

# In The Trout's Window

Issue 8, 2008

November 2008

Pioneer Valley TU Chapter 276

## November 11, 2008 Meeting



Our chapter upcoming meeting will be held at 7:30PM on Tuesday, November 11th at the West Springfield/Agawam Elks Lodge, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA. (Fly Tier's Corner begins at 7:00pm)

### Atlantic Salmon Program Update: “What has Happened Since the IPN Disease Outbreak in 2007?”

**Guest Speaker: Mickey Novak**

As many of you remember, in March of 2008, Mickey Novak, manager of the Richard Cronin Salmon Station in Sunderland, MA, addressed our TU Chapter on the recent discovery of Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (IPN) in Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) that returned to the Connecticut River last spring. Mr. Novak discussed the history of the virus, how it came to be in the Connecticut River and the steps being taken at the hatchery to secure the facility from future problems resulting from IPN.

Now that the first shock of IPN has settled in and initial responses to deal with this reality have been taken, what is the current status of this disease and its impact on the Atlantic salmon rearing program?

Mr. Novak has been at the Cronin Salmon Station for the past 16 years assisting with the Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program. He has also been instrumental in the Atlantic Salmon Egg Rearing Program (ASERP) in classrooms throughout the valley. Mr. Novak's expertise in Atlantic salmon restoration combined with his experience in IPN make his presentation one not to be missed.

**Fly Tier's Corner** — Join us at 7:00pm at the Fly Tier's Corner. Chapter member, Jim Turcotte, has generously consented to be our featured tier. Jim's talents, not to mention his professional fly tier status, need no mention. So, don't miss this opportunity to see a master, and gentleman, at the tying bench!

*Have a Happy Thanksgiving!*

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## President's Message – Help Riverways

By Paul Beaulieu

The Riverways Program, is a small, award-winning, program within the Mass. Department of Fish and Game that partners with citizens, towns, landowners and nonprofits to protect local rivers and watersheds. Riverways staff train stream teams, teach science-based flow monitoring techniques, work on dam issues, serve on technical/advisory committees and help troubleshoot river problems across the state. Riverways leverages a small state investment to pull in much larger matching resources from federal, local, private and volunteer sources producing tremendous benefits for communities. Watershed associations, conservation groups and communities depend on Riverways to help them tackle tough problems.

All government programs have to currently absorb their fair share of the financial pain. However the 30% cut in the Riverways budget is disproportionate to the overall 7% cut in environmental programs, and can't be absorbed in a small program that's already "fat free." You can help! Please take a moment now to support a strong Riverways Program by signing on to the Riverways issue page at [http://devalpatrick.com/issue.php?issue\\_id=7690743](http://devalpatrick.com/issue.php?issue_id=7690743) and add your name to the post made by Shep Evans of Stockbridge in support of a strong Riverways Program.

## Dam Removal on Penobscot River One Step Closer to Reality

Trout Unlimited and its Penobscot River Restoration Trust partners announced that the \$25 million needed to purchase three dams on the Penobscot River has been raised, bringing restoration of the Penobscot River one step closer to reality. Through one of the most innovative river restoration projects in the nation, access to nearly 1,000 miles of river and stream habitat will be improved for Atlantic salmon. The project is considered the last best chance for wild Atlantic salmon recovery in the country.

The Penobscot River drains roughly 9,000 square miles in Maine, or about one-third of the state. Maine is home to the last remaining wild Atlantic salmon in the nation, and the Penobscot holds the state's largest population of Atlantic salmon, with annual salmon runs estimated at 50,000-70,000 prior to 1830. This year, over 2,000 salmon have returned to the Penobscot (this is more than 90% of the total population that returned to Maine's rivers this year). The Penobscot River is the engine of Atlantic salmon production in New England and the best opportunity to prevent their disappearance in the United States.

On September 3, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries published a proposed rule to extend the endangered listing of the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic salmon to include three additional rivers in Maine -- the Kennebec, Androscoggin, and Penobscot. The proposed rule emphasized the impacts of

dams with inadequate fish passage in these rivers. TU staff and the Maine Council will review the proposal and comment prior to the December deadline.

## TU Asks Manufacturers to Stop Producing Felt-Soled Waders by 2011

Trout Unlimited has asked fishing equipment manufacturers to stop producing felt-soled waders and wading shoes by 2011 to help stop the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) by anglers in America's rivers and streams.

Felt-soled shoe bottoms are used to provide traction while walking in water, but is a material that transmits aquatic nuisance species such as New Zealand mud snails, the invasive algae called didymo and the parasite that causes whirling disease, a disease fatal to trout. Felt soles can very easily become impregnated with mud and other organic matter, and become difficult or impossible to disinfect.

"While the elimination of felt soles on waders and boots will not entirely prevent the spread of ANS, this action will help reduce the risk and help protect our precious aquatic resources," said David Kumlien, executive director of the Whirling Disease Foundation. This action will also help make the public more aware of the threat of ANS and hopefully will motivate them to change their behavior and practices related to other aquatic recreational activities that may also contribute to the spread ANS." New technology and materials provide viable alternatives to felt. Some manufacturers are already using these newer materials in their current models of wading shoes and angling products.

Preventing the proliferation of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) is central to TU's mission to conserve and protect North America's trout and salmon fisheries. The impact of ANS to native species is substantial, second only to loss of habitat, and is responsible for causing losses in biodiversity, changes in ecosystems, and impacts on economic enterprises such as agriculture, and fisheries.

