

In The Trout's Window

Issue 9, 2009

December 2009

Pioneer Valley TU Chapter 276

December 8, 2009 Meeting

Our upcoming Chapter meeting will be held at 7:30PM on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at the West Springfield/Agawam Elks Lodge, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA. (Fly Tier's Corner begins at 7:00pm)



Special Holiday Season Speaker, Mr. Gary Soucie

“Wet Flies - Their History, How to Tie Them, How Best to Fish Them”

We are pleased to conclude the 2009 calendar year with a very special present - a presentation from well-known author and editor, Mr. Gary Soucie. Mr. Soucie, past executive editor of Audubon magazine (for 12 years) and a senior editorial staff member of National Geographic, will engage his audience in an entertaining presentation on wet flies - what they are, their history, how to tie them, and how best to fish them.

Mr. Soucie holds a degree in Comparative Literature from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a Woodrow Wilson fellow from the University of Indiana. In addition, he has authored hundreds of articles for magazines such as *Fly Rod and Reel*, *Atlantic Salmon Journal*, and *Outdoor Life*. His books include; *Hook, Line and Sinker: The Complete Angler's Guide to Terminal Tackle* (1994), *Home Waters: A Fly-Fishing Anthology* (1992), *Traveling with Fly Rod and Reel* (1995), *Tying Recipes for 400 Patterns* (2006) and too many other publications to list.

Give yourself a holiday treat (and while you are at it, treat a friend by letting him tag along) by attending this special holiday season presentation.

Fly Tier's Corner — Join us at 7:00pm for a live demonstration

This month's featured fly tier is our own Chapter president, Paul Beaulieu. Paul will be tying an original conehead egg-sucking leach pattern that fooled an 8-pound landlocked salmon in October and more recently fooled a Pere Marquette steelhead in November.

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President's Message - Vote, 2009 Good Year

By Paul Beaulieu

Please make every attempt to attend our December 8th Chapter meeting as we will be voting on new Officers and Board of Director members. As far as the Board of Directors goes, we have several members up for re-election, but there are an additional three (3) posts that remain vacant. This means that you can add your name to the slate of candidates at the December meeting and get more involved in your Chapter. Current Board members are hoping to see new faces. No experience is necessary, and Board members are very interested in mentoring new members. So don't be shy, now is the time to get involved!

Without a doubt, 2009 was a great year for our Chapter. Thanks to Program Chair, Bill Donnelly, every single month featured presentations of the highest caliber and feedback from attendees is at an all-time high. Along with TU National, our Chapter continues to be involved in numerous projects (see article below). Thanks to all the Chapter members who made this year what it was - fantastic.

Fishon!

Paul B.

TU National – 2009 Review of Conservation Efforts in New England

How have we New Englanders benefitted from Trout Unlimited? Read on...

The Eastern United States is densely populated and faces a host of environmental challenges ranging from air pollution to overdevelopment to growing demands for ground and surface water. Throughout the region, TU National staff and volunteers have rolled up their sleeves to work for healthier watersheds and to protect and restore wild trout populations.

From Maine Atlantic salmon to Georgia brook trout, TU National is working to ensure that even within close driving distance of our major eastern cities, future generations will be able to fish for wild trout and salmon. TU National's current areas of focus include:

Brook Trout - TU continues to build a strong brook trout conservation program that runs up the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from Georgia to Maine. Some of TU's most important efforts include their recently released New England brook trout report and the organization's role in a joint effort by states, federal agencies, and conservation groups to develop a comprehensive brook trout management plan. In 2005, TU kicked off an effort to protect the Rapid River in Maine from invasive smallmouth bass and this effort continues.

Atlantic salmon - TU has long been committed to restoring sustainable Atlantic salmon runs to Maine, their last stronghold in the United States. TU is engaged on a variety of fronts to restore habitat and improve management practices to bring these endangered fish back from the brink, including efforts to remove dams and improve fish passage on the Penobscot River and a number of other rivers in Maine.

Eastern Water - Trout Unlimited's Eastern Water Project is modeled on TU's successful water advocacy efforts in the Western states. Specifically, TU is working with communities throughout the region to address a host of water management issues including dry streambeds, water shortages and habitat degradation. In December 2006, TU released a new report entitled "A Glass Half Full: The Future of Water in New England" and multiple projects have spun-off from this impetus. The hiring of Mr. Joe Norton as the Project Coordinator of the Upper Connecticut Home Rivers Initiative has added to TU's presence as an intervener in New England watershed issues.

In Massachusetts - Local TU Chapters continue their volunteer efforts to conserve and protect rivers and streams in their home state. Such examples include, but are not limited to, streambed restoration and dam intervention on the Swift River (Pioneer Valley Chapter), Westfield River Clean-Up (The Westfield River Watershed Association assisted by PVTU volunteers), ongoing restoration of Red Brook (Cape Cod Chapter as well as the MA/RI Council of TU), Hamant Brook dam intervention/restoration (Central Massachusetts Chapter of Trout Unlimited). Thanks to local chapter members in Massachusetts, the list keeps growing.

PVTU Officers, Board Members, to be Elected at December Meeting

At the December 8, 2009 monthly Chapter meeting, members in attendance will have the opportunity to vote on new officers and Board of Director positions. All positions hold 2-year terms. Nominees thus far include:

Candidate for President:	Paul Beaulieu
Candidates for Vice President:	Jerry Eves, Terry Connolly
Candidate for Secretary:	Tom LeBlanc
Candidate for Treasurer:	Joe Babineau
Candidates, Board of Directors: (eight vacancies)	Stan Gula, Terry Connolly Barry Coppinger Bill Donnelly Bob Federowicz

Please note that in accordance with our Chapter By-Laws, the Board of Directors can accept three (3) additional Board members in addition to the five (5) candidates listed above, so additional nominees will be accepted at the December meeting prior to the official vote. Chapter members interested in serving on the Board are encouraged to throw their hat in the ring. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about your TU chapter and its involvement in Western Massachusetts.

