



Nor' East Chapter

September 2022 Newsletter

Fall Striper Fishing is the Best!

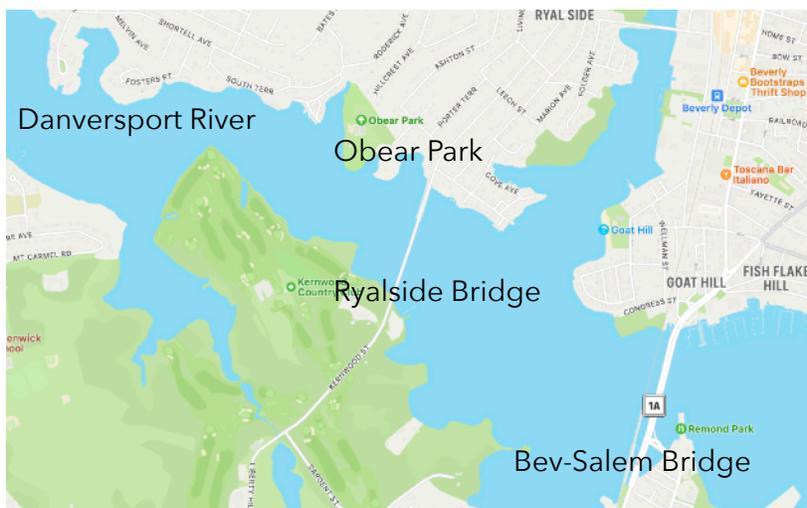


Ben Meade with a nice schoolie. Josh Rownd photo

Happy October!

With the fall striped bass migration season underway, we are in the narrow and amazing window of time where the fall fishing can be fast and furious. With that in mind, early on Sunday morning September 25th I met fellow NETU Board Member Josh Rownd for a few casts at Obear Park in Beverly. Bob Torkildsen from NETU also joined us to practice his photography skills and to say hello.

If you are looking for a local place to cast a fly for a striped bass or two, Obear Park is a



Meeting
Oct 3rd
6:00 PM

Speaker at 7PM

Board Meeting 8PM

At the Ipswich River
Watershed HQ
143 County Road
Ipswich

In Person or Join
Zoom Meeting

[https://
us02web.zoom.us/
j/86188597405?
pwd=WjF2ZUVuYk
c1MkhUVmlGMFdl
WThFQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86188597405?pwd=WjF2ZUVuYk c1MkhUVmlGMFdl WThFQT09)

Meeting ID:861
8859 7405
Passcode: 796522

Contact Info:

President Ben
Meade :
[benjamin.K.Meade
@gmail.com](mailto:benjamin.K.Meade@gmail.com)

Newsletter
submissions:
Jim MacDougall,
info@tunoreast.org



Josh Rownd, geared up for some stripers on the Danversport River, Beverly.
Bob Torkildsen photo.

great option. Access and wading are straightforward, there is plenty of room for a backcast, and there are often some fish around. While I am very close to the vest about fishing locations and resist spot burning, Obear Park is well known enough already that I am happy to pass it along as a suggestion. Another great thing about Obear Park is that if you are a beginner or novice saltwater angler it is a great place to hone your skills. Aim for the first 2-3 hours of a flood or ebb tide, and early in the morning or on an overcast day if possible.

While we didn't have the most productive of mornings - only one striper was caught - it was a very enjoyable outing. Winds were light and the air temperature was comfortable. There were enough splashing

stripers around to remind us that there were fish to be caught - even if we weren't catching! At one point Josh found himself waist deep in the water and surrounded by a feeding school of striped bass. Alas, the fish were clued in to their real quarry and Josh's imitation did not receive any interest. That's how it goes sometimes!

This is what it is all about. Feeding fish, great company, and excellent weather - all for a few hours on a Sunday morning a short drive away. I even made it home in time to accompany my family on an apple picking excursion before lunch.

