



Nor' East Chapter

March 2023 Newsletter

Banquet March 11 at Danversport Yacht Club, buy your ticket now and save!

Attention ALL MEMBERS. On **March 11th 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.

You can't bid on these beauties unless you are there!!

L.L. BEAN MANATEE DELUXE KAYAK,



10 feet, stable and a wonderful fishing platform with paddle. Weighs 40 lbs., carries 300 lbs, Brand new \$550 value.

ZULU NYALA AFRICAN SAFARI

Includes: 6 nights' accommodation for 2 people at Zulu Nyala Heritage Safari Lodge, Tented Camp (depending on availability) with all meals, plus 2 guided trips per day. Value \$5950. Not included, airfare, airport transport, extras.
Minimum bid: \$3,000



Meeting
March 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/81209116060?pwd=T1dOU2JKSGRIWmE5bjZpSVd3Y282dz09>

Meeting ID:812
0911 6060
Passcode:752895

Contact Info:

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CHETT WALSH CUSTOM MIRROR, 2 OF THEM!!



Hand-crafted of select woods, these are true masterpieces to grace your home. You have to see these to understand the care and artistry that goes in to the selection of each piece of wood, how they are married and joined to express the beauty of grain and texture. These are family heirlooms to be cherished by your grandchildren well into the future. Value: priceless.

DAVE MANSEAU CUSTOM FLY ROD, AN ORVIS MIRAGE II REEL



4 weight 4 piece, paired with 4 wt line, reel and a spare spool. Donated by Jack Doyle and George Amidon
Value \$1,100



Guided fishing trip at Sebago Lake, Maine, Striper trip with Dave Rimmer, and Brookie fishing with Geoff Klane

plus more rods, reels, flies, books, flannel, food, packs, artwork, and

Monday, March 6, 2023

Gathering of The Nor'East Chapter TU

Dinner at 6:00pm

Speaker at 7:00pm - with Ethan Bourque, well-known trout guide, will present "The History of Conservation and Angling Tactics of the Beloved Yellowstone Cutthroat"



Ethan with a beautiful Yellowstone Cutthroat

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). A raffle organized by Bob Torkildsen will follow the dinner. At 7:00pm, Ethan Bourque will present to us live.

So, please join us for what should be another and informative evening. If you have any questions, please contact Kalil Boghdan, NETU Program Coordinator, at downrivercharters@comcast.net

President's Message

Dear fellow Nor'East Chapter Trout Unlimited Members,

As anglers, outdoor enthusiasts, and naturalists, we are all familiar with some of the signs that nature provides. A buck's antler scrape on a sapling, diving birds above a school of baitfish, or the telltale no-nonsense sip of a large trout eating a floating insect are examples of these cues. Some of these signs are obvious and can be easily interpreted, while others are less clear.

This winter's historically notable lack of snow and cold appears to have provided yet another clue that the climate around us is changing.

Yes, I understand that climate change is a controversial topic. Yes, I understand that not everyone agrees with the idea that human actions may be some or all of the cause of a warming globe. Yes, I realize that some of you may stop reading this letter at the end of this sentence. However, I urge you to observe and think about the clues that nature is providing right here in northeastern Massachusetts. With that in mind, let me tell you about Quills Pond in Newbury.

Quills Pond is a small, shallow, largely spring-fed, sheltered warm-water pond in Newbury. I drive by it multiple times a week and happily gaze at its serene shores as I cruise by on Hay Street. At the turn of the 20th century - before refrigeration - ice was harvested from Quills Pond, stored in blocks in an ice house on its shores, and shipped around the region to keep food from spoiling. Despite being an ideal pond for creation of thick winter ice, Quills Pond stayed almost fully ice free through this past January and February. My Dad recently explained to me that when he was growing up on the North Shore, safe ice for ice skating usually formed on our local ponds by Thanksgiving and lasted through the winter. Thanksgiving!! This year, and in many recent years, none of our local ponds had much ice on them in late November - let alone ice safe enough for skating. Any local safe ice at all through recent winters has been largely inconsistent and fleeting. Think about that for a minute.



