



Nor' East Chapter

May 2022 Newsletter



May 2
Meeting at
Ipswich
River
Watershed
with
food!!
5:30 PM

Craig Andree - Tight-Line Nymphing (aka Czech Nymphing) at 7 PM in person and on Zoom (sidebar)



Our last TU chapter meeting before the summer break will be held live on Monday, May 2, at the Ipswich River Watershed Association located at 143 County Road, Ipswich, MA 01938. We will begin at 5:30pm with a cookout that will include hamburgers, Italian sausages and other foods all provided at no charge by our chapter (please BYOB). There will also be a bucket raffle preceding our 7:00pm speaker.

Did you ever get a strike while subsurface fly fishing and at that moment of

MEETING

MAY 2ND

5:30 PM

Speaker at 7 PM

Join Zoom
Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84456603820?pwd=eVFNa1kwR29WNjgwU0xGTnBrOGR4UT09>

Meeting ID: 844
5660 3820
Passcode: 357685

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com

excited glee, when you have enticed a fish, it turns into that sinking feeling because you were too slow to set the hook and you missed the set. More than likely you did not have a tight line with your hook! You had slack in your line from the hook up through the leader and fly line to the rod tip. This is what caused a delay in your set, and is where tight-line nymphing comes into play.

May's meeting presentation will focus on Tight-line or aka Czech Nymphing. The focus will be on equipment, riggings, flies, sighters versus floating indicators, and other techniques. In addition, Craig will talk about substituting the traditional fly line in favor of mono "substitute" fly lines. The point of tight-line nymphing technique is to significantly improve keeping your flies in the trout feeding/lying zone. It will allow for improving strike detection, allowing one to cover more water, and to improve successful hook-ups.

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 fly tying for the last decade. Craig lives in Peabody.

So, please join us for what should be a fun way to kick off our summer break. If you have any question, please contact Kalil Boghdan at downrivercharters@comcast.net

President's Corner

Ben Meade, President

Dear fellow Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited Members,

Happy May and happy spring!

Parts of two Saturdays in April were dedicated to NETU field activities in and around our local rivers and streams. These "boots on the ground" activities are looked forward to by many, and for good reason! They provide camaraderie, a shared goal, many laughs, and a sense of accomplishment. All good things!

On April 9th, Chett Walsh led a group of NETU volunteers in installation of the new tuning boards at the Willowdale Fish Ladder along with a cleanout of the fish ladder chambers. NETU has been leading this effort for years and thanks to NETU and its efforts, river herring that reach the Willowdale Dam are able to ascend past the dam.



Ben Meade and Chett Walsh and a great guy from Rowley, April 9.

Second, on April 23rd, NETU volunteers installed the fish counting board on the Mill River in Rowley. Last year, a total of 2,296 river herring were counted by volunteers at this location. The counting board provides the contrast needed to view and count the well-camouflaged river herring as they swim upstream.



Floyd Maker, Josh Rownd, Ben Meade and Carl “DrC” Soderland installing counting board in Mill River, Rowley.

Volunteers are needed to help count herring at both of these locations. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me at Benjamin.k.meade@gmail.com and/or (603) 724 7828. The month of May is the heart of the herring run in our region, so please reach out if you are interested!

Also, while not an NETU effort, a river herring count on the Shawsheen River in Andover is also occurring this spring. This river herring count takes place at the pedestrian bridge just downstream of the Atria Marland Place assisted living

facility at 15 Stevens Street in Andover. This herring count is interesting because it is documenting – before our very eyes – the increasing numbers of river herring ascending the Shawsheen River after the removal of the Stevens Street and Balmoral Dams in Andover over the winter of 2016-2017.



Shawsheen Herring Count

The common thread between these three herring count efforts in our region is the critical involvement and importance of volunteers.

The state and federal agencies that implement the policies to manage and monitor fresh and saltwater fish species need data from you to help make the best decisions. If you feel even the slightest desire to get involved in a science effort, please do so. Counting herring in our region is one such opportunity! It involves watching a river and counting fish during the spring months. How tough of a sell is that?!?!

Lastly, I will leave you with the words of Jim MacDougall - NETU newsletter editor, web master, corresponding secretary, project advocate, professional wetland scientist, dedicated NETU volunteer, and overall great guy: *“We can make our fishing better if we all pitch in or we can sit at home and complain there are no more fish.”* There is no better way to put it, and the choice is clear!

