

Trout Unlimited, SE Mass Chapter 241

FEBRUARY 2018

www.southeastmasstu.com

Next Meeting: February 13th at the Mitchell Club (29 Elm St.) Middleborough MA, Doors open at 6:00PM for fly tying, General Meeting begins at 7:30 PM and, as always, admission is free.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jim Augenti

Hello Everyone,

We had a great meeting in January. Our first pizza night was a success, with a good crowd, plenty of slices for everyone, and guide Nate Hill's presentation loaded with pics of beautiful trout! Thank you to Larry Cook for picking up the food and helping with the technical side of the show as well. I say it often, but the strength of our chapter is the depth of knowledge and spirit of camaraderie of our members.

We will have another Pizza Night on the 13th, while we look forward to a presentation by Adam Kautza, Coldwater Fisheries Project leader (MDFW), on wild trout in Mass. I heard Adam speak at the MA/RI council meeting at Indian Hollow last May, and was impressed by his knowledge and enthusiasm for our fishery.

We are well on the way in our Banquet preparations. We turned Roger Moore loose with a generous appropriation to buy Temple Fork Outfitters & Orvis items (they give TU a generous discount for fundraising). He formed a committee to brainstorm a selection of various high quality tackle from fly rods and reels to nets, packs, etc. There will be something for everyone!

We will once again have a Director's Box of at least 6 dozen flies - hand tied patterns that we have found productive locally and throughout New England. If you can donate anything, please consider how much your help is appreciated. At the February meeting, we will be collecting any and all items you wish to have at the banquet, which is on March 24, at the Monponsett Inn, Halifax.

Thanks to Pete Motyka for manning our booth at Standish on Saturday and Jim Clinton and Tom Magee for covering it on Sunday. Tom has the new handouts for our upcoming fly tying and fly-fishing courses, please help spread the word by distributing some, and lets bring in some new folks to this wonderful fishing/conservation adventure!

See you on the 13th,
Jim

p.s. the February door prize will be a \$50.00 gift card to Bass Pro/Cabelas!



VETERAN'S FLY TYING

BROCKTON V.A. HOSPITAL

Members of our chapter and Project Healing Waters meet with the veterans the third Wed. of every month for fly tying at 5:30p.m. Building #4, Brockton V.A. Hospital. All are welcome. The address for the Brockton V.A. Hospital is 940 Belmont St. Brockton. That is route 123 just off route 24.

February 13th --
Speaker Adam Kautza

Coldwater Fisheries Project Leader
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Presentation: I plan on giving an overview of our Massachusetts trout fisheries with a particular emphasis on our wild trout resources and some of what our plans are for wild trout conservation and management moving forward. I'll start with a discussion of Coldwater Fishery Resources, what they are, how they are designated, and how they are protected. From there I'll go over information regarding the distribution and relative abundance of wild trout in Massachusetts. Finally, I'll finish up with an outline of the work we have started and what that means for trout management in the state.

Note: There will be pizza for all at the February meeting

Upcoming Events

March 13th -- Tick Talk by Blake Dinius a State Entomologist

This will be a talk about Ticks and the problems and sickness they can cause.

March 24th -- Annual Banquet

Bears Den Show	Feb, 17	Taunton, MA
Southeastern Mass. Chapter Trout Unlimited Banquet		
	Mar. 24	Monponsett Inn, Halifax
Mass. Striped Bass Expo	Mar. 24, 25	University Sports Complex, Hanover

ANNUAL BANQUET

Our major fundraising event is our Annual Banquet. Save the date now for our 2018 Banquet on March 24th.

If you plan on going to the Banquet, **PLEASE** contact Roger Moore in order to reserve seats and/or tables. He can be reached @ 781-878-8620 or captrogermoore@verizon.net

Fly Box

by Tom Magee

Poly Wing Spinners and Trico's

Hook: TMC 100 sizes 16 to 22 or equal
Thread: Black 6/0 or 8/0
Wing: White Poly Yarn or color to match insect
Tail: Hackle fibers color to match insect
Abdomen: Color to match insect
Thorax: Fine dubbing black or dark brown dubbing



Sign up to help South East Massachusetts Chapter
of Trout Unlimited
acquire a Bamboo Fly Rod
for Chapter Fundraising

And you'll get a coupon to save 30% on
any Headwaters Bamboo Product!

