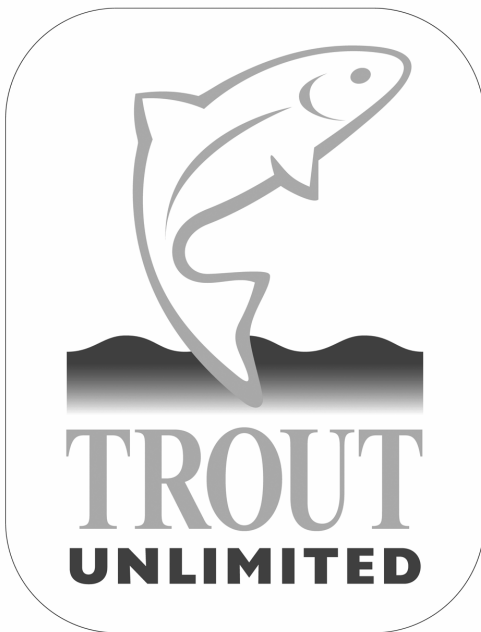


In The Trout's Window

Issue 6, 2005/2006

February 2006

Pioneer Valley TU Chapter 276



February 14, 2006 Meeting

Our next chapter meeting will be held at 7PM on Tuesday, February 14 at the West Springfield/Agawam Elks Lodge, 422 Morgan Rd., West Springfield, MA.

Swift River Project

Brian Graber, Restoration Scientist for MASS Riverways, will present a talk on the 'Rubble Pile' removal on the Swift River that our Chapter is undertaking in 2006. In addition, Brian will address dam removals in general and how we will work towards removing three more structures in the Swift River.

In his job for MASS Riverways, Brian provides technical assistance for ecosystem-based stream restoration including habitat restoration, dam removals, and stream crossing retrofits/replacements. Coordinates the River Continuity Partnership, which trains volunteer groups to survey stream crossing condition and provides technical assistance for crossing rehabilitation. Coordinates development of GIS-based tools to prioritize stream restoration.

This meeting might be one of the most important ones of this year, don't miss it!

Fly Tyers Corner

The fly tyer and pattern TBA. Tying starts at 7, speaker at 7:30.

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Russell Biomass Public Debate

As you are probably aware from past newsletter articles, there is a proposed Biomass Power Plant to be located on the banks of the Westfield River in Russell. Your chapter is actively involved in commenting on potential environmental impact issues from the planned cooling water withdrawals and thermal discharges.

The Westfield River Environmental Center at Westfield State College is hosting a debate on the proposed Russell Biomass facility on Thursday, February 16th, at 7pm in the Scanlon Banquet Hall. Both representatives of Russell Biomass LLC and opponents of the project will respond to written questions submitted by the audience. The debate will be moderated by Helena Alves, a faculty sponsor of the Westfield High School's Debate Team.

Students from Westfield State's Environmental Impact Analysis Class will sort and select questions to present to the participants. For further information contact Westfield State Associate Professor Dr. Michael Vorwerk at (413)-572-5305.

More on the Swift River Project

Paul Beaulieu reports that the project is proceeding along schedule. He is meeting with both the Ware and Belchertown Conservation Commissions in February to request permission to do the rubble pile removal by the end of June. Contractors have been lined up for rubble removal and equipment for the tree removals and plantings.

I joined this Chapter a few years after the original deflectors were constructed in the Swift above Route 9. For years I have heard members grouse about the lack of conservation projects sponsored by this chapter. Well, pretty soon it will be time to roll up your sleeves and pitch in! Stay tuned for opportunities to help in this important conservation project.

Manhan River

Your chapter has pledged \$2,500 toward the study that will explore options for the dam. Mass/RI

Council was asked to redirect the \$2,500 in funds they had voted for the fishway, but the consensus was that a vote should be delayed until May. We have gotten a verbal commitment from the Boston Chapter for \$1,000 and we are soliciting donations from other chapters.

