



Taconic Chapter established 1974

The Backcast

February 2005

Membership Meeting
February 24, 2005

6pm social hour

7 pm Dinner

Guest Speaker

Sandy MacGregor

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Androscoggin!"**


fishing guide in both New
Hampshire and Maine

Coffee with Charlie



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Traditions and Legends, We Have Lots of Them Gene Chague

Here at the Taconic Chapter, we are sentimentalists. We treasure the good times and the memories of those who shared them with us. We have our favorite poem, (Dave Lillie), we have our Crooked Staff, our Christmas Plays (Tiny Tim and the Christmas Carp), favorite musical instrument, (the Owolum), Paul Knauth's "goofy goblets", and the list goes on.

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Traditions and Legends, We Have Lots of Them

Gene Chague

We have a long standing tradition which involves a bottle of Yukon Jack. That tradition goes back for 25 years or so to the early days of our chapter. Each year, Frank Root, one of our presidents and charter members would hold a chapter ice fishing derby on Stockbridge Bowl, where his family owned a cottage. It was called the Frigid Frolics and nearly everyone attended. Why, if I closed my eyes today, I can still clearly see, hear and smell those sizzling chicken livers that our former president, Billy Demos, used to cook up for us at the charcoal pit. One of our older members, Fred Langevan, used to bring a bottle of Yukon Jack and we all would take a snort or two, just to take the chill out, don't you know.

As Fred got older, he couldn't take our winters any more and he had to go south to Florida until the weather warmed up. But oh, how he missed being with us at the frolics. If he couldn't be with us, he did the next best thing. He would buy a bottle of Yukon Jack in the fall before he went south and give it to Bill Brighenti to bring to the frolics. Amidst the swirling smoke and falling snow, we would raise our cups and have a toast (or two) to old Fred. Each spring, when he returned, he would delight in hearing about the event and the toast.

Well, one winter we received word that old Fred had gone beyond the river bend. The toast at the frolics that year was poignant and sad. The smoke was especially thick during our toast that year and caused a lot of red eyes. As we raised our cups for our last toast from Fred's bottle, the Ouellettes had a brilliant idea (they always do) and proposed that we leave some of the whiskey in the bottle. Next year, we could buy a new bottle, refill Fred's old bottle and toast him again. In other words, there will be a little part of Fred's whiskey in his bottle from then on. The frigid frolics have stopped for the time being, but the bottle and Fred's whiskey remain after 20 years or so. Last year, around the swirling smoke of our campfire at Indian Hollow, the Ouellettes brought the bottle and we toasted old Fred Langevan again.

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Taconic Chapter is back in the classroom

Karen Karlberg, has volunteered to be our Project Coordinator for the Atlantic Salmon Egg Rearing Project. Karen did an outstanding job with this project last year. The teachers and students at Becket School are so excited, and very happy we are able to again sponsor this project.

The brood tank, designed and build by Homer Ouellette, was set up on February 2, the eggs will be picked February 9 and place in the tank by Karen and her helpers. Thank Karen, the kids are fortunate to have you in the classroom. We look forward to hearing more from you as the project progresses.

The Chapter's Business

January's Membership Meeting Highlights.

26 members attended the January 27th meeting at Mazzeo's Ristorante.

The Flea Market was fun and very successful!

- We witnessed some wheeling and dealing.
- Chapter members bought and sold their own gear.
- The unofficial early tally, the Chapter pulled in \$240 for the treasury.
- The Flea Market featured ,--Fly rods, reels, net, 1st addition fly fishing books., fly fishing gear, flies, fly tying ,fly boxes.....whew the list goes on.
- Karen Karlberg found some new feather for her hats.
- John Kastrinakis "The Greek" won the five fly raffle.

Taconic Chapter Committees

Finance

Herb Rod Dave O'Clair
Len Gigliotti Cy Henry

Activities

Allen Grey Steve Booth
Charles Wohl Paul Ouellette

Membership

Dwayne Anderson Ron Wojcik
Paul Knauth John Kastrinakis

Elected at the annual meeting held December 15, 2004

Officers

President - Paul Knauth	term expires October 2005
Vice President - Len Gigliotti	term expires October 2005
Treasurer - Herb Rod	term expires October 2005
Secretary - Marc Hoechstetter	term expires October 2005

Directors

Dwayne Anderson	term expires October 2005
Allen Gray	term expires October 2005
Charles Wohl	term expires October 2005
Paul Ouellette	term expires October 2006
Ron Wojcik	term expires October 2006
John Kastrinakis	term expires October 2007
Dave O'Clair	term expires October 2007
Steve Booth	term expires October 2007

From the President

Dear Friends,

Our evening at the Flea Market was very successful, relaxing and enjoyable for all. It gave us a chance not only to buy and sell our fly fishing gear, but also provided us that sometimes rare opportunity to spent time swapping stories with our friends and to welcome new members. Thanks to everyone for make this a special evening.

Speaking of special evening, our dear friend Charlie Lahey, donated to the Chapter, a gift we will treasure for long, long time. His handmade wooden box for a single burner camp stove will be used at our annual Chapter gathering at Indian Hollow in May 20-24, 2005. Thank you Charlie.

Gene Chague and I attended the MA/RI council meeting held in Marlboro on Feb 6. There I received for our Chapter a reimbursement check from TU National for the sum of \$232.50. For every member of our Chapter, we receive \$1.50 annually; more members the greater the reimbursement. Also, I presented our Atlantic Salmon calendar to the Council, and it was very well received. As you remember, this is a product of our work and was funded by a grant we received from the USEPA; we hope to market this educational poster to raise funds for our Chapter.

If you have any ideas or suggestion, please feel free to let us know, your Committees will be happy to hear from you,

Our membership meeting is February 24, we look forward to seeing you, please travel safe and take care.

Paul Knauth

In memory of our dear friend, Paul Donahue, who fishes around the bend.

Traditions and Legends, We Have Lots of Them

Gene Chague

This year, at our flea market meeting, a new tradition began. It involves a propane burner in a little red box. It was brought in by our 96 year old long time member, Charlie Lahey. This box and propane stove had special meaning to Charlie, for it was used often by him and his two brothers when they used to camp and fish the rivers of Vermont in days gone by. Charlie was going to have the chapter sell it and keep the proceeds, but our ever alert President Paul Knauth, thought it would be best if we kept it and used it to brew our coffee at Indian Hollow and other outdoor functions. The red wooden carrying box shall never be repainted and, henceforth, whenever we brew a cup of coffee, the tradition will be to dedicate the first sip to old Charlie Lahey.

Taconic Chapter Calendar 2005

February 17	Directors meeting
10-13	Worcester Sportsman Show - Worcester, MA
24	Membership meeting - Sandy MacGregor, a fishing guide in both New Hampshire and Maine.
March 24	Directors meeting
31	Membership meeting - Guest Speaker - member Larry Newmark Fly Fishing in Alberta Mickey Novak - Atlantic Salmon
April 9	Acid Rain Collection (tentative)
21	Directors meeting
26	Membership meeting - Guest Speaker Andrew Madden Mass Division of Fish and Wildlife
May 18	Directors meeting
20-24	Indian Hollow weekend - MA/RI membership meeting

Don't Forget Membership Meeting

February 24, 2005 @ Mazzeo's Ristorante

Guest speaker - Sandy MacGreor, a fishing guide in both New Hampshire and Maine.