All the best to everyone. NETU is always looking to grow our active membership and we welcome everyone who wants to chip in. As always, please don’t hesitate to drop me a line – I would be happy to hear from you.

Deerfield River TU

Bear River Habitat Restoration Project

by Carl Soderland

One of the great things about retirement is that when someone calls you to fish or an interesting opportunity arises, you can say “sure”. This is not a luxury I had while practicing medicine in Ipswich for 42+ years. So, when an email from Eric Halloran from the Deerfield River TU arrived asking for volunteers Sunday, April 24, 2022, to help with habitat restoration on Bear River, a tributary of the Deerfield River in Conway/Ashfield, Massachusetts, I said “sure”. I have never fished the Deerfield, Swift, Miller or any other rivers in Western Massachusetts and it sounded like a great introduction to that area.

The Bear River is a beautiful, cold water stream that flows through valleys, woods and farmland and is a very important tributary of the Deerfield River, allowing a cold water refuge for trout in the summer when the Deerfield River warms up. On February 27, 2017, a Level 1 tornado touched down in Goshan, lifted several miles and then touched down in Conway, carving a 5 mile path of damage. More than 12 homes were damaged, a 300 year old barn was demolished, and hundreds of trees were snapped, including a large swath along the Bear River. This destruction of a large number of trees along the Bear River, as well as the work of beavers, had left areas along the river without the protective canopy of shade, allowing the heating of the river during the hot summer months. It was to this area that the Deerfield River TU and Eric hoped to restore habitat and help local brook trout and the downstream rainbows and browns.

Sunday AM, when you are retired, is a great time to travel in Massachusetts. Rt. 128S (I know, now Rt. 95 or is it Rt. 93?) to Rt. 2 was carefree. I never know when Rt. 2 becomes the Mohawk Trail and why it is called the Mohawk Trail since the Mohawk River is west of the Hudson. But somewhere along the way there are signs telling you that you are following the Mohawk Trail/ Rt. 2. Once Rt. 2 becomes 2 lanes the Millers River appears on the right a short distance before Erving Industries. Erving Industries is a large factory complex appearing in the middle of nowhere and, according to Google, manufactures tissue and travel grade parent rolls (whatever that is) from 100% recovered paper. Who knew? But sounds like good for the environment.

The Millers River was high, with lots of rapids and several white water kayakers. I wondered about fishing there later in the season. After a short ride on Rt. 91S and over a bridge spanning the lower Deerfield River, Rt. 116 winds along the Mill River, eventually the South River and in Conway, you turn on a winding ride through beautiful hilly farmland and eventually come to the Bear River.



We were greeted by a smiling and very appreciative Eric Halloran with a large box of donuts from a farm stand and hot coffee. These were not your usual Dunkin Donuts a cup of Joe. My conversation started with a couple who looked roughly my retired age. She had never heard of TU, surprised it was a national organization, and asked what we did. She was very anxious to learn more about TU and habitat restoration. They spent a fair amount of time hiking the area. There were probably 25 volunteers, at least 5 of them were women. The group was of mixed ages. We learned that there will be a class of local 5th graders planting seedlings in a nearby area on Monday.

Armed with shovels, crow bars and picks we all followed Eric along a fenced in meadow, along ancient stone walls and piles of very large stones, left here by the glacial retreat and that had been moved out of these greening meadows probably 200+ years ago. Hard to image how or with what. A climb over the stone wall and through a gradual sloping deforested section brought us to a wonderful stream, about 20 feet across, with fast running, clear water dotted with small brook trout fry. What the tornado had not destroyed, the beavers had. There were dozens of 12 inch high, 1-2 inch in diameter spikes dotting the riparian area of the river. The blow downs were gone, I suspect harvested. But the beaver had cleared what was left behind from the tornado and had had their way.

It was obvious that the Deerfield TU members who had organized this project had done a great deal of pre-work. This was private land and we had crossed another private section of land owned by another owner. TU members had worked with the land owners informing them of the value of this project and had received their permission to cross their land. Plantings were on private property.

There were 100 seedlings in pots that had been carried down the day before and many had been placed along the bank in approximate locations for planting. They had done their homework. They had worked with New England Wetland Plants, Inc. and had carefully thought about what would be appropriate. These were all native plants and chosen carefully to add value to the habitat. A fellow was introduced as an arborist from University of Massachusetts and the plants had been placed with larger potential trees a bit further back.