PVTU Flytying Classes

We have 12 people attending beginners fly tying classes at the Elks. About 15 people signed up for the lessons at Valley Sports taught by our own Dick Bussolari, Dan Berry, Rick Kelly and Gary Metras. Intermediate classes are scheduled for Wednesdays in March. Call Jim Turcotte at 413-527-5863 to register.

Bring Back The Brookie Campaign

The MA/RI Council reports progress in the Bring Back the Brookie campaign in Massachusetts. The Brook Trout Committee has met several times and has petitioned the MAF&W Board to develop a formal wild trout policy. It has also met with Dr. Mark Tisa, Asst. Director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and members of his staff. Mark and his biologists support our campaign, but have few resources to address the project. The Council will continue to explore ways to overcome this obstacle.

New Anglers Guide!

After a several year delay, the 2006 edition of the "Anglers Guide" is going to be printed. The book was taken over by the Boston Chapter as a special project. They have reported that the content has been completely revised and there is a beautiful new cover with artwork donated by local artist Alan James Robinson. We should have copies available for purchase by the March meeting.

One Fly on the Deerfield

No, not one fly! A Tournament run by the Deerfield/ Millers River Chapter the weekend of June 3-4. More info to come.

January 6, 2006

Dear Pioneer Valley TU Chapter Member,

It's almost here! The 21st annual Pioneer Valley Chapter's **Annual Conservation Banquet!** Don't miss an evening of fishing camaraderie not to mention door prizes, raffle prizes, silent and verbal auction items **worth almost than \$10,000**. An announcement and reservation form for this premier event...our social and fundraising highlight of the year... appear on the other side of this invitation.

Among numerous worthwhile endeavors, over the past two decades our banquet has helped fund stream and habitat improvements in the Pioneer Valley, the effort to restore Atlantic salmon in the Connecticut River Watershed, efforts to provide fish passage on the Manhan River, the current Swift River Improvement Project, locally implemented the Boy Scout Merit Fly Fishing Merit Badge Program, printing and mailing costs for our monthly newsletter, and provide support for TU's conservation efforts nationwide.

Attending the banquet is a very important way for you to insure that these and similar activities will continue. This is our principle source of funds as we do not impose Chapter dues. So please keep your calendar clear for Friday March 31, 2006 and be sure to join us.

Another way to help is by donating an auction item or a raffle prize or pledging to purchase a gift from the list of items we buy from National TU Headquarters. Prize Chairman Jim Turcotte will be pleased to assist you in this regard. See Jim at one of our monthly meetings or call Jim at (413) 527-5863 for more information. All donations are tax deductible.

Send your reservation form to Ticket Chairman Joe Babineau in the enclosed envelope. All ticket requests postmarked by March 10th will be eligible for our early-bird drawing prize.

I hope to see you on March 31st!

Bob Federowicz

Robert Federowicz,
Chapter President

Please see the reverse side of this letter for your reservation form and prize and auction highlights

TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL CONSERVATION BANQUET

Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Friday, March 31, 2006

Knights of Columbus, Memorial Drive , Chicopee, Massachusetts

(Map provided with tickets)

Prize Viewing and Cocktails: 5:00 PM Dinner: 7:00 PM

Dinner Choices: Sautéed Breast of Chicken Baked Scrod Roast Prime Rib Au Jus

The Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited cordially invites you to an evening of fun, great food, and fellowship, including the most spectacular raffles in New England! Quality **door prizes**, an impressive **silent auction**, an electrifying **verbal auction**, the perennial favorite **limited sales raffle**, and great gifts of general interest featuring *thousands of dollars worth of fishing equipment*, outdoor gear, limited edition prints, and much, much more await you!

Here's just a sample of banquet offerings:

RODS... crafted by Winston, Heritage, Orvis, Loomis, Scott, Powell....

REELS... by such famous makers as Ross, Galvin, Orvis, Fly Logic...

OUTDOOR GEAR and MORE... premium products including a Regal Vice, Magnum tackle bag, Redington vest, Leatherman tool, Cobra knife, chest fishing pack, Swiss wool blanket, local hand-tied flies...too much more to list...

