



# Taconic Chapter established 1974 The Backcast

February 2006

## Membership meeting

Wednesday  
February 22, 2006  
Italian American Club  
Newell St  
Pittsfield, MA  
6pm social hour  
7 pm Dinner - \$18.00  
8pm Speaker - Free

### Guest Speaker

**Pat Higgins**

*Fly Fishing the Green River in Utah*



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### New meeting location

**Italian American Club**  
203 Newell St.  
Pittsfield MA

### Fly Tying Night



### Looking over the shoulder of Steve Booth.

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, He was joined by Herb Rod, Gene Chague, Charles Wohl, Marilyn Moran and Paul Knauth at the Berkshire West to tie a few flies for



Casting For Recovery. Larry Newmark sent along some of his favorite patterns. It was a very nice evening, a couple stories, and tying a few flies with friends for friends.....you can't beat it.

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## Chague's Place

Last month our chapter was fortunate in having two excellent guest speakers. One was Seline Skoug and she spoke about the Casting for Recoveries Program. The other speaker was Bill Bullock and he spoke about two subjects: the American Fly Fishing Museum and bring back the Battenkill.

Anyone who has fished that river for any length of time has surely recognized a radical decline in quality fishing over the last few years. The VT DFW conducted studies from 1988-1998 and determined that there was an average decline in brown trout populations of approx. 60% during that period. So what caused it? Well, there is a lot of anecdotal information supporting this reason or that, but it took 12 research initiatives by VDFW and the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) to come up with an answer. They studied water temp's, chemistry, riverbed morphology, fish diseases, predation, etc., and the results suggest that a primary cause of the decline is due to insufficient cover, especially in-stream cover and that it especially affects yearling trout. It is believed that the normal recruitment of debris clusters in the Battenkill has been impeded by deforestation of the riparian zone and the removal of woody debris within the channel.

By restoring such cover, it will provide protection that it should have as a trout stream; protection from predators, shelter from floods and from heat and low water, and enhance spawning and feeding habitats. Cover and shelter are critical for over-yearling brown trout in both laboratory and field studies. The effects of installing large woody debris on flow hydraulics will increase sediment sorting and thereby improve spawning habitat.

An initiative will be undertaken at Twin Rivers Farm which is located on Rt 313 in Arlington VT, just a little downstream from where we held our annual summer picnics at Conroy's Castle but above the covered bridge. Over the next two years, numerous structures will be built utilizing natural stream channel design methods. These structures will consist primarily of root wads, debris clusters, whole and partial trees which in turn will influence the creation of gravel bars to add a degree of sinuosity to the river channel. These structures will be natural in appearance and will replicate what would be happening on the river if were not for past land use practices that have removed large amounts of woody debris from the banks and within the stream channel.

The immediate goal is to restore trout habitat along a half mile stretch of the Battenkill, but the ultimate goal is to extend the restoration project upstream and downstream from this site. Already, there are interested landowners running upstream about 3 miles.

What can we do? Make a contribution. By making a contribution to the project fund, Orvis will match it as well as the NFWS. \$50 contribution means \$150 goes toward the project. Secondly, fish the river. We are told that the fishing is not really all that bad. During the "summer funk" of August, Battenkill trout are rising each morning to heavy trico spinner falls. Because of the numerous cold water feeder streams, brookies 13 -14 inches can be caught. Go to [www.Orvis.com](http://www.Orvis.com) or [www.BKWA.org](http://www.BKWA.org) for more info.

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## The Chapter's Business

### Officers

President - Paul Knauth	term expires October 2006
Vice President - Len Gigliotti	term expires October 2006
Treasurer - Herb Rod	term expires October 2006
Secretary - Marc Hoechstetter	term expires October 2006

### Directors

Charles Wohl	term expires October 2006
Paul Ouellette	term expires October 2006
Ron Wojcik	term expires October 2006
Allen Gray	term expires October 2007
John Kastrinakis	term expires October 2007
Dave O'Clair	term expires October 2007
Steve Booth	term expires October 2007
Fred Moran	term expires October 2008
Marilyn Moran	term expires October 2008
Karen Karlberg	term expires October 2008
Larry Newmark	term expires October 2008

### From the President

Dear Friends:

Our January 2006 meeting had with 28 persons in attendance, Bill Bullock of the American Museum of Fly Fishing, spoke of the museum, and the restoration project on the Battenkill River. Seline Skoug and Lorraine Tinger spoke to us about the Casting For Recovery program.

This was our last meeting at the Berkshire Hills Country Club. We will now meet at the Italian American Club on Newell Street in Pittsfield. I want communicate to you how the Board of Directors came to its decision where to conduct our membership meetings. Initially our decision to change from Mazzeo's to other locations it was in response to membership survey and feedback. The issues we tried to address were:

1. Easy access/egress (with reasonable handicap accessibility).
2. Safe area for our guest to park their cars
3. available on-site parking
4. Relatively easy to find.
5. good food at a fair price.

With these in mind, we found the Berkshire Hill CC to be a good fit. However, while we did meet those identified needs of our membership, after few meeting we learned there were other concerns. These concerns "the feeling of coziness" and more over the poor acoustics of the room made hearing the presentation by all members present very difficult. This along with the increased in price for the meals, would cause further discontent to some of our members. We listened.

