

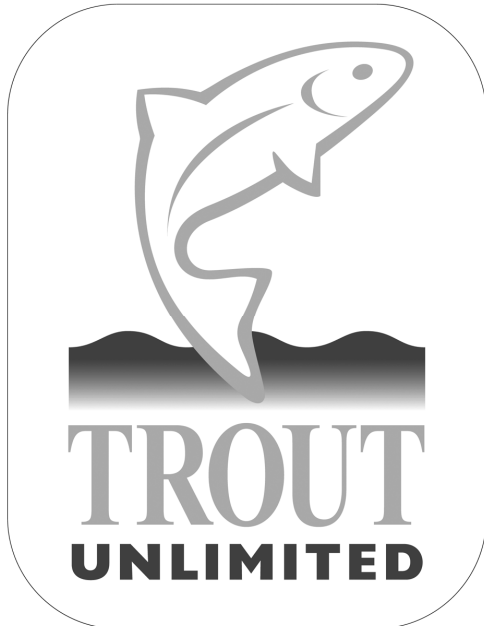
In The Trout's Window

Issue 4, 2009

April 2009

Pioneer Valley TU Chapter 276

Conservation Banquet Issue



Please note: There will be no Chapter meeting during the Month of April. The major Chapter activity for the month is our Annual Conservation Banquet.

Month of April highlighted by Pioneer Valley TU Chapter Conservation Banquet

A big "Thank You" in advance to all of you who purchased tickets for our annual Conservation Banquet, and especially to those of you who sponsored Banquet items or donated items for this event.

The Banquet is *the* major fundraising effort for your Chapter and your support is the only thing that keeps us going year after year. So thanks again for all your support!

Remember - the Friday April 3rd Conservation Banquet is replacing our regular monthly Chapter Meeting... ***so no regular monthly meeting will be held*** in April!

Our next monthly meeting WILL NOT be on Tuesday May 12, 2008. Rather, the next meeting will be at the Richard Cronin Salmon Station courtesy of Mickey Novak. Members will be offered a tour of the hatchery at (time) then there will be a free picnic and the opportunity to fish in the Catch-and-Release pond.

Next Month: May Chapter Meeting will include Hatchery Tour, Cookout and Fishing!

The May meeting of the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited will take place on Tuesday May 19th (the third Tuesday of the month), and it will be held at the Richard Cronin Fish Hatchery. So please note that there will not be a meeting on the second Tuesday in May at the West Springfield/Agawam Lodge of Elks. Read page 3 for details.

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President's Corner

By PVTU President, Paul Beaulieu

By the time you receive this newsletter, our Annual Conservation Banquet will be close at hand.

I want to extend a personal thanks to the many members who donated their time, effort, or financial support toward our most important fundraising effort of the year. Simply put, without a successful banquet our Chapter would not have the financial means to engage in the many environmental projects and educational programs that we currently undertake.

So, thank you for making this a banner year for your Chapter.

Fishon!

Paul B.

Saltwater Fishing License

Sportsman's groups in the state of Maine have teamed up to resolve the long-standing battle over the introduction of a saltwater fishing license. This comes on the tails of a successful fight two years ago to defeat the proposal, "but it is back with a vengeance", reports the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM). This issue arose as a result of the Magnusson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which in fact, is applicable to all marine-bordering states, including Massachusetts.

Congress re-enacted the Magnusson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act at 2 am on the last day of the 108th Congress. This Act requires the National Marine Fisheries Service to establish a federal angler registry with the option of charging anglers between \$15 and \$25 to register. States that create their own registries may charge the fee and keep the money.

State and federal officials can use the registry to conduct annual surveys – the whole purpose of the original registration requirement. However, concerned angling groups report that reliable information about saltwater fishing can be obtained using other survey systems without the burden of an expensive license.

SAM asserts, "We are determined to defend the opportunity of many Mainers, especially families, to catch their dinner and enjoy a centuries-old tradition that is a very important part of their heritage, without paying the government a fee. Fish free or die!"

A concern closer to home is that other New England states such as Massachusetts may explore such a fee to offset current budget woes.

Brook Trout Facts

TU National - Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) are the only trout native to much of the eastern United States. Arguably the most beautiful freshwater fish, brook trout survive in only the coldest and cleanest water. Brook trout serve as indicators of the health of the watersheds they inhabit. Strong wild brook trout populations demonstrate that stream or river ecosystem is healthy and that water quality is excellent. A decline in brook trout populations can serve as an early warning that the health of an entire aquatic system is at risk.

In 2005, in recognition of the need to address regional and range-wide threats to brook trout, a group of public and private entities formed the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) to halt the decline of brook trout and restore fishable populations.

Trout Unlimited's Conservation Success Index (CSI) combines brook trout population data generated from the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, and many other types of landscape information that evaluate the habitat integrity and future security of that land. The CSI scores the subwatersheds, or lands typically containing 25 to 75 miles of streams, where brook trout historically survived.

The CSI provides a host of maps that illustrate the status of brook trout and their habitat across the Eastern brook trout range – from Maine to Georgia to Ohio. An interactive mapping tool allows you to use Google Earth or Google Maps to fly around all New England states and examine specific subwatersheds in your region... including our Western Massachusetts waters.

TU staff, TU chapters and their partners are using the CSI to prioritize areas for brook trout protection, restoration, reintroduction and education across the East.

