

In The Trout's Window

Issue 2, 2008/2009

February 2008

Pioneer Valley TU Chapter 276



February 12, 2008 Meeting

Our next chapter meeting will be held at 7:30PM on Tuesday, February 12th at the West Springfield/Agawam Elks Lodge, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA. (Fly Tier's Corner begins at 7:00pm)

"Fly Fishing for Pacific Salmon in Kodiak, Alaska"

Guest Speaker: Bob Regish

Chapter member, Bob Regish, retired from the working world in October, 2004 after working (38) years in The Investment Division of The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. An angler since age 10, his lifelong dream to go into the wilds of Alaska and fly fish for as many of their native species of fish as possible became reality in September, 2007 and turned into one of the greatest experiences of his life.

Bob will share with us the excitement of his first trip to Alaska during mid-September, 2007. Bob's presentation will cover the scenery, weather, terrain, lodging, food, wildlife encountered (yes Grizzly Bears were there), gear, and the flies that he tied and used, as well as native fish species caught: Silver, Chum, Pink (Humpback) Salmon, Dolly Varden, and Rainbow Trout.

Bob will also answer audience questions regarding his fishing experience in Alaska. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn about that looming mysterious state to our north! This is a great opportunity for anyone who has ever entertained a dream of traveling to Alaska to catch 'the big ones.'

Fly Tier's Corner — Join us at 7:00pm at the Fly Tier's Corner. Paul Beaulieu and Ed Bauchiero will provide demonstrations on how to spin deer hair. This technique is useful for a number of flies; Goddard Caddis, muddler minnow, and mouse patterns to name a few.

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**TU Conservation Banquet to be held on April 4, 2008 —
Banquet ticket prices cut by 50%! (see page 2)**

Ticket Price Slashed by 50% for Pioneer Valley TU Chapter Conservation Banquet!

The Board of Directors has decided to reduce the price of Conservation Banquet tickets by 50% as an effort to entice more Chapter members and their friends to attend this much needed fundraiser. The ticket price will be only **\$15.00 per person**.

What can you do to help your TU Chapter? Simple: attend this banquet!

Your Chapter is depending on you to attend this banquet. Why? Because the annual Conservation Banquet is the single major fundraising effort that sustains the existence of our TU Chapter and its conservation goals. All proceeds from this event fund our river projects, chapter meetings, educational speakers and conservation projects (most recently the our major undertaking on the Swift River).

Best of all, the banquet is a fun way to support your Chapter. A great dinner, camaraderie among other anglers, and excellent raffle and auction items await you (rods, reels, and a host of other quality angler specialties).

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 ever. So, please reserve Friday April 4, 2008 on your calendar — there is no easier and fun way to support your Chapter. (Note: This year our Banquet will be held at the same location as our monthly meetings, the Agawam-West Springfield Lodge of Elks)

How Can You Support Your TU Chapter? (part II)

Several members responded to the previous newsletter article challenging our membership to get involved in our Chapter. So, how can you do this? One excellent way is by sponsoring or donating an item for the auction or raffle for our Conservation Banquet.

By simply sponsoring or donating a banquet item you are providing major support for our Annual Conservation Banquet. Each item that is sponsored (or donated) reduces the Chapter's cost in our banquet fundraiser and goes directly to assisting your TU Chapter. A list of banquet items seeking a sponsor will be available at our February and March monthly meetings and is posted below.

Orvis T-3 Rod	\$ 200
Powell Tiboron II Rod	\$ 150
Trela IM6 Rod	\$ 100
Powell Advantage Rod 9' 8wt.	\$ 100
L.L. Bean Rod 6pc., 9' 9wt.	\$ 100
Glacier Glove Waders	\$ 65

Steiner Compact Binoculars	\$ 60
Ross Flycast Reel	\$ 50
Field & Stream Wading Staff	\$ 40
Hodgman Wading Vest	\$ 40
Rumpf Silver Badger Neck	\$ 40
Sage Kit Bag	\$ 40
5 Orvis Fly Boxes	\$ 35
Aluminum Camp Table	\$ 30
Dr. Slick Needle nose Pliers	\$ 30
Fieldline Gear Bag	\$ 30
Dr. Slick Fishing Clamps (5)	\$ 30
Havana Wine Carrier with wine	\$ 25
Brook Trout Sweatshirt	\$ 25
Columbia Multi-tool Pliers	\$ 20
Dr. Slick Scissors (4 pair)	\$ 20
Loon Adjustable Fly Boxes	\$ 20
Loon Adjustable Fly Boxes	\$ 20
Simms Polartec Gloves	\$ 15
Swiss Army Knife & Pen	\$ 15
Emergency Medical Kit	\$ 15
Framed Shadow Box	\$ 10
Alan James Robinson Cards	\$ 10
Fleece Throw	\$ 10

In addition, donated items are deeply appreciated.... How about a book, a bottle of bubbly, hand-tied flies, etc.? Just bring your item(s) to one our upcoming monthly TU Chapter meetings.

