



Taconic Chapter established 1974

The Backcast

January 2005

Membership Meeting
January 27, 2005
6pm social hour
7 pm Dinner
Program

Flea Market
Buy, Sell, Trade
Fly rods, reels, flies,
fly tying etc.
Bring your items and
make your own deal!

Taconic Chapter's
2004 "Crooked Staff" Recipient
Dave O'Clair



Dave O'Clair, receives the "Crooked Staff Award" from outgoing president Marc Hoechstetter. Dave is quietly active, volunteering for many the Chapter's events. In the spring you can find him, stocking Atlantic Salmon with Gene Chague. You will recall, Dave working with the Becket Elementary School on the Atlantic Salmon Egg Rearing Project with Karen Karlberg. In the fall of 2004, Dave was traipsing the county working on the River Continuity Project and sampling streams for the Acid Rain Monitoring Project. That's not all, Dave is on the Board of Directors for our Chapter.

Congratulations and thank you Dave, we are proud of you and the work you have done.

Trout Unlimited Federation of Fly Fishers

Fred Moran

Professional Bamboo Rod Restoration & Repair

111 Forest Park Ave Ph. (413) 743-5126
Adams, MA 01220 www.fredmoran.com

GIGLIOTTI ELECTRIC

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

PO Box 553 Pittsfield, MA 01202

ANDRE E MARTELL, Jr. phone (413) 442-2683
General Partner (413) 743-2255
Fax (413) 743-2232



David Gage

SNOWSHOE FARM

Pure Maple Product

Tel (413) 238-5922 285 Old North Rd
gagesnowshoe@aol.com Worthington, MA 01098

Common Sense Design

DESIGN-BUILD-PROJECT MGT.

Marc Hoechstetter, Pres.

45 Luther Shaw Rd. 413.634.5480
Cumington, MA FAX 413.634.0365
01026 CELL 413.441.7910

Housatonic River Outfitters



Harold D McMillian, Jr.

24 Kent Road - Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut 06754
Telephone (860) 672 - 1010

Berkshire County REALTY COMPANY

JAMES S. McRORY
14 Gordon St. Pittsfield, MA 01201
Office (413) 499-0991 Fax (413) 499-1097
Home (413) 442-6626

Flea Market January Membership Meeting

I know we all have fly fishing "stuff" and have asked these questions.

- "Gee, what am I going to do with all this?"
- "It sure would be great to trade this for a bamboo rod."
- "Are you kidding, I don't have enough stuff, I better get some more."
- "I could need a nice used reel for this vintage fly rod."
- "Wish I had a couple books to read this cold winter"
- "You know, that print would look nice on my wall in the den, or my office."
- "I know someone could use these fly tying materials"
- "I have 3 - 5wt fly rods.....I wonder if someone would be interested to trade, I could really use an 8wt."
- "I have dozens of BWO's, I tied up,,,,,, I sure could use flies for the Salmon River. Hmmm, I wonder if....."
- " how do you tie a snow flea, is it smaller that size 28; I bet someone will have some at the January meeting"

Well here is your chance.

Bring the items to our next meeting, You make your own deal, swap it, sell it.

You bet, the Chapter has some inventory to display

Flea Market?

Sure, why not? Let's change it up a little. It will be fun!

See you on the 27th January

L.P Adams

The Best in Service Since 1900

"Help You Build Things Right"
484 Housatonic St Dalton, MA 01226

Wayne Walton
whwalto@bcn.net

Tel (413) 684-0025 Ext 3010
Fax (413) 684 - 0427

EMS

Winifred Tannetta
Store Manager

Eastern Mountain Sports

The Berkshire Mall"
Lanesboro, MA
413-445-4967

HOME EQUITY LOANS.

NO FEES. NO FOOLING.

THE Co-op

PITTSFIELD COOPERATIVE BANK

Pittsfield Dalton Gt Barrington
**Guided Maine Whitetail Hunts
Fishing and Canoeing**

For Bookings Contact

Master Guide

Ron Berry
(207) 663-4461
(207) 663-2242

Pat's GunShop

Pat King
(888) 296-3897
(413) 499-3897

413-442-09558 Steve Romano

Elm Street Hardware Inc.

