

## Fly of the Month

### Stimulator Yellow & Orange



Hook: Tiemco  
200R, size 8 - 10

Thread: Red

Tail: Elk or deer hair fibers

Rib: Brown hackle palmered

Abdomen: Yellow dubbing

Thorax: Orange dubbing

Wing: Elk or deer hair fibers

Hackle: Grizzly palmered

Head: Red thread

### Chapter Officers:

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Chapter Website: [www.squanatissit.org](http://www.squanatissit.org)

## Upcoming Events

### April Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Andy Bonzagni, Bonefishing the Bahamas

### Indian Hollow Fishing/Camping Trip & MA/RI Council Meeting

Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> through Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

### May Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

### Chapter's "Day on the River"

Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Colombo Area in Pepperell

### September Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>

### River Stockings Information

The state will begin stocking our local ponds and rivers in the next few weeks. For the latest stocking updates go to Mass Wildlife's website at [www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfwtrout.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfwtrout.htm).

## 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 8, ISSUE 4

APRIL 10, 2008

*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 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm

with

## Andy Bonzagni

presenting

## "Bonefishing the Bahamas"

Visitors Welcome!

## Chapter News

### • Dinner Banquet Update

The chapter would again like to thank everyone who contributed to making this year's event such a huge success. The money raised will be put to good use on chapter activities in the upcoming year. The enclosed list identifies our generous supporters. Please make a special effort to patronize these businesses and acknowledge their kindhearted donations, they make our conservation activities possible!

### • Member's Rod Drawing

Throughout the year, member's that attend meetings and projects are entered into a drawing for a fly rod as a special "thanks" for their support. The winner is picked at the dinner banquet. This year's winner is John Meyn. Thanks John and good fishing with your new Orvis 3 wt rod!

### • Cabela's TU Float Tube

If you were the winner of the Cabela's TU Edition Float Tube at the dinner banquet, please contact Jim Lewis (978-433-5321). Jim has additional components needed to assemble the float tube.

## Squan-a-Tissit's Day on the River



**Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 am at the Henry Colombo Area

## "Bonefishing the Bahamas"

Join us on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for a slide presentation on Bonefishing the Bahamas, by Andy Bonzagni, owner of Concord Outfitters. Andy has been fishing the many islands in the Bahamas for the last twelve years, and this show is a great primer for anyone who has thought



about making the trip down south but doesn't know where to begin. Bonefish are a wonderful sport fish that are pursued either on foot, or from a small flats skiff. Bonefishing is a natural progression for a trout angler, as stalking the flats in ankle deep water and then presenting a small shrimp or crab imitation to a cruising fish is the name of the game. Think of spring creek fishing in mid winter to trout on steroids! Come and find out what the different islands have to offer, and which one will fit your needs. Learn how to do-it-yourself as well as the necessary gear for your trip and trip costs. Don't let another winter go by when all you have to look forward to is pitchers and catchers reporting to spring training. Stop by on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and find out what it takes to make this your next fishing adventure.

### Operation of ATVs is illegal in Wildlife Management Areas.

To report violations of off-road recreation vehicle, environmental, or wildlife laws please contact the  
**Environmental Police Radio  
Communications Center  
1-800-632-8075**

## The Brook Trout

You've heard a lot about TU's brook trout initiatives and you'll be hearing much more in the future. The following is information about brook trout biology and why this species is so important to the ecosystem.

### Biology & Habitat Needs

Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) are part of the trout and salmon (Salmonid) family and the Char (*Salvelinus*) genus that include Bull Trout, Lake Trout and Arctic Char. Brook trout are native to Eastern North America, from Labrador and Newfoundland south to the southern Appalachian mountains of Georgia and South Carolina, west to Iowa and Minnesota and north to eastern Manitoba.

Brook trout require cold, clean, highly-oxygenated water. Like other salmonids, brook trout have developed a rich life history diversity over time. This means that they have evolved the capacity to take advantage of a variety of aquatic environments. Brook trout can live in river and stream systems, tiny first order tributaries, small



ponds, large lakes and estuaries. Like other trout and salmon, brook trout can migrate from fresh to salt water where they live in estuaries and the ocean close to shore, called "salters". As a char, brook trout spawn in the fall among loose gravel in streams and rivers, or on groundwater upwellings in ponds and lakes. Because brook trout are so sensitive to water quality and water temperature, they serve as a classic "indicator" species of the larger aquatic ecosystem and the watershed draining into the water body where they live. The reason that brook trout serve as such good "indicators" of aquatic

health is that they have very specific water chemistry requirements.

**Temperature** - Studies have determined that brook trout cannot tolerate sustained water temperatures exceeding 77 F and prefer water temperatures less than 68 F. Brook trout are less tolerant of warmer water temperatures than brown or rainbow trout. Research has documented that brook trout can migrate many miles for spawning or to find thermal refuge.

**pH** - this is a measure of the concentration of H<sup>+</sup> ions in water. pH ranges from 0 (very acidic) to 14 (very basic) with 7 being neutral. Water with a pH lower than 6.0 can cause metals found in soil and rocks to dissolve in solution and suffocate and poison aquatic organisms. Brook trout have evolved to be the most tolerant of the trout species to acidic conditions, and adult fish can tolerate pH levels as low as 5.0. However, acid mine drainage and acid deposition often produce pH levels below this threshold, and currently render lifeless thousands of miles of former brook trout streams and hundreds of lakes and ponds across the East.

**DO** - Brook trout require relatively high concentrations of oxygen dissolved in water compared to other fish and even other trout species. Water temperature is inversely related to dissolved oxygen concentrations, so as water warms, it holds less oxygen. In nutrient-rich systems with high biological activity (high densities of plants and algae) or where diffusion rates between water and the atmosphere are relatively slow (stagnant ponds), levels of DO can fluctuate widely over the course of 24 hours. During the day, photosynthesis produces high concentrations of oxygen, but at night photosynthesis stops and plant, algae and bacteria respiration continues to use oxygen, DO levels can drop to dangerously low levels. High levels of nutrients also can cause algal blooms. As algae dies, bacteria consume available oxygen as they decompose the algae, reducing oxygen levels. This is referred to as BOD or Biological Oxygen Demand.

