

In The Trout's Window

Issue 4, 2010

April 2010

Pioneer Valley TU Chapter 276

April 13, 2010 Meeting



Our chapter upcoming meeting will be held at 7:30PM on Tuesday, April 13th at the West Springfield/Agawam Elks Lodge, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA.

Mr. Michael Hopper

“Coastal Trout Stream Restoration on Cape Cod”

Michael Hopper's name may sound familiar to Chapter members who have followed state-wide conservation efforts over the past 20-plus years. A TU member since 1978, Michael Hopper worked with Fran Smith (former MA/RI Council Chairman) on successfully restoring the Quashnet River during the 1980's. Since 1999, Mr. Hopper has been intricately involved in the restoration of Red Brook with Mr. Warren Winders and Mr. Steve Angers. Rightfully, this conservation and reconstruction project has been recognized nationally and covered by TU National's "Trout" magazine.

Recently, Mr. Hopper initiated a sea run brook trout restoration project within the Cape Cod National Seashore on Fresh Brook, South Wellfleet. Mr. Hopper's presentation on this new project is both educational and inspiring as it serves, just like his past accomplishments, as a shining example of the significant conservation work that can be accomplished right here at home in Massachusetts.

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

Our own TU Chapter President, Paul Beaulieu, will be our featured fly tier this month. Paul has been tying up some West Coast style Intruder spey flies. These flies will be tied on Waddington shanks with trailing stinger hooks. If you don't know what a Waddington Shank is, then come see Paul tie. Paul guarantees these flies to be a true "killer pattern". We were told that there is actually a guarantee on these babies!

Chalk One Up For Trout Restoration

By PVTU President, Paul Beaulieu

A major milestone for trout habitat restoration was recently accomplished in Massachusetts. The Red Brook restoration project undertaken by the Cape Cod Chapter of TU, along with volunteers and financial support from other Chapters including our Pioneer Valley Chapter, received a major boost as the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game has purchased the property containing this brook that supports one of the last sea-run brook trout populations.

All of us should feel proud about the accomplishments achieved on Red Brook, and under the eye of the Department of Fish and Game, this fragile part of our ecosystem will continue to exist. In the meantime, see the article below for additional details.

Fishon! - Paul

Massachusetts DEP Land Acquisition Will Help Protect Critical Sea-Run Brook Trout Habitat

National Trout Unlimited (TU) has vocally applauded the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and its Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) for its purchase of 245 acres on Red Brook in Wareham and Plymouth. The land provides critical habitat to one of the last remaining sea-run brook trout populations in the state. "The state of Massachusetts has shown unprecedented support for coldwater fisheries by protecting this land," said Joe Overlock, chair of TU's Massachusetts council. "This purchase, combined with the hard work of TU members and others who have invested their time in protecting Red Brook, will go a long way towards protecting sea run brook trout."

On January 28, 2010 the Massachusetts DFG and its Division, MassWildlife, announced that the land acquisition had occurred. The 245-acre parcel, commonly known as Century Bog, was purchased from A.D. Makepeace Company for \$3 million. Funding for the purchase comes from the state's \$1.7 billion Energy and Environment Bond Bill. The land acquisition will help protect the Red Brook watershed and habitat for sea-run brook trout, as well as other fish and wildlife.

Massachusetts TU Chapters, spearheaded by the Cape Cod Chapter, have worked on Red Brook for a number of years, and have worked with DFG's Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) to remove several levees, berms, small dams and dikes in Red Brook. The groups have planted trees and root wads to the stream to enhance habitat and have planted native riparian species along the restored stream channel in Theodore Lyman Reserve. These restoration efforts have been in partnership with MassWildlife, A.D. Makepeace, The Trustees of Reservations, the National Oceanographic and

Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the USGS, American Rivers, the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, University of Massachusetts Boston, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, the towns of Wareham, Plymouth, and Bourne and DFG's Division of Marine Fisheries.

"This is a great example of using land protection to protect an entire watershed and an entire ecosystem," said Nat Gillespie, TU's Director of Eastern Lands Protection. "It's one of the last river systems south of Maine that has a thriving sea run brook trout population." This land protection will complement TU's restoration work on Red Brook

Sea-run brook trout – or salters – live in fresh water from spring to fall, and spawn in the autumn before spending the winter in near-shore ocean waters. A variant of Massachusetts' native brook trout, they are larger than typical brook trout due to feeding on abundant food resources in salt water during winter months.

Fly Tying Classes Draw Members, Non-Members

Special thanks to Rene Huard, Les Jones and company for teaching our February fly tying classes to 11 beginners, and equal thanks to Jim Turcotte for once again serving as the instructor for the Intermediate Fly Tying Class.

Both classes were well attended and appreciated by the attendees. Thank you gentlemen for stepping forward to volunteer your time and expertise... for a job well done!

Help Stock Salmon Fry

Volunteers from schools, sporting clubs, civic groups and individuals with a passion for rivers, fish or fishing are needed to assist MassWildlife in stocking 1.5 million salmon fry (juvenile fish) for the Atlantic salmon restoration program.