129 Elm Street
Pittsfield, MA

01201

Your Host and Proprietor Gennaro Gallo

Antonios

Ristorante

15 Franklin Street 413.637.9894
Lenox, MA 01240

ADAMS CO-OPERATIVE BANK

Courteous Service Borrowing or Saving Since 1895

FDIC

<small>Adams</small>	<small>North Adams</small>	<small>Lanesboro</small>
<small>93 Park St</small>	<small>31 Eagle St</small>	<small>545 So Main St</small>
<small>(413)-743-0001</small>	<small>(413)664-4571</small>	<small>(413) 443-4070</small>

www.adamscooperative.com

Ask for

B-Mile at

REMAX
Integrity Realtors

Beverly Milenski
CRS,CBR,ABR,GRI

4 Elm Street Pittsfield, MA 1201

Home Office (413) 443-7357

"Going the Extra Mile"

Home Fax (413) 443-5890

Office (413) 443-7274

Email bmile@nycao.rr.com

Office Fax (413) 496 -8077



The Story of

"The Crooked Staff"

was to told us by
Homer Ouellette
at our 2004 Holiday
Celebration

The Chapter's Business

Holiday Celebration Membership Meeting Highlights.

29 members and 13 guests attended the December 15th meeting at Mazzeo's Ristorante.

What a celebration!

- We elected new officers and directors
- We awarded the 'Crooked Staff to Dave O'Clair
- Paul Ouellette with help from Marc organized the raffle and door prizes, Paul's creativity and genius was again hard a work. Did you know the raffle tickets were made by Paul, he perforated each using a sewing machine? Other professional job!
- We have a special guest, yup the big man in the red suit stopped by. Santa , aka Homer "Claus" Ouellette distribute gifts to those persons who both naughty and nice.
- Joel Giguere had Mega Bucks tickets for everyone - thanks Joel
- Thanks the elves Dwayne Anderson, Herb Rod and everyone who made this a very special evening

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 Wojick	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,

On behalf of the newly elected officers and directors, we thank you, the membership, for your support. We look forward to what we together working with you can accomplish for our Chapter. Thank you to outgoing president Marc Hoechstetter and secretary Gary Roy, we appreciate the work you have done.

The Taconic Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a dedicated and proud group of very special people. This chapter is rich in tradition, its members embody the TU mission, honor the everlasting friendships made and yes love fly fishing. You can find its members on the stream, you can find its members in the classroom working with the educators and students and you can find its members along side those who have or had breast cancer learning to fly fishing "the sport for life".

Our goal as we move forward, is to continue the work to make the Taconic Chapter recognizable and synonymous with the mission of Trout Unlimited; by October 2005, we will increase the chapters' membership to 150, and provide the financial growth opportunities to sustain current and future chapter activities. We will accomplish this goal together. Three committees (Finance, Membership and Activities) have been formed, each with an objective and the framework to help us be successful.

Our membership meeting is January 27, bring with you your ideas, let us know what we can do together to achieve our goal. Remember January's program is a Flea Market, buy sell or trade your items; it will be fun. 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.*

Chague's place

MA/RI Council News

From the desk of Gene Chague - MA/RI Council Chairperson

Greetings Fellow Tu-ers,

Right up front, please accept my apologies for not corresponding with you more frequently. Your Council has been off doing so many wonderful projects that I haven't had time to stop and inform you as to what we are doing and where we are headed.

First of all, let me thank the various chapters for sending their finest to serve as delegates to the Council. Countless hours are being spent attending the Council Meetings and they are not just sitting there. They are engaged in wholesome debate and coming up with sound decisions as to where we are headed. Then there are the teleconference calls and e-mails. There is a spirit of enthusiasm and cooperation that permeates this delegation, we are working as a team, and it is a great feeling.

Want some examples?

- Over a dozen delegates showed up in Manchester, Vt. last October to attend the N.E. TU Regional Meeting. Valuable personal time was spent hashing out various strategies. Many paid for the expenses out of their own pockets.
- The last council (December) meeting had some 28 delegates attending.....wonderful turnout.
- At the meetings, people eagerly step forward to serve on committees such as the wild trout committee, web page committee, strategic committee, etc..
- Steve Angers, your NLC representative has been knocking on doors on Beacon Hill and in Westboro, trying to garner support for our agenda. Others are cozying up to DFW fish biologists and members of the F&W Board for the same reason.

TU is a vibrant organization and the nicest part is that TU is you. You make up the chapters and you make up the council. It is not them and us.....it is us.....period.

Attendance for our Council Banquet was less than we had hoped, but we all had a wonderful time and there were some super bargains to be had. The council rep's were there, but not so much the general membership. In spite of the low turnout, we still netted around \$2,500. We need to do more to inform you of the great opportunities for bargains and the need to raise funds from this event. We are ever so grateful for the great meal put on by John Salamie and the Greater Boston folks, of the set-up work by Tom Towie and the Squannie folks, of Peter Schilling in the public relations and securing most of the items for auction and raffles, of the kitchen work by the Taconic folks, and the generous donations of guided trips, etc by all of the chapters across the state. Jeff Reardon (New England Conservation Director, TU) gave a very informative talk on our new grassroots campaign of bringing back the brookie.