If you click on the link below and enter your name & email address

This will sign you up. If we get 250 people to sign up the Headwaters Bamboo Rod Company

Will donate a Deluxe Series Bamboo Rod to our chapter.

<https://headwatersbamboo.com/tu-se-ma/>

A TROUT STREAM FOR CHRISTMAS



With the Holiday season finally over, and winter settling in, it's a time to reflect on our gifts; a time to pause and consider where they came from and what they mean. Christmas gifts can come in unusual shapes and forms - from unexpected sources. Some are as simple as a warm shirt from a favorite aunt. Others are more complicated.

One long ago Christmas I received a copy of Ernest Schweibert's extraordinary fishing memoir, "A River For Christmas." I'm ashamed to say that I can't remember now who it was that gave me the book, but whoever it was knew I loved fly-fishing, and the name of the book fit the season. Schweibert's book provided much needed transportation away from the long winter nights to rivers that even then I knew I'd probably never get to. My reading of "A River For Christmas" consisted in equal parts of a rich man's memories and a poor boy's hopeless dreams.

But last Christmas we received the gift of a stream that, unlike Schweibert's Laxa with its 40-pound salmon, is near and accessible. And the source of that gift was unexpected.

A few years back (2010), a college student named Nik Tyak sent me an e-mail telling me that he thought that he'd found some brook trout residing in a small stream that empties into a much bigger stream named Third Herring Brook.

Beginning as tannic springs flowing from beneath the stunted cedars of a vast wetland known since colonial times as Valley Swamp, Third Herring is fed by, and serves as a main stem for several lesser streams draining the red maple swamps that characterize the coastal plain of the Massachusetts South Shore.

And Third Herring Brook, in turn, is just one of a complex spider web of tributaries that feed into a long tidal river that moves the ocean miles inland on the coastal plain. This long, quick flowing estuary is called the North

River because, when the tide is running out, its current runs north for much of its length, before abruptly turning east to where it sweeps through a wide opening in a barrier beach at the town of Scituate. Just before it enters the ocean, the North River is joined by two other tidal streams. The stream entering from the north is called First Herring Brook. The larger flow that joins from the south is appropriately named the South River.

Third Herring Brook enters the North River, over eight winding miles of marsh-rimmed river from the North's mouth. Here the North River is still a full-bore tidal stream. And twice daily its water moves up into the lower reach of Third Herring Brook drawing with it, in season, rainbow smelts, river herring American eels, and lamprey eels along with a few striped bass and American shad.

And on high bank above Third Herring's wild rice tide marsh, sits the house where Nik Tyak grew up.

I knew of Nik from Samantha Woods, the CEO of the North and South Rivers Watershed Association. Samantha had told me of how Nik had raised money for her organization by paddling the length of the Wampanoag Canoe Passage. That Nik had actually paddled and portaged the difficult Canoe Passage that travels across two watersheds, the North River and the Taunton River, was enough of a recommendation, but Nik had also received an E.A. Mellon grant to collect data on Third Herring Brook's suitability as herring spawning habitat. The data, which included detailed information on water temperature and chemistry along the entire length of Third Herring, was to be compiled in a report that Nik would submit at summer's end. Without hesitation, I arranged to meet with Nik at a coffee shop that happened to be located just down the road from Jacob's Mill Pond and Valley Swamp, the headwater of Third Herring Brook.

Dressed in a T-shirt, shorts and sneakers, and with a curly mop of sun-bleached hair, Nik Tyak looked like the typical young surfer that in fact he was. But unlike a cool, laid back stereotypical surf bum, Nik was focused and articulate right from the beginning of our introductions at the trendy little coffee shop in the town of Norwell.

