



# Nor' East Chapter

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## February 2023 Newsletter

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### Synergy

Dear fellow Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited Members,

Happy February!

It is these cold days of mid-winter that make me most appreciative of our monthly NETU meetings.

At the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, Dr. Carl Soderland gave an amazing presentation about his float trip on the Smith River in Montana last summer. It was absolutely riveting. At times, I felt like I was almost there with Carl, casting for rainbow and brown trout below 1,000 foot tall cliffs of limestone. His talk was wide ranging, with details provided on the history/geology/ecology/hydrology of the Smith River, to the logistics of the trip, to the accommodations, and - of course - about the excellent quality of the fishing! His pictures were incredible, too. It was a real treat to hear about such an experience and from someone whose boundless enthusiasm flowed with every word. His presentation was well-attended, too. I counted 24 in-person participants and a handful on Zoom. The room at IRWA was full and, as NETU President, I am always pleased to see new faces in the crowd! I can't say it enough - we welcome anyone and everyone to attend our meetings!

At its core, NETU is a group of people who enjoy fly fishing and who want to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for the sport. Individually and collectively, there is a wealth of knowledge about fly fishing amongst the

members. A case in point: Prior to the start of Carl's talk, I asked John LeJeune about fly fishing for bonefish. In no time, he directed me to the "bible" on this topic - appropriately titled "Fly Fishing for Bonefish" by Dick Brown - and shared some anecdotes about how and where to catch them and what flies to use.



Meeting

FEB 6th

6:00 PM

Speaker at 7PM

Bucket Raffle 8 PM

At the Ipswich  
River Watershed  
HQ

143 County Road  
Ipswich

In Person or Join  
Zoom Meeting

[https://  
us02web.zoom.us/  
j/83000657222?  
pwd=Z284NnhDcE  
Z4REVxTFo4R1V  
SVFVVUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83000657222?pwd=Z284NnhDcEZ4REVxTFo4R1VSFVYVUT09)

Meeting ID:830  
0065 7222

Passcode:887839

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Kalil Boghdan chimed in with his recommendations on flies and even kindly offered to lend me some from his collection.

Without NETU, it is unlikely that John, Kalil, and I would even know each other - let alone to be able to share an engaging conversation about bonefish together. I am truly appreciative of their willingness to share their knowledge and for the collective camaraderie.

If you are an angler (or an aspiring angler!) and want to learn more about almost anything fish-related, join us at one of our meetings or at NETU's fundraising banquet on March 11th! We hope to see you on February 6th at IRWA when we will be fortunate to hear from Chris Jackson and Kevin Parson about the Deerfield River. Hope to see you there!

Ben Meade, President

(Editor's note: Dick Brown, Bonefish guru, used to live on the Parker River in Newbury and has since moved out near Lancaster, MA. A true gentleman and past presenter for one of our monthly meetings.)

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**Monday, February 6, 2023**

**Gathering of The Nor'East Chapter of Trout Unlimited**

**Dinner at 6:00pm**

**Speaker at 7:00pm - with Chris Jackson and Kevin Parsons. "A New Beginning for the Deerfield River - A New Federal Energy Regulatory Commission License and What it Means for the Deerfield"**

Chris and Kevin will be presenting via Zoom from Charlemont, MA. Although Chris and Kevin will be presenting via Zoom From Charlemont, MA, we will still gather live at the Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA)

located at 143 County Road, Ipswich, MA 01938. We will begin at 6:00pm with a dinner



prepared by our resident chefs, Kenny Washburn and/or Mike O'Neill (please BYOB). At 7:00pm following the dinner and the raffle organized by Bob Torkildsen. If you are unable to attend in person at IRWA, a Zoom link is provided on page one.



The Deerfield River Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited has successfully negotiated for increased wintertime minimum flows for the new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the Fife Brook/Bear Swamp facility on the upper Deerfield. This presentation will touch upon the work, the science, and the strategy that carried the day as well as the the positive impacts on the river that this agreement will provide, such as increased spawning success, increased habitat, better hatches, and a chance to turn the upper Deerfield into a Wild Trout Management Area (WMA).

Upon completion the presentation, Chris and Kevin will be pleased to answer questions regarding the fishery itself from a guide's perspective.

