

In The Trout's Window

Issue 3, 2010

March 2010

Pioneer Valley TU Chapter 276

March 9, 2010 Meeting



Our chapter upcoming meeting will be held at 7:30PM on Tuesday, March 9th at the West Springfield/Agawam Elks Lodge, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA.

Mr. Tom Roginski

“Blooming Hatches and Simple Flies”

Self-described as a *fanatical* (his emphasis) fly tier, angler, teacher and observer of natural events, Mr. Tom Roginski is a Master Instructor in the Massachusetts Angler Education Program (sponsored by the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife) where he teaches adults and youngsters how to fish, and especially fly fish. He is a licensed New York State fishing guide who teaches fly fishing and fly tying to visitors of the Trout Haven section of the Ausable River near Lake Placid, New York. In a former life he worked on Wall Street as a director of research and systems implementation.

Mr. Roginski has published several articles on fly fishing/fly tying and his article on "Blooming Hatches and Simple Flies", which appeared in "Massachusetts Wildlife No. 1 2008" will be the subject of his presentation.

Fly Tier's Corner — Join us at 7:00pm for a live demonstration

Mr. Jim Turcotte will be our featured fly tier in the Fly Tier's Corner. Jim will demonstrate the latest version of the ever-popular and effective Prince Nymph pattern... the Prince Remake

The roots of this fly pattern date back to the 1800's, but it gained popularity when modified into its present-day form by Doug Prince from California (hence the name Prince Nymph). It is one of those "must have" flies, and decade after decade the Prince Nymph rates along with the Pheasant Tail, Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear and the Zug Bug as one of the top 10 nymphs that you must have in your fly box. During the 1990's a second generation of the nymph evolved "The Fly Formerly Known as the Prince Nymph". Now, come see the latest, and greatest version, of this perpetual standard as tied by an expert.

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Connections and Correlations

By PVTU President, Paul Beaulieu

Not much room for a President's Column this month, so I just want to put in a plug for our guest speaker, Tom Roginski. His talk on phenology will be extremely interesting to anyone - anglers and non-anglers alike - who enjoy the outdoors and who appreciate how seemingly unconnected elements in nature, are, in fact, very much connected or at least correlated to each other.

I guarantee that you will learn some very interesting facts!

Fishon! - Paul

February Fly Tying Classes a Success, Still Time to Join Intermediate Class

Special thanks to Rene Huard and company for teaching our February fly tying classes to beginners. These classes are currently underway during Wednesday nights in February and several participants are enjoying their new-found talent at the tying bench.

There is still time to sign-up for our free Intermediate Fly Tying Course scheduled for Wednesday evenings March 3, 10, 17, 24. These classes will begin at 7:00pm and will be taught by Jim Turcotte. To register call Jim at (413-527-5863) All fly materials supplied, bring your own tying tools.

All classes are held at the West Springfield/Agawam Elks Lodge, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA.

Saltwater Fishing License a Reality

Just in case you haven't heard... Gov. Deval Patrick signed legislation creating a state saltwater fishing registry that requires saltwater anglers to purchase permits to fish in coastal waters starting in 2011. The proceeds will benefit state marine fisheries programs that improve public access and resource management.

"Many stakeholders have worked together to protect the state's interests in designing this legislation," Patrick said. "I thank the legislators and recreational fishing organizations who crafted this measure and were instrumental in its passage."

Chuck Casella, chairman of the Recreational Registry Steering Committee, said, "I am pleased that the saltwater permit legislation approved by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Patrick is reflective of the deliberations of the committee that worked so hard to make sure that the permit will benefit Massachusetts' saltwater anglers."

In 2006, the United States Congress amended the Magnuson-Stevens Act to require a national recreational saltwater fishing registry. Congress charged the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with creating the registry, which scientists could access to improve recreational fishing data and fisheries management.

The federal legislation included a provision allowing states to create their own saltwater fishing permit systems in lieu of participation in the federal registry. The law signed by Gov. Patrick enables the Department of Fish and Game's Division of Marine Fisheries to require saltwater anglers to purchase a saltwater fishing permit beginning in January 2011.