It didn't take much conversation with Nik for it to become clear that I was being reeled in. The brook trout in the Third Herring tributary were the bait, and I had taken that bait. What Nik was angling for was some help from Trout Unlimited with the removal of the Tack Factory Dam, an ancient structure that for centuries had obstructed Third Herring Brook not far upstream from Nik's home. I assured Nik that I was all for pulling old dams, and that trout weren't a requirement as far as I was concerned, but the trout, or the promise of restoring trout, were the incentive needed for TU's involvement.

To Be Continued

Environmental News

Westport River Stream Team Update and Work Party Schedule

Work party are scheduled for:

March 3

April 7

May 5

All of these dates are Saturdays.

Call John Kokoszka to confirm.

We meet at the Brookside Conservation Area on Rt. 177 in Westport at 9 AM. Everyone is welcome. For the up to date information of Westport visit the Chapter website www.southeastmasstu.com.

Spring Classes

Free Introduction Fly Tying Classes SE MA TU will have 4 evenings of the basics of fly tying. Learn to tie flies in a relaxed atmosphere, this course is designed for the beginner fly tier although experienced tiers will benefit from the class as well. Instructors will teach everything to get you started in fly tying, all tools and materials are provided for each class. If you have your own tools and would like to bring them feel free to do so. You will be taught the basics of fly tying as well as instruction in tying several patterns of both fresh and saltwater flies. What better way to spend a few evenings learning fly tying.

Previous students welcome.

Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings 7 to 9 P.M. March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018 at East Bridgewater Council on Aging 355 Plymouth St, East Bridgewater, MA 02333

To sign up or for information call Tom Magee at 1-781-767-1543

Free Introduction to Fly Casting and Fishing Classes SE MA TU will have 4 evenings of the basics of fly casting and Fishing. Learn the basics of Fly Casting, learn the habitat of fish what they eat when and how to fish for them, learn the proper gear to use and how to use it. All the required Fly Casting equipment will be provided along with handouts and instruction in Fly Casting and Fishing. If you have your own Fly Rod outfit and would like to bring it feel free to do so. This is a great time of year to get your casting into shape for some Spring Fishing. This TU Chapter will have some Spring Fishing trips and class members are welcome to join us on the trips.

Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2018 at East Bridgewater Council on Aging 355 Plymouth St, East Bridgewater, MA 02333.

To sign up or for information call Tom Magee at 1- 781-767-1543

SPEAKERS WANTED

Each month the chapter invites a speaker to do a presentation at the monthly meeting. We are always looking for new speakers and new ideas. If you would like to recommend a speaker that would be appropriate for a chapter meeting, or if you as a member have something to present at a monthly meeting, please contact Rick Robinson at 508-992-7024 or extractor27@aol.com

PHOTOS WANTED

We are looking for photos or videos of any and all TU gatherings over the past year or so. We would like to create a presentation of "A Year in Review" of all of our events. If you have any photos that you would be willing to share please email them to me at: larry.cook205@gmail.com

The Board of Directors have discussed this as a good idea for a May meeting in the future.

Directions to our monthly meetings:

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month September to May; 6 PM Fly Tying 7:30 PM Meeting Admission is free and visitors are always welcome. We meet at the Mitchell Memorial Club is near the intersection of routes 28 and 105 in Middleboro. It is also near exit 4 on route 495. From Route 495, head toward Middleboro. Take a left at the lights. If you are coming from Middleboro center, take a right at the lights. The Mitchell Club is a white building that is 1/8 of a mile on the right (29 Elm Street) from that intersection. If you cross the RR tracks, you have passed it.

MASS TU TEAM

Send all mail to Trout Unlimited SE MA Chapter
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Thanks to the following businesses for distributing the Backcast to the general public

North Country Angler, North Conway, NH	603-356-6000
Red Top Sporting Goods in Buzzards Bay	508-759-3371
Bear's Den Fly Fishing Company in Taunton	508-977-0700
Fisherman's Outfitter on Union St in Plymouth	508-747-7440