REMEMBER... all ticket reservations **postmarked by March 10** will be placed in the special drawing for the early-bird prize.

YES! I WILL ATTEND THE TU BANQUET ON FRIDAY, MARCH 31st

Please send me _____ (number) tickets: \$30 per ticket

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Number of _____ (Chicken)* _____(Fish) _____(Beef)* dinners.

** Dinner selections cannot be changed...dinner is held during Lent.*

Name: _____ Address: _____

Please make checks payable to TU BANQUET and mail to Joe Babineau, 3 Knight Street, Belchertown, MA 01007. For ticket information, call Joe after 4:00 PM at (413) 323-6037.

Want a Premium Fly Rod for

\$1.00?

How About a Quality Reel for

\$1.00?

Yes? Well, these are just a few of the many, many items available at our Chapter's 21st Annual Conservation Banquet on Friday March 31, 2006! Rods, reels, tackle, books, fly lines, art, and much more will be featured throughout the evening. Raffles...Auctions...Don't miss this chance to be a big winner while supporting the conservation efforts of your TU Chapter. This is your chance to show support for your Chapter and have some fun! Family and friends are cordially invited. Don't delay because March 31st is close at Hand!!! See you there— and good luck!

What: The 21st Annual Pioneer Valley TU Conservation Banquet

When: March 31, 2006 Prize viewing and Cocktails 5:00pm, Dinner: 7:00pm

Where: Knights of Columbus, Memorial Drive, Chicopee, Massachusetts

You Can Still Help!

Conservation Banquet Donations

Sought

Want to help your TU Chapter in a big way? Just attend our monthly Chapter meeting and view the list of banquet prizes waiting to be sponsored. All you need to do is pick on you wish to sponsor, 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, like those on the Swift River.

Another way to help is by donating an item for the banquet. We are always in need of your hand tied flies (no box required). Popular raffle items donated in the past included books, birdbaths and feeders,

clothes, adult beverages, gift certificates, videos (DVDs), tools, and of course fishing tackle of all sorts.

The point is that the more profit the Chapter can realize from this, our main fundraising activity, the more resources we can apply to local conservation issues. Just think of the many thousands of dollars we will need to accomplish our conservation goals on the Swift and Manhan. There are over 450 members of our chapter. Lets pitch in and make this the most successful banquet yet!

Newsletter Editor

If you have read this far, you probably figured out that something has changed in the newsletter! You are right! I, Steve Morawski, am your newsletter editor. For those of you who don't know me I've been a Chapter member for many years, and a past editor (way past). Stan set the bar real high with his newsletter, so please be patient with my learning curve of this software program, I'll get there too!

My goals for this newsletter are to keep the Chapter membership informed of conservation activities by not only this Chapter, but adjacent chapters. Also, I will pass on information concerning issues affecting our local fisheries. Finally, as space allows, I would like to publish the fly tying and fishing tips from local fishermen like those we have enjoyed in past newsletters (hint, hint).

One thing has remained constant over the many years of this Chapter's existence. This newsletter will only be as good as the input from the members. Please feel free to contact me with your suggestions.

Indian Hollow

The Mass/RI Council of TU is hosting the Annual Family Campout at the Army Corps camp ground at Indian Hollow in Chesterfield on the weekend of May 19-22. This is a free event for all Massachusetts and Rhode Island TU members. The camp ground is right on the bank of the East Branch of the Westfield River and the river is usually in prime condition for Spring fishing. Watch this space for more details.

In The Trout's Window

Newsletter of the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
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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 is always welcome with no admission fee.

EVENT CALENDAR

February 14, 2006	PVTU Meeting-Brian Graber Swift River Projects
February 16, 2006	Biomass Debate Westfield State College
February 25, 2006	Miller's River TU Banquet tickets (978) 632-3141
March 14, 2006	PVTU Meeting
March 18-19, 2006	Flyfishing Weekend LLBean, Freeport ME
March 31, 2006	PVTU Conservation Banquet