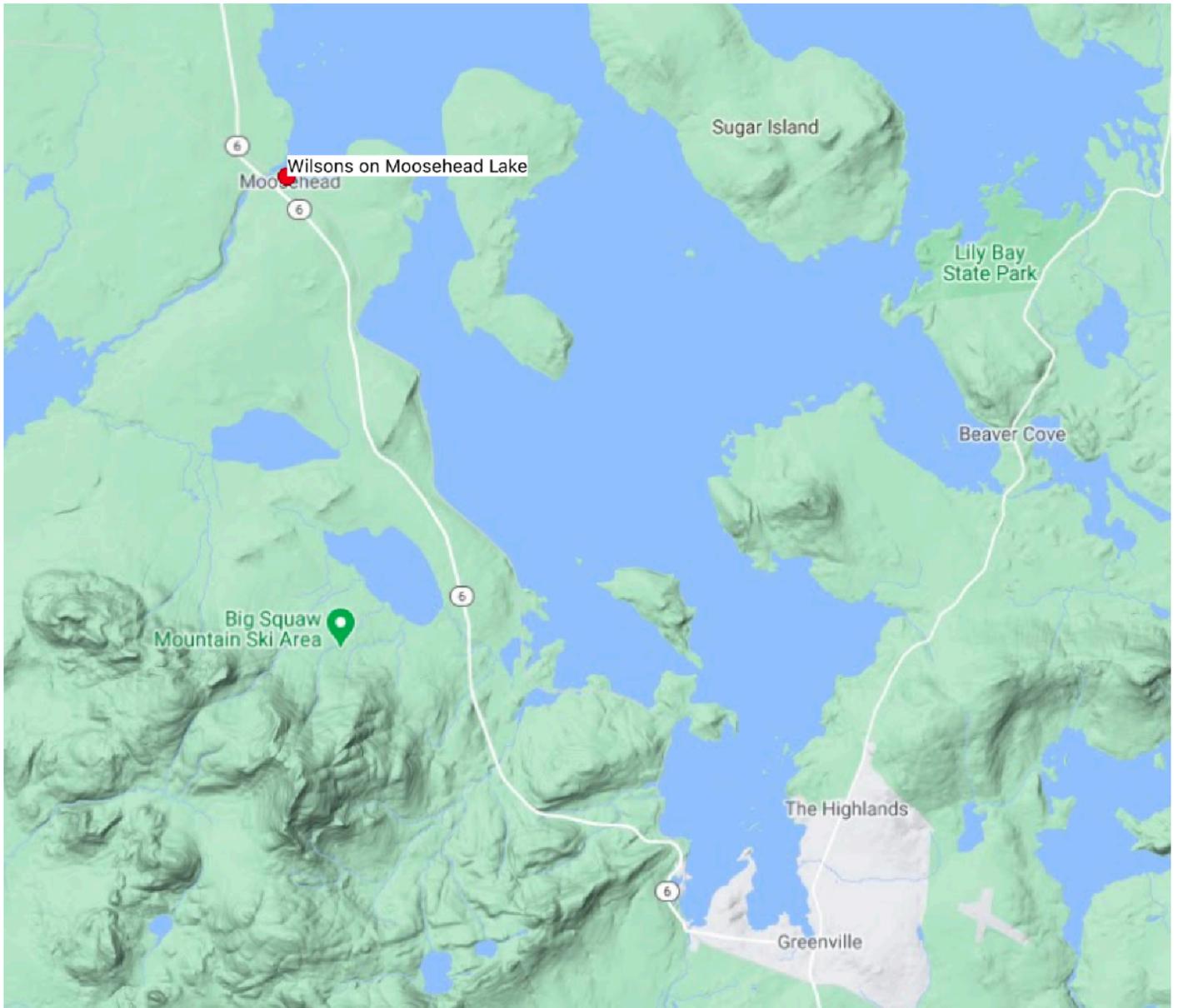
Fishing the West Outlet of the Kennebec River.



The West Outlet is a short but beautiful run.

Wilson's contact info:

<https://wilsonsonmooseheadlake.com> ~250 Mile, 4 Hours 10 minutes Drive.



Fishing Afar - submitted by Greg Murrer

EURO-NYMPHING ON THE MACKENZIE RIVER, OREGON

I regret having missed Tim Flagler's December 7th presentation on Euro-nymphing. That said, I was already an enthusiastic disciple of the practice. It really works once you get used to the nuances of flip casting and carefully watching the multi-colored "sighter line". All of which brings to mind an epic day of fishing on the Mackenzie River in Oregon a few years back with my sister-in-law, Linda. As the visiting fisherman from the east coast, I was allowed to choose who I fished with that day between two of my brothers (Ed and Marty) and Ed's wife Linda. I picked Linda as we have a habit of trash talking each other's fly fishing skills like a couple of opposing NBA point guards (e.g. "cast much?", "how many is that you've missed?", "nice minnow", "mine was definitely bigger than yours", and other comments that cannot be repeated here.) Regardless of how the day went fishing-wise, it was going to be entertaining.



