Fishing the Au Sable River, Michigan

Meeting Speaker: Josh Greenberg, Monday January 3 at 7 PM on Zoom (sidebar)

Josh Greenberg is the author of the captivating book, *Trout Water*, and is also the 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.

Josh shared why he settled in Grayling, MI. As he stated, “I was born in Ohio, but raised on whatever trout stream my dad could steer the family caravan towards. We eventually settled on the Au Sable as our home river, via a summer cabin, and I’ve never left. My wife and I purchased Gates Lodge in 2011 - a leap of faith, and a leap into debt. We’ve got two sons, three bird dogs, and a variety of other pets: somewhere between a zoo and a farm. I write from a love of reading everything, including but not limited to fly-fishing.”

Chapter member, Ken Washburn writes, “Excellent choice for a speaker/presentation. I lived in Michigan many years ago and fished its rivers, especially the Au Sable, often staying at Gates Lodge owned at the time by Cal and Mary Gates. The Au Sable is a rich and unique river with with unbelievable insect hatches and picky trout, mostly browns and brookies who seem to have PhDs on how to avoid being caught unless fooled by an equally educated fisher guy with the correct imitation.

I learned a lot while fishing there, and I am sure all of us will also learn much as well as be entertained by Josh’s presentation. He’ll likely have a shot or two of the home of George Griffith’s, just down river from Gates Au Sable Lodge, where he and a couple of other concerned fishers founded Trout Unlimited in 1959. I joined in 1975…….yikes!”

Contact Info:
President Ben Meade:
Benjamin.K.Meade at Gmail dot Com
Newsletter submissions:
Jim MacDougall, jm3 at iCloud dot com
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 New Year to all!

As I write these words, we are in the last days of 2021 and 2022 is on the horizon. I think we can agree that hopefully the year 2022 will be brighter than 2021! As the phrase goes, time will tell. While 2021 had its challenges, I have heard from fellow anglers – and especially through my NETU friends – that the year certainly had its bright spots when it came to fishing!

On a personal note, 2021 meant the return – after a one year hiatus – of the annual Tim Pond fishing trip. Every June, a group of about twenty of us travel to Tim Pond Camps near Eustis, Maine for a weekend of fly fishing for brook trout and camaraderie. This annual trip got its start in the 1960’s when my grandfather and one of his close friends began to take their sons fishing in Maine every spring. The destination of the trip has shifted over the years – from near Baxter State Park, to Rangeley, and now to Tim Pond - where the location has remained since the early 1980’s.

It is always an awesome weekend. The fishing is almost always excellent. Tim Pond is home to a healthy population of native, self-reproducing brook trout. In my opinion, they are the most beautiful fish on Earth. Along with the fishing, many of us in the group only see each other this one weekend a year. So, there is always more than enough to talk about, and the trip is a cherished opportunity to reconnect with friends and family. After a cancelled trip in 2020, the beauty and importance of this annual tradition – a reunion, really – came into sharper focus this past June.

Within the next couple of years, I intend to invite my oldest daughter Adelaide on this annual fishing trip. Even if no fish are caught, I look forward to explaining to her the importance of connecting with the people we care about, and how an annual fishing trip is about so much more than just catching fish.

All the best to everyone. As always, please don’t hesitate to drop me a line – I would be happy to hear from you. Ben Meade
Craig Andree, TU Nor’East Member
Offering Two Fishing Classes

WORKSHOP ON BUILDING TIGHT-LINE / EURO LEADERS
Saturday, March 5, 2022

at the Ipswich River Watershed Association Headquarters located at 143 County Rd (Rt 1A),
Ipswich, MA 01938

TU Nor’East Chapter is happy to announce a clinic on March 5th from 9:30am to noon on building tight-line or Euro leaders. All participants will leave with a leader or two that they have built themselves. The clinic will include a discussion on a sighter and its purpose, tippet rings, and especially focused on knots and connections. All materials and tools will be provided and in order to cover the costs of the materials, a nominal $5 contribution is appreciated. Please register in advance so we can plan on supplying the materials and equipment. If you need magnifiers to tie flies or knots, bring them along.

If you are interested in attending this workshop, please RSVP Craig Andree at candree@comcast.net by March 1, 2022.

Introduction to Fly Tying
This class will take place at Camp Paradise over two nights: Monday, February 28th and Wednesday, March 2nd. 6:30pm-8pm both nights.

