



Nor' East Chapter

April 2022 Newsletter

Casey Breeds - Habitat Restoration and Fishing the Clark Fork River in Missoula Montana, April 4, at 7 PM on Zoom (sidebar)

The Clark Fork in Missoula is a diverse fishery with trout habitat and pike habitat. Casey will discuss the removal of the Milltown Dam and the superfund site cleanup just upstream of Missoula. Trout Unlimited played an important role in the restoration of turning a polluted reservoir back into a pristine trout stream. Like some of our rivers, there is controversy in dam removal. Pike that were in the reservoir have now spread throughout the river system. To some it is an exciting new fishery, to others it is the end of the trout fishery.

Casey has been fly fishing for over 20 years, mainly exploring the remaining wild lands of New England - from Northern Maine's fabled brook trout streams to Rhode Island's beaches. His favorite river is the West Branch of The Delaware River for its selective trout and demanding angler skill set. He has worked for The Orvis Company as a fishing and store manager before coming to Concord Outfitters In West Concord, MA. He enjoys hosting trips and sharing his love of the sport.



MEETING

APRIL. 4TH

6 PM

Speaker at 7 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89091599706?pwd=TEQzaWx4L0VhQ2YwMWRKQW9MQ2Fzd09>

Meeting ID:890
9159 9706
Passcode:715147

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

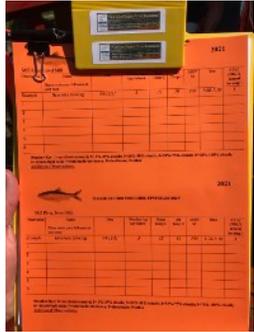
Dear fellow Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited Members,

Happy April and happy spring! NETU has a lot happening this spring – including counting river herring! Help spread the word!



Count Herring, Mill River, Rowley

Volunteers are needed, and no experience is necessary. Standing next to a river looking for river herring is an enjoyable way to spend a few moments. If you are interested in helping, please keep reading!



On the Mill River in Rowley last spring, NETU set up a herring count on the property of landowners who are friends of the Chapter. NETU volunteers, the landowners, their friends and family, and students and teachers from the Governor's Academy counted 2,296 river herring that passed over our specially designed visual counting board last spring. These count observations were sent off to the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). DMF relies heavily on volunteer herring counts statewide to understand the health of the state's river herring populations.



Josh Rownd (red cap) and Chett Walsh install counting board.

If you are interested in counting herring this spring on the Mill River, please contact me at Benjamin.k.meade@gmail.com or (603) 724 7828. Since the Mill River herring count takes place on private property, I will connect you with the property owners to talk access specifics. Count materials will be set up in late April and the count will run through mid-June.



Willowdale Dam Fishway, Hamilton



NETU also maintains and adjusts the fish ladder at the Willowdale Dam on the Ipswich River. At the request of DMF, NETU will set up the resources for **volunteers to record herring sightings at this location as well**. Unlike with the Mill River location, this location is on publicly-owned land, held in trust by Essex County Greenbelt. The fish ladder is adjacent to the Willowdale Dam on the south bank (river right) of the Ipswich River – the opposite bank from the Foote Brothers Canoe Rental business. Parking is available on Winthrop Street at the parking area for the Willowdale Mill Reservation. Follow the trail along the river upstream to the dam and fish ladder. Count materials will be set up in mid-April. This herring count at the Willowdale Dam will help to compliment the herring count undertaken by the Ipswich River Watershed Association and volunteers at the Ipswich Mills Dam.

Also, a word of advice: If you head out to count river herring, bring kids along if you can. I took my preschool-age daughters last spring to count herring on the Mill River. They were enthralled with seeing these fish dart upstream, and this outing made for some cherished father-daughter moments.

All the best to everyone, and thanks – in advance – for your herring count assistance this spring. As always, please don't hesitate to drop me a line – I would be happy to hear from you. Ben

Volunteer Doug Aylward, all around great guy!

“Dougie Aylward is a high school kid from Rowley who has been keeping the fish ladder chambers cleared during the late fall & winter months. Dougie is the son of Charlie Aylward, a good friend of mine and an active participant in many of our TU field activities. He was actually 11 when he helped with the initial install of the stay-frame board system.

Dougie is active in his school's environmental science classes and is happy to help keep up with debris clearing until springtime.

