



# Nor' East Chapter October 2021 Newsletter

## Featured Speaker for October - Jay Riley of New England Riverworks



Jay's presentation will focus on productive techniques targeting late season trout, including a comprehensive breakdown of fall feeding habits, gear, rigs, and patterns to make the most of late season time on the water.

Jay Riley is a full time licensed fly fishing guide and co-owner of New England Riverworks with his wife Carolyn Hawkes Riley. They reside in northeast Vermont neighboring the Connecticut River. Jay can't recall

how early his grandfather gave him a fly rod, but knows by the age of seven he was exclusively fly fishing and tying flies, with no other passion or interest. Growing up in Maine he spent a large portion of his youth in the West Forks. Rivers named Kennebec, Dead, Magalloway, and Rapid shaped him, and two species of fish, Brook Trout and Brown Trout were his complete obsession and almost exclusive focus in life. When Carolyn's husband Jay decided he would pursue a profession as a full time fly fishing guide, the



**ZOOM Meeting**  
**Oct 4,**  
**6 PM**

Speaker begins at  
7:00 PM

Join Zoom  
Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87152750463?pwd=RGUxR2Fxe ktDdHRaeHhQOE dCV0wxdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87152750463?pwd=RGUxR2FxektDdHRaeHhQOE dCV0wxdz09)

Meeting ID: 871  
5275 0463  
Passcode:  
980060

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Treasurer's Report

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**FISH STORY**

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two thought it was important to incorporate guiding and Carolyn's art into one business. The greatest parallel between Carolyn's art and Jay's guiding is the aim to highlight and advocate for rivers and their eco-systems, with Carolyn's art being able to reach an even larger audience.

## OCTOBER 4, 2021, 6 PM REGULAR MEETING ON ZOOM

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Meeting ID: 871 5275 0463

Passcode: 980060

## Speaker Series September through May

Compiled by Kalil Boghdan

Kalil has been putting together our Programs for awhile and he can use your help. If you know of a speaker that you have seen or would like to see, please pass that information along to Kalil. You can email me or Ben Meade and we will pass it along.

### **Speaker Series for NETU - September, 2021 – May, 2022**

**September** - Zoom presentation from 7:00 - 8:00pm by Joe Cresta, President of Malden Anglers, Ambassador for the Museum of Fly Fishing in Manchester, VT, and the New England Regional Coordinator for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program. He will speak on the initiatives of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.

**October** Zoom presentation from 7:00 - 8:00pm by Jay Riley, owner of New England Riverworks. He will speak on productive techniques for targeting late season trout. A comprehensive breakdown of fall feeding habits, gear, rigs, and patterns to make the most of late season time on the water.

**November** Zoom presentation from 7:00 - 8:00pm by Rich Yvon, owner of Twin Maple Outdoors in Bradford Maine. He will talk about what his area of Maine has to offer for the fly angler and the outdoor enthusiast.

**December** - Zoom presentation from 7:00 - 8:00pm by Ben Gahagan, Diadromous Fish Biologist for the MA Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). He will give an update on the status of river herring in Massachusetts rivers for 2021.

**January** - Zoom presentation from 7:00 - 8:00pm by Josh Greenberg, author of the book, *Trout Water* and owner of Gates Lodge, Fly Shop and Guide Service on the Au Sable River in Grayling,

MI. His lodge is just a short distance from where Trout Unlimited was founded in 1959. He will talk about the Au Sable River experience.

**February** - Zoom presentation from 7:00 - 8:00pm by Alberto Rey, 2021 Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide of the Year, the founder/director of the Children in the Stream/4H Youth Fly Fishing Program, a Distinguished Art Professor at State University of New York at Fredonia, and an artist and author. His presentation will be about steelhead fishing in the Fredonia, NY area.

**March** - Zoom presentation from 7:00 - 8:00pm by Dylan Callahan of Concord Outfitters, West Concord, MA. He will discuss flats fishing for striped bass off of Crane Beach and other local waters.

