



Nor' East Chapter

April 2023 Newsletter

TU Nor'East Honors Conservation Action by Ben Meade (TUNE President) and, Robi and Skip Tobin at March 11 **Banquet**, Danversport Yacht Club

TU Nor'East Chapter uses the annual banquet to recognize exemplary volunteer efforts that advance the conservation of fish habitat. One award (Conservation Award) is given to a person or group outside the Chapter that have achieved noble goals to improve our ponds, lakes and streams. The second award (Correa-Lejeune Service Award) goes to a member who has made significant contributions to the Chapter.

Conservation Award

This year the Chapter awarded Skip and Robi Tobin of Ipswich their Conservation Award. Skip and Robi have restored Hood Pond in Ipswich/Topsfield. The Pond had been invaded by very aggressive invasive aquatic plants that if not controlled would have eliminated Hood Pond as a natural and historic spawning ground for migratory herring and other native fish. The Tobins recruited the Mass. Dept of Conservation and Recreation, the Ipswich River Watershed and the neighborhood to attack this invasion with expertise, fundraising and persistence. Over the past 14 years, the Tobins have amassed \$124,000 to fund eradication methods which have removed the populations of Chinese water chestnut, Cabomba, and Eurasian water-milfoil. They have spent many summer days hand-pulling water chestnut to speed its demise. Hood Pond, one of Essex County's truly natural ponds, has been saved by their efforts. We thank Skip and Robi with this Award. Robi and Skip are both active fly-fishers. Robi is a member of Trout Unlimited and the Chapter.



Fred Jennings recognizes Robi Tobin for Saving Hood Pond Habitat.

Meeting
April 3rd
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/82173955835?
pwd=UGlRQ0cxV
WRyT010TGtFdH
FMVnlVUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82173955835?pwd=UGlRQ0cxVWRyT010TGtFdHFMVnlVUT09)

Meeting ID: 821
7395 5835
Passcode: 662741

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The Correa-Lejeune Service Award

The C-L Service Award was given to Ben Meade, the Chapter President for the past 4 years. Ben has kept the Chapter on track through a pandemic. When larger, more professional organizations sputtered and faltered, Ben kept the Chapter moving forward by organizing remote meetings to keep members engaged through the unknown of a world health catastrophe. He made monthly contributions to the Newsletter to keep people upbeat and informed, kept the Board of Directors engaged, and ran the herring counts at the Jewell Mill on the Mill River, Rowley. All this and holding down a demanding full time job and raising a young family of little fisher people. When Ben agreed to take on the Presidency, he was thinking I can do this for 2 years. Well he has stuck around for 4 and just completed the rekindling of the Annual Banquet by enlisting a talented and dedicated team. Nothing happens in the Chapter without a steady hand at the top. Thank you Ben.



Ben Meade being recognized by Fred Jennings for his volunteer dedication to the Chapter

Annual Banquet a huge success!



Josh Rownd, chairman of the Banquet Committee, enlisted Chapter members Kalil Boghdan, Bob Torkildsen, Ben Meade, Floyd Maker, Michael O'Neill, Carl Soderland and Peter Vandermeulen to organize and put on a extraordinary Banquet/Auction. The venue of the Danversport Yacht Club is top-notch; good food and and excellent atmosphere. Quiet music by Richard Osborne and auction items galore! Live auction items included a new kayak, supreme fly rods and reels, guided trips, an African safari and custom-made wood crafts by our own Chett Walsh of Beverly. There were 76 in attendance. Bottom line, the auction netted \$8000 to help fund the conservation projects of the Chapter. Extraordinary effort by the committee and all who attended!

President's Message

Dear fellow Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited Members,

Prior to NETU's annual fundraising banquet, NETU Board Member Art Howe wrote to me - referring to the banquet - and said "Let's Keep It Fun!" We sure did. NETU welcomed about 75 attendees to Danversport on Saturday, March 11th for a very enjoyable event.

