

# In The Trout's Window

Issue 8, 2009

November 2009

Pioneer Valley TU Chapter 276

## November 10, 2009 Meeting

Our upcoming Chapter meeting will be held at 7:30PM on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the West Springfield/Agawam Elks Lodge, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA. (Fly Tier's Corner begins at 7:00pm)



## Our Featured Speaker is Doug Lyons:

### “Stream Restoration on the Battenkill River”

Many members of the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited are familiar with the Battenkill River that is shared between the States of Vermont and New York. Long hailed as one of the premier trout fisheries in the Northeast with a storied past and countless references in fly fishing literature, the Battenkill has also endured its share of habitat degradation over time.

Mr. Douglas Lyons has faithfully fished the Battenkill River since 1977. Mr. Lyons also knows the issues surrounding this river as he has been intricately involved with fishery related issues on the Battenkill for the last 15 years. On November 10<sup>th</sup> Mr. Lyons will share his knowledge and experiences regarding the habitat restoration efforts that are ongoing on the Battenkill. This presentation will also provide a great opportunity to learn about the multitude of challenges involved in river restoration.

Mr. Lyons lives in Maynard, Massachusetts and travels frequently to Vermont where he maintains a camper in Arlington to be close to the river of his devotion. Audience questions regarding the Battenkill River as well as restoration efforts both past and present will be entertained during Mr. Lyons' presentation.

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

This month's featured fly tier is Jim Turcotte, PVTU Board member and fly tying instructor. Jim will be demonstrating the popular CDC caddis. Join him for a fun and educational demonstration.

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## **President's Message - November is Big Month, Be Here**

By Paul Beaulieu

The November meeting featuring Mr. Douglas Lyons offers all of us an excellent opportunity to learn, first-hand, the trials, tribulation, and successes of river restoration along a famous New England river - the Battenkill.

There is second important reason to attend our November membership meeting. During this meeting your Chapter Officers will present information regarding our upcoming Chapter elections for officers and Board of Directors, *and* we will be seeking volunteers to join either positions or upcoming special projects. These elections help determine the direction and goals of our Chapter, therefore your input is very important. So, we hope to see as many Chapter members as possible attend the November meeting.

Did I forget to mention that we will also be selling raffle tickets for one of the classiest fly rods in New England?

Fishon!

Paul B.

## **Swift River - Upper Bondsville Dam, Hot Topic**

The Belchertown Land Trust, the private non-profit organization that owns the Upper Bondsville Dam, is currently seeking an extension to its November 30, 2009 deadline for deciding to either remove or repair the 150 year old structure. This comes on the heels of a recent inspection that determined the dam to be in poor condition with an estimated cost of over \$350,000 to repair the structure once used to generate power for local factories.

At a recent meeting, The Land Trust recently heard pros and cons of the dam's potential removal. Some local residents stated a desire to keep the dam in place as it creates a pond-like impoundment upriver of Bondsville center that is used by kayaks, canoes, etc. Concerns were also expressed over the change in waterfront property with a lowering of the river that would result from dam removal.

Other residents and groups (including our Chapter of Trout Unlimited) favor the dam's removal as this would return the river to its original state and eco-system that has otherwise been artificially altered for the past century and a half. This would re-establish a natural, narrower, faster flowing river with colder water temperatures. The Swift River benefits from a cold outflow from Quabbin Reservoir, but the present flow stagnates as it nears the dam and water temperatures rise significantly.

Disappointingly, some citizens at the recent meeting favoring restoration of the dam engaged in aggressive and intolerant behavior towards those of differing opinions.

Hopefully this will change and level heads will prevail in future meetings so as to assist the Land Trust as it grapples with its difficult, and potentially expensive, decision.

## **PVTU Chapter to Elect New Officers, Board Members**

At the December 8, 2009 monthly Chapter meeting, all Pioneer Valley Chapter members in attendance will have the opportunity to vote on the slate of candidates for all officer positions as well as positions on the Board of Directors. Nominees thus far include:

Candidate for President:	Vacant
Candidate for Vice-President:	Vacant
Candidate for Secretary:	Vacant
Candidate for Treasurer:	Joe Babineau
Candidates, Board of Directors:	Stan Gula Bill Donnelly Barry Coppinger Terry Connolly

Please note that in accordance with our Chapter By-Laws, the Board of Directors can accept four (4) additional Board members in addition to the four (4) candidates listed above.

So, if you are interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity or if you are already interested in joining our Board of Directors or running for an officer position, please attend the November meeting and make your interest known... we'd love to hear from you! This is a great opportunity to learn more about your Chapter's conservation work, and current Board members are very eager to have new members join them. Don't be shy!

## **Special Fly Rod Raffle to Support Your TU Chapter**

As listed in last month's newsletter, the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited will take a break from holding it's annual Conservation Banquet in 2010.

To help raise funds in lieu of a Conservation Banquet, the Chapter has decided to hold a very special fly rod raffle. Tickets will be available over the next several months, and what a fly rod this is...