**April** - Zoom presentation from 7:00 - 8:00pm by Casey Dreads of Concord Outfitters, West Concord, MA. His presentation will focus on fly fishing the Clark Fork River in Montana.

**May** - Zoom presentation from 7:00 - 8:00pm by Kalil Boghdan, 2012 Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide of the Year. He will talk about his experiences fly fishing for landlocked salmon and brook trout on the stretches of water of the East and West Outlets of the Kennebec River, leading to Indian Pond. He will also talk about Wilsons Lodge, located on Moosehead Lake in the Greenfield area of Maine.

## Fish Talk

Since we are publishing information about fishing, I thought it might make sense to put that information into a context with TU policy on fishing.

If you are a member of TU and if you have not [read their policy statement](#), you may wish to look it over. As in any public policy statements, it is not a simple document.

A couple of things caught my eye:

“Trout Unlimited, therefore, recognizes natural biodiversity stewardship and ecosystem protection as essential components of our coldwater fisheries' mission (Trout Unlimited 1994). Indeed, salmonids often serve as “flagship” or “indicator” species in this broader framework, due to their sensitivity to environmental quality, position as top aquatic predators, and high visibility to the public.”

“Support harvest measures that reduce by-catch and that do not significantly deplete wild or native populations of concern. Advocate the mass marking of all hatchery salmonids as a priority action for the implementation of selective fisheries.”

“Hatchery production and stocking are appropriate in the context of conserving and restoring native salmonid biodiversity and natural ecosystems, but use of hatcheries should not be substituted for proper management (based on the other 3 H's), which aims to restore self-sustaining wild and native salmonid populations.”

That is all well and good but what should I do in my daily life or along the shoreline to help achieve maintenance and restoration of coldwater fisheries? If I catch a non-native fish in my trout stream, what should I do? Should I be promoting the economy that supports a non-native fishery? Should I install water conservation fixtures in my house to save more water? Can I afford an electric car, or can I afford to wait another year while my old car warms the planet? Can the fish in the river survive another year of warming?

What I think I need is for TU national, the Ipswich River Watershed, the Merrimack River Watershed, NOAA, Mass. Marine Fisheries and Mass. Fish and Wildlife tell me, in one voice, what actions I can take to save the wild native fish of the Nor'East region and hence the health of my river. Jim MacDougall

# President's Corner

**Ben Meade, President**

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.

Happy fall! A beautiful time of year for sure. Hopefully you have spent some time on our local waters – either freshwater or saltwater or better yet both! The early fall is such a sweet spot for productive fishing – enjoy it when you can!

NETU had a very successful project kick off this past spring. We initiated a river herring count on the Mill River in Rowley. With the enthusiastic go-ahead from longtime NETU friends and Mill River riverfront landowners Barry and Cheryl, NETU set up a herring count for the spring river herring spawning migration. All things considered, it can be considered a success! Setting up this count was truly a group effort. It involved design and construction of the visual counting board, permitting through the Rowley Conservation Commission, attending trainings for verification of proper sampling methods, the permission and support of riverfront private landowners, and the time and observations of numerous volunteers.



As summarized by Greg Murrer, the herring count uncovered the following information:

“There were **58** observations and a total of **2296** herring observed moving upstream across the Walsh viewing board. The largest single observation was by the Governor's Academy students on May 19<sup>th</sup> (**296**).

Note that the data shows three distinct surges of migrating herring each sharply separated by a five (5) day period. These seem to roughly correlate to high tide/full moon events occurring four to five days prior to the observed surge. Also note that the greatest presence of herring occurred May 19-21 when “thousands” of herring were present and spawning not only in the pools downstream of the viewing board but also in the Jewel Mill race. As many of these herring chose not to cross the viewing board, they are not included in the total count. Their presence suggests that the real count may have been significantly greater than the 2296 shown in the attached summary.”

NETU intends to conduct this river herring count again in spring of 2022. As with this year's data, we will provide our data to the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) for their use.

DMF relies on other volunteer visual herring counts across the state to monitor river herring populations. While many of these visual counts are located on the South Shore, a more local example is [on the Shawsheen River in Andover](#).