From the invoice:

2 Red Maple

3 Yellow Birch (substitute for River Birch)

2 Sycamore

3 Black Spruce (substitute for Black Willow)

10 Buttonbush (substitute for Alder)

20 Red-osier Dogwood (with pussy willow)

20 Silky Dogwood (includes Beebs Willow)

20 Winterberry

20 Northern Arrowwood



That's 100 potted plants to dig holes for. The old adage, many hands make light work, still proves true. With about 25 volunteers, the holes were dug, plants planted and new plantings watered in less than 2 hours. I still looked around and wondered how they were not going to be a nice dessert for the local beaver. But advanced planning and numerous cages were made and staked around many of the seedlings, giving hope that "Bucky Beaver" will not be able to feast on these young inviting plants.

It was a great morning, well-planned, and well-thought out. People were there to do

something good, to help nature, to improve stream habitat, to provide cool, oxygenated water for trout. Everyone was smiling and had a sense of a job well done. Eric and the Deerfield TU members had planned this well and seemed pleased with all the volunteers. I don't know how many were Deerfield River TU members, but I sensed, many were not.

I had my rod and waders with me but, somehow, I wanted to leave the trout alone. I wanted to leave the habitat at peace. I had worked a couple of hours to make life better for them. Somehow, it didn't seem appropriate to cast a fly and disturb that peacefulness. Fishing for me has become more than pursuit of a squaretail, brown or rainbow trout, a striper or bonefish, but more about the habitat the fish live in, the balance of nature, the sounds of spring and the people that I fish with. Watching caddis and stoneflies hatching on the Ipswich River this week, watching the eddies and foam lines of moving water, the sounds of birds in the back ground, the croaking of a frog, the sound of flowing water, friends who know so much more about nature than I gives me that sense of being part of nature, not dominating it. Sunday was a part of a bigger scheme, of the balance of our lives and the world we live in.

Thank you Eric and the Deerfield TU for a great day in western Massachusetts and on the Bear River. I look forward to visiting this stretch of Bear River and watch as these seedlings grow. Maybe next time I will wet a line.

Kalil Corner

The Most Influential Person In My Development as Fly Angler

By Kalil Boghdan

2012 Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing guide of the Year



Arthur Taylor
B.S.
Science

It was 1954 and I was twelve years old. My seventh grade science teacher lived a couple of houses from me. He was a sportsman, and enjoyed hunting and fly fishing. My oldest brother was friends with him and when Mr. Taylor came to visit, or when my brother took me along with him to Mr. Taylor's home, I listened intently to their stories.

Mr. Taylor - he seemed so much older than this photo shows. Ahh - through the eyes of a youth . . .

Mr. Taylor transitioned to the high school and became the ninth grade science teacher. I was so happy to be in his class again and there were times in class when he would get sidetracked and would regale us with stories of field and stream - now those were lessons I never forgot! There were also so many times during the spring trout season that Mr. Taylor would load five eager and young fishermen into his huge green Pontiac and take us for an after school fishing outing to a local stream. There were no permission slips needed and all we did was inform our parents as to where we were going and with whom we were going with. I am not sure if this kind of thing goes on today, but I am grateful to Mr. Taylor in so many ways.

Now what is your story? Jot down one or two paragraphs as to "*Who was the most influential person in your development as a fly angler?*" and send it to me at downrivercharters@comcast.net If you have a photo, please send it along also. I will then pass this on to our newsletter editor for insertion in one of our newsletters in the September 2022 to May 2023 publication year.

Happy angling to you!

Kalil Boghdan

Notes from IRWA Presentation

"A Tale of Two Dams"

April 19, 2022

As part of the ongoing effort to remove the Ipswich Mills Dam, which has served as an impediment to the migration of anadromous fish, IRWA hosted a hybrid presentation Tuesday evening, April 19, 2022. Though the numbers of migratory fish in the Ipswich River used to number in the tens of thousands, the numbers of alewife and blueback herring have dwindled to a few hundred or less and American shad are unable to navigate the Ipswich Mills Dam fish ladder. Few American eels are seen and almost no brook trout called salters.

