



Taconic Chapter established 1974 The Backcast

March 2006

Membership meeting

Wednesday

March 29, 2006

Italian American Club

Newell St

Pittsfield, MA

6pm social hour

7 pm Dinner -\$18.00

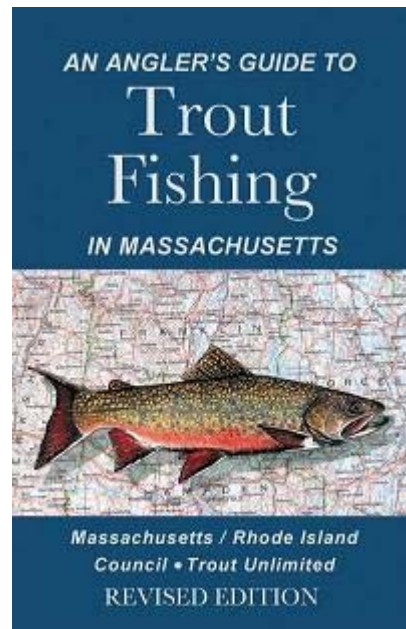
8pm Speaker - Free

Welcome new members

Robert Paradysz, Skip Skowron, Gail Street, Stephen Smith, Tony Mazzaferro

Thank you joining the Taconic Chapter, we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting

We have it and we know you want it



Guest Speaker
Walt Geryk -
Steelhead Fishing



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The Massachusetts/Rhode Island Council of Trout Unlimited released its new revised edition of its "Angler's Guide to Trout Fishing in Massachusetts" today, just in time for the spring fishing season. The Guide, considered by most to be the bible of trout fishing in Massachusetts, has been off the market for five years, while revisions were in progress.

A great reference for only \$ 19.95 from your Taconic Chapter of TU!

Chague's Place

The Glendale Hydroelectric Dam, which is owned and operated by Littleville Power Company, Inc., a subsidiary of Enel North America is up for re-licensing. The current license expires on October 31, 2009. This should be of particular interest to fishermen because the Housatonic Glendale Catch and Release section is just below the hydro plant.

For those of you not familiar with the power plant, approximately 2,500 feet of the Housatonic River is bypassed by the intake canal and penstock. The bypassed area ranges in width from 50 to 150 feet and has an average width of approximately 65 feet. The bypassed area currently only receives a minimum flow of 10 cfs (cubic feet a second) or the flow of the impoundment, whichever is less.

The project is operated as a run-of-river facility and the water that bypasses the river does flow back into it some 300 feet downstream of the powerhouse. So why be concerned?

Well, here are a few things to consider. The grate at the forebay has 1 inch spacing which is supposed to keep objects and fish from going into the generators. These are not 1 inch squares but rather bars that are spaced 1 inch wide. Any fish less than one inch wide could get sucked into the turbines and get chewed up.

Secondly, as previously stated, there is approximately a half mile of river directly upstream of the C & R area which, during summer times is nearly de-watered. Anyone who knows anything about water flows knows that 10 cfs in a river 65 feet wide is virtually nothing. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to fish that bypassed area? I have seen it the river back there and when there is sufficient water, it is an excellent looking stretch. You should have seen the prolific hatch of little black stoneflies which came off while I was there March 17. That extra half mile could take some fishing pressure off of the C & R area downstream.

There are other issues, too. Fish cannot get around the dam to reach suitable waters to spawn, such as in Larrywaug Brook which is just a little ways upstream. What are the impacts of thermo loading on the trout population? There are probably other issues that I have not even thought of.

In any event, rest assured that we at Taconic Trout Unlimited will be involved. Right off the bat, a 10 cfs water flow into the bypass area is unacceptable and there should be at least a 100 cfs flow over the dam, which as you know, is not very much. Research should be done in order to see if fish can be diverted from the generators. Why not a finer mesh on the intake during certain times of year while the fish are on the move spawning or migrating? Why not talk about a fish passage? Why not talk about bottom release? If we don't bring these things up, we will have to shut up for the next 30 years.

We may not win any of these concessions but we won't know unless we try. If you would like to get involved, please let me know.....Gene

L.P Adams

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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:

Thank you, Pat Higgins and Paul Fisher of the Millers Chapter; we had 25 members attend our February meeting for your presentation. The members truly enjoyed your presentation on the Green River in Utah. We hope your banquet on the 25th of February was a huge success. You guys are great; we trust you had a safe trip home. Thank again!

Karen Karlberg reports the Salmon fry are healthy and active; the students at Becket School are doing a great job under Karen's tutelage. Congratulations Coach Wojcik, (Ron) on leading your student athletes to very successful high school basketball season. The Coach is now off the hardwood and traded his whistle for a fly rod and fishing vest. He started a Fly Fishing Club, an after school program open to all students. Ron will need a couple Taconic Chapter members to help teach and demonstrate the many aspects of the art of fly fishing (casting, knot and fly tying, entomology). Stay tuned this is wonderful opportunity to connect with the youth of our community, learning is a two way street.

The long awaited "Anglers Guide to Trout Fishing in Massachusetts" is ready. As many recall the 1st edition was a very successful fundraiser for MA/RI Chapters. The new edition has been updated with new information and will be again very popular reference; it's yours for only \$19.95. Lets us know how many books you want; remember they make great gifts.

We are looking for a new editor for the Taconic Chapter newsletter. After September 2006, I will no longer be able to serve the chapter in this capacity. If you are interested, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing you March 29th please travel safe and take care.

Paul Knauth

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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

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
○ 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
○ 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

Please Support Senate Bill 541

An Act to Encourage and Promote Water Management

What are Streamflow Standards?

Streamflow standards generally provide for a sufficient flow of water to preserve and protect the natural aquatic life in rivers and streams.

Why does the state need streamflow standards?

- Massachusetts reportedly has over 160 "flow-impaired" rivers. This is more than any other state in New England. Water quantity has now become as important an issue as water quality in the state.
- Massachusetts is the 3rd most densely populated state in the country and continues to grow. Streamflow standards are essential to managing this growth at a sustainable rate.
- There are no benchmarks established in the state for how much water fish and other aquatic life needs to survive.
- Streamflow standards are a necessary first step to encouraging water conservation.
- **Connecticut, Maine and New Hampshire** all have laws mandating that streamflow standards be established.

What does this Bill do?

- The bill mandates that the Water Resources Commission develop streamflow standards that provide for a sufficient flow of water to protect aquatic life and that are based on the natural variation in flows.
- The bill **does not** interfere with the ability of water companies and municipalities to meet their various water supply obligations and allows for the **continued and sustainable economic growth** throughout the commonwealth.
- The bill leaves room for the future creation of basin-specific streamflow standards along with a more comprehensive water allocation policy.

**LET'S CONTACT OUR LEGISLATORS TO ASKING THEM TO SUPPORT BILL
541 PROTECT OUR RIVERS.**



*The Museum of the Gilded Age
at Ventfort Hall*

*You are cordially invited to join friends of
Casting for Recovery
at Ventfort Hall*

on Sunday April 2, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.

Members of the Berkshire Choral Festival will perform at 2:00 p.m.

Followed by a guided tour at 3:00 p.m.

*Your tax-exempt donation of \$25 will benefit the CFR 2006 Retreat
and the restoration of Ventfort Hall*

R.S.V.P. Marilyn Moran the_morans@verizon.net or

413-743-5126

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

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.