Yes, the argument exists that, in summary, "the earth's climate has always changed through time, even well before humans came on the scene". There is truth to that. However, what is particularly notable and troubling about the climate change that is being observed presently is the speed at which it is occurring. When I think about this fact, I think about Quills Pond. I think about my Dad's observations from his childhood. I think of the big picture. In the span of the Earth's history, a human lifetime is the smallest of blips on the timescale. Dramatic changes in the earth's climate should not be measurable or observable over the course of a human lifetime. Yet, here we are. It is an ominous sign. The signs are global and they are local. Quills Pond is telling us something. Think about that for a minute.

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

Joining the 21st Century, an Old Dog with New Tricks

By Carl Soderland

I love retirement. It has given me more time to think about environmental conservation, fishing, tying flies and being out of doors. I used technology daily as a physician. Adapted to using the Electronic Medical Record faster than many. I have an iPhone 13 and use it primarily as a phone to make calls and take pictures. It takes 3 separate TV “clickers” to watch a movie on our “smart television” and we still get movies in the mail from Netflix. I am getting better at streaming but never know what to watch.

I have always exercised, preferably outside, but returned to the gym in November, 2022 after a COVID break of 2 ½ years. Riding an indoor bike, even with computer trails, is boring. However, it seemed as though everyone younger than me, had started wearing ear buds while exercising. My son, Peter, has been running with ear buds for the past 2 years and continues to tell me about great podcasts. Most of the exercisers in the gym are listening to music. I used to love the sound of the wind, birds and quiet as I ran on Argilla Road for 35 years. I also had an ear out for cars. It never seemed safe to listen to music and not be aware of traffic.

Last winter, indoors at home on a stationary bike I watched all the 007 movies, all 3 Godfathers, 4 Avengers, all the Harry Potter’s and multiple other “old” classics. The workout at home is not as strenuous as the workout at the gym and the seat at the gym is much more comfortable. So, I asked for ear buds for Christmas. With my son’s help, my wife gave me Powerbeats Pro Totally Wireless Earbuds. I even figured out how to sync them with my phone and head off to the gym.

I can still tie a size 22# fly on 7X tippet with magnifiers, but putting ear buds in my ears required practice and coordination. I rue the day that I will be putting hearing aids in. I watched people in my office struggle putting their hearing aids back in their ears after I examined their ear canals and thought that it didn’t seem that hard. It is.

Finally, ear buds in and synced, Pandora starts playing Credence Clearwater singing “Have You Ever Seen the Rain”. I love Credence Clearwater and found myself pedaling to the beat. Then Pandora let me know there was going to be a monthly charge to continue. So, I opened the Podcast App. Wow, there are thousands of Podcasts on all kinds of topics; how to choose? There were many medical podcasts. There was Malcolm Gladwell, The Disruptive Voice from Harvard Business School, Dan Carlin Hardcover History. Where to start and what would I enjoy while exercising. Was there a “sounds of nature with an occasional car going by”?

I typed in fly fishing and, to my surprise, there wasn’t one or two



podcasts but 90 different podcasts each with multiple episodes. There were thousands of talks about trout, stripers, hatches, flies on the swing and technique. Where to begin? So, I started with two separate podcasts: Orvis Fly Fishing Guide Podcast with Tom Rosenbauer and Wet Fly Swing Fly Fishing Podcast with Dave. I have joined the 21st century listening about a sport that dates back to the 17th century. Each podcast has a new episode weekly on all kinds of topics. Several of the Orvis podcast titles include: All About Midges, The Giant Trout of Pyramid Lake, Winter Fishing Tips, and this week Getting Your Kids into Fly Fishing. Each episode is hosted by Tom Rosenbauer and an invited guest. Tom starts the podcast with a questions and answers sent in the prior week by listeners and is usually very informative. Then Tom interviews his guests about the topic of the podcast. They have been fascinating.

