

In The Trout's Window

Issue 6, 2008

September 2008

Pioneer Valley TU Chapter 276

September 9, 2008 Meeting



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

Guest Speaker: Todd Richards "Brookies in the Wild"

The Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited kicks-off its 2008 season with high-powered fisheries specialist Todd Richards. Mr. Richards serves as a Fisheries Biologist with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and is responsible for several important fisheries responsibilities in Massachusetts. So this presentation on brook trout is not to be missed!

Since 1998 Mr. Richards has served as the Division of Fisheries Stream Survey Coordinator Database Manager, Instream Flow Biologist, Large Reservoir Biologist (Quabbin and Wachusett), and as the Eastern Brook Trout Venture Coordinator. In addition to his current credentials, from 1992 - 1998 Mr. Richards served as the Assistant Warmwater Biologist specializing in bass and pike management and environmental review.

Mr. Richards earned his BS at the University of Maine and his MS at Virginia Tech in Fisheries. Join us on September 9th for an extremely informative presentation on a fish species we all love, and a subsequent question/answer session.

Fly Tier's Corner — Join us at 7:00pm at the Fly Tier's Corner. Chapter member, Robert Regish will demonstrate one of his favorite flies, "The Usual". This very dependable dry fly is found in many fly boxes throughout the northeast. For those of you familiar with The Usual, you know that this excellent dry fly is tied *with only one material*. If you don't know what that material is.... See you at the Fly Tier's Corner!

Be sure to join us on September 9th as we kick-off our best-ever fall season line-up of speakers, fly tiers, and fun!

It's all free, so bring a friend.

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From the “PREZ”

Welcome back 276ers! I hope your summer was filled with tight lines and big fish. While we were taking the summer off, our Program Coordinator Bill Donnelly was hard at work setting up a fall speaker schedule like none we've seen before. September, October and November will see us focusing on fisheries science and conservation with talks by the state's leading fisheries biologist, Todd Richards, European fisheries habitat expert and Rushing Rivers Institute founder Piotr Parawiceicz, and an update from Mickey Novak on the CT River salmon program. December's meeting will feature renowned author Thomas Ames, Jr., who will be releasing a new book on trout fishing at our meeting. As if this great lineup of speakers weren't enough to entice you to come to the Elks Lodge, we will also be auctioning off a fly rod at the December meeting to assist with our programs. I hope to see you at all of the meetings, and while there, please make sure to thank Bill for his hard work in scheduling our speakers!

Fish Stories? Did you travel to a great fishing destination this summer? A group of 6 276ers, including myself, ventured to southwestern Alaska this summer to experience superb trout and salmon fishing. Banquet auctioneer extraordinaire, Dr. Bob Wool, was top dog of the trip, landing a 40+ pound king salmon! I know others in the Chapter headed west to the spring creeks of Montana. We're hoping to share these experiences with our membership by featuring a short article on members' fishing adventures. Please consider sharing your summer fishing memories by writing up a short article and forwarding it to newsletter editor Ed Baucherio (email him at: bigfished@comcast.net). Whether your travels found you in exotic places or landing handsome rainbows at home on our Deerfield River, we'd like to know what our members have been up to (and by all means, please let me know about that secret fly of yours!!)

Conservation: Have you noticed a local stream that could use some help from Chapter 276? We all know about the Chapter's work on the Swift River, but if your summer fishing travels lead you to another stream that is in need of restoration/enhancement efforts, please drop me a line or track me down at one of the meetings.

As always, Fishon!

--Paul



Chapter President, Paul Beaulieu with an Aniak River, Alaska, king salmon (July 22, 2008)

Trout Unlimited Hires Upper Connecticut Home Rivers Project Coordinator

TU National — National Trout Unlimited welcomes Joe Norton as the Project Coordinator of the Upper Connecticut Home Rivers Initiative. Norton joins TU from the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation where he served as executive director. “Joe’s depth of experience will be a huge asset in implementing the protection and restoration efforts that TU and our partners have identified as priorities in the watershed,” said Elizabeth Maclin, TU’s Vice President of Eastern Conservation. “We are thrilled to welcome him to TU.”

In his role as Project Coordinator of the Upper Connecticut Home Rivers Initiative, Norton will work throughout the watershed area to protect and restore the river and its tributaries in New Hampshire and Vermont. Habitat protection and restoration will benefit native fish including brook trout, as well as wild trout species. Norton will also work with community partners and volunteers in hands-on conservation activities and create a coalition to achieve the project’s goals. His office will be located in Lancaster, New Hampshire.

“TU members in New Hampshire are very enthusiastic about having Joe in this position” said Paul Doscher, Vice President of Land Conservation at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and member of the Trout Unlimited Board of Trustees. “We’ve come to know and respect him in his past role with the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation, and his background in fisheries science and management means he has the right combination of formal training and the ability to work well with all kinds of people.”

Although the Upper Connecticut initiative will be spearheaded by TU, a variety of other partners will play an active role in the project, including TU’s New Hampshire and Vermont state volunteer councils, state and federal agencies, local industries, landowners, land trusts, and other organizations.

TU’s Home Rivers Initiatives are collaborative, community-focused multi-year efforts that combine research, outreach, protection, restoration, and youth education projects. TU selects watersheds where it can both make a significant difference in the condition of a particular river or fishery and also demonstrate transferable protection and restoration strategies and techniques.