Christopher Jackson is a fly fishing guide, writer, and conservationist. Christopher has been featured on the fishing show, *On The Water TV*, and has

written articles that have appeared in *Fly Fisherman* and *On The Water* magazine. He is a founding board member and former Vice-President of the Deerfield Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited. He has spent the last ten years on the TU negotiation team for the new FERC license for the Fife Brook Dam/Bear Swamp Pump Storage facilities on the upper Deerfield. Christopher resides in Charlemont, MA, and spends most of the season guiding on the Deerfield, the Hoosic, the Swift, and the Connecticut Rivers. His website is [Chrisjacksonflyfishing.com](http://Chrisjacksonflyfishing.com).

Kevin Parsons is a founding board member of the Deerfield Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited, as well as a former President of the chapter. Kevin was instrumental in fundraising efforts that helped finance our Brown Trout Spawning Study - a study that provided critical data on wild trout spawning in the Deerfield River, and the deleterious impact of the flow regime from Brookfield Energy's Fife Brook Dam on spawning efforts. Kevin was also part of the FERC negotiating team for TU that successfully completed the new FERC license for the Fife Brook/Bear Swamp facility - resulting in new wintertime minimum flow increases to protect trout spawning areas on the upper Deerfield. Kevin has recently joined the board of *Keep Fish Wet*.

## Fundraising Banquet March 11 at Danversport Yacht Club

Attention ALL MEMBERS. We are excited to announce that on **March 11<sup>th</sup> at Danversport**, we will resume our in-person fundraising **banquet**. You can now buy your tickets on our web page, <https://www.tunoreast.org/banquet/>. They are \$45 per ticket with a choice of a seafood or chicken dinner. The committee has acquired some excellent auction items which are generally a real bargain and you are supporting the Chapter's conservation projects and activities.



A taste of some Banquet Auction items: African Photo Safari, Guided fishing trip Sebago Lake, Maine, Leland fly rod (7', 4wt, 4 piece.), plus more rods, reels, flies, books, flannel, food, packs, artwork, and Chett's famous handcrafted mirrors.

Please express your appreciation to Josh Rownd, Kalil Boghdan, Ben Meade, Bob Torkildsen, Michael O'Neill, Carl Soderland, Spencer Belson, Floyd Maker, Chett Walsh, Andy Williams, Fred Jennings, Art Howe, Quentin Beckett and Geoff Klane for putting in many hours and/or collecting and making donations to make this Banquet special!

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## Do you really want to help trout?

I asked Chris Wood, president and CEO of Trout Unlimited this question and here is his reply:

"I would encourage you to visit our [webpage on climate change](#). It outlines TU's position on our shared concern in detail.

Adaptation and resiliency are critical elements of our national climate response, and TU will continue to engage in this work to help native fisheries bear the impacts of the climate crisis. We also understand that limiting GHGs in our atmosphere is ultimately the only way to hit net-zero targets and avoid the worst climate scenarios. That's why TU has vocally supported the [Energy](#)

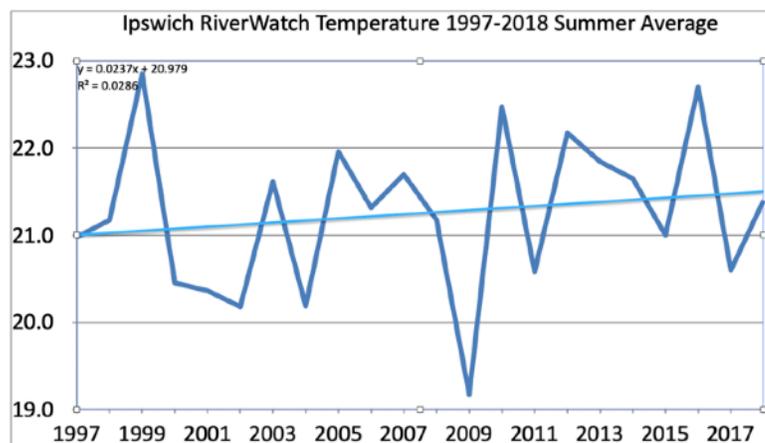
Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, which would apply a market-based tax on CO2 emissions across all economic sectors.

And last year, TU worked hard to help Congress enact two historic bills on infrastructure and climate. These new laws will provide nearly \$500 billion in climate-specific funding over the next decade, including money for watershed resiliency, aquatic passage, drought, and flood management. But the legislation extends far beyond fish and wildlife conservation, by establishing new programs for clean energy, green manufacturing, electrification of our transportation systems, carbon capture and storage, and much more. Please [check out this blog](#) for more information on why TU supported these transformational new laws.