According to Dr. Caleb Slater, MassWildlife's Anadromous Fish Project Leader, at least 20 stocking dates are planned from 8 April through 5 May to release salmon fry into dozens of Connecticut River tributaries. The fry will come from MassWildlife's Roger Reed Hatchery in Palmer and the White River National Fish Hatchery in Bethel, Vermont. Fry will be trucked to meeting sites where volunteers will gather and caravan to release sites. The tiny fish will then be moved from truck to water by bucket using volunteer power. Dr. Slater offers some tips for potential volunteers, "You may get wet! A change of clothes is a good idea. You will be walking on slippery stream and river beds, so waders or other waterproof footwear is useful." There will be a few waders for loan. Volunteers will also be climbing up and down steep stream banks and should be in good physical condition. *(continued on next page)*

Salmon Stocking *(continued from previous page)*

MassWildlife aids anadromous fish in a number of ways: stocking fry in tributaries of the Connecticut River, monitoring fish passage at dams on the Connecticut, Westfield and Merrimack Rivers; trapping salmon and shad for transport to hatcheries and/or upstream release locations, working with other federal agencies to ensure safe upstream and downstream fish passage at hydroelectric dams, and working with local watershed groups to improve freshwater habitat for fish. For more information on dates, meeting locations and times for fry stocking check out www.MassWildlife.org <outbind://23/www.MassWildlife.org> or contact Dr. Caleb Slater at 508-389-6331.

Death, Taxes, and Leaky Waders

by John Gierach (Simon and Schuster, 2002)
Book Reviewed by Dana L. Charboneau

There are a lot of 'how to' and 'where to' fishing books, but my favorites address the question of "Why bother?" John Gierach has spent a long career attempting to answer that one.

A good introduction to John's work is "Death, Taxes, and Leaky Waders," a collection from his first several books. (It's been said that the first two are life's only certainties, but John, like all anglers, knows to include the third.)

John's book titles are always amusing, and the six represented here set a tone - "Trout Bum," "The View From Rat Lake," "Sex, Death and Fly Fishing," "Even Brook Trout Get The Blues," "Dances With Trout," and "Another Lousy Day in Paradise." They're all worth finding and reading, as are John's more recent books, but as a gift or a good start, this collection shines. (And for you writers, the introduction is worth the price of the book).

I was lucky when I started fly fishing, one of the first books I bought was "Trout Bum," John's first non-technical book. Chapters like "Camp Coffee" and "The Adams Hatch" still make me laugh, even as the snow falls and fly fishing is months away. Chapters from this and the other books take you from the small headwaters in Colorado, to Texas, Montana, Scotland, Alaska and more, while never forgetting that your home waters are where you live and learn.

If you enjoy John's columns in 'Fly Rod & Reel,' but haven't spent time with his books yet, start here.

A Good Life Wasted... or Twenty Years as A Fishing Guide

by David Ames (The Lyons Press, 2005)
Book Reviewed by Jim Johnson

You may have heard of author Dave Ames from his previous book, True Love and the Woolly Bugger, or from one of the many articles he composed for several different angling magazines. A Good Life Wasted, offers a great,

light, amusing, easy to read, winter book. In those respects it mirrors Ames's preceding success in True Love and the Woolly Bugger.

The title alone struck a chord that I thought I could relate to after spending 32 years looking at the world through a windshield. It did not fail me. In this book, Mr. Ames winds up as a fishing guide in Montana. Although this sounds like the dream job we fly anglers occasionally daydream about, he relates the same sort of frustrations, heartaches, and shattered dreams we all experience no matter our chosen vocation.

An easy book to put down and pick up again, A Good Life Wasted, is loaded with many amusing anecdotes and observations. Not a must read for entomology freaks, but Dave does know his insects, trout fishing and has done it all. He spins a good yarn and has the inexhaustible sense of humor. It will put a smile on your face and make you glad you read all 247 pages of it.

Mark Your Calendar Now: Indian Hollow Camp Weekend, Cronin Salmon Station Tour

Don't miss out on two great outdoor opportunities this springtime. Our May Chapter meeting will be held at 6:00pm on May 18th at the Cronin Salmon Station in Sunderland, MA. (Note: this is the *third* Tuesday in May, and this is one hour earlier than our regular meeting) Chapter members will be treated to a special tour of the Salmon Station by Mickey Novak. We will pull the ticket Special Rod Raffle and announce the winner following our picnic at the salmon station.

Secondly, from May 21-24, all Massachusetts and Rhode Island TU members are invited to join together for a camping weekend at the Indian Hollow Campground adjacent to the Catch and Release section of the East Branch of the Westfield River. As in years past, a free picnic will take place on Saturday May 22.

Both events offer great opportunities for education as well as meeting new and old friends in Trout Unlimited.

Cancer Connection Fly Fishing Clinic

Chapter member John Sinton is looking for TU volunteers to join him for the Cancer Connection Fly Fishing Clinic that will be held at Look Park on May 8th. The clinic will run from 10:00am to 3:00pm with a rain date of May 9th, and will introduce 12 cancer survivors to the joys of fly fishing.

This is a very worthwhile endeavor, so if you would like to volunteer (John coordinates everything, making it easy for volunteers), refer someone as a participant, or just learn more about the Cancer Connection Fly Fishing Clinic, just see John Sinton at our monthly Chapter meeting or contact John at: jwsinton@comcast.net.

In The Trout's Window

Newsletter of the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
Published monthly from September through May by PVTU.

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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

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 (Picnic on Saturday May 22)
June—August	Summer Break -No Monthly Meetings
September 14, 2010	Speaker T.B.A.

Time is Running Short... Purchase Your Fly Rod/Reel Raffle Ticket Today!!!

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 Battenkill mid-arbor 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