Before launching his drift boat, our guide, Ty, laid down the ground rules. One fisherman at a time in the front of the boat, switching when we wanted, but hopefully after each fish was landed. More importantly he told us to put our rods aside as he wanted us to both fish with his brand new, never been used 11 foot 3-weight (yes somebody really makes these) which was set up with a two-nymph Euro-nymphing rig.* I was a bit wary as I am a lefty and Linda is a righty, but as we discovered, that didn't matter. I was reminded of what a Massachusetts guide once told me when I asked what weight rod I should use when Euro-nymphing: "Doesn't matter. You could tie this rig to a broom handle and it will work." I have to agree with him on that.



The beauty of Euro-nymphing is the absence of false casting and simply the repeated upstream flick of the line, drag-less downstream drift, rinse and repeat. And so that is precisely what we did, with amazing success. Between incessant wisecracks, we each landed more than 30 rainbows (with a few white fish thrown in)

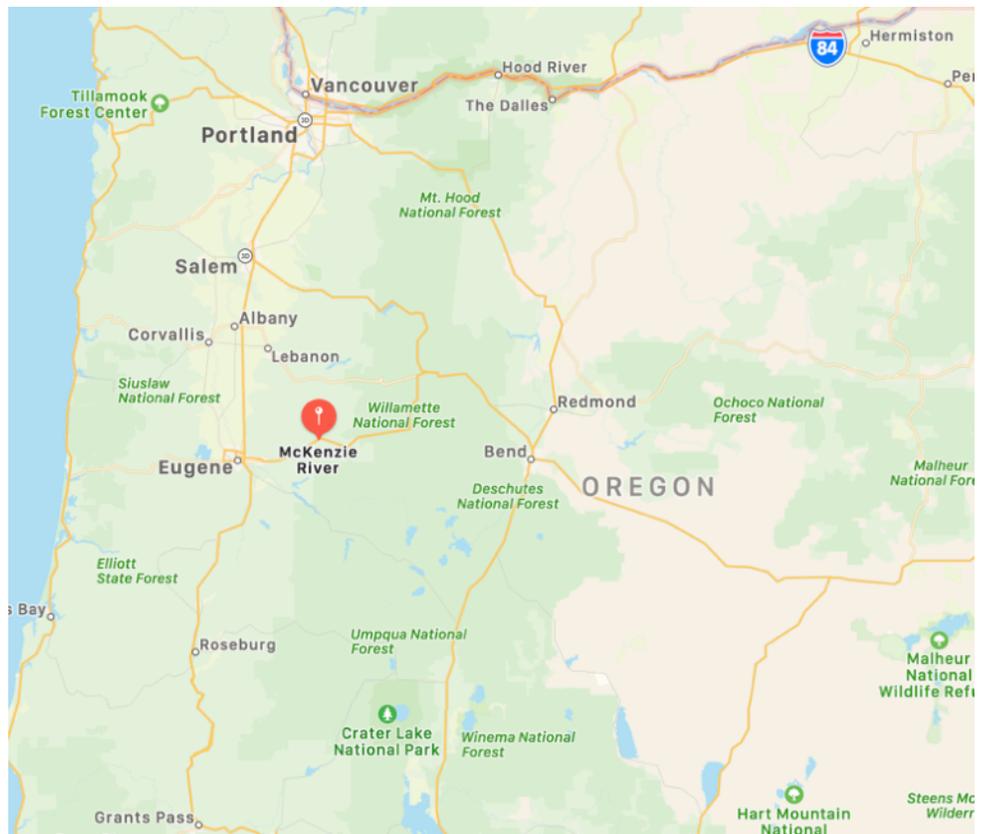
before we stopped for a shore lunch. That afternoon I landed my first rainbow double and nearly had a second before a monster of a bull trout took after the trout struggling on my second fly. During the entire trip I can't recall ever playing a fish off the reel, notwithstanding the fact that every trout was 14" or larger. (Yes, Linda did land the biggest fish). The weight of the Euro-nymphing rig and the long very stiff 3-weight subdued the trout in short order, including an almost even mix of hatchery and native rainbows and a couple of native reddsides. My brothers didn't fair nearly as well fishing dry flies and streamers. So the bragging rights clearly belonged to our team. It was a day of non-stop action that I won't soon forget. My brother Ed finally remarked: "Next time, I get to pick the guide!" Linda and I could not convince him that it was simply a matter of our superior fly fishing skills.



Greg Murrer

*6 ft. of 20 lb. Maxima Chameleon®/3 ft. of 15 lb. Maxima Chameleon®/20" of Cortland sighter line/5 ft. of 5x fluorocarbon to the first nymph/20" of 5x fluorocarbon to the second nymph.

Thanks to Ben, Kalil, Fred and Greg for submitting all the newsletter content. Great job!



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

President – Ben Meade

Vice President – Resume builder (put your name here)

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: Kalil Boghdan

Meeting Dinner Committee Co-Chairs: Ken Washburn, Mike O’Neill

Banquet Committee Co-Chairs: Kalil Boghdan, Bob Torkildsen

Newsletter Editor: Jim MacDougall, pro tempore

Webmaster: Geof Day

Contact Chapter at info@tunoreast.org



There are times when one just has to wait for the hatch.