

Fly of the Month

Quill Body Mayfly Nymph



Hook: #14 Nymph
Thread: Black
Tail: Two Pheasant Tail Fibers
Body: Stripped Brown Saddle Hackle
Wing case: Cement coated Brown Hackle
Thorax: Dark Brown Dubbing
Legs: 4-5 Pheasant Tail fibers each side

Comment: *Build a small ball of thread at the point where you tie in the tail, this will cause the fibers to fan out into a "V" shape.*

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Chapter Website: www.squanatissit.org

Upcoming Events

April Chapter Meeting

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

Fly Casting Clinic with Bill Cairns

Saturday, May 15th - Pepperell, MA

Indian Hollow Fishing/Camping Trip & MA/RI Council Meeting, Friday, May 21st, through Monday, May 24th

May Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, May 25th, Kirk Otey

Chapter's "Day on the River"

Saturday, June 5th

Trout Unlimited - Core Value #2

WILD & NATIVE TROUT & SALMON

Healthy populations of native and wild fish are the best indicators of watershed health, and we are committed to the protection and restoration of these fish where ecologically sustainable.

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
P.O. Box 654
Pepperell, MA 01463



Please Mail To:

Squan -a- Tissit NEWS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

APRIL 15, 2004

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

April Meeting
Tuesday the 27th at 7:00 p.m.
with
Jon
Greenwood
presenting
"Atlantic Brood-Stock
Salmon Program"

President's Message

Why does it always seem to take so long for spring to finally be here? Is anyone else feeling the same thing? Our rivers, Squannacook and Nissitissit, have already been stocked. Our local ponds have received their fair share of trout.



Hope has finally sprung eternal! The buds are showing on the trees and bushes. The robins are in full flight. The grass is beginning to turn its long awaited green. The recent rains have filled our waters with much needed moisture. My rods have been cleaned, my lines readied, and my reels lubricated. Can anyone answer for me why I haven't fished yet?

It seems that I'm mired in a bad dream called "winter" that I can't get out from no matter what I do. Please send suggestions of help to me ASAP before the points on my hooks rust up and get dull.

Mr. Inertia,
Chaz

Chapter News

• Banquet Update

Attendance at this year's dinner was 123 guests. *Thank you* to all those who participated and to all our generous sponsors. Last month we neglected to identify John Armstrong as the winner of the Walden kayak, congratulations John! The kayak was donated by the chapter and Walden Kayak of Ayer, MA. Also, Marc Billingham won the chapter rod raffle, a Redington TSF90 rod and case.



Marc Billingham with his new Redington Flyrod.

Members submit a free ticket at TU events and the raffle is drawn at the annual banquet.

• Indian Hollow

The MA/RI Council's camping/fishing trip will be Friday, May 21, through Monday, May 24, at Indian Hollow in Chesterfield, MA. No reservations required, just show up and enjoy camping and fishing with your TU friends from MA and RI.

• Request for Assistance

Due to funding cutbacks, the Division of Fish and Wildlife are short handed this season at the Fishlift in Lawrence. A couple of people are needed each weekend from 8 or 9 a.m. to 3 or 4 p.m. counting herring, shad, salmon and stripers, primarily in May and the first two weeks in June. If you would like to help contact Caleb Slater at caleb.slater@state.ma.us or by phone at 508-792-7270 ext. 133.

• March Speakers

Douglas Smithwood and George May spoke to approximately forty members at the March meeting. The focus was on the Adopt-a-Salmon program and educating new generations on the importance of clean watersheds.



Douglas Smithwood

George May

April Speaker

The featured speaker this month will be Jon Greenwood, Fishery Biologist and Project Leader for the Merrimack River Anadromous Fishery Restoration Program. After earning his BS in Wildlife Management from the University of New Hampshire in 1970, he has spent 33 years with the NH Fish and Game Dept working on anadromous fish restoration programs. Jon will present slides and video on the Atlantic Brood-Stock Salmon Program.



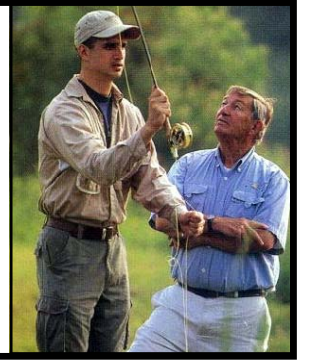
Squan-a-Tissit Chapter brings you a **Fly Casting Clinic**

with

Saturday, May 15th

Details in next month's issue

Bill Cairns



“LEAPERS” IN THE PEMI - Part I

by Ray Gagnon

We were sure we had arrived too late. By 9:30 on this sparkling-clear, early-October morning, the sun would be well above the trees and shining directly on the big pool we intended to fish, just below the big steel bridge in Bristol, NH. As we suited up in the first pullout along Coolidge Road, an older couple, with crestfallen looks, emerged from the woods. “Any salmon?” I asked. “Oh, yeah, they’re there, alright. You’ll see ‘em.” “Did you get any?” “Nah! We threw just about everything we had at ‘em, but that was about it for us.”



Good and bad news. Just about what we’d expected as far as *catching*, but at least we’d get to do some *watching*. As quickly as we could, we made it through the woods to the banks of the Pemi. The big pool was free of anglers, so we claimed it for ourselves.

Within minutes, we saw the first one. It was a shaft of gleaming, quivering silver, leaping skyward from clear, deep, running water, then plunging back into the big green pool again. The sight continued to repeat itself at the rate of about one beautiful silver rocket every fifteen minutes. This must be just a small inkling of what it once was like, I thought. And it made you hearken back to how splendid it must have been along this majestic river when once it teemed with thousands upon thousands of these silver beauties, making their way relentlessly upstream to spawn.

Clearly, the magnificent Pemigewasset is a river equal to such fish. More accurately, it *calls* for such fish. Flowing out of Profile Lake at the base of “the Notch,” the Main Branch graces some of the most spectacular

scenery in the northeast. Then, too, there are places on the East Branch, which drains the vast Pemigewasset Wilderness, where you can stand in the trough of the stream, surrounded by boulders the size of automobiles, and be awed by the thought of the volume of water this trough accommodates during spring run-off and what it would do to you if you were standing there then.

Right now, we were standing well below the confluence of these two storied branches, where the main stem of the Pemi is a rugged, brawling, big-water river, complete with eagles, osprey – and some of the most magnificent and majestic river views you can find anywhere. Awed to silence one summer night along this stretch, I walked by a young angler headed downstream. “This river’s like Colorado!” he exclaimed. “And I’m *from* Colorado!”

Enough daydreaming. It was time to do what we’d come here to do. Squan-a-Tissit TU Chapter brother, Stephen Howard was with me, and he took up a position at the very head of the big green pool. I started down near the tail. We each made several casts.

.....continued next month

You, too, can fish the mighty Pemi for these gorgeous fish. When purchasing your NH fishing license, simply pay an additional \$10.00 for a beautiful “salmon stamp,” a collector’s item that is in and of itself worth the price of admission. For more information, be sure to attend April’s chapter meeting to hear Jon Greenwood, of NH F&G, Fisheries Biologist, and Coordinator of the Brood Stock Salmon Program for the Pemigewasset/Merrimack watershed.