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 at 5:00pm, Saturday, January 16, 2010 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. So, the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited should have tickets available at its December meeting.

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 great food, bucket raffles and an 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 Gloria Braun at 508-947-6175 or gloriabraun@verizon.net.

Easthampton Signs Fish Ladder Deal

(excerpted from Masslive.com)

The city of Easthampton has moved closer to installing a fish passage over the Manhan River dam near Route 10. Mayor Michael A. Tautznik signed an agreement on October 28th permitting the project to move forward using \$750,000 of federal stimulus money provided to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The mayor's authorization will allow the city to accept the money for the fish passage project.

Both the Mayor and Fish and Wild Life hope construction of the fish passage will begin next season. Because it is federal stimulus money, the money needs to be "obligated" by the end of the federal fiscal year on Sept. 30, 2010. Fish and Wildlife is currently working to assure the project will comply with all Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (EPA) regulations.

The fish passage, commonly referred to as a fish ladder, has been in the planning stages for more than 10 years. The initial project design was completed in 2003 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and required updating as part of the project. "The fish ladder was put on the back burner because we didn't have a funding source. Everyone is still very interested in opening up the upper reaches of the Manhan River," Mayor Tautznik said. "The city will put the project out to bid and administer the contract, but the money will come from the federal government."

What's Your Favorite Book? (Inquiring Minds Want to Know)

Your newsletter is conducting a survey of our Chapter members' favorite fishing, conservation, or related books. We will publish this list in the upcoming February newsletter. There is no better way to locate great outdoor reading (to help us survive the long, cold, winter months) than to know what fellow anglers already read and enjoyed. So, please help us out!

Email the title of your favorite book (don't forget to include the author) to bigfished@comcast.net, or simply mail it to TU Newsletter, 80 East Greenwich Drive, Longmeadow, MA 01106, or write it down and bring it to the December or January Chapter meeting. That's three separate options, so let's hear from you! All submissions must be received no later than January 12, 2010.

The February edition of the PVTU newsletter is also our annual book review edition, and we are seeking book reviews from our members. If you would like to write a brief review of that book that you loved to read, please feel free to submit it as we would like to publish it in February. The deadline to submit a book review is January 12, 2009.

Fly Tying Classes, Winter 2010

The Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is offering a free Beginners Fly Tying Course Wednesday evenings on February 3, 10, 17, 24. These classes will begin at 7:00pm and will be taught by Rene Huard. To register, call Rene Huard at 413-563-0067. Material and tools will be supplied.

Our Chapter is also offering a free Intermediate Fly Tying Course Wednesday evenings on March 3, 10, 17, 24. These classes will begin at 7:00pm and will be taught by Jim Turcotte. To register contact him at (413-527-5863) All fly materials will be 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.

Angler Threatened on Swift River

On November 13th, a TU member fishing in the Swift River Fly Fishing Only section was encroached upon by two men who threw their fishing lines (spin casting rods with live bait) into the water already being fished. The aggressors then shouted numerous obscenities and threats at the TU member and were later seen running away from the TU member's car which had three of its four tires slashed.

The state police are working on this case. Anyone with any information should contact the State Police at Quabbin; 413-323-7561. One man was short and wore a "Gilligan" style hat. At one point the men asserted that they fish the Swift River twice a week. If true, someone may be able to provide helpful information (color of their car, etc.)

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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 8, 2009	Gary Soucie	Fishing author, former executive editor Audubon, senior editorial staff National Geographic.
January 12, 2010	Annual PVTU	Fly Tying Extravaganza
February 9, 2010	Russ Cohen	Massachusetts Riverways Project, Topic TBA.
March 11, 2010	Tom Roginski	“Phenology – Matching the Hatch to Blooms ”
April 13, 2010	T.B.A.	
May, 2010	T.B.A.	

Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited Joins Project Healing Waters

Tom LeBlanc, Secretary of the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, is seeking volunteers to assist teaching fly tying to veterans one evening a month at the VA hospital in Leeds. This program is being conducted in conjunction with Project Healing Waters, a national organization aimed at providing disabled veterans an opportunity to re-connect with outdoor related activities during a period of medical recovery.

Tom along with TU members Jim Lafley and Ed Bauchiero conduct monthly fly tying classes to very appreciative and active veteran participants. Tom needs more volunteers. Jim and Ed report their experience as unmatched in personal reward, and that it is one nice way to show our veterans that we appreciate all they have done for us. So, please consider joining us as a volunteer. Interested? See Tom at the December Chapter meeting for more details.

Special Fly Rod Raffle Tickets at December Meeting

The Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is holding a very special fly rod raffle. Tickets will be available at the December Chapter meeting (as well as upcoming meetings). The rod is a Sage VT-2, 4 piece, 5-weight, 9-foot custom-crafted fly rod by renowned fly rod maker, Dan Trela. Special features include: jungle cock eyes embossed above the cork grip and a hand painted label, "PVTU 276 Special".

This rod will be on display at each upcoming PVTU Chapter meeting and tickets are \$5 apiece or 5 tickets for \$20. Also included is a reel, fly line, backing, flies by Jim Terrett and Dan Berry, and accessories. The winning ticket will be drawn and the winner will be announced at our May meeting. The winner does not need to be present.