



Taconic Chapter established 1974 The Backcast

May 2006

**The Indian Hollow
Edition
May 19-22
MA/RI Council Annual
Meeting**

**12 Chapters are
represented in the
Council. The annual event
is growing; you don't
want to miss this!**

**4 days fly fishing on the
Westfield River**

Thanks, Marla, great job!



The April Membership Meeting @ Italian American with guest Speaker - Marla Blair - her program entitled "Fishing Western Mass and North Connecticut Rivers". - was excellent. It was by far, certainly in my memory the largest turnout we have had with 47 members present. Marla Blair is an expert fly fishing instructor and guide.

According to Marla "Fly Fishing can be a complicated, frustrating sport - but it doesn't have to be." Her book "**Positive Fly Fishing**" is a book you'll need to have; it is fantastic. It's a great for beginners to them learn the fundamentals of fly fishing as well as the person who been fly fishing for years.

When you looking for a truly wonderful guided fly fishing experience on the Farmington, Deerfield, Swift, Westfield Rivers in Massachusetts and the Farmington River in Connecticut.....Call Marla tell her the Taconic Chapter recommended her, you will not be disappointed. You can contact her @ 413.583.5141, visit her website marlablair.com or email marlablair@yahoo.com. Oh, don't forget to order her bookits only \$24.95

GIGLIOTTI ELECTRIC

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
PO Box 553 Pittsfield ,MA 01202

ANDRE E MARTELL, Jr. phone (413) 442-2683
General Partner (413) 743-2255
Fax (413)743-2232



David Gage

SNOWSHOE FARM

Pure Maple Product

Tel (413) 238-5922 285 Old North Rd
gagesnowshoe@aol.com Worthington, MA 01098

Common Sense Design

DESIGN-BUILD-PROJECT MGT.

Marc Hoechstetter, Pres.

45 Luther Shaw Rd. 413.634.5480
Cummington, MA FAX 413.634.0365
01026 CELL 413.441.7910

(413) 442-0901 (800)462-2039

Pittsfield Radio

Alex J. Kastrinakis
alex@pittsfieldradion.com
748 Tyler Street Pittsfield, MA
01201

Berkshire County REALTY COMPANY

JAMES S. McRORY
14 Gordon St. Pittsfield, MA 01201
Office (413) 499-0991 Fax (413) 499-1097
Home (413) 442-6626

Chague's Place

Indian Hollow - 2006

Picture if you will: It's Friday night and you are walking back to your campsite in the moonlight after experiencing some great fishing. Maybe you are with a fellow fisherman or perhaps you finally got that chance to enjoy the solitude of fishing alone. But, you know that you are not alone, and perhaps feel the presence of a black bear, a moose, a coyote or a deer as you trudge along in your waders. You feel like a million bucks. It could be caused by the euphoria that you are experiencing being away from the desk, and computers with a whole weekend of fishing and enjoying the great outdoors ahead of you or perhaps that draw or two that you took out of your flask has brought on this mellow feeling. Doesn't matter.

Picture if you will the sight of a dozen or so different campfires flickering in the distance on the other side of the river as you approach. You can smell food cooking on the grills. After you cross the river and begin passing various campsites enroute to your own, you hear laughter and the sounds of fishermen, families and kids talking around their individual campfires. As you pass each campfire, you hear a "hello, how did you do? Of course you have to stop and gab a bit. Perhaps you meet some fellows that you haven't seen since last year at this time. Perhaps they are new folks on their first outing at Indian Hollow, full of anticipation and optimism about the tomorrow's fishing.

Once at your own campsite, you are greeted by your fellow chapter members and a round of handshakes begin. A beer is thrust into your face even before you are out of your waders. Of course, one has to be polite and accept. Fellow members have already gathered around the campfire spinning their yarns which you have heard so many times before, and yet they still evoke laughter. In fact, they are funnier every time that you hear them. It's so good to see everyone again, they are truly valued friends.

Pretty soon, some cigars are lit, and the Fred Langevan's memorial bottle of Yukon Jack is broken out, served in the ugly little goblets which Paul Knauth purchased at a Pioneer Valley banquet (and which his wife Nancy insists that they be kept out in the garage). Homer Ouellette breaks out his harmonica, Paul Ouellette gets his Jaws Harp and we are entertained again.....same old songs, never sounded better. The fire is refueled several more times and pretty soon its time to hit the sack. Of course there are the usual jokes about someone's snoring a few tents away and whether or not it was snoring, a bear grunting or distance thunder.

