

In The Trout's Window

Issue 9, 2008

December 2008

Pioneer Valley TU Chapter 276

December 9, 2008 Meeting



Our chapter upcoming meeting will be held at 7:30PM on Tuesday, December 9th at the West Springfield/Agawam Elks Lodge, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA. (Fly Tier's Corner begins at 7:00pm)

Guest Speaker: Thomas Ames, Jr.

New Book Premier:

Caddis Flies: A Field Guide to Eastern Species for Anglers and other Naturalists

Thomas Ames, Jr., is well known to fly anglers and amateur entomologists alike. A commercial photographer and author of the classic reference book, Hatch Guide for New England Streams, (which is found inside many a fishing vest pocket), Mr. Ames is releasing his new soon-to-be-classic book, Caddis Flies: A Field Guide to Eastern Species for Anglers and other Naturalists. Best of all, the release date for this new work is scheduled to coincide with Mr. Ames' presentation to our TU Chapter on December 9th. Assuming the publisher is not late on the release of this new work, copies will be available at our meeting and can be autographed by the author!

We are very grateful for Mr. Ames' willingness to share his extensive knowledge, wonderful photographs and entertaining personality. So, treat yourself this holiday season by joining us for this special presentation on December 9th. Better yet, bring a friend and treat them to this free-of-charge event, too!

Fly Tier's Corner — *Join us at 7:00pm at the Fly Tier's Corner.* Chapter member, Jim Lafley, will to be our featured tier. Jim's legendary status for fooling finicky Swift River trout goes without saying, and his superb ability to instruct at the fly tying vice is an extension of his professional career as an environmental teacher and lecturer. Jim will share his special fly that is perennially effective on the lower Swift River.

Win a New Fly Rod at our December Meeting! See page 3 for Details...

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Got Gear?

By PVTU President, Paul Beaulieu

This past spring, in one of my first actions as President of PVTU #276, I had the pleasure of phoning Kate Fox, the Executive Director of Casting for Recovery, up in Manchester Vermont, to let her know that our board had voted to make a \$250 dollar donation to her organization. Her reaction was one of sheer amazement (one would have thought that I had said \$250,000) and it made me realize that Casting for Recovery operates on a minimal shoestring budget. The impact that our small donation would have on the ability of Casting for Recovery to offer its therapeutic programs for women recovering from cancer was real and measurable.

So, when I was rummaging through my gear closet the other day, it occurred to me that those two 6 weight rods I haven't used for years could certainly be put to better use than dust collecting. Therefore, in the spirit of the season, I am announcing that these two rods (an original St Croix Legend and a Redington Red Start), along with some other underutilized equipment I own, will be for sale at our annual January Extravaganza meeting on January 13th. All proceeds of "The President's Sale" will be donated to Casting for Recovery.

I encourage all members to attend this meeting to spend some quality time with your fishing buddies, visit the tables of our generous local fly shops, check out the skills of our fly tying gurus and stop by my table to support Casting for Recovery. And, if you've got some excess gear of your own that you'd like to contribute to this worthy cause, drop it off at my table.

As always,

Fishon!

Rushing Rivers Institute: Blog Site

If you attended our October Chapter meeting, you were treated to an *excellent* presentation on effective management tools and modelling techniques for ecological river management by Dr. Piotr Parasiewicz, our own Chapter member and river scientist. Dr. Parasiewicz is the director of the Rushing Rivers Institute, an Amherst based non-profit organization promoting application of cutting edge science in river management, and requests for his return as a guest speaker have quickly arisen.

Many Chapter members expressed great interest in Dr. Parasiewicz's presentation, so this is a reminder that you can keep up to date on the Rushing Rivers Institute's excellent projects as well as view a copy of all recent newflashes and related items by visiting their blog site at blog.rushingrivers.org

Thanks again to Dr. Parasiewicz for sharing his expertise.

Trout Unlimited Founders Inducted Into Catskill Hall of Fame

Two founders of Trout Unlimited were inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum in late October. Art Neumann and George Griffith, along with others, co-founded Trout Unlimited 50 years ago on Michigan's Au Sable River with the intent to promote catch and release fishing practices and to create and preserve healthy habitat for trout.

"Trout Unlimited is proud to have two of its founders receive such important recognition from the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum," said Charles Gauvin, TU president and CEO. "Their induction in the Hall of Fame reinforces the critical angling-conservation link on which Trout Unlimited was founded 50 years ago." The two join over 50 other fly fishing notables in the Hall of Fame, a designation created by the museum in 1985.

Neumann was the first vice president of TU and was a fly shop owner and rod maker. Neumann is now 91 and lives in Saginaw, Michigan. Griffith organized the first meeting of TU at his cottage, "The Barbless Hook" and was a lifelong conservationist. He died in 1998 at 97.

Trout Unlimited is the largest coldwater conservation organization in the U.S. and has 140,000 members, over 400 chapters. TU will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2009.

MA/RI Trout Unlimited Council Announces Annual Banquet

The MA/RI Trout Unlimited Council has announced that its annual Conservation Banquet will once again coincide with the Marlboro Fly Fishing Show. This year's Banquet will be held Saturday, January 17, 2009 starting 5 P.M. at the Holiday Inn, Marlboro (just ½ mile down the road from the Fly Fishing Show). The Council is sending each TU Chapter 10 Banquet tickets and hopes each Chapter will have a representative group attend. The Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited will have tickets available at its December meeting. Ticket price is \$25.

The Council will be inviting exhibitors and celebrities from the Marlboro Fly Fishing Show to attend the Banquet to give all banquet attendees the chance to mix and mingle with big names in the fly fishing industry while enjoying a great "all-you-can eat" buffet, bucket raffles and auction.

