



“The Conservation Steward of the Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers the two closest major trout streams to Metropolitan Boston”

Recent Squan-A-Tissit Chapter Accomplishments

- Constructed a secure entrance gate to the Henry Columbo Wildlife Management Area along the Nissitissit River at the request of MA Fisheries and Wildlife and at Chapter cost.
- Has monitored and documented instances of environmental damage caused by unauthorized motorized vehicles within the Henry Columbo Wildlife Management Area. At the request of MA Fisheries and Wildlife, the Chapter has hung “No ATV” signs within the Wildlife Management Area.
- Contributed significant funding and volunteer support to the efforts to save the Pepperell Springs property in Pepperell, MA from development. This property includes over _ mile of frontage on Gulf Brook, a major tributary of the Nissitissit River, and a stream which supports a population of native Brook Trout.
- Worked with MA Fisheries and Wildlife to install water flow gauges on the Nissitissit River and Gulf Brook. Water withdrawal from our streams remains a major environmental issue for Massachusetts, and these gauges will help establish baseline information for what constitutes normal flow regimes.
- Has begun implementation of a local plan in support of Trout Unlimited’s national “Bring Back the Brookie” program. The Brook Trout is New England’s one native trout species, and true wild fish are becoming increasingly rare as development and other environmental issues impact their habitats. The Chapter has begun surveying tributary streams of the Nissitissit and Squannacook Rivers with assistance from MA Department of Fisheries and wildlife, so as to identify local populations of wild fish. The Chapter has purchased and installed in-stream temperature monitoring devices to record crucial water temperature data.
- Is sponsoring the participation of several fourth through seventh grade classes at the Nissitissit Middle School in Pepperell, MA., the Groton-Dunstable Middle School in Groton, MA., the Reilly School in Lowell, MA, and the Brookline NH Elementary School (representing over 200 school children annually) in the “Adopt-A-Salmon Family” environmental education program, run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Chapter has provided the Aquariums, Chiller Units, Filters and miscellaneous materials and is providing volunteer classroom assistance. (\$700+ in start up costs for each school)
- Hosted a Fly-fishing Retreat on the Nissitissit River for Breast Cancer Survivors in conjunction with the organization “Casting for Recovery”.

- Has constructed a Universal Access Fishing Site on the Squannacook River in Townsend, MA. providing both disabled and elderly anglers with access to prime fishing water on one of the Commonwealth's finest trout streams.
- Chapter members are providing volunteer water sampling services to both the University of Massachusetts Acid Rain Monitoring Program and the Nashua River Watershed Association Water Quality Monitoring Program.
- With the approval of the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, has constructed several log bridges over tributary brooks to the Nissitissit River. These bridges help stop deposits of silt caused by angler foot traffic from entering the river.
- Through lobbying efforts and letter writing, Squan-A-Tissit Chapter members were instrumental in causing the Pepperell, MA. Water Department to change its decision to drill a municipal water supply well, immediately along the banks of the Nissitissit River. The placement of a well at its proposed location would have had a detrimental effect on water levels and rates of flow within the River during dry periods, and a resulting catastrophic effect on wildlife and fisheries.
- Has sponsored and paid the tuition of several local teenagers to attend the Massachusetts Conservation Camp, a two week long environmental education program offered during the summer by MA. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.
- Conducts annual riverbank clean-ups along the Nissitissit and Squannacook Rivers.
- Annually assists the MA. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the NH Fish and Game Department by "float-stocking" by canoe the Nissitissit River.
- Assists the MA. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the NH Department of Fish and Game each year by providing volunteer assistance when they conduct stream electro-shocking and sampling on the Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers.
- Has adopted the Nissitissit River under Massachusetts "Adopt-A-Stream" program. The "stream survey" documents developed by the Chapter have been chosen by the "Adopt-A-Stream" program as model documents that other "Adopters" should emulate.
- Has constructed an "Information Kiosk" at the Henry Columbo Wildlife Area in Pepperell, to display outdoor recreation and angling information.
- Maintains cooperative working relationships with other like-minded, fisheries and water resource conservation organizations, such as:
 - Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
 - New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game
 - New Hampshire Coldwater Fisheries Coalition
 - Nashua River Watershed Association
 - Merrimack River Watershed Association
 - Beaver Brook Association/ Nissitissit River Land Trust
 - Fellow Trout Unlimited Chapters in MA, NH and RI