

## Fly of the Month—Crane fly larva



**Hook:** 3x long

**Head:** Use a tuft of marabou for gills

**Body:** Wrap w/ thread, add marabou, and a course of wire for weight, wrap with light gray yarn. Cover with a strip of latex glove. Use gold wire to create segments. Darken top with a brown/orange sharpie.

*Fish this large visible nymph during heavy flows. For those of us with older eyes who tire of squinting at #24 BWOs, this fly is also surprisingly effective in clearwater and in reservoir tailwaters.*

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

## Upcoming Events

### February Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00

### Annual Banquet

Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:00

### Trout Unlimited - Our Vision

*By the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish once again thrive within their North American range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.*

### 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.

### Email - Sign up

*All Squan-a-Tissit Chapter members are asked to please sign up*

*for the Email announcement list:*

<http://www.squanatissit.org/newsletters.php>



Squan-a-Tissit Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
P.O. Box 654  
Pepperell, MA 01463

Please Mail To:



# Squan -a- Tissit NEWS

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 10, 2009

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

## February Meeting

Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

With

**Doug Lyons**

Presenting

**– The Battenkill –  
Restoration Activities  
and  
Fishing Opportunities**

**Visitors Welcome!**

## Squan-a-tissit Chapter News

### A Note from the President

Early this month I met with Wayne McCallum, director of MassWildlife, and Boston TU Chapter president David Glater, to discuss the potential for stream restoration activities and habitat improvement for brook trout in Massachusetts. MassWildlife is assessing a variety of projects, including the potential for restoration activities in the Henry Columbo WMA and other areas along the Nissitissit River and its tributaries. Stay tuned !

*Michael Rosser*

### Receive the Newsletter via Email

An effort is underway to build an email announcement list for Squannatissit chapter members. This email list will be used only to disseminate important chapter news, such as last minute changes in the time or date of a chapter function, and to notify members when the newsletter is available on the web-site. Sending out the newsletter in paper form is a costly endeavor for the Chapter, in terms of both time and money, and the funds used toward printing and stamps could best be used elsewhere.

For now, all members who enroll will continue to receive the newsletter through regular mail. In the near future you will be given the option to go fully electronic. We are asking all members to please take a few minutes to visit the Chapter Website and to sign up for the announcement list. Visit the website at:

<http://www.squanatissit.org/newsletters.php>

*Paul Apgar*

### MA-RI Council

Check out some online newsletters from other TU chapters in MA and RI:

<http://www.ma-ri-tu-council.org/Recent-Newsletters.html>

## February Speaker - Doug Lyons

### The Battenkill – Restoration Activities and Fishing Opportunities



*Need we say more ?*

Doug began fishing the Battenkill back in 1977, and fell in love with the river. He will give us an intimate look at the Battenkill and will also discuss the problems the Battenkill has encountered, the scientific work done to investigate them, and why habitat restoration was determined to be the best course of action. Doug will also highlight some of the fishing opportunities available on the river. Doug's enthusiasm for the river is infectious – we will all want to make a trek to this nearby trout mecca after hearing him speak !

## SAVE THE DATE !

### Annual Banquet

Saturday, March 28, 5:00

Join us at our annual TU Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, We have a superb evening planned, with good food, a wide variety of raffle items, and an interesting family program:

### –Tracking –

### Relearning an Ancient Art

Nick and Valerie Wisniewski  
Walnut Hill Tracking Center

## Name that Fish !

**Fallfish.** Fallfish are common riverine minnows that readily take a fly. Fallfish presence is a sign of a healthy river system.



**ID:** Scales are arranged in dark triangular black bars. Breeding males have tubercles (bumps) on their snout.

**Size:** average 5-6 inches but can reach 10-16 in.

**Habitat:** clear, gravel-bottom streams

**Behavior:** In spring, fallfish build large mounds of pebbles on which to spawn.

## River Notes

### What do trout do in winter ?

They do the same as the rest of us—they hunker down, hole up, and try to get by.

Fish are cold blooded, so their metabolism slows as water cools. Trout reduce their activity to minimize energy expenditure. They eat less in winter, but don't stop entirely.

Winter can be stressful for trout. Threats are caused by floods, ice blockages, low dissolved oxygen in ice-covered pools, and low water. Habitat complexity is the key to survival. Trout winter-over in habitat that minimizes adverse conditions. Woody debris, undercut banks, vegetation, and even shelf ice provide cover; especially when in combination with features such as deep pools, beaver ponds, or side-channels. Ground-water discharge also provides important microhabitat for trout in winter. Those 50° springs that provide cool relief during summer become warm little trout spas in winter.

Members are encouraged to think about conservation issues year-round. Human alterations such as water withdrawals, dams, culvert barriers, and habitat loss, are just as critical in winter as in summer.

*Dave Armstrong*

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.