This workshop will teach novices the art and science of FLY TYING. The focus is on the fundamentals of how to create an “artificial lure,” commonly called a “fly,” which represents an imitation of what a fish would eat in nature. We will talk about the tools, materials, supplies and techniques needed to create a fly. Furthermore, we will discuss basic entomology and how it will relate to the flies you will actually tie.

All participants will leave with flies that they have tied that can be used on the river or lake.

Fly tying is perfect for the creative person in addition to the fly fisher who loves keeping their boxes filled. To creative minds, designing flies can be a never ending puzzle.

All equipment and materials will be provided. If you have a vise and tools, you are encouraged to bring them.

$30 per person. Space is limited! CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!
About the instructor: CRAIG ANDREE has been an avid outdoorsman and fly fisher his entire life. He has climbed all of the New Hampshire 4,000 footers as well as Half Dome in Yosemite and Mt. Lassen in Volcanic National Park. He has guided clients on the Allagash Waterway and the 100 Mile Wilderness. Craig has fly fished throughout the United States and has been teaching fly fishing and tying for the last decade. Craig lives in Peabody

Chapter Member, Spencer Belson, from Andover has his own fishing Blog and Web page

Click here to read Spencer’s take on our guided tour of Howlett/Pye Brooks in December

It all starts with a passion.

Fishing is one of the few activities that combines athletics, art, strategy, and knowledge. In other words, it is addiction no matter what you excel at. I got a taste of this dangerous drug at a fairly young age at my favorite remote lake in all of Maine. That first small fallfish sparked an
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** - Hybrid meeting 6:00 - 8:00pm Members night of pizza, kibitzing and tying flies. Speaker bailed out on us last minute. Meeting place is the Ipswich River Watershed office at 143 County Road in Ipswich. We are trying to figure out how to have an in-person meeting and a Zoom meeting for those members who cannot make the meeting. So have patience and tune in or drive over for the pizza and good company. If you tune in, bring your own pizza.

**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 Dreeds 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 Craig Andree. His presentation will focus on “Tight-line or aka Czech Nymphing”. He will discuss riggings, equipment, and techniques - sighters versus strike indicators. The use of mono “substitute” fly lines as well as the mono and braided core lines made for tight-line nymphing rather than the use of traditional fly lines will also be discussed.
Hood Pond, Pye Brook, Gravelly Brook - Dec. 4 recap

Once again, with Carl Soderland’s suggestion, another field trip and little adventure was planned. This time we visited the Hood Pond Culvert (in Topsfield), the Pye Brook Culvert (in Topsfield) , and the Gravelly Brook confluence into the Ipswich river in Ipswich, MA.

Chapter member, Jim MacDougall, explained the importance of the need to correct the inadequacies of these culverts in order to create undisturbed connectivity of waterways. By accomplishing this important environmental task, it will allow diadromous fish to be able to make their journey back and forth from the ocean to Hood Pond without having to try to maneuver over or around barriers. This enlightened all of us to just how important our Nor’East Chapter of Trout Unlimited efforts are towards this project, and also to our other past projects. The volunteer output of our members and also the financial donations made by our Chapter towards this and past projects are remarkable!

We thank Jim and Dr. C and all that ventured out this brisk morning to learn more about our cold water conservation efforts. Stay tuned, as I think Dr. C might have another little adventure in mind for us.

For the Good of the Order,
Kalil Boghdan
NETU Chapter Member

PS: Tour of the lower Ipswich River will take place on January 8.
Weather looks promising. Meeting time will be around 9 AM but will be posted on the web page. We will meet at the Ipswich Mill Dam. Parking near 65 South Main St. or in the parking lot for the Police Station, 54 South Main Street.
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
(Open Seat) 4/2/2019 - 4/2/2022
Josh Rownd 1/1/2020 – 1/1/2023
Ben Meade (President)* 1/1/2020 – 1/1/2023
Ben Shea (Vice President)** 1/1/2020 – 1/1/2023
(Open Seat) (Secretary)* 1/1/2020 - 1/1/2023
Peter Vandermeulen (Treasurer)* 1/1/2020 – 1/1/2023
Fred Jennings 4/5/2021 – 4/5/2024
Carl Soderland 4/5/2021 – 4/2/2024
Geoff Klane 4/5/2021 – 4/2/2024
Floyd Maker 4/5/2021 – 4/2/2024
Spencer Belson (Director-At-Large) 4/5/2021 – 4/5/2022

*Two-year Board membership upon appointment as Officers
**Takes vacant VP seat with remaining term to 1/1/2022