Editor's Note: This is a great example of TU resources at work. Learn more by visiting www.TU.org



A nice native New England brook trout

Book Review: Casting a Spell

by George Black
Random House Inc., August 2006

Casting a Spell does just that for the reader of this exciting and interesting account of the art, craft, and history of the bamboo fly rod.

George Black has put together an investigative study of the bamboo fly rod and its inventors beginning in the mid 1800's right up to today's Masters. Such perfectionists as Edwards, Leonard, Hawes, Thomas, Payne, and others are enthusiastically and reverently chronicled in their quest to produce the perfect fly rod which Black affectionately compares to a Stradivarius.

Black covers most of New England and its rich freshwater fishing resources to describe his journey researching the Masters and their talents. He is clever in his description of the limitations and pressures on the Masters from the production rod era, the cane industry, and fiberglass and graphite influences.

As the Masters spent more time and labor on their perfection of a balanced fishing instrument, industry was advancing to make production rods cheaper and mass produced. Economic, social, and industrial changes were making it difficult for the Masters to justify their time. These craftsmen seldom made a profit and were never satisfied with their work.

Black emphasizes that the Masters are still toiling for perfection today and for a price. He subsequently gives a tour through many of the shops of the modern craftsmen, each with a distinct personality and approach to perfection.

Black's quest in his book is the flyfishing equivalent of the pursuit of the Holy Grail. His research and enthusiasm makes this book a very pleasant and interesting read.

Note on the author: George Black is a prolific writer and has written The Trout Pool Paradox, 3 books on Foreign Affairs, and many articles for the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and others. He lives in Manhattan and frequents Connecticut's rivers and streams.

Reviewed by Bill Donnelly, PVTU Chapter
Member and Program Chairperson.

Cancer Connection Fly Fishing Clinic

Chapter members John Sinton and Les Jones are looking for 6 volunteers to join them for the Cancer Connection Fly Fishing Clinic that they are coordinating at Look Park on May 2nd. The clinic will run from 10:00am to 3:00pm with a rain date of May 3. If you are interested in volunteering for this very worthwhile event or want to learn more about it, you can see John Stinton or Les Jones at our monthly Chapter meeting or contact John at: jwsinton@comcast.net

Pioneer Valley TU Trivia Questions

(Answers at bottom of page)

1. What fins are located on the lower front part of a fish?
2. True or False. A Steelhead is a rainbow trout.
3. A fish that is born in fresh water, migrates to the ocean, and returns to freshwater to spawn is call a (an) _____ fish.
4. A "3X Stout" is a designation for what fishing device?
5. What is the main staple of a trout's diet, and if plentiful supports the best trout streams?

May 2009 TU Chapter Meeting - Hatchery Tour, Cookout and Fishing!

Advanced Notice: The May meeting of the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited will not take place on the second Tuesday in May, and it will not be held at the West Springfield/Agawam Lodge of Elks. The May meeting will take place on the third Tuesday of the month (Tuesday May 19th), and it will be held at the Cronin Fish Hatchery.

The meeting will begin at 6:00pm (note this change in meeting time) with a tour of the hatchery followed by a complimentary hamburger and hot dog cook-out.

Bring your fly rod as hatchery manager, Mickey Novak, has offered members to try a few casts in the trout pond where he provides groups of children and disabled veterans the opportunity to fish on weekends. This is strictly catch and release and after two fish are caught, Chapter members are to "reel it in" so as to provide access for all!

More details, updates, directions to the hatchery, etc., to follow in the May edition of "In The Trout's Window".

PVTU Treasurer's Report

The March, 2009 Treasurer's report for the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is as follows:

Checking Account:	\$2,005.53
Savings Account:	\$9,258.32
CD Account::	\$11,064.49

Final expenses for the conservation banquet and upcoming have yet to be deducted from the savings account.

Quote of the Month:

Perhaps fishing is, for me,
only an excuse to be near rivers.

If so, I'm glad I thought of it.

- Roderick Haig-Brown

Answers to TU Trivia Questions:

1. Pelvic fins 2. True 3. Anadromous 4. A hook 5. Insects

In The Trout's Window

Newsletter of the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
Published monthly from September through May by PVTU.

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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 always welcome— no admission fee.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

April 3, 2009	Annual Conservation Banquet
May 19, 2009	Chapter Meeting at the Cronin Fish Hatchery
May 15 - May 18	Indian Hollow Campground Weekend
June - August	Summer Break. Go fishing! We'll see you at the September 8th Meeting!

State Fishing License Information and "Free Fishing Days" for 2009

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581
Tel: (508) 389-6300 **Free Fishing Days June 6th & 7th, 2009**
www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/

Vermont

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
113 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671
802-241-3600 **Free Fishing Day June 13th, 2009**
www.vtfishandwildlife.com/

Maine

Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
41 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0041
207-287-8000 **Free Fishing Days February 16th & 17th,
and May 31st & June 1st, 2009** www.maine.gov/ifw/

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127 (860) 424-3000
www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2696&q=322708&depNav_GID=1630&depNav=

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301
603-271-3421 **Free Fishing Day June 6th, 2009**
www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Fishing/fishing.htm

Rhode Island

Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767
401-222-6100 **Free Fishing Days June 6th & 7th, 2009**
www.dem.ri.gov/

New York

NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-0001
518-402-8013 **Free Fishing Days June 27th & 28th, 2009**
www.dec.ny.gov/