The MA/RI Trout Unlimited Council is accepting any and all donations for their bucket raffle and auction. Guided trips to favorite fishing spots are enormously popular as are hand-tied flies and the Council would be happy to make arrangements to pick up donations prior to or during the Show (or they can be brought to the Banquet by the donor). For more information, contact John Salemi at fishnina@comcast.net or at 508-481-3034.

This Holiday Season Help Pioneer Valley Trout Unlimited Support Our Overseas Troops

Want to do something special for our overseas military personnel this Holiday season? Then please read the heartfelt message below to you, our TU Chapter members, who have already lent a helping hand...

To the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited:

Thank you for putting Beanies for Balad in your recent Chapter newsletters. So far, we have shipped 8,400 pounds of donations to assist our troops abroad. We ship beanie babies, matchbox cars, candy, hand-knitted hats/scarves/gloves [winter] and kids shoes such as flip-flops and crocs [summer] for our troops to hand out to the kids of Iraq, Afghanistan & Kosovo. Every box that has gone out (nearly 300!) ALWAYS has things on the top for our troops such as lip balm, hygiene items, munchies, birthday/anniversary cards to send home to loved ones, and leisure magazines (most recent 12 month issues). Our troops LOVE fishing, hunting, outdoors, motorcycles, boating, car restoration, that kind of thing. The notes and emails I receive from our troops say things like:

"Thank you so much for those great magazines."

"The magazines are super and get passed around and around until they fall apart. They are a great escape for the little down-time we have."

"I really appreciate all the 'extras' you send, especially the magazines -- it's like you KNOW me or something!"

"Thanks for the Harley magazines. I cut a picture out of the one I'm going to buy with my combat pay when I get home and I keep it tucked inside my helmet. When I need a "lift", I just take off that helmet and look at it."

Thanks to everyone at the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited for the continual source of recent (12 months) magazines. Chapter member, Rex Hryniewicz, has been a real help in gathering them up and bringing them to us. You keep collecting, and we'll keep sending. Thanks again,

Sue Shea & Pete Morin
Beanies for Balad
c/o Sage Books
220 College Hwy,
Southampton MA 01073
books@sagebks.com

Editor's Note: At our December 9th TU Chapter meeting we will be accepting donations (magazines as well as the other items mentioned above), and immediately forwarding these items for shipment this holiday season. Please join us in this opportunity to let our troops know that we are thinking about them this holiday season.

Win a Fly Rod at our December Chapter Meeting!!!

At the end of our December 9th Chapter meeting some lucky person will walk away with a beautiful, new fly rod! Raffle tickets will be sold *only* at the December meeting, and the winner will be announced after the conclusion of our speaker's presentation.

So, be a meeting attendee and stand an excellent chance to add to your holiday excitement with a brand new fly rod. The rod is a wonderful 4-piece, 6-weight, 9-foot Powell Advantage. Tickets will be only \$2.00 apiece or 3 for \$5.00. Don't miss out on this holiday event!

Best of luck and Happy Holidays!

Fly Tying Classes, Winter 2009

The Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is offering a free Beginners Fly Tying Course: Wednesday evenings on February 4, 11, 18, 25. These classes will be taught by Gary Metras. To register, call him at (413-527-3324) (gmetras3324@charter.net). All material and tools will be supplied.

The Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is also offering a free Intermediate Fly Tying Course: Wednesday evenings on March 4, 11, 18, 25. Jim Turcotte will be instructing this course. To register contact him at (413-527-5863) All fly materials supplied, bring your own tying tools.

Both the Beginner's and Intermediate classes will be held at the West Springfield/Agawam Elks Lodge, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA.

PVTU members Gary Metras, Dan Berry and others will be teaching beginner/intermediate fly tying classes this winter as follows:

January 23-March 12, Thursday evenings 6-8pm.
Valley Sport Center
Northampton Road (Rt. 10)
Easthampton

The cost is \$15.00 per pupil and the class is limited to 15 students. All materials and tools supplied. To register, contact Gary Craig at Valley Sports: 413-527-9278.

PVTU members Les Jones and Rudy Ciecho will be teaching beginner/intermediate fly tying classes this winter as follows:

January 28-February 25, Wednesday evenings 6-8 pm.
Dave's Pioneer Sporting Center
Damon Road, Northampton

The cost is \$25.00 per pupil. All materials and tools supplied. At the end of class a \$25.00 gift card is issued. To register, contact: Les Jones at JonesFlyFisher@aol.com or Dave at the store: 413-584-9944.

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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 always welcome— no admission fee.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

December 9, 2008

Thomas Ames, Jr. New book release “Caddis Flies”

January 13, 2009

Fly Tying Extravaganza

February 10, 2009

Dana Ohman “Coldwater Stream Guidelines”

March 10, 2009

Jennifer McCarthy
“Salmon Aging, Migration, and Depletion”

April 3, 2009

Annual Conservation Banquet !!!

PVTU is Online and Getting ‘Hits’!

Join the **500+** people that have visited the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited online!

Under the direction of Chapter member, Patty Kuralowicz, the Pioneer Valley Trout Unlimited **MySpace page** is continually updated, running smoothly, and getting hundreds of “hits” from online visitors from near and far. Our MySpace page covers Chapter-related news articles, photos of Chapter members’ fishing exploits, and other relevant information. So, for those of you with access to a computer come visit us online at: www.myspace.com/pvtroutunlimited

While you check-out the great fishing photos from Chapter members on the front page of this web-site keep in mind that we are looking for any stories and most importantly angling photos from all of our members. Here’s a great place to brag about the one that *didn’t* get away! So, submit your fishing photos and/or stories today!