Wet Fly Swing Fly Fishing hosted by Dave also has weekly podcasts including: Fly Fishing Florida, Fly Fishing for King Salmon, Littoral Zone, Trout Spey Fly Fishing and many more. So many podcasts and so little time to listen as the old adage goes.



Orvis Fly Fishing Guide Podcast

with Tom Rosenbauer

One of the Orvis podcasts I found particularly interesting, Tom was interviewing Robert O’Harrow Jr., an investigative reporter for the Washington Post, on January 13, 2023 on: Are Mayflies in Trouble? I had a sense that over the past 15 years I was seeing fewer caddis hatches and maybe fewer mayfly hatches in Maine as well. So, I went back to Robert O’Harrow’s original article published September 19, 2022.

From the article: “When it comes to the mayfly, I have learned that the answer is: more than you might of imagined. Mayflies are a mainstay of the world’s many food chains. The nymphs consume algae, plant matter and decaying leaves. The nutrients and energy gained as a nymph are passed on to other animals when they are eaten by such predators as trout, bass, spiders, frogs, lizards, birds, bats and myriad other animals. Even some people eat mayflies.

Mayflies require relatively cool, clean water to live in, which makes them among nature’s best ecological sentinels....Some scientists call them “biosensors”. Overly warm water, pesticides, silty runoff from development and other pollution will wipe them out or force them to move to cleaner environs. ”

O’Harrow continues to report: “The evidence compiled by researchers suggests the main culprits behind the Hexagenia decline are humans: our pesticides; the way we treat sewage; the fertilizers we use on crops and lawns; how we build and spread. The byproducts of so much of what we do leaches into freshwater and fouls it. ... WildFish estimates that the diversity of mayfly species in streams (in England’s chalk streams) has declined by as much as 44% since 1998. ...There is a growing body of research suggesting the world is in the midst of its sixth mass extinction. The losses of all kinds of creatures appear to be driven by climate change, habitat degradation, pollution and other ecological stressors.”



Hex - Lake Willoughby VT

The topic was sobering, but much like Rachel Carson's Silent Spring, draws attention to what man is doing to our environment. There are almost 100 mating pairs of Osprey in our local coastline. There were almost none, not that long ago. Recognizing that DDT, a widely used pesticide, damaged the eggs of many bird species, and banning DDT's use, brought back the Osprey to the Northshore, and that brings hope. Gathering scientific evidence helps explain much of the change we are observing. Sporadic low water flow in the Deerfield River effects spawning wild trout as the science has demonstrated. Improving the flow will hopefully improve survival of the eggs and fry of wild trout.

So, what started in retirement as an adventure into the technology of the 21st century, wireless ear buds and podcasts, to ease the boredom of "healthy" in door bike riding, has opened the door to thousands of ideas, research, opinions and entertainment. I am sure glad that I love to fly fish. DrC Soderland

Ox Pasture Brook, Rowley



Members of TU Nor"East team up with Backcountry Hunters and Anglers at Ox Pasture Brook

On February 11, Ben Meade, Floyd Maker, Patrick Saunders and Jim MacDougall toured Ox pasture Brook in Rowley with members of the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Chis Borgatti, Aaron Townsley and (I forgot her name) sorry. We walked into the site of the dam removal of 2013 to see where Patrick Saunders filmed river herring spawning in the brook last May. We took some samples for dissolved oxygen and road salt. Water was cleaner than what comes out of my tap. The shoreline is protected by MassWildlife and it is nice little piece of water. The Chapter is



considering monitoring this stretch of brook for spawning by river herring and sea-run trout. Let us know if you want to help out. Thanks go to Patrick Saunders for organizing this outing.

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: 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!!

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



Thanks, Jim MacDougall