

Upcoming Events

World Fly Fishing Expo

March 13th & 14th
Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

New Hampshire Fly Fishing Show

March 20th & 21st
Pelham Fish & Game, Pelham, NH

Greater Boston's Pasta Fest Dinner

Sunday, March 21st starting at 4pm
Knight's of Columbus Hall, Watertown, MA

March Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, March 23rd
Douglas Smithwood and George May

April Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, April 27th
Jon Greenwood - NH Fish & Game

Fly Casting Clinic with Bill Cairns

Saturday, May 15th

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Trout Unlimited: Our Core Values

As part of this newsletter's attempt to share with our members the highlights of TU's new Strategic Plan, over the next few issues we'll be presenting TU's Core Values. An organization's core values are usually defined as its essential and enduring beliefs, its deepest principles that form the bedrock of its aspirations and its efforts. For instance, for the United States, these would be "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," sacred values that all Americans hold dear.

Last year as part of the development of a new Strategic Plan for the organization, TU codified its Core Values for the first time. They are five in number. This month, we showcase the first.

Trout Unlimited - Core Value #1 Healthy Watersheds & Clean Water

We are committed to ensuring quantities of cold, clean water sufficient to sustain healthy fish populations and to watershed restoration and wise fisheries.

Monthly Meeting

The Squan-a-Tissit Chapter of Trout Unlimited holds monthly meetings for chapter members and guests on the fourth Tuesday of the month (Sept. through May) at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Hall, Route 113 & Leighton Street, Pepperell, MA. **Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.**, however members and guests are encouraged to arrive earlier and participate in informal fly-tying. Bring your own vice and materials.

Directions:

From Rt. 3: Take the Rt. 113 Exit (Tyngsboro, Dunstable) and proceed west on Rt. 113, 6.5 miles, through Dunstable and into Pepperell. The VFW Hall will be located on the left side of Rt. 113, opposite a small center island with a stone monument and three flagpoles.

From Rt. 495: Take the Rt. 119 Exit (Littleton Common) and proceed west on Rt. 119, 9 miles, through Groton and into Pepperell. Turn right onto Rt. 111, and proceed 2.7 miles to a rotary. Turn right onto Rt. 113, and proceed 1.5 miles. The VFW hall will be located on the right side of Rt. 113, opposite a small center island with a stone monument and three flagpoles.

From Rt. 2: Take the Rt. 111 Exit (Ayer, Harvard, Clinton) and proceed north on Rt. 111, approximately 12 miles (total, to the Pepperell rotary), through Ayer and Groton to Pepperell. Route 111 merges with Rt. 119 in Groton. Once in Pepperell, Rt. 111 bears to the right (off of Rt. 119). Turn right onto Rt. 111 and proceed 2.7 miles to a rotary. Turn right onto Rt. 113, and proceed 1.5 miles. The VFW hall will be located on the right side of Rt. 113, opposite a small center island with a stone monument and three flagpoles.



Squan-a-Tissit Chapter of Trout Unlimited
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Please Mail To:

Squan -a- Tissit NEWS

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MARCH 9, 2004

The newsletter for the Trout Unlimited chapter that champions sport and conservation on two northeastern Massachusetts trout rivers: The Squannacook & The Nissitissit.

March Meeting

Tuesday the 23rd at 7:00 p.m.
with
Douglas Smithwood
presenting
"Adopt a Salmon"
and
George May
presenting
"The Merrimack Watershed"

President's Message

Once again our annual fundraiser was a huge success due to the efforts and contributions of so many wonderful people. There is truly power in numbers! Everyone pulling together from all levels of our organization



made it a truly memorable occasion. THANK YOU to all who participated, donated and helped in any way. As a membership, please take note of the area shops that donated their products to help us. Give them some consideration with your future purchases.

Dust off those rods, sharpen those hooks and fluff up your hats...it's just about fishing season! I know everyone is anxious to wet a line and the area rivers are holding lots of fish from last October's stocking. Can you imagine what the fish will be thinking now that these two legged behemoths suddenly start appearing in the water with sharp hooks after a three to four month hiatus? Gentlemen start your engines!

Chaz

Chapter News

• Granite Bench Project Withdrawn

Concerns about placing manmade objects along the Niss in the Colombo Area were raised by several BOD members. After much discussion the issue was brought to vote at the February BOD meeting with a split decision. Based on this outcome the project's originator, Charlie Shadan, withdrew the proposal.

• Wilmington Fly Fishing Expo

Our chapter will be manning the TU booth this year on Saturday, March 13th from 9 am to 1 pm. Help is still needed at the booth. If you're available, stop by the booth and lend Charlie Shadan, Ray Gagnon and Tom Towey a hand.