Under the new state law, there will be a permit fee of \$10 for anglers age 16 or older, with revenue from permit sales deposited into a state Marine Recreational Fisheries Development Fund administered by DMF in consultation with a newly created Marine Recreational Fisheries Development Panel. Fishermen aged 60 or older will be required obtain a permit, but it will be free. Saltwater anglers will not register with the federal registration system in 2011. The revenue will pay for data collection and administration of the permitting program, programs to improve public access for recreational fishing, and better fisheries management.

Massachusetts Medical Society Opposes Biomass Plants

The Massachusetts Medical Society (a 22,000 member organization) formally adopted a resolution opposing the proposed Russell, Palmer and Greenfield wood-burning power plants, as "unacceptable public health" risks and has agreed to urge the commonwealth government to adopt policies to make it difficult to approve construction of new biomass plants.

One major issue cited by a MMS representative was that numerous studies conclude that particulate air pollution kills humans, inclusive among other things, particulate air pollution from wood smoke. The MMS points to the strong correlation between areas with high particulate levels and high mortality rates from chronic heart and lung disease. Specifically, people residing in an area with a level of high particulate air pollution level have increased asthma attacks, increased respiratory disease, increased days lost from school and work due to chest illness, increased emergency room visits for heart and lung disease, increased hospital rates for heart and lung disease and increased mortality rates for heart and lung disease.

The formal policy was approved unanimously by the MMS governing body. The Massachusetts Lung Association concurs with the MMS position and has released a position statement asserting that that biomass energy is an inefficient and dirty way of producing energy. Current biomass projects are being reviewed by the commonwealth government.

The proposed Biomass plant in Russell, Massachusetts is of interest to our TU Chapter as the project will negatively impact water flow and temperature in the Westfield River.

Editor's Note: Due to space limitations in the February newsletter, we could not publish all membership feedback regarding their favorite books. Below is another book review that we wanted to include. Two more will follow next month.

My Favorite Fly Fishing Books

by Gary Metras

When I converted from spin to fly fishing about fifteen years ago, I didn't know anyone who was a fly fisher. My teachers were desire, a video, a few books, and a handful of old timers on the Swift River whom I observed at a distance. The book I found most useful for a beginner was *Lefty's Little Tips* by Lefty Kreh (Odysseus Editions, 2001), a treasure-trove of experiential wisdom; for example, Tip #3: use candle wax to lubricate rod ferrules.

When I started to tie flies seriously, after taking the classes offered by our TU chapter, Dick Stewart's *Universal Fly Tying Guide* (Mountain Pond Publishers, 1994), became, and still is, my basic reference for patterns, recipes, and techniques. I constantly use Thomas Ames's *Hatch Guide* (Frank Amato Publications, 2000) to tie flies during an insect's active season, for background on the insect, itself, and for techniques of fishing the imitation. Currently, I've been tying Green Cassis Larva (pp. 174-175, recipe on pp. 253) for winter and early spring outings. Two of these patterns proved quite productive last year on both the Swift and Westfield Rivers.

The book that speaks to me most about the meaning of fly fishing is *The Seasonable Angler* by Nick Lyons (Funk & Wagnalls, 1970). Here's Lyons on fall fishing: "I try a bit here and a bit there. There is no hurry. No. There is absolutely no hurry. The whole music of the autumn stream is weighty and slow" (pp. 160). Pure poetry.

Lefty's Little Tips by Lefty Kreh (Odysseus Editions, 2001)
Universal Fly Tying Guide by Dick Stewart (Mountain Pond Publishers, 1994)

Hatch Guide to New England Streams by Thomas Ames, Jr. (Frank Amato Publications, 2000)

The Seasonable Angler by Nick Lyons (Funk & Wagnalls, 1970)

Fallfish (*Semotilus corporalis*)

by Jim Lafley

Some fly fishers consider the Fallfish a sporting fish found in our smaller streams and rivers, while others consider it a nuisance. Either way you feel, this native minnow can reach up to a foot, can give a decent fight and will often save a day out fishing. The largest one caught in Massachusetts was recorded at Quabbin Reservoir at 19 inches!

When I was a pre-teen I called all non-trout caught in streams "dace" and when I got older I called them "chubs". Much later in my role as a naturalist in New England I

purchased a good fish identification guide and found most of the minnows I caught were Fallfish. Also, I discovered Creek Chubs, *Semotilus atromaculatus*, didn't even live in the streams I fished regularly.