L.P Adams

The Best in Service Since 1900

"Help You Build Things Right"
484 Housatonic St Dalton, MA 01226

Wayne Walton

Tel (413) 684-0025 Ext 3010

whwalto@bcn.net

Fax (413) 684 - 0427

Ask for

B-Mile at

REMAX

Integrity Realtors

Beverly Milenski

CRS,CBR,ABR,GRI

"Going the Extra Mile"

Email bmile@nycao.rr.com

154 Elm Street Pittsfield, MA 01201

Home Office (413) 443-7357

Home Fax (413) 443-5890

Office (413) 443-7274

Office Fax (413) 496-8077

ADAMS CO-OPERATIVE BANK

Courteous Service Borrowing or Saving Since 1895

FDIC

Adams

93 Park St

(413)-743-0001

North Adams

31 Eagle St

(413)664-4571

Lanesboro

548 So. Main St

(413) 443-4070

www.adamscooperative.com

* Co-op Express
1-877-266-7397

City Tire

since 1927

Scott Casella mgr

"WE SPECIALIZE IN UNDER-CAR-CARE"

560 Hubbard Street

Pittsfield, MA 01201

Phone (413)445-5578

FAX (413)-499-6318

Bob's Country Kitchen

Route 7 Lanesboro, MA

"Pleasing You Pleases Us"

Open Seven Day a Week

6:30am - 8:00pm

(413) 499-3934

Pat's Gun Shop

"We Buy Used Guns"

Pat & Ruth King

413.499.3897

Gunshop@vqernet.net

1.888.296.3897

South Main St, Rt 7 Lanesboro, MA 01237

K.M Favre & Co.

Complete Building & Remolding

Kevin Favre

CSL # 086878

Tel/Fax 1.413.997.9700

Pittsfield Ma 012091

George's

BEER

WINE

LIQUOR

FULL REDEMPTION CENTER

19 ELM ST PITTSFIELD, AM 01201

413.448.88989 fax 413.442.1698

Tips 'n Tidbits from Paul Ouellette

Directions

In center of Chesterfield on Route 143 is the Town Hall, a large white columned building. Next to it is South Street. Turn (south) on South Street and follow it to the TU signs for 2.3 miles to Indian Hollow Road. This is a dirt road which leads down to the campground, a fly fisher's Shangri-la.

Fly fisher men and woman from all over Massachusetts and Rhode island make this yearly event a must. They all envy our Taconic Chapter being located in the beautiful Berkshire with it many fine Trout Streams. Members of our Chapter will be at Indian Hollow from Friday to Monday noon. Come and enjoy it with your friends. A large rental tent is erected in the center of the campground and the Council caters a free Saturday lunch. Marc Hoehstetter, one of our very active members provides the material and builds a huge and I do mean huge bonfire for the Saturday night entertainment.



The nights are usually cool so bring a jacket for the evening campfire. The river is heavily stocked with good size trout fro this event. Mike Shepard once took a nice Rainbow trout pushing 5 lbs. The following year Dwayne Anderson did the same thing. This is a catch and release river. Other nearby streams are not. At a large upstream pool you'll often see beaver in the early evening. Gene Chague watched a moose cross the river one year. Paul Ouellette saw a huge salmon leap in the air below the Rainbow Pool. Bring a few pieces of fire wood if you can. Free fire wood is scarce. The campground has men and women's toilet facilities. Also hot Showers. This is a fine chance to commune with nature and your fellow TU members

IMPORTANT ---- and Our Chapter will be there !

New Data Shows Brook Trout Imperiled Throughout Entire Eastern Range

Massachusetts Brook Trout Populations Threatened by Dams and Roads

ARLINGTON, VA - Brook trout survive in less than half of their original range in Massachusetts. These results reflect the condition of brook trout across their entire Eastern range, according to an assessment released today by Trout Unlimited and a coalition of state and federal agencies.

"Brook trout are the canary in the coal mine when it comes to water quality," said Gary Berti, Trout Unlimited's Eastern Brook Trout Campaign Coordinator. "The presence of brook trout in a watershed indicates that water quality is excellent. Declining brook trout populations can provide an early warning that the health of an entire stream, lake or river is at risk."

The report, "Eastern Brook Trout: Status and Threats," is the first comprehensive assessment of the status of brook trout in the Eastern United States. These beautiful fish historically thrived in rivers and streams stretching from Maine to Georgia, but land use pressures have relegated the remaining isolated populations to the headwaters of high elevation streams.

The few remaining patches of relatively strong brook trout habitat in the state are located in the Berkshire and Taconic mountains and within portions of the Hoosic, Deerfield and Westfield watersheds and several tributaries to the Connecticut River. Brook trout have been eliminated from 7% of their historical habitat in Massachusetts, and they are greatly reduced in another 28% of habitat that formerly supported brook trout. Population status is unknown across an additional 42% of the historical range.

"While these results are sobering, we are already pursuing many opportunities for conservation of remaining high-quality habitat as well as restoration of impaired streams," said Todd Richards, Aquatic Biologist, Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife. "Our collective challenge is to protect the best remaining habitat and restore the rest."

