

In The Trout's Window

Issue 9, 2006/2007

December 2007

Pioneer Valley TU Chapter 276



December 11, 2007 Meeting

Our next chapter meeting will be held at 7:30PM on Tuesday, December 11th at the West Springfield/Agawam Elks Lodge, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA.

Annual Fly Tying Extravaganza and Buy/Swap Meeting

AND a Fly Rod Raffle!

If you have never attended our annual Fly Tying Extravaganza you are missing out on a fantastic opportunity to watch experienced fly tiers demonstrate some of their favorite patterns. Best of all you can sit down and visit each fly tier at his table, observe his technique close-up, ask questions, and learn tips on how to tie better flies. If you are not a fly tier, this is a great opportunity to see how the highest quality flies are tied.

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Wanna' Buy or Swap Some Great Gear?

Along with our fly tying demonstrations, several tables will be available for members and friends to bring in their new or old fishing gear to trade, buy, or swap. Got an extra rod, reel, line, float tube, fly tying material, boat (just wanted to make sure you were paying attention), that you don't use any more? If so, bring it to the meeting and see if someone else would appreciate buying it! Bring as much stuff as you'd like... it'll make better shopping for all of us!

In addition, treat yourself to an early holiday present by visiting one of the various purveyors of fly fishing gear that will be on-hand displaying their specialties.

Wanna' win a fly rod on December 11th? See page 3 for details.

PVTU Chapter #276 to Elect new Officers and Board Members

At the December 11, 2007 monthly meeting, all Pioneer Valley TU Chapter members in attendance will have the chance to vote on the slate of candidates for all officer positions as well as eight (8) positions on the Board of Directors. Nominees thus far include:

Candidate for President: Paul Beaulieu
Candidate for Vice President: Ed Bauchiero
Candidate for Secretary: Tom LeBlanc
Candidate for Treasurer: Joe Babineau
Candidates for Board of Directors: Jim Turcotte
Jim Lafley
Gary Metras
Terry Connolly
Stan Gula
Barry Coppinger

Two (2) vacant Board positions: (candidates needed)

Please note that in accordance with our Chapter's By-Laws, the Board of Directors can accept two (2) new members in addition to the six(6) candidates listed above.

So, if you are interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity or if you are already interested in joining our Board of Directors please attend the December meeting and let us know of your interest. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our Chapter's conservation work and current Board members are very eager to have new members join them. Don't be shy, the Board looks forward to orienting new Board members and make them feel comfortable).

Help Wanted: New Committees Approved by Membership

Chapter members rose to the occasion by providing plenty of "oomph" at the November TU Meeting. Attendees energetically discussed needs and concerns regarding the future direction of our TU Chapter. New committees were established, and an impressive number of volunteers came forward to either chair a committee or serve as a committee member.

One such newly formed committee, the Membership Survey Committee, is off to a fast start. The Membership Survey Committee is chaired by Gary Metras and committee members include Bill Donnelly, Bill Rose, Marty Frisbie, Jim Leonard, Jim Terrett, Russell Ruel, Terry Connolly, Rene Houde, Frank Steplar, and Patty and Tony Kuralowicz. So, don't be surprised if you are contacted by a member of the Committee as they seek to survey membership interests, ideas, and concerns. Please give them your feedback – they *want* to hear from you!

Jim Lafley volunteered to hang posters at our December

meeting that list each committee as well the members that have already signed-up. There is still room for more folks to joins committees, and all help is deeply appreciated.

A special thanks to all of you that have signed-on to assist in one or more committees.

Conservation Banquet to be Held on April 4, 2008: New Format Promises Great Time

Reserve Friday April 4, 2008 on your calendar now!

Friday April 4, 2008 marks not only the new date for our annual Conservation Banquet, but also a change in venue for our favorite Chapter activity. In an attempt to make our Conservation Banquet both equitable and convenient for our members, the Conservation Banquet will be held at a new location – the Agawam-West Springfield Lodge of Elks (the same location as our monthly meetings). This event will be catered by Bub's Barbeque Restaurant. For those who don't know, "Bub's" Barbeque is located in Sunderland, Massachusetts, and has receive recognition from culinary magazines as well as the Wall Street Journal, as one of the best bar-be-que restaurants in the United States. Many TU Chapter members have dined there and unanimously agree that the food is fantastic. We are fortunate that "Bub's" has graciously agreed to cater our event at the Elks location.

In an effort to attract more members and their friends to attend the Conservation Banquet, the Board of Directors has decided to reduce the ticket price. The ticket price will be about **one-half the price** of previous banquets!

As in the past, our Banquet will sport quality auction items all of which provide the financial proceeds necessary to operate our Chapter and fund our conservation efforts. Proceeds from this year's banquet will support conservation projects on the Swift River. So, if you want to show support for improving this local river and quality fishery, you can help by attending the banquet.