His father Charlie has also participated in several TU ventures, assisting me and others with consulting advice on our larger projects as he is an expert on safety, rigging planning for the culvert at Crooked Pond Brook, fabricating the new heavy-duty stay-frames that are submerged in the fish ladder chambers.

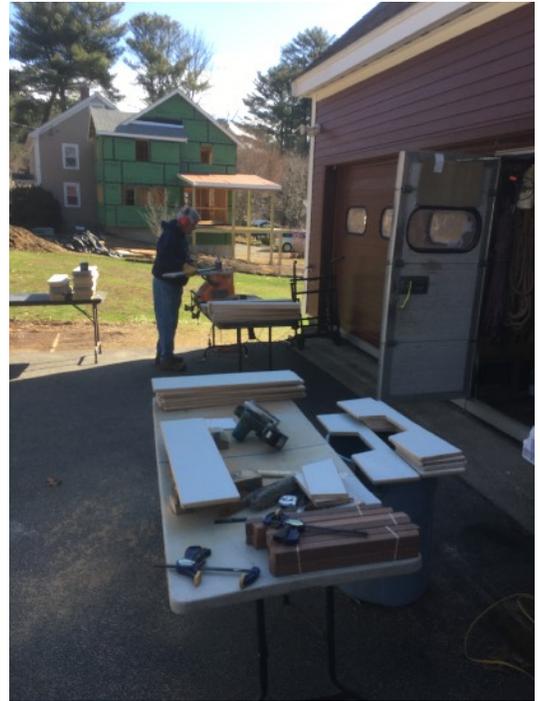
It's great to see other like-minded outdoors folks pitching in, small acts add up over time and our TU group and IRWA are both grateful for the help of anyone out there. As it was explained to Doug, often the best deeds can happen quietly in solitude. Dougie has been clearing the chambers sporadically for years when on hikes, this fall he had approached me about doing it steadily every 3 weeks or so.

This spring we will be replacing the batter boards and hopefully our aquatic friends will use the fish ladder system to Migrate upstream beyond the dam to the many miles of the Ipswich River.” Chett Walsh



More Work for Willowdale Dam

The boards that are used for adjusting the flow of water in the fish ladder are in need of replacing. Our chief fabricator, Chett Walsh, volunteering from Shawmut Design and Construction, took on the task of building us some new ones. Chett reports: "Last Saturday, my friend Carl Soderland helped me fabricate the new batter boards for the Willowdale Dam Fish Ladder system. Carl helped with a lot of the repetitive tasks of rounding over corners and router-rounding all 8 edges of the many boards. TU now will have ready: 16 @ 8" // 16 @ 6" // 16 @ 4" and 12 @ 8" with flops-notches. The notched top boards have an additional brace of Ipea (that is a type of wood) for added longevity. All new materials are taped up in 4-unit bundles for ease of transporting."



Dr. Carl Soderland putting on the final touches.



Kalil Corner

My Favorite Surface Flies for Smallmouth Bass

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

It never ceases to amaze me how many fly boxes, loaded with a multitude of flies, I carry in my fishing vest. Somehow I get the “feeling” that I am going to need all of them, especially if it is trout I am after. I am not sure why I feel the need to carry all of these patterns . . . but maybe you have somewhat of an idea of what I am talking about. When I stop and think about this, I would hazard to guess that I probably rely on a half dozen or so patterns of favorite-go-to flies. That is because they have consistently produced trout for me.

When I go on a smallmouth bass outing, I breath a little sigh of relief. Why? . . . because I have come to appreciate the simplicity of the “fly” selection I need to carry. In my smallmouth bass sling pack, I have a fly box with a small



An example of the fly box of surface flies I carry in my sling pack.

selection of subsurface flies and a fly box of surface flies. These are flies that I have come to have faith in, flies that have consistently produced smallmouth bass. For me there is nothing like the explosive take on a surface fly or popper by smallmouth bass. It is because of this I predominately fish for smallmouths with surface flies or poppers.

The following photos show five of my five favorite go-to flies for smallmouth bass. You may also have your favorites, but the selections below have proven themselves to me over and over again.