• New Hampshire's Only Fly Fishing Show

The Merrimack River Valley Chapter of TU along with the Pelham Fish and Game Club are sponsoring a Fly Fishing Show on March 20th and 21st at the Pelham Fish and Game Club. More information is available at www.merrimacktu.org.

• Greater Boston's Pasta Fest

TU's Greater Boston Chapter is holding their annual fundraiser on Sunday, March 21st at the Knight's of Columbus Hall in Watertown. Doors open at 4 pm, more information is available at www.greaterbostontu.org.

• Whit Fosburgh

Whit provided us with an exceptional presentation on some of TU's restoration projects at the February meeting. It was great to see real progress being made as part of TU's Coldwater Conservation Fund. These projects have been so successful because the fund provides information, education and management that enables large scale funding from public and private investors. Whit provided details on the Kettle Creek, Jefferson River and North Cost Coho projects. After the presentation, Squan-a-Tissit presented Whit with a donation of \$500 to the fund. More information about the fund can be found at www.tu.org/conservation/ccf.asp.



Chapter Vice President Ray Gagnon presents Whit Fosburgh with a donation of \$500 to TU's Coldwater Conservation Fund. Whit is the fund's director.

• Special Thanks

Charlie asked us to acknowledge George Ignacio for his generous donation (dozens) of scissors and forceps for raffle items. Watch for these at our fundraiser and monthly meetings.

March Speakers

This month we are fortunate to have two very knowledgeable experts on the Adopt a Salmon program and the Merrimack/Souhegan River watersheds, Douglas Smithwood and George May. Douglas is Fishery Biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He plans, conducts, and evaluates fish restoration and enhancement activities in central New England. Douglas will talk about the Adopt a Salmon program as well as volunteer opportunities in the area. Our co-speaker, George May, is President of the Souhegan Watershed Association, Chairman of the Souhegan Local Advisory Committee, and former Director of both the Merrimack River Watershed Council and the NH Rivers Council. George will update us on the Souhegan watershed including flow studies, water quality monitoring, pollution problems, and dam removal programs in NH. Wow, if there is anything you ever wanted to know about these watersheds, we've got the right guys to ask!

"Testament of a Fisherman"

by Ray Gagnon

Last spring, at our very successful yearly fund-raiser, my significant other, Lisa, won us a trip to Bosebuck Camps in Maine. As a result, we spent a delightful few days there this past Labor Day weekend. I fished; she painted. One morning while eating breakfast in the dining room of the main lodge, I noticed a framed parchment on the wall, titled "Testament of a Fisherman." I liked it so much that I instantly began copying it in longhand on a paper table mat. The "Testament" displayed no attribution, and the host had no idea whatever who the author was.

Back home, I typed the "Testament" carefully, displayed it prominently in my office, and continued to wonder who had penned this elegant, wonderful affirmation.

Then one evening, quite by chance, while reading an article in *The American Fly Fisher*, (the Journal of the American Museum of Fly Fishing), titled "Secret, Storied

Landscape: John Voelker's Frenchman's Pond," I suddenly came upon a quotation from the "Testament," attributed to Voelker. (For those of you who don't know – as I didn't – Voelker was the author of the classics, *Trout Madness* and *Trout Magic*, under the pseudonym, Robert Traver. The "Testament," the article informed me, comes from another of his books, *Anatomy of a Fisherman*.)

Since discovering the connection, I've learned of the recent publication of a new book about Voelker titled *Voelker's Pond: A Robert Traver Legacy*. It contains beautiful photographs of the private brook trout backwater somewhere in Michigan's rugged Upper Peninsula that was Voelker's special retreat. But you don't need to buy the new book or *Anatomy of a Fisherman* to get your copy of Voelker's wonderful "Testament of a Fisherman." We're happy to provide you with that below – this time with proper attribution! Enjoy!

Robert Traver's

"Testament of a Fisherman"

I fish because I love to; because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, and hate the environs where crowds of people are found, which are invariably ugly; because of all the television commercials, cocktail parties and assorted social posturing I thus escape; because, in a world where most men seem to spend their lives doing things they hate, my fishing is at once an endless source of delight and an act of small rebellion; because trout do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed or impressed by power, but respond only to quietude and humility and endless patience; because I suspect that men are going along this way for the last time, and I for one don't want to waste the trip; because mercifully there are no telephones on trout waters; because only in the woods can I find solitude without loneliness; because bourbon out of an old tin cup always tastes better out there; because maybe one day I will catch a mermaid; and finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant – and not nearly so much fun.

-- from *Anatomy of a Fisherman*
(New York: McGraw-Hill, 1964), 10.