Our new charge was to try to find a location to best meet the (6) needs plus the "feeling of coziness" and "acoustics". Our choice is Italian American Club on Newell Street for the last three meeting scheduled this year.. Price is \$18 per person includes salad, pasta, potato, vegetable, ice cream and coffee. Chicken Marcella is the meal of choice for our 22 February meeting. If you are interested be part of committee to make a recommendation a location for our meeting next year, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing you Feb. 25th please travel safe and take care.  
Paul Knauth

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### Fred Moran

#### Bamboo Rod Restoration

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Trout Unlimited 111 Forest Park Ave  
Casting for Recovery Adams, am 01220

### Our Wish List

1. email addresses save postage
  2. Laptop Computer
  3. Donations for postage
  4. Donate raffle prizes
  5. Anonymous donations to support the Chapter and its programs
- Please send check payable to Taconic Chapter of Trout Unlimited and send Paul W Knauth  
Box 41  
Hinsdale, MA 01235

## *Taconic Chapter 2005-06 Calendar*

### *February*

- 16 - Directors Meeting 7pm @ Crane & Co Inc. Research and Development Center*
- 22 - Membership Meeting @ Italian American Club Social 6 pm, Dinner 7pm, Speaker 8pm*
  - o Guest Speaker Pat Higgins - Fly Fishing the Green River in Utah*

### *March*

- 23 - Directors Meeting 7pm @ Crane & Co Inc. Research and Development Center*
- 29 - Membership Meeting @ Italian American Club Social 6 pm, Dinner 7pm, Speaker 8pm*
  - o Guest Speaker Walt Geryk - Steelhead Fishing*

### *April*

- 20 - Directors Meeting 7pm @ Crane & Co Inc. Research and Development Center*
- 26 - Membership Meeting @ Italian American Club Social 6 pm, Dinner 7pm, Speaker 8pm*
  - o Guest Speaker - Marla Blair - "Fishing Western Mass and North Connecticut Rivers".*

### *May*

- 11 - Directors Meeting 7pm @ Crane & Co Inc. Research and Development Center*
- 19 - 22 Indian Hollow Weekend*



### **Membership renewal reminder**

Keep an eye on your expiration date, there have been some tracking problems at TU national. As a result some members have been dropped from the mailing list and sadly do not receive our newsletter



Marilyn Moran (l) and Lorraine Tinger (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) of our Taconic Chapter are joined by Bill Bullock Executive Director of Museum of Fly Fishing and Seline Skoug- Casting For Recovery. We are so fortunate and grateful to have these Bill, Lorraine and Seline speak at our January membership meeting. Thank you Marilyn for getting this together for us.

***What's happening with the other Massachusetts and Rhode Island Council TU Chapters, you ask? Well here's the inside scoop. Check it out!***

Saturday, February 25, ***Millers River Chapter*** will be having its Cabin Fever Banquet Night 6:30pm at the King Phillip's Restaurant in Phillipston, MA. Thomas Ames, author of *The Hatch Guide for New England Streams* and *Fishbugs*, will be the featured speaker. For info and tickets call Pat Higgins at (978)632-3141.

Saturday, March 18, ***Southeast Chapter*** will be holding its banquet at BR's on Rte. 58 in Monponsett. Doors open at 4 PM. Tickets are \$21.00. There will be bucket raffles, silent auction items (many big ticket), a fly rod setup and a kayak. Contact Roger Moore for tickets.

Sunday March 19, 2006 ***Narragansett Chapter*** will be holding it's annual at 3pm at the Greek church of the Annunciation 175 Oaklawn Ave.(RT.5), Cranston R.I., Buffet Dinner \$25.00 per person. Auction and Raffle, Rods, Reels Flies, Fishing trips and much more including Jewelry and other non-fishing items. For info, call Lawson Cary at 401-828-2866 or Jim Rubovits at 401-647-5384.

Saturday, March 25, 2006. ***Squan-A-Tissit Chapter*** will be having its 21st Annual Benefit Spaghetti Banquet featuring Juro Mukai, "*Great Fishing Adventures*" It will be held at the VFW Hall, Leighton St., Pepperell, MA. Cost \$20 for adults, \$15.00 for youngsters less than 16. Social hour at 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm, presentation at 7:00 pm. Raffles and Auction. For info: call 978-433-5995.

Friday, March 31, 2006, ***Pioneer Valley Chapter*** will have its 21st Annual Conservation Banquet at the Knights of Columbus, Memorial Drive, Chicopee, Massachusetts. Door prizes, auctions, special raffles, \$Thousands worth of fishing equipment, outdoor gear, limited edition prints. Ticket reservations postmarked by March 10 will be placed in the special drawing for the early-bird prize. Cost is \$30, doors open at 5:00 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm. For info: call Joe at 413-323-6037 after 4:00 pm.

Sunday, April 30, 2006, ***Cape Cod Chapter*** will hold its banquet at the Harbor Point Restaurant which is located off of Rte. 6A in Cummaquid (which is part of Barnstable. There will be a 2 station buffet, auctions, raffles and other fundraisers. The cost is \$35 pp. For more info and tickets contact Wayne Miller @ 508-362-3678 for tickets.

May 19, 20, 21 ***Cape Cod Fly Fishing School*** Adults \$ 249.00, teens \$ 129 TU members subtract \$ 30.00. All inclusive with food and accommodations. Contact is Scott Dietrich 508.776.9667.

On June 3, 2006, ***Central MA Chapter*** from 10 - 3 at Trout Brook Park, is having its 4th Annual Youth Fishing Day. The day is comprised of individual fly casting instructions, fly tying lessons with each child tying their own fly, a brief session on stream ecology (i.e. macro invertebrates and the food cycle for trout), fly fishing for trout in the park pond (stocked by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife) with assistance from Trout Unlimited members. There will be refreshments and several prize drawings including a "starter kit" of fly rod, reel and line. It is free and equipment is provided. Call Paul Bakstran at (978)838-7345 for details.

June 2006 TBA ***Deerfield/Millers Chapter*** is going to run its "One Fly" contest on the Deerfield River. For info, contact Barry Coppinger at [bcopp@gis.net](mailto:bcopp@gis.net).