There is one thing that we have to address very soon. The Council needs a new treasurer. Peter Schilling (Greater Boston Chapter) has been handling the books for us for some 4 years now (one year more than our by-laws allow). He tried to step down last year, but we had no one to step up to the plate to replace him. We are asking each chapter to review their ranks and try to come up with a qualified person who could take on this job. We need to know who it is within a couple of weeks.

So why are we so busy?

- Your council along with the other New England Councils have joined forces to "bring back the brookie". This fish has been beleaguered by acid rain, urban sprawl, infestations of exotic plant and fish species, (etc). What can you do about it as one person? Well, not too much. But a combined outcry of some 11,000 TU members in New England, (3,800 in MA/RI) might carry some weight.
- We have been working on establishing a Council strategy. We must re-define who we are, where we are

going and how we get there.

- We have been working on a new Angler's Guide (a committee is in place). It is hoped that it will be released this spring.
- We have been working on a wild trout policy (a committee is in place)
- We have a committee in place to work on our new web site. (TU-MA-RI-Council.Org)
- There are constant projects going on at Red Brook with reports being generated at every council meeting.
- Our National Leadership Council rep. (Steve Angers) is constantly updating us on what is going on at the national level.

And it is not just the Council that is working hard. Did you know that the individual chapters in the Council contributed 17,550 hours of their personal time to TU? Did you know that 5,740 hours were spent by you and co-members on restoration projects in MA/RI alone? Whether you are working with Fran Smith on the Quashnet River on the Cape, with Warren Winders on Red Brook in Wareham, with Lawson Cary on the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed in Rhode Island, with Pioneer Valley folks working on the Swift River, and all of the other wonderful projects going on across the state, please know that your efforts matter. I challenge you to name an organization that is doing more on an ongoing basis. No matter where you go across our states, you will see TU volunteers involved in important projects, attending and speaking at meetings, lobbying politicians, etc. Just click onto the council/chapter web sites to see how much is being done by your fellow Tu-ers across our states. Congratulations and thanks to you all!

3,800 members, two states (Rhode Island and Massachusetts) environmentalists, hook and bullet guys. How can someone who lives in a high rise overlooking the Charles River equate with someone living in Lenox, overlooking October Mountain. Its simple, we all care about clean air, clean water and our quality of life. The rallying flag? It's the wild brook trout. He is our indicator, our canary in the coal mine. If foul air which is causing acid rain, mercury and other toxins are killing him in our feeder streams, aren't we also affected by breathing the stuff? If the waters are so bad that he cannot live in them, should we be drinking it?

In the upcoming months, you will be hearing a lot about this little guy and our efforts to help him. Whether we fish, hunt, hike or rarely leave the confines of our homes, we all have to be concerned for his well being because what is good for the brookie is good for us all. Thanks to your involvement, I've got a feeling that 2005 will be a very good year for the brookie and for us.

If you feel that there is little that you can do, that you are a poor speaker, writer or organizer, don't know where to start, and that others are better qualified, believe me, we all said that at one time or another. You have to ask yourself just how strongly you feel about the brookie, clean air, clean waters. If you feel strongly enough, have solid facts and know what you are talking about, you will convey your message well and people will listen. You can make a whale of difference by writing letters to politicians or contributing funds to your chapter and this council. You can also make a difference by spreading the word and recruiting new members to TU. The \$15 new member rebate program has been extended to March 31, 2005. What a wonderful way to bolster your chapter's treasury while at the same time doing him/her a favor.

If you are a member of a chapter whose leadership has thinned out or became "burned out", don't despair. It happens to the best of us. It usually happens to an organization whose membership leaves everything to be done by someone else. When that "someone else" leaves, a void follows. Please step forward and help them out. Ideally, your leadership will be made up of us grumpy old men who possess a world of expertise and knowledge and younger, enthusiastic folks with the new ideas. Your Council and neighboring chapters are also ready and willing to help your chapter get back on track. Just ask.

Lastly, let me say this. If you are an active, "can do" type of person who cares about cold water fish and their habitat and want to do something about preserving them, you are in the right organization.

Happy New Year

Gene Chague

MA/RI Council Chair

Taconic Chapter Calendar 2004-2005

January 20	Directors meeting
21-23	Fly Fishing Show - Marlboro, MA
27	Membership meeting - Flea market - Buy, sell or trade your

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 -Mickey Novak

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

January 27, 2005 @ Mazzeo's Ristorante

Flea Market

Buy, Sell, Trade - Fly rods, reels, flies, fly tying -Bring your items and make your own deal