More than ever we need to see an increase in the number of Banquet attendees as well as an eager auction audience. Together, we can make 2008, the most successful Conservation Banquet yet. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

Quote of the Month:

"...how we often love fishing best when it breaks the bonds of the ordinary for us, the routine, the usual hours, the regulated life, when it puts us in touch with something a little more elemental, even for a brief while."

—Nick Lyons, *A Flyfisher's World*

Winter Fly Tying Classes Announced - Free of Charge

The Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is proud to once again present free fly tying classes. What better way to pass away the winter hours? A Beginner's class and an Intermediate class will be held as follows:

Beginner's Fly Tying Class

Instructor: Gary Metras and PVTU tiers.
Dates: Wednesday evenings in February
Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Location: West Springfield Lodge of Elks
Cost: Free of Charge

Call Gary at (413) 527-3324 to register for the Beginner's class. No previous fly tying experience is necessary and all tools and materials are supplied.

Intermediate Fly Tying Class

Instructor: Jim Turcotte
Dates: Wednesday evenings in March
Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Location: West Springfield Lodge of Elks
Cost: Free of Charge

Call Jim at (413) 527-5863 to register for the Intermediate class.

A special thanks to Gary and Jim who will be volunteering their time and talents to provide a quality educational experience this winter.

Win a Fly Rod on December 11th While Watching Featured Fly Tiers

What can be better than watching masters at the fly tying table? How about winning a fly rod at the same time?! You can do both during our December 11th Chapter meeting. So, read on...

Attendees at our December 11th meeting will have the opportunity to see several featured fly tiers, such as Jim Turcotte (tying the Gray Fox), and Tony Kuralowicz (demonstrating how to properly paint realistic streamer eyes), as well as Dave Goulet, Jim Terrett, Paul Beaulieu, and Dan Berry demonstrating their superb techniques on flies of their choice.

In addition, famed rod maker, Dan Trela and Dave Warren from Pioneer Sports will be on hand!

As a special treat, our Chapter will be raffling off a brand new *quality* fly rod during the December 11th meeting. Tickets are just \$2, or three (3) tickets for \$5. All tickets will be sold that night and the winner will be announced at the

conclusion of the meeting. This makes your odds of winning pretty darn good!

The brand-name fly rod was produced by a famous maker but will remain a secret until it is on display at the meeting.

Remember, tickets will only be sold at the meeting and the winner will be announced that night. Here's a chance for some lucky angler to end the year on a high note.

Pioneer Valley TU Trivia Questions...

What's your Fishing I.Q.?

(Answers at bottom of page)

1. True or false. A speckled trout is another name for a brook trout.
2. What are the three species of game fish most sought after by anglers using flies?
3. Trout Unlimited was originally founded in what U.S. state?
4. True or false. The average trout requires less oxygen than the average largemouth bass.
5. What are the little holes called on the noses of fish?
6. What fins are located on the lower front of a fish?
7. What are the three main factors that determine trout location in a lake?
8. What part of the reel is attached to the fly rod?
9. If a friend tells you that he caught a brook trout weighing 31 lbs., what would he be telling you?
10. True or false. The brown trout is a native American species.
11. (Extra credit) When will the finest Trout Unlimited Conservation Banquet in New England be held?

How are your Fishing Knots?

How are your knots from backing to fly line... from fly line to leader... leader to tippet... and tippet to fly?

A "knot tying table" will be at the December Fly Tying Extravaganza and Swap Meet to provide demonstrations on the Surgeon's Knot, and the quick-n-easy Duncan Loop (also called the Uni-Knot). In addition, there will be a demonstration of an efficient Nail Knot tool.

If you have a knot of your own that you'd like to demonstrate, please feel free to share it at this table. All knot tying material will be supplied.

Answers to TU Trivia Questions: 1. True. 2. Trout, salmon and bass. 3. Michigan 4. True 5. Nares. 6. Pelvic fins 7. Food, water temperature and oxygen level. 8. The foot. 9. A lie 10. False (it was introduced from Germany). 11. On Friday April 4, 2008... be there!

In The Trout's Window

Newsletter of the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
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Chapter Meetings

Meetings are held at 7PM on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May. We meet at the West Springfield/Agawam Lodge of Elks, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA. The general public is always welcome with no admission fee.

EVENT CALENDAR

December 11, 2007

Annual Fly Tying Extravaganza and Buy/Swap Meeting. Fly Rod Raffle!

January 8, 2008

Speaker: Ken Simmons
“Stream Insect Ecology”

February 12, 2008

Meeting Topic T.B.A.

March 11, 2008

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April 4, 2008

Conservation Banquet