If you would like to sponsor one of the items above, please attend our next monthly meeting, or call Ed Bauchiero at 567-6080, or by email at bigfished@comcast.net

Remember, the strength of any volunteer organization depends solely on the actions of its members. So please join us on April 4th, and consider sponsoring or donating an item today. Thank you.

See You Online: PVTU Enters the Cyber World

It's here! Our PVTU Chapter debuts on the internet!

Thanks to chapter member Patty Kuralowicz, the Pioneer Valley Trout Unlimited **MySpace page** is up and running. For those of you with access to a computer check us out online at: www.myspace.com/pvtroutunlimited

Once you type in our address above, you will see our "Profile" which is the main page as well as our photographs and blogs (of interest discussions).

In addition, anyone can become a "Friend" of PVTU and have their profile or link listed under the "Friends" section on our MySpace page. To be a "Friend", they have to become a member of MySpace. *Why become a "Friend"?* This will allow you to share your own fishing photos on the PVTU MySpace page as well as visit other "Friend" MySpace pages and photos.

(continued on top of next page)

I'd like to be linked under the "Friends" section of the PVTU MySpace page, so how do I become a member of MySpace? Just go to www.myspace.com and a member login screen comes up with an option to "Sign Up". To sign up, all you need is an email address and password (you pick it) and you are a member. If you never put anything on your MySpace page, it will have a blank photo and almost no info posted but you are still a member and able to access any MySpace pages that are public and can request to become a "Friend" to any page on MySpace. The page owner decides if you are approved or not.

So crank up the computer and join us in cyber space today!

Whirling Disease Confirmed in Maryland:

Whirling Disease Foundation Merges With Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Whirling Disease Foundation (WDF) have announced plans to formally merge the two organizations in an effort to combat the growing problem of aquatic nuisance species and their effect on the nation's trout and salmon.

The Whirling Disease Foundation was established in 1995 to raise the funds needed for solutions to the damage caused by whirling disease to wild trout populations. Since that time the WDF has raised more than \$4 million in federal, state and private funds for whirling disease research. It has also helped organize and coordinate global research efforts on the disease.

Whirling disease is a parasitic infection caused by the microscopic parasite, *Myxobolus cerebralis*. The disease is named for the characteristic swimming behavior that results as the parasite multiplies in the head and spinal cartilage of the infected fish. Trout Unlimited has been working with the WDF since its inception to address the threat posed by whirling disease and other invasive aquatic species. TU's initial reports on whirling disease in 1996 and 1999 created a framework for federal efforts to combat whirling disease.

"Whirling disease continues to be a major threat to our wild trout fisheries," noted Dave Kumlien, Executive Director of the WDF. "We now have whirling disease in 23 states, and just this year it was discovered in Maryland. Merging our efforts with Trout Unlimited gives us the ability to address the new threats more effectively and to expand the effort into the broader issue of aquatic nuisance species."

Quote of the Month:

The brown trout, though nonnative, is one of my favorites; he is wild, however, and after a hundred years in our streams is almost as good as native.

And since both my parents are immigrants, I'm just as foreign as the brown trout.

James Prosek, *Trout*

Pioneer Valley TU Trivia Questions...

What's your Winter Fishing I.Q.?

(Answers at bottom of page)

1. What is the minimum thickness of ice required to support the average sized ice fisherman?
2. What device is used by ice fishermen to keep their holes open and free of ice?
3. What mechanical device is used to signal a catch when ice fishing?
4. For ice fishing, how much weight can 36 inches of ice support?
5. What part of a "tip-up", used in ice fishing, flips up when a fish grabs the bait?
6. If you want to drive your pick-up truck on to the ice for ice fishing, how thick should the ice be?
7. True or False. There is no better fishing-related activity in the winter than ice fishing.

Winter Fly Tying Classes Are Here – Sign-Ups Still Available

Beginner's Fly tying classes run throughout February. Here are the details:

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 Metras 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 classes run throughout March. Here are the details:

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 Turcotte at (413) 527-5863 to register.



Answers to TU Trivia Questions:

1. 2 - 3 inches 2. Ice skimmer 3. A Tip-up 4. 100 tons (believe it or not!) 5. The flag 6. 8 inches. 7. False, the best fishing-related activity in the winter is to attend your TU Chapter's Conservation Banquet on April 4, 2008!

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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

February 12, 2008

“Fly Fishing for Pacific Salmon in Kodiak, Alaska”
by Bob Regish

March 11, 2008

Meeting Topic T.B.A.

April 4, 2008

The Pioneer Valley Chapter
Conservation Banquet

May 13, 2008

Meeting Topic T.B.A.