The rod: A Sage VT-2, 4 piece, 5-weight, 9-foot custom-crafted fly rod by renown fly rod maker, Dan Trela. Special features include: jungle cock eyes embossed above cork grip and 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. You have to see this magnificent piece to believe it. 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. Winner does not need to be present.

## The Art of Natural Fishing

Eric Greinke Presa Press (www.presaspress.com)

Reviewed by Gary Metras

First, this short book (95 pp.) is not about trout. Nor is it about fly fishing. But this is about the love of fishing, of sons growing into the sport, of appreciating nature, of the camaraderie of like-minded people.

Mr. Greinke develops two primary themes through anecdotes of his own forays on the waster. His idea of 'natural fishing' is simple and admirable. One should fish with natural baits on local waters for whatever species exists there, and do so with as low level of technology. He says, "Quality fishing time is not defined by what you catch, but how you catch it." This natural fishing brings him the most joy and provides the best experiences.

So he spends days on lakes in Michigan drifting or rowing his small boat while dangling shiners, night crawlers, jigs, or spoons and hauling in crappie, bass, pike, carp, bullhead, and even white suckers, which he extols for their fighting ability, or stands on the piers of rivers that empty into Lake Michigan catching his share of steelhead and friendship.

The second theme is how fishing is and should be an "art", by which he means that the fisher person needs to gather knowledge of bodies of water, of feeding patterns of species, and should think creatively about fishing methods and equipment. Much of his own artful approach to fishing he learned from an older neighbor who fished daily and who Greinke admired and emulated from a distance until they became fishing buddies. The stories he relates of this unnamed "Old Man" are moving and memorable and the book's ending is surprising in the most pleasant sort of continuance of the love of fishing.

Since Mr. Greinke holds several state Master Anglers Awards, his approach to fishing has been successful and is a huge source of happiness in his life. At one point he reminds us that in "the not so distant past, we fished for physical survival. Today, we fish for emotional survival." It appears that this one fisherman has survived quite well.

Editor's Note: When not reviewing books, PVTU Chapter member Gary Metras is writing acclaimed works himself. His latest book of poetry about St. Francis was recently chosen as one of the Massachusetts Poetry Books of the Year.

### **Quote of the Month:**

When a trout chooses to prey upon what he thinks is weaker than himself, the angler ought not to be blamed for it.

George Washington Bethune (1847)

## **Pioneer Valley TU Trivia Questions**

(Answers at bottom of page)

1. What does a "ph" monitor do?
2. In what ocean are striped marlin found?
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a small wicker basket used to keep caught fish.
4. What are the four major (most prevalent) trout species in North America?
5. What bait is used by fishermen and is an ingredient of bread?

## **PVTU Member Interview**

Interviewed by Gary Metras

**Chapter Member Name:** Jeff Hildreth

**Home town:** Easthampton

**Age:** 59

**Occupation:** Realtor

**How long a member of PVTU:** I joined (as a Life Member) several years ago when I was living in the Virgin Islands. We moved back to Western Mass. about two years ago. The October meeting was my first PVTU meeting.

**Favorite fly:** Crazy Charlie (bonefish fly)

**Favorite local river:** Just learning the rivers but many years ago we lived on the Westfield River in Huntington.

**Best fish you ever caught:** My first bonefish at Anegada, BVI

**Why is fishing important to you:** I love being outdoors as much as possible and I enjoy the challenge of getting the fish to take my fly.

**Why is "to conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds" (TU's mission statement) important:** I believe that you have to protect what is important to you and be willing to work to preserve our natural resources.

## **PVTU Treasurer's Report**

Joe Babineau, PVTU Treasurer

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

Checking Account:	\$1,219.43
Savings Account:	\$8,744.00
CD Account::	\$11,252.38

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.

### Answers to TU Trivia Questions:

1. Measure the acid content of water
2. Pacific
3. Creel
4. Rainbow, brook, brown, cutthroat
5. Dough balls

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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

<b>November 10, 2009</b>	Doug Lyons,	“Stream Restoration on the Battenkill River”
<b>December 8, 2009</b>	Gary Soucie	Fishing author, former executive editor Audubon, senior editorial staff National Geographic.
<b>January 12, 2010</b>	Annual PVTU	Fly Tying Extravaganza
<b>February 9, 2010</b>	Russ Cohen	Massachusetts Riverways Project, Topic TBA.
<b>March 11, 2010</b>	Tom Roginski	“Phenology – Matching the Hatch to Blooms ”

## Don't forget to visit your PVTU Chapter Online!

Nearly 1,000 people that have visited the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited online! Have you? Thanks to Chapter member Patty Kuralowicz, the Pioneer Valley Trout Unlimited **MySpace page** is continually updated, and keeping Chapter members and visitors from near and far informed about Chapter happenings. 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 be sure to visit us online at: [www.myspace.com/pvtroutunlimited](http://www.myspace.com/pvtroutunlimited)

## Got a Fishy 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? (How about your favorite angling photograph?). Email it along to us at: [bigfished@comcast.net](mailto:bigfished@comcast.net) If you don't have a computer handy, just write it down and bring it to our next monthly Chapter meeting.