I have a fishing friend, who will remain nameless, with a reputation as an expert in catching Fallfish and other non-trout while trout fishing. We mistakenly call him Chubber, but we are contemplating changing his nickname. We were in Maine one spring where we encountered a Fallfish spawning run. He caught one in his net which was hanging from his float tube. He didn't even realize he had it until he was exiting the stream.

We can consider this our eastern whitefish as they will rise to our dry flies and take a nymph readily. They also emit that interesting odor that one experiences when landing whitefish in the West.

I notice Fallfish get to larger sizes than the Creek Chubs and Black-nosed Dace. The head of the Fallfish also seems to be smaller relative to body size than the chub. Creek Chubs have a dark spot on their dorsal fins and at the tail end of their lateral line. Black-nosed Dace have a very dark and distinctive lateral line.

For more details about this fascinating fish that has yet to have a group advocate on its behalf, see the following references:

Inland Fishes of Massachusetts; Karsten E. Hartel, David B. Halliwell, Alan E. Launer; Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA; 2002.

Freshwater Fish of Connecticut; Walter R. Whitworth; State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, Hartford, CT; 1996.

Charles Gauvin Steps Down

After serving for 20 years at the helm of Trout Unlimited, on February 1, 2010, Charles Gauvin stepped down as TU's CEO and President. During his time at TU, Charles has exceeded even the most ambitious goals for National Trout Unlimited. Complementing the work of TU's grassroots members, Charles is largely to thank for making TU a powerful national force for coldwater conservation.

TU National is pleased to announce that Chris Wood has taken over as TU's new CEO. Many TU'ers know and have worked with Chris during his years with the organization. Chris was instrumental in the development of TU's current strategic plan and has actively worked to improve the programs and services to our members.

Charles will serve as CEO Emeritus for the next year in an advisory capacity as well as on the Board of Trustees to ensure a seamless transition. Charles remains firmly committed to TU's mission, to its dedicated volunteer base and to playing a role in assuring that the progress we've made in the past 50 years continues.

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Newsletter of the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
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Vice-President: Jerry Eves(413) 599-0968
Treasurer: Joe Babineau(413) 323-6037
Secretary: Tom LeBlanc(413) 527-7605

Chapter Meetings

Meetings are held at 7PM on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May. We meet at the West Springfield/Agawam Lodge of Elks, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA. The general public always welcome— no admission fee.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

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| March 9, 2010 | Tom Roginski “Phenology – Matching the Hatch to Blooms ” |
| April 13, 2010 | Michael Hopper Coastal Trout Stream Restoration on Cape Cod |
| May 18, 2010
(note special date and time 6:00pm) | Mickey Novak Live demonstration at the Cronin National Salmon Hatchery and TU Picnic |
| May, 21-24, 2010 | Indian Hollow Camping Weekend |

Special Fly Rod/Reel Raffle... Tickets Available from Your Home!

The Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited Chapter is holding a very special fly rod raffle: a Sage VT-2, 4- piece, 5-weight, 9-foot custom-crafted fly rod by renown fly rod maker, Dan Trela. Special features include: jungle cock eyes embossed above the cork grip and a hand painted label, "PVTU 276 Special". Also included is a Ross Flywater reel, pre-loaded with fly line and backing. Thanks to his generosity, this special fly rod package is accented by nine dozen beautiful fishing flies custom tied by Jim Terrett. Order raffle tickets from the comfort of your own home! Tickets are \$5 apiece or 5 tickets for \$20. Just fill-in and mail the coupon below. You will receive a receipt for your ticket. This rod will be displayed at all upcoming PVTU Chapter meetings. The winning ticket will be drawn and **the winner will be announced at our May 18, 2010 meeting held at the Cronin National Salmon Station!** The winner *does not* need to be present.

Pioneer Valley Chapter Fly Rod Raffle: Enclosed is a check for _____ tickets (\$5 apiece or 5 tickets for \$20).

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/Zip Code: _____

Mail to: Mr. Thomas Tonelli, 49 Pearl Street, South Hadley, MA 01075