In my mind, this Mill River river herring count embodies what NETU can bring to the table for conservation projects in our region. Construction and permitting assistance, financial resources, recruitment and coordination of volunteers, and the relationships with private landowners that

makes it all possible. We will be spreading the word about the 2022 herring count over the winter. If you would like to assist and help us count herring, please be in touch!

All the best to everyone. As always, please don't hesitate to drop me a line – I would be happy to hear from you.

## Board Members

The health of the Chapter is dependent on mindful people who make contributions to what we do which is develop friendships with people who like to fish, make improvements to fish habitat and try to address some of the degradation to cold water fisheries. We are lucky to have these folk volunteer their time and expertise. Their collective effort is what puts good programs in front of you every month and generates the successes in restoration and advocacy that garners respect from the public.

### The full slate:

James Goodhart	4/2/2019 – 4/2/2022
Mike O'Neill	4/2/2019 – 4/2/2022
Bob Torkildsen	4/2/2019 – 4/2/2022
Chett Walsh	4/2/2019 – 4/2/2022
David Walsh	4/2/2019 - 4/2/2022
Josh Rownd	1/1/2020 – 1/1/2023
Ben Meade (President)*	1/1/2020 – 1/1/2022
Vice President (Open)	1/1/2020 – 1/1/2022
Secretary (Open)	1/1/2020 - 1/1/2022
Peter Vandermeulen (Treasurer)*	1/1/2020 – 1/1/2022
Fred Jennings	4/2/2018 – 4/2/2021
Geoff Klane	4/2/2018 – 4/2/2021
Floyd Maker	4/5/2021- 4/5/2024
Ben Shea	4/5/2021- 4/5/2024
Carl Soderland	4/5/2021- 4/5/2024
Spencer Belson	4/5/2021- 4/5/2022

## Conservation Update

Howlett Brook restoration has taken one step closer to reality. On September 23, the Select Board of Topsfield voted to approve the replacement of the Pond Street culvert at the outlet of Hood Pond. The old culvert acts like a dam to the migration of alewives into this natural pond, a significant historical spawning site for these river herring. Without this replacement, the entire restoration efforts for the Ipswich River would be ineffective. Kudos for surmounting this latest hurdle to completing this project should go to Neil Shea, the new restoration ecologist at the Ipswich River Watershed. Let's hope he can continue to work his magic to complete this project by August 30, 2022. That is the date when grant moneys expire. If you bump into Neil, please give him a pat on the back. And you should appreciate the power of your Chapter in helping out. The Chapter provided hundreds of hours of professional expertise and \$20,000 of matching funds to complete the funding. Without which, this project would not happen.

## **Fish Stories:**

# **Fishing the Mattawamkeag River for Smallmouth Bass**

By - Kalil Boghdan, 2012 Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide of the Year.

Nor'East TU Chapter members Kenny Washburn, David McCauley, and I had the opportunity several years back to fish the Mattawamkeag River for smallmouth bass.

The Mattawamkeag River (or "Keag" as it is called locally) is a river in Maine. From the confluence of its East Branch and West Branch in Haynesville, about 10 miles west of the Canada–United States border, the river runs 50.6 miles south and west to its mouth on the Penobscot River in the small village of Mattawamkeag. This village is 13 miles north of Lincoln, ME.

When we fished the Keag, it was running a little on the low side, but nonetheless it had nice runs, pools, and sections holding smallmouth bass. From the town of Mattawamkeag there is a dirt road the runs 8 miles alongside the Keag and ends at a campground. From this campground one can work the river back along the road stopping to fish at various sections.

Four to six weight rods with floating line are appropriate with poppers, crawfish patterns, or wooly buggers rounding out what is needed.

The following photos show what this river has to offer. It is definitely worth trying.



**A nice smallmouth bass coming to hand.**



Running a little low but still with nice pockets here and there.



One just knows that this run is holding fish.  
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David McCauley working some quiet water.



A good example of what the “Keag” holds.



**Kenny Washburn working a crayfish pattern through a pool.**



**This pool held several very hungry smallmouths.**