Before joining Trout Unlimited, Norton was the executive director of the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation, a statewide conservation organization in Concord. Previously, Norton owned and operated a specialty fly fishing store in Lewiston, Idaho. A New Hampshire native, he holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Montana State University. He currently resides in Lancaster, New Hampshire.

Make Environmental Education and Outdoor Learning Experiences More Accessible –

The U.S. Congress has an act to ensure that our children have opportunities to go outdoors and become environmentally literate citizens. TU National supports The No Child Left Inside Act of 2007 (H.R. 3036 and S. 1981) as it provides an important step in guaranteeing that our children and grandchildren are healthy for years to come, and that they are invested in continuing the work that TU has started.

Recent research has come to show what we, as conservationists, already know - that outdoor experiences are crucial for the healthy development of our children. Moreover, children who have meaningful outdoor experiences when they are young are more likely to become stewards of our natural resources when they grow up.

Congress is currently in the process of reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, last authorized in 2001. This act, more commonly known as “No Child Left Behind”.

Unfortunately, this focus has often come at the expense of outdoor learning and environmental science programs. The No Child Left Inside Act of 2007 (H.R. 3036 and S. 1981) seeks to allocate funds towards environmental education for children, environmental teacher training, and ultimately ensuring that every high school graduate is environmentally literate. You can show your support by contacting your U.S. Representative and Senators by sending a letter, or a quick email, to their office. It only takes **a minute** of your time to support this important conservation cause.

Pioneer Valley TU Chapter Receives Thanks from Overseas Troops

This summer our TU Chapter received a very nice ‘Thank You’ letter from the Beanies for Balad program, that collects and sends sporting magazines to our overseas troops.

Chapter member Rex Hryniewicz, graciously collects magazines at our monthly meetings and brings them to the Sage Book Store. Sage Books coordinates the overseas shipment of these magazines for Beanies for Balad.

Our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq have expressed their appreciation and are very eager to receive additional outdoor/sporting magazines. So, please feel free to bring them to Sage Books located at 220 College Highway, Southwick, MA., or to our monthly meeting for collection.

Great job, Rex! For more information on this project visit the Sage Books website at www.sagabks.com or call the store at (413) 527-7703.

Pioneer Valley TU Trivia Questions... How Well Do You Know Your Rod?

(Answers at bottom of page)

1. Sections of fishing rods separate at their _____.
2. What do you call the thread that is wrapped around the eyelets on a fishing rod to hold them in place?
3. Technically, what is a rod’s “action”?
4. The description “080-3” is written on a fly rod. What does this description mean?
5. True or False. Bamboo fly rods are generally stiffer than graphite rods.

Reminders!

Trout Unlimited's new television program, *On the Rise*, airs on the Outdoor Channel Friday nights at 8 p.m. (EST), Saturdays at 2 p.m. (EST), and Sundays at 7:30 a.m. (EST).

The National Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting will be held September 11-14, 2008 at the Snowbird Resort near Salt Lake City, UT.

With the 2008 election cycle now well underway, National Trout Unlimited would like to remind all TU volunteers and leaders of important election year behavior. TU is a 501(c)(3) organization, and as such cannot endorse or oppose any candidates for elective office; nor can TU use its funds to support or oppose candidates for elected political office. The prohibition applies to the national organization, councils, individual chapters, staff and volunteers acting on behalf of or in the name of TU. So be cautious when talking to the media, as failure to comply could endanger our tax exempt status, and therefore the very financial foundation of our organization. TU National hopes all leaders and members take the time to find out where their favorite candidates stand on important issues affecting fish and wildlife and advocate for trout when they cast their ballot.

Got A Fish Story?

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. Got a favorite fly pattern or angling tip to share? Send it along to us at: bigfished@comcast.net

Quote of the Month:

“I don’t know why I fish, or why others fish, except that it makes us think and feel.”

Roderick Haig-Brown, 1946

Answers to TU Trivia Questions:

1. Ferrules 2. Windings 3. Its measure of flexibility 4. It means that the fly rod is rated as a 0-weight, 8-foot, 0-inch, 3-piece fly rod... And yes, there is such a thing as a 0-weight fly rod! 5. False

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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

September 9, 2008

Todd Richards
“Brookies in the Wild”

October 14, 2008

Piotr Parawiceicz
Rushing Rivers Institute,
“Stream Habitat Assessment
Techniques”

November 11, 2008

Mickey Novak
“Salmon Program Update”

December 9, 2008

Thomas Ames, Jr. Author.

For Information on Fishing Regulations this Fall - Contact State Fish and Game Departments directly....

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Rd
Westborough, MA 01581
Tel: (508) 389-6300 Free Fishing Days June 6th & 7th, 2008
<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/>

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
11 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301
603-271-3421 Free Fishing Day June 7th, 2008
<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Fishing/fishing.htm>

Connecticut

Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
(860) 424-3000
Website below:
<http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2696&q=322708&>

Vermont

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
113 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-241-3600 Free Fishing Day June 14th, 2008
<http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/>

Rhode Island

Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908-5767
401-222-6100 Free Fishing Days June 6th & 7th, 2008
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/>

Maine

284 State Street
41 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0041
207-287-8000 Free Fishing Days May 31st & June 1st, 2008
<http://www.maine.gov/ifw/>