If you are looking for information on more local fishing options, our members are a wealth of knowledge. NETU will be gathering on October 3rd at IRWA and over Zoom. NETU is always looking to grow our active membership and we welcome everyone who wants to attend a meeting and see what we are about. Our members also like to fish together - as I am happy to write about - so please join us!

As always, please don't hesitate to drop me a line - I would be happy to hear from you. Hope to see you on October 3rd! Ben Meade, President of Nor'East Chapter.

Kalil Corner: Meet Thom Baltz, Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide and Nationally Known Freshwater Fly Tyer

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

If one wants to wade fly fish for trout, one needs to look no further than Thom Baltz. I first met Tom Baltz over twenty years ago at one of the fly-fishing guide rendezvous sponsored each year by the Orvis Company. At these rendezvous over hundreds of guides from around the country and from countries around the world would converge on a host city such as Missoula, MT, Asheville, NC, Manchester, VT, etc. It definitely is a blast being amongst these wonderful guides in the fly-fishing industry.



Thom getting ready for a day on the Limestones.

Year for 2021 and has had articles written about him in fly fishing magazines. With that said, and not to diminish the saying, Thom was on my bucket list to fish with. When I called Thom this past June and said I would like to fish with him for two days in mid August, he was right up front with me and said that this was not an optimum time to fish his waters. When I said that this was the only time I could fish with him this year, he said, "We will make it work and we will get into fish." I said I was not interested in numbers of fish, but rather the experience of fishing with him. Needless to say, the rest is history - we fished the Yellow Breeches and Big Spring. The wild browns of the yellow Breeches were jewels and the rainbows of Big Spring were acrobatic. It was an amazing two days with a calm, soft spoken, and incredible person. Thom is now on my bucket list once again for next spring where we might try the famous LeTort. Thom can be contacted at baltzte@aol.com

Early on at one of the rendezvous, my hotel room was adjacent to Thom's, and our association and friendship began there. I promised myself that I would eventually hire Thom and fish his beloved and famous limestone streams of the Boiling Springs area of Pennsylvania - the Yellow Breeches, the LeTort, Big Spring, and the other limestones in the area. Thom has guided for approximately 50 years and shows no signs of slowing down. When he is not guiding his beloved Limestones, he can be found as a featured fly tier at the numerous national and local fly fishing shows around the country.

To say he is legendary, would be an understatement. Thom was named the Orvis Northeast Trout Guide of the



Thom has you covered with the flies you will need. Every fly in his fly boxes are tied by him.



The beautiful water of the Yellow Breeches



The wild jewels of the Yellow Breeches



Big Spring - several miles of Big Spring have been restored by the local TU chapter in the area.



The wild rainbows of Big Spring

Help! Raffle Items Needed

Can-do Bob Torkildsen can't do it alone. He asks us all: "Would everyone please be on the lookout for items that can be used in our monthly bucket raffles. As everyone probably knows, the bucket raffle profits help to offset the cost of the food served at the meetings and sometimes puts a couple of dollars into the general fund. This has been a non-issue for the last couple of years while meeting over zoom. Items don't have to be "fishing" related. Could be tools, books, almost anything that would have general interest. Items should be "gently" used in pretty good shape. Items could have come from a spring/summer clean-out of a garage or basement. Please contact me at your earliest convenience if you have any items or questions on a particular item. Thanks to all in advance." Editors note: send emails to info@tunorest.org and I will forward them to Bob.

Volunteer Training

Within the TU national web page are some very nice instructional presentations on how to become a TU leader. If you wish to volunteer, you could find some help by visiting the Volunteer Tacklebox page at: <https://www.tu.org/get-involved/volunteer-tacklebox/>

Speaker Series September through May

Compiled by Kalil Boghdan

I am pleased to announce the guest speaker series for our chapter for the upcoming year. The speakers have a wealth of knowledge in fly fishing and also in the conservation of our natural resources. It is our hope that you will either attend our in-person meetings or tune in via Zoom. Except for September, our meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at the Ipswich River Watershed Association Headquarters located at 143 County Road, Ipswich, MA 01938. Our evenings begin at 6:00pm with a wonderful dinner prepared by our resident chefs. The speaker portion of the evening begins at 7:00pm followed by the board of director's meeting shortly after the speaker's presentation at around 8:10pm.