When fishing these flies or poppers, one of the mistakes that is often made by me, and maybe others, is not letting the fly or popper sit and settle once it lands on the water. Resist the urge to begin stripping in the fly as soon as it lands on the water. My advise is, once the fly/ popper lands on the water, and there is not an immediate strike, let it settle there for awhile. Let things quiet down. Very often a bass is looking at it and has not made the commitment to take it. With a soft retrieve, twitch the fly without moving it too far out of place. If this does not elicit a strike, do some soft short retrieves and move the fly or popper a short distance. If still nothing, then begin a slow and erratic retrieve moving and stopping the fly. If the popper has a concave face, make quick strips to create a popping motion. If nothing happens then recast and try again.

These are my favorites.



This Damselfly fly imitation is probably my most favorite and most productive smallmouth bass fly. When it lands on the water let it settle in and sit quietly before stripping it in slowly. This particular pattern is on my list of flies to learn to tie.



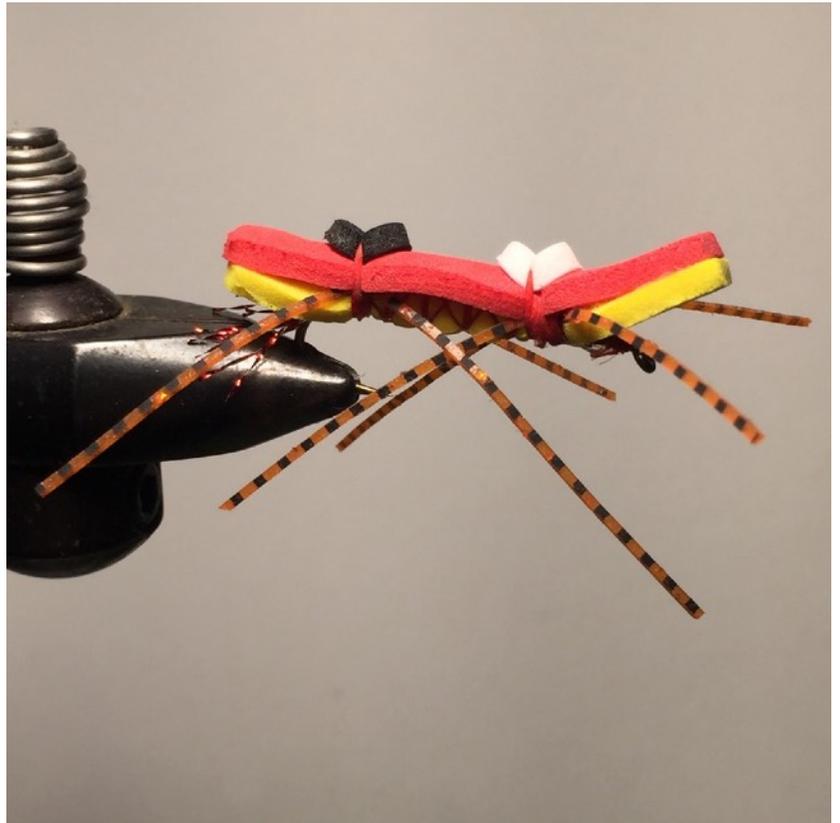
When weeds become a problem, this Orvis weedless bass popper (notice the weed guard) helps prevent weeds fouling the fly. This fly can be cast right into lily pads and can be worked quietly so as to not snag them.



BoogleBug poppers come in many colors, but the Damsel fly color is extremely productive. This color and those of other colors works not only well on still water, but are also very effective on rivers and fast water.



The Sneaky Pete (popper/slider) is highly productive. Fish it by sliding it in a soft and slow left to right erratic retrieve.



This particular foam fly pattern and color has been very productive for me and has proven itself when my other favorite flies have not been attracting strikes. Foam patterns should not be ignored. (This particular fly was tied by me)

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 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 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.

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**

The smallest deed is better than the greatest intentions.



Dolores Boghdan at work.

The bulk of the Chapter's work is shouldered by a few people and their families. Please step up to the plate and help out. We need Board members, conservation project chiefs and crew, a newsletter editor, a web page master, stories for the newsletter, fishing reports around Essex County, a secretary, and a program coordinator. The people who accomplish deeds for the benefit of the Chapter and the local fish are getting weary doing all the work while 570 Chapter members sit at home not offering to lift a finger. The Chapter is what you make it. We can make our fishing better if we all pitch in or we can sit at home and complain there are no more fish. If you have gotten to this point in the Newsletter, you obviously care. Please consider helping. We need it. Contact Ben Meade, President.

Jim MacDougall, editor, web master, corresponding secretary and project advocate.