ANS are present in many rivers, and lakes around the country. For example, zebra mussels were first found in Lake St. Clair near Detroit, Michigan in 1986 and now infest waters from Vermont to Oklahoma. Each year \$30 million is spent in the Great Lakes to monitor and control zebra mussels, which are responsible for massive changes in the Great Lakes ecosystem including elimination of native mussels and creating toxic algae blooms. The invasive algae didymo, often called "rock snot", is present in rivers throughout the country, from the Upper Connecticut River in New Hampshire, to South Dakota's Rapid Creek. Didymo was first seen in New Zealand, in 2004. The country has placed a ban on felt boots for the upcoming 2008 season. A number of U.S. states where aquatic nuisance species are found have reportedly discussed the possibility of outlawing the use of felt-soled wading equipment.

For more information about invasive species and what you can do to prevent the spread of ANS, go to [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org).

## My Big Yellowstone Cutthroat

by PVTU Chapter Member Bob Rundquist

I want to tell someone about my big fish, and you're it! I landed my 22" cutthroat trout in Yellowstone this August... and it's the largest of my young life (62 years)!

It came out of Slough Creek (just downstream from the parking area right by the river) on a big stimulator. It was on for about 15 minutes, with numerous runs (those beautiful "whir"s). Luckily, my nephew was there to snap a photo.

I travel to Yellowstone Park every summer for a couple weeks and I love the northeast corner – Lamar River, Slough Creek, Soda Butte Creek, Pebble Creek and Cache Creek. Cutthroats usually go up to about 19", catch and release. Rainbows are invading, and they can be kept (but not cut-bows, since identifying them is iffy). Also good, with more brookies, is the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone a few miles east of the Park (but \$16/day for a Wyoming license is a pain). A Park license is \$20/week or \$35/season.

The Yellowstone River is nearby, but a bit big for my taste. It's good for boat-fishing with a guide north of the Park, but I don't care for that either. Picky-picky.

The Lamar Valley is great for wildlife – wolves, bison ("buffalo are in Africa"), coyotes, moose, and pronghorn (not antelope). The Yellowstone Association Institute runs many fine programs, from art to wildlife, usually a few days long, with cabin lodging (during your program only) near the Lamar River.

I prefer to stay in Cooke City, Montana, five miles east of Yellowstone's Northeast Entrance. It offers about 8 motels, and good restaurants. It's a little rough (motorcycles, vacant lots with junk, etc.) but it isn't as institutional and busy as the Park properties. I like seeing a dog wander down the center of the main street at 8 a.m. The town of Silver Gate is only one mile from the Park entrance, but it has only two lodgings and one restaurant.

Cooke City is about three hours from Billings, where I fly into. The drive through Beartooth Pass (almost 11,000 feet) is one of the most beautiful in the country. Amazingly, there's no public transit from Billings to the Park. The bus from Bozeman (the alternate airport) to the Park can cost \$200. I'd love to tell you more about it: 413-586-7743.



Chapter Member Bob Rundquist and his 22" cutthroat trout

## Pioneer Valley TU Trivia Questions...

### Reel Facts...

(Answers at bottom of page)

1. The two major types of fly reel drag systems are the disc drag and the \_\_\_\_\_ drag.
2. True or False. Disc drag fly reels are generally more expensive than reels with other drags.
3. What is the most commonly used pound-test for fly line backing on a freshwater fly reel?
4. The exposed rim on a fly reel assists with what reeling function?
5. The part of a fly reel that holds the spool is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

## PVTU Treasurer's Report

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

Checking Account:	\$645.94
Savings Account:	\$16,223.00
CD Account::	\$11,064.49

Expenses for the conservation banquet and upcoming speakers have yet to be deducted from the savings account as these are only now beginning to accumulate for the current program season. The CD account is earmarked for the PVTU Memorial Scholarship fund with the goal of eventually attaining \$20,000 in order to be self sustaining.

## Got A Fish Story, a Fishing Tip, or a Book Review to Share?

If so, we want to hear it! Email a description of your fishing exploits at home or abroad and we'll publish it in the newsletter. Any conservation issue you'd like to discuss? Got a favorite fly pattern or angling tip to share? How about a book review? If so, we'd love to publish it. Just send it along to us at: [bigfished@comcast.net](mailto:bigfished@comcast.net)

P.S. Thanks to Chapter member Bob Rundquist for sharing his Yellowstone story as well as his tips for staying near the park. Hopefully we'll hear from more chapter members.

## Quote of the Month:

*My rod and my line, my float and my lead,  
My hook and my plummet, my whetstone and knife,  
My basket, my baits, both living and dead,  
My net, and my meat, for that is my chief,  
Then I must have thread, and hairs green and small,  
With mine "Angling Purse"--and so you have all.*

Sir Isaak Walton

### Answers to TU Trivia Questions:

1. Spring-and-pawl
2. True
3. 20-pound test
4. "Palming" the reel
5. Spindle

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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

November 11, 2008

Mickey Novak  
“Salmon Program Update”

December 9, 2008

Thomas Ames, Jr.  
“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”

## PVTU is Online and Getting ‘Hits’!

Join the 400+ people that have visited the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited online!

Thanks to 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](http://www.myspace.com/pvtroutunlimited)

While you check-out the great fishing photos from Chapter members on the front page of this website 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!