A group gathered at True North Ale Company and many of Zoomed in to hear presentations from Kristen Murphy, Conservation and Sustainability Planner for the town of Exeter, New Hampshire; Amy Singler, Director River Restoration American Rivers; and Neil Shea, Restoration Program Director IRWA.

#1 Kristen told about the town of Exeter, New Hampshire's experience removing the Great Dam. The Great Dam was a head of tide dam on the Squamscott River/Exeter River in the center of downtown Exeter, surrounded by businesses and residences. It had been connected to the Exeter Mills and a vital part of the Exeter economy for hundreds of years. The mills are gone and that area is now residential.

The timeline presented:

1981-Town of Exeter owns the dam

2000- Letter of deficiency from NH DES. Board of Selectmen form River Study Committee including volunteers, abutters, Phillips Exeter Academy and Conservation Committee members to work with NH DES, NOAA, Fish and Game and local conservation groups.

2006-Mother's Day Flood (100 year flood)

2007-Patriot's Day Flood (100 year flood)

2008-2010- Study Committee reviews 4 alternatives for the Dam including doing nothing, partial removal, reinforcement of existing dam and total removal.

2011-Dam removal feasibility and impact analysis. Started informal and formal outreach sessions. Complicated process. River Study Committee listens, shares and learns.

2012-2015-Political issue. Chairman of Board of Selectman moved to remove the dam. 2 town characters started a citizens petition putting removal of the dam to a vote, needing a 3/5 vote to remove. Town votes by large margin to remove the dam.

2016- Dam removal begins. Messy, noisy, dusty. Broken apart piece by piece. Very dry summer causing concerns. The water level is so low people question: was it the right thing to do removing the dam. The river became a trickle. However, low water helped the contractor do their work. Water returned. Rapids noted. Naysayers came around.

2017-2021- Visual changes with seasons. Positive environmental changes.

2021- Very few herring made it up the fish ladder prior to dam removal. >100,000 herring noted at the bridge in town after removal. Opened 21 miles of Exeter/Squamscott River to the migration of fish. Town celebrates the return of alewife creating a festival of celebration. Has a waterfall in town now. Positive return of the sound of flowing water and falls. Pickpocket Dam remains upstream. Fishing counting camera has difficulty because of so many returning eels. In 2017, it was the first time fish could migrate without the dam in 400 years. The “river was free once more”.

- I did find a wonderful documentary on <https://exeterhistory.org> telling the story of the dam and removal. It is very sensitive to the history of the river and the attachment people have to the dam.

#2 Amy Singler told us that many dams are obsolete, not maintained but still impact rivers and affect fish and wildlife passage. She talked about river processes, the need to improve water quality, O₂ levels and to manage sediment and nutrients. Removing dams can improve flood resiliency, the environment for aquatic and terrestrial life and create improved economy and recreation. By 2021, 1800 dams have been removed in the US.

#3 Neil Shea from IRWA updated where the process of removal of the Ipswich Mills Dam is by giving a brief history and current status.

2006- Assessment of all the dams on the Ipswich River

2014-Pre-feasibility study, flooding impacts and EBSCO foundation considered.

2014- Bathymetric study done

2015-16- Full feasibility study done

2020-21- Updates to study done on-line. It was noted that the Ipswich River is in the 95% for restoration value of all rivers on the east coast from Maine to Virginia. 49 miles of the Ipswich River will be restored to fish passage with removal of the dam and other obstructions being improved. The fish ladder at Willowdale Dam is being maintained by Nor'east Chapter TU, a fish ladder is being installed by the state at the dam on Howlett Brook and the culvert is being replaced at Pye Brook improving access for fish to Hood's Pond.

The water level above the dam will be lower after dam removal and the water level below the dam will remain the same. Passage for fish, wildlife and opportunities to recreate will be improved.

The USGS gage at the Willowdale Dam correlates with ground water level at EBSCO and at local wells. This knowledge helps design plans. It is thought that the Zone of Influence for sediment will be the Choate Bridge and tidal influence to the railroad bridge.

The risk to EBSCO buildings continues to be studied using ground penetrating radar. A mitigation plan is being formulated for EBSCO. Pre-permitting work is being done. Wetland delineation will be done in the summer of 2022. Notes of meeting by Carl Soderland.

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 - Finally an in-person meeting 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. **Free food!!**

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**