Several of the speakers for this year are traveling considerable distances to present to us in person. Your attendance and support of your TU chapter and its endeavors will truly enhance its mission.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

September 12, 2022: Several members of the NETU Board of Directors will share their fly fishing experiences that they participated in this past summer. This should prove to a fun and informative evening of presentations.

October 3, 2022: Ben Gahagan, Diadromous Fish Specialist for the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. Ben will share information regarding the state of herring runs in the Northeast part of Massachusetts. More information to follow.

November 7, 2022: Bob Romano, Registered Maine Guide. He will share his experiences and expertise guiding in the Rangeley area of Maine. He is the author of several books, short stories and essays for various publications. More information to follow.

December 5, 2022: No speaker. Traditionally, this evening is set aside as a social evening with a complimentary meal followed by fellowship and fly tying.

January 2, 2023: Carl Soderland, fly fishing enthusiast, fly-tyer, and current member of the Nor'East Chapter of TU. Carl will share his week-long experience fly fishing for trout on the Smith River in Montana.

February 6, 2023: Christopher Jackson, fly fishing guide on the Deerfield River, the Swift River, and other rivers in the western part of Massachusetts. He was a board member of the Deerfield River Watershed Chapter of TU. He authored an article in the August/September issue of the Fly Fisherman magazine. The article is titled, Going Wild. Chris will talk about the efforts to create optimal river and environmental conditions on the Deerfield River to promote and support a wild brown trout population. More information to follow.

March 6, 2023: Ethan Bourque, an associate of Concord Outfitters of West Concord, MA. He is also a fly-fishing guide, youth fly fishing instructor, and an environmentalist. Topic to be determined

April 3, 2023: Brenda Sears, saltwater striper guide on Cape Cod, Registered Maine Guide in the Rangeley area, fly fishing instructor, author of numerous articles, board member of several major charitable organizations, and in the off season, a traveler in her motorhome fly fishing around the country. Topic to be determined.

May 1, 2023: Art Howe, current member of the Nor'East Chapter of TU will speak on the important topic of Fishing Safety. Details to follow. 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**

Parting shot - Fall Fishing

I whole-heartedly endorse Ben Meade's call to get out and enjoy the fall striper fishing. As you can see by his article on page one, the fishing is challenging at times but can be very fast. The venues are spectacular during the early morning hours. And it is in your own backyard. For my years of fishing locally, nationally and internationally, fall fishing for stripers in Essex County is as good a fishing as you will find anywhere. It is world-class.

The fishing locally in freshwater is becoming more challenging, especially during a severe drought. You have to move to the lakes and ponds for warm water fish like the non-native basses, crappie and Bluegills. The trout are struggling to find cool enough water to survive. You have to seek out some of the hidden access points to the cool streams of southern New Hampshire or western Mass. Some of our members do just that, but it takes years of trial and error to find these special reaches and runs.

So if you are hankering to wet a line, your best bets this week and next are to head to the coast. There is good fishing south of Cape Ann along the pocket beaches of Rockport to Lynn. It can be hit or miss but if the stripers are corralling pogeys in these coves, the fishing can be phenomenal. We have members who like to use light tackle and some who like to spin cast. The norm (my norm) for fly fishing is a 9 weight, 8-9 foot rod with a sinking line. The leader can be short, 4-8', 20 pound tippet, fluorocarbon. Pick a streamer fly like a Lefty's Deceiver or a Clouser. Light colors for day and black for night. If it is pogeys they are after, a Tabory slab side or a Rich Murphy foam fly works well. Be very careful on the slippery rocks. Korkers are recommended. JSM editor.