A major takeaway of mine from the banquet as I was trying to read the room: It seemed to me that everyone had a really enjoyable time. There was a lot of great chatter and enthusiasm. All the big and little things to add a touch of class to the event and the excellent organization and flow of the evening's schedule made it happen. Everyone seemed happy to be there!! A highlight: Watching everyone turn over their chairs to see if it was marked with a blue sticker. If it was, you were lucky enough to go home with a container of Topsfield maple syrup! Even if you missed out on the syrup, all Banquet attendees went home with a very sharp NETU coffee mug. Furthermore, there was an incredible assortment of quality items in the various auctions and raffles. Everyone went home with something!

Putting on a really solid and fun banquet for members, friends and guests goes a really long way towards furthering the Chapter's mission and in involving and growing our active membership. For our first major public event post-Covid (hopefully post-Covid?!), I think we nailed it.



As I wrote to the NETU Board via email the morning after the Banquet, we have a lot to hang our hat on from the overall success of the event. It was a team effort to make it happen and many, many, many thanks to all who did make it happen. For the overall success of a small (but mighty) non-profit organization, it takes a village!



We hope to see you at our meeting at IRWA on Monday, April 3rd. The spring fishing season is about to kick off, and I am sure the room will be abuzz with talk about aspirations and plans for the coming fishing season. See you there!! On a more optimistic note, we will have a great meeting on Monday, March 6th. Our annual fundraising banquet is on March 11th. Both will be full of fun and camaraderie. Hope to see you there!! Ben Meade, President

Big Donation!! \$2,500.00

In February, the Chapter received a \$2,500 donation from a member who wishes to remain anonymous. The gift is wonderful and it is wonderful how it came about. The member has established a charitable account with his/her financial custodian like a Fidelity or Fiduciary Trust. These accounts are coined "Donor Advised" charitable accounts and the donor can retain the responsibility of designating what charity receives their charitable gifts or grants. The member noticed that TU Nor'East Chapter is a qualified charity and earmarked \$2500 dollars of his philanthropy to go to our Chapter. A very nice thing to do but also very smart. Your local Chapter of TU is one of the best recipients of your charity. TU Nor'East has no overhead. So 100% of your donation goes to conservation projects like the new culvert at Hood Pond or the restoration of Crooked Pond Brook in Boxford or the cleaning up of the shoreline of the Mill River. Also, you know all the people involved. You can go to a monthly meeting and question the President and Board of Directors how they are using your donation. All is above board. The Chapter has received other grants from other Donor Advised accounts because it is a good bet. The Chapter's Board of Directors has made good use of the moneys its raises from the Banquet and donations. It leverages its contributions to projects with the matching grants and donations from other organizations and agencies. So if you have a Donor Advised account or you like to make end-of-the-year annual charitable gifts, why not think about making a donation to TU Nor'East.

Chapter Financials

Our treasurer, Peter Vandermeulen, keeps a very tidy accounting of the Chapter monies. He has just issued a draft report of the financials of the Chapter including the revenues from the Banquet. We started FY22 with about \$45,000 in the bank, we fulfilled our pledge of \$10,000 to IRWA to cover extra costs associated with the Hood Pond culvert project, received the \$2,500 donation and \$8K from the banquet so we are back up to about \$46,000 in the bank. If you wish to have a more detailed accounting, please contact Ben Meade or Peter.

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. The History of Conservation and Angling Tactics of the Beloved Yellowstone Cutthroat

April 3, 2023: Art Howe, current member of the Nor'East Chapter of TU will speak on the important topic of Fishing Safety. Free food!!

May 1, 2023: To be announced

Parting Shot - Your help needed

Communications are an important part of any club or organization. The Chapter Newsletter, Emails, Web page and some social media posts are all done by one person, with contributions from a couple of members.

After May, I will be moving on to other well deserving conservation efforts that I have affiliations with. So if you wish to continue to be informed about Chapter events and happenings, I recommend you volunteer and help out with a part of the communications effort.

If you have the time, it is easy to learn the basics of managing a webpage based on Wordpress, or Mailchimp for Chapter wide emailing and a word processing package to compile the Newsletter.

If you want to help out, contact Ben Meade or send emails to: info@tunoreast.org

Thanks, Jim MacDougall