Finally, I should note that TU is fortunate to have many active members who, like you, understand climate change represents an immense threat to coldwater fisheries. Our grassroots-led [Climate Change Working Group](#) has put together some excellent resources on this front and is always looking for new volunteers. We need more climate advocates in our ranks, and I would encourage you to consider getting involved.

On a personal note, as someone who bikes to work and installed solar panels on our home, I appreciate your admonition about the personal steps we all need to take to make a difference. I will think through writing about that important topic. As you know, there is a fine line between lecturing to people and trying to live out a positive example!" Chris Wood.

I will add to Chris's comments. It saddens me deeply that a crisis like global warming, caused by us, has become a political pin-pong ball. Regardless what color hat you wear, it is real. I have visited the melting glaciers in Alaska and witnessed the thawing of the permafrost. But closer to home, the Ipswich River Watershed Assoc. has been measuring the temperature of the water in the Ipswich River since 1987. It became a full-fledged scientific protocol in 1997. Here is a normalized graph of summer temperatures with trend analysis. The trend is going up hence the Ipswich River is getting warmer. We don't really need a graph. All we need to do is go fishing in the river. Other than fish stocked in the Spring, there are no wild trout left in this river system. Our eDNA study in conjunction with Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition and Univ. of Maine has shown there are no trout in the coldest and best tributaries of the river.



So what am I doing to address this crisis? My wife and I are trying to reduce our use of fossil-fuels. Back in 2005, we made a pledge to stop flying for recreation and vacations. We stay local for both. Plus, we built our house with passive solar gain (1984), we put solar hot water panels on our roof to augment our domestic hot water (2011), we added PV solar panels on the garage to supply all your electricity (2013), we grow much of our own food, organically, and we strive to

limit our use of water to 40 gallons per person per day (pumping water takes a lot of energy and extraction dries up the river.) If the price of an electric car becomes reasonable, we will be investing in that technology as well. In the mean time, we have reduced our number of miles driven per year by 40%.

I can tell you we did all these things to save the trout, but that wouldn't be entirely true. I really did this to save money. I am a tight-wad at heart, a true fiscal conservative. With the money I saved from not buying propane and electricity, my capital outlay for solar panels, solar gain and energy conservation have returned a 9% dividend for the past 38 years. That is a better return on an investment than a promise from Bernie Madoff. And that dividend will only grow as utilities costs increase.

If we honestly care about restoring coldwater fish like trout, and/or truly care about the future of our children, we will have to make changes in how we live. Changes that are smarter, reasonable, maybe different but should secure a future for children, trout and one's wealth. Jim MacDougall



## Wading Boots Review by Craig Andree

Oh no. Splash! Hope you have your wading belt on; the water is winding its way down inside your waders soaking all your clothing. Now your socks are soaked and your feet are sloshing from the cold stream water. Your day on the water might be shortened as you start to shiver.

The best medicine is preventative. Not falling. One of the best ways to avoid falls is to have the right foot wear.

There are many options in the wading boots arena. You can get boots with Vibram soles for Simms boots, Kling-On sticky rubber soles for Korkers, felt soles, soles with cleats or studs, and after-market crampons. There are a lot of options in the market place.

The following YouTube video will help you make a more informed decision on what options are available in selecting wading boots and boot add-ons. Enjoy. <https://youtu.be/QEjQJzo7Hg>

Editor's note: Check out the debate over felt soles and invasive species [here](#).

## 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. No show. In his place a round-table discussion between Board of Directors of the Nor'East Chapter of TU and its members on how to increase membership involvement with the chapter.

**November 7, 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.

**December 5, 2022:** "In Search of Wild and Native Trout in the US" by Dave Parry. His presentation documents his travels out west from New Mexico to California to Wyoming. There are about 25 subspecies of Cutthroat Trout, Rainbows, Redbands, and Golden Trout. Each has adapted and evolved to be a perfect match for their environment. The decline of these beautiful species and, in many cases, their return are amazing stories. The efforts of the federal and state governments, TU, WNTI, and many other groups have been Herculean.

**January 9, 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!!

## Please volunteer

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. The core of this club is a few people like you who volunteer their time and expertise. Our 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. Any amount of time you can spare makes a difference.

## Parting Shot - Your help needed



The web page guy needs your help. [We have started a page to show where you can legally and happily access fishing waters in Essex County.](#) To make this information useful, it would be nice to have recent photos, comments and recommendations about the areas that are on the map. Right now we have mostly public access areas for salt water fishing. We will start to include fresh water sites as we have time. Send all emails to: [info@tunoreast.org](mailto:info@tunoreast.org)

Thanks, Jim MacDougall