"Brookies are quick to respond to habitat improvements," explained Warren Winders, the brook trout coordinator for Trout Unlimited's Massachusetts Council. "We have already seen the results of our work with state and federal partners on Quashnet River and Red Brook. By scaling up these programs throughout the state and region, we will see wild brook trout returning to our streams. And that's great news for all of us who love to fish locally with our families and friends."

This assessment represents the first stage of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture's collaborative efforts to restore brook trout habitat. The Joint Venture was initiated in 2002 as a pilot program of the National Fish Habitat Initiative. Participants include fish and wildlife agencies from 17 states, federal partners, conservation organizations and academic institutions. The results of this assessment will be used to develop state-by-state strategies for brook trout conservation and recovery. The full report, as well as state-specific data and maps, are available at www.brookie.org.

Spring! What a wonderful time of year.

Gene Chague

And for a TU member, it is an active time of year. Perhaps you just completed the acid rain collections for this spring. Perhaps you are involved in the stocking of the salmon fry into the Connecticut River watershed. Both of these activities are eagerly anticipated and enjoyed. Perhaps you are involved in the ASERP (Atlantic Salmon Egg Rearing Program), working with the kids in the Becket Elementary school system.

Maybe you are working with kids in the school fly fishing program. Perhaps you are working in getting our new anglers guide out to the book/sporting goods stores. Perhaps you are stocking up on supplies in preparation for cooking breakfast for the other members at Indian Hollow next month, or stocking up on firewood for that massive bon fire which we have there. Perhaps you are working with the Arcadia Shop in putting together a fly fishing seminar. Perhaps you are a Taconic Chapter Board Member or Officer heavily involved in all the operations of our chapter or assist in getting out our newsletters. Maybe you are our delegate to the MA/RI Council.

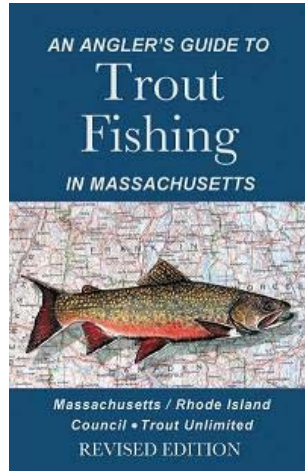
Perhaps you are monitoring a FERC re-licensing on the Housatonic River, or writing letters opposing that Russell biomass power generating plant on the Westfield. Maybe you are one of those striving to get more C & R waters on the Housatonic or Hoosic. Perhaps you are our Berkshire County League of Sportsmen delegate. Perhaps you are working with the Casting For Recovery folks, or the Becoming an Outdoorswoman program, or volunteering your time on a fishing day for the kids up on Reynolds Pond in Cheshire.

Perhaps you are a member of a HVA stream team, or working on an ACEC project or you are involved in stream bank restoration work in Becket, doing stream continuity surveys, or are a committee member who is working on our new Bring Back the Brookie campaign.

I kid you not! These projects and more are currently ongoing in your chapter. And similar programs are ongoing all across our state by your sister chapters. Just log onto the MA/RI Council Web site (www.ma-ri-tu-council.org) and click onto the other chapter newsletters and see for yourself the many projects which are ongoing. It's enough to make you proud to be part of this great organization. (Perhaps it's enough to make you want to join in and help if you are not already doing so.)

And now it is spring time with the warm, clear blue skies and you want to take time to go fishing some of our freshly stocked waters. By all means, go and enjoy. You certainly have deserved it.

You can order your copy and receive via US Mail



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. You can order and receive by US Mail your own copy

Just send a check payable to Taconic Chapter of Trout Unlimited for the sum of \$24.95 this includes packaging and postage.

Send you order to Paul Knauth
Po Box 41 Hinsdale, MA 01235

RED BROOK FAMILY DAY 2006

This year's fundraiser for Red Brook will be held, as usual, at the Lyman Preserve from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on September 17. A barbeque will be followed by bucket raffles, a silent auction and a kayak raffle drawing. Raffle donations, volunteer help, and most importantly, your attendance and generosity are needed.

There will also be a short ceremony to dedicate the Charles Lyman and Henry Lyman Memorial Angler's Shelter. This project has been funded by donations from TU chapters across Massachusetts, among them, Cape Cod, Worcester, Pioneer Valley, and SE Mass. The Angler's Shelter will honor the memory of Charles Lyman and Henry Lyman, tell the Red Brook story, and inform visitors about the life history of the salter brook trout.

Funds from past Red Brook Family Days have been used to help maintain the Lyman Preserve and have been instrumental in procuring grant funding for Red Brook's restoration. This year alone, grants awarded to Red Brook amounted to \$40,000.

We look forward to seeing you at Red Brook on September 17.

Warren Winders

TU Red Brook Director