



# In The Trout's Window

## January 10, 2006 Meeting

Our next chapter meeting will be held at 7PM on Tuesday, January 10 at the West Springfield/Agawam Elks Lodge, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA.

### Flytying Extravaganza!

Our annual Flytying night - about a dozen local tyers demonstrating local and exotic fly patterns and techniques. Featured tyers include: Jim Turcotte, Marla and Tony, Dana Charbonneau, Jim Lafley, Bill Rose, Manny DaSilva, Jack Lyons, Tom Panaccione, and more that I either forgot or am too embarrassed to try to spell.

### Rod Raffle

We're going to be raffling off a Loomis Fly9 GL2 2 piece 9ft. 6# rod as a fund raiser at the meeting. Tickets will be \$2 or 3 for \$5. The drawing will be at about 8:45.

### Blind Bugger Contest

We'll be running a Blind Bugger tying contest at the Extravaganza with two divisions: kids and adults. The goal is to tie a basic wooly bugger while blindfolded. Entry fee is \$1 for adults (to help cover materials) and free for kids. There will be a small prize for each division for best fly (somebody is going to win all the flies...)

There will be a board Meeting immediately following the main event.

**Our meetings are always free, so bring a friend!**

President's Message - Bob Federowicz  
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Bob, send me an article for February!

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# Chapter News



## Conservation Hero Wanted !

Are you a conservation hero? If not, why not? All you need to do is sponsor (or donate) an item for our annual conservation banquet. Yep – it's that simple. Quite frankly, without your financial support your TU Chapter cannot continue to provide educational programs or conduct cold water conservation projects in Western Massachusetts.

Even though you may be too busy to volunteer for any of our Chapter's projects, your financial support *is just as important*. **So, be a hero!** Simply attend our monthly Chapter meeting, view the list of banquet prizes, pick one, and make a check (or pay cash) to sponsor the item. You will receive recognition in our Banquet Program, a letter from our Chapter acknowledging your tax-deductible contribution, and you will receive the satisfaction of knowing that your contribution furthers our efforts toward water conservation projects.

Please be a hero today. Our Chapter – and the waters you fish in Western Massachusetts – depend heavily on local heroes.

P.S. Mark down Friday March 31, 2006 on your calendar. That

is the evening of our 21<sup>st</sup> annual Conservation Banquet!

## Swift River Update

As reported last month, we have received a grant from Mass. Riverways to cover the expected expenses of the 2 day crane rental for removing the rubble pile. The actual work will take place as soon as the water levels in the Swift get low enough this coming Spring or summer. We expect that a couple of small trees and some brush will have to be removed to allow access for the crane, so we will be looking for volunteers for brush removal work and replanting. Every volunteer hour we get for these projects is useful for us as matching 'in kind' donations when we do grant proposals, so we would love to have you show up even if it's only for 'supervisor detail'.

The second phase of the Swift River project is the old crib dam (Iceman's Dam?) about 500 years downstream from the duck lady's fence. This is an old timber crib dam that creates a big impoundment and blocks fish passage except in very high water levels (like we had most of 2005). Paul Bealieu sent me a photo of the dam last week and the dam is almost completely invisible. This dam is long abandoned and was probably used for an ice pond. The dam is not on the State's dam registry. Because the entire struc-

ture is in the river, it is owned by the State. Riverways and F&W has asked us to handle this project ourselves, and the first thing we need to do is get the site assessed by a professional engineer. Paul estimates that the engineering study (to examine the structure, the silt load behind the dam, and assess the changes that removal or breaching would cause) will cost about \$15,000. We have written a grant proposal to TU's Embrace-a-stream program to try to raise half the money. PVTU and the Mass./RI Council will have to come up with the remainder. I think at a minimum PVTU will be looking to raise \$4,000 toward this expense. After we get the appraisal, we can then begin the permitting work with Ware, Belchertown and various State agencies. We will be looking for additional team members to help out with macroinvertebrate sampling and stream profile mapping some time this summer.

I expect that this will be a several year project - we want to get the engineering report done in 2006 if possible. Removal or breaching may be possible in 2007 or 2008.

After this, we can look forward to two major dam removal projects in Bondsville. We have already started talking about these and probably in 2006 we will try to get an action plan together.

## Elections!

### New Slate of Officers

Robert Federowicz, President  
Terry Connolly, VP  
Tom LeBlanc, Secretary  
Joe Babineau, Treasurer

### New Board Members

Stan Gula, Conservation Chair

The only other change is the retirement of Marla as Program Chair. That job is being handled by a number of Board members - and we could use your help! If you have any ideas for monthly meeting programs, please give us some ideas!

In the last newsletter I mistakenly mentioned that Dick Bussolari was retiring from the Board. This was an embarrassing mistake. Dick is still actively involved with PVTU and is just a sweet guy, you know?

## Manhan River Fishway

As reported last month, the Manhan fishway has been in the news again. Because of the difficulty in raising the funds for the planned fishway, a committee of interested parties has been exploring other options for the dam. The idea is that it might be possible to make 'dam modifications' (which could include notching, breaching or removal) in order to reduce the project cost and allow salmon passage. PVTU had committed \$2,500 toward the fishway project a couple of years ago and that money was never spent. The Board voted in December to dedicate that \$2,500 toward an engi-

neering study to look at other options. Hopefully our seed money will generate some matching grants from other sources.

## February Program - Brian Graber

We have mentioned many times lately that we have been working with Mass. Riverways on Swift River dams. Brian Graber, a Restoration Specialist with Mass. Riverways wrote the report that was the basis for the 'rubble pile' removal project that we will complete this year. See the report at <http://gula.org/pvtu/swift.pdf>.

Brian will be presenting a program at our February meeting to go over the rubble pile project and the other obstructions in the Swift that we want to remove.

## Flytying Classes

This is the time of year for tying classes!

PVTU members hold classes for beginners and intermediates at Valley Sports in Easthampton on Thursdays in January and February. I lost the details that Dick Bossolari gave me, so you might want to call Gary at 413-527 9728 for specifics. I believe there's a small fee and you need to pre-register.

Dick Bussolari holds free lessons for beginners on Wednesdays (7PM) in February at the West Springfield Elks Lodge. Contact Dick at 413-789-1460 to get info.

PVTU holds intermediate/

advanced lessons on Wednesdays (7PM) in March at the Elks. Tyers are expected to have their own equipment and materials. These are not really 'classes'. Each week a master tyer will demonstrate a pattern and people tie along. Usually Jim Turcotte is in charge so you might want to call him for details at 413-527-5863.

Western Mass. Flyfishers holds free classes for all ages in Ludlow in January and February. I don't have the details on this, but I know Manny DaSilva (who is tying at the Extravaganza on Tuesday) runs the classes so you could ask him in person. Otherwise, you could call Bill Rose at 786-0195 and I'm sure he can get you in touch with the right people.

## New Newsletter Editor

Steve Morawski has agreed to take over the newsletter from me next month. I know that Steve would be happy to receive your article submissions. You can reach him at 413-568-3197 or [steve.morawski@elpaso.com](mailto:steve.morawski@elpaso.com)

Thanks Steve!

## Goodbye and Thanks For All The Fish - Stan Gula

This is my last newsletter- it's been fun. As a parting shot:

1. **Come to the Banquet!**
2. Join the board
3. Submit an article to the newsletter
4. Help plant trees on the Swift
5. Suggest program ideas
6. Help us with press releases



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### In The Trout's Window

Newsletter of the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Published monthly from September through May by PVTU. Subscriptions available only through membership in Trout Unlimited. Stan Gula, Editor.

#### Chapter Officers

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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 the Elks, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA. The general public is always welcome with no admission fee.

Sign up for E-mail newsletter!

Signups are temporarily on hold. You can download the newsletter at:  
<http://gula.org/pvtu>

# Conserving Our Cold Water Fisheries

## Calendar

**January 10, 2005**

PVTU Meeting - Fly Tying Extravaganza

**January 6-8, 2005**

World of Flyfishing, Oneill Center, Danbury, CT (860) 354-3140

**January 20-22, 2005**

The Flyfishing Show, Royal Plaza Marlboro, MA (800) 420-7582

**February 14, 2006**

PVTU Meeting - Brian Graber from Riverways on Swift River dams

Please contact me if you have an event you want to advertise