



Squan-a-Tissit NEWS

*News from our chapter of Trout Unlimited.
Champions of sport and conservation on two northeastern Massachusetts
trout watersheds:
The Squannacook & The Nissitissit.*

February 2023

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**Banquet 2023
updates...**

**PIT Tag up-
date...**

**Fly of the
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**Chapter Meeting
Monday, February 27th,
7:00**

Adam Kautza
MassWildlife Coldwater Fishery Project
Leader

**“Wild Browns in the
Deerfield”**

**In-person at Pepperell
Christian Fellowship
(PCF) and
[Zoom Meeting Link](#)**

**ID: 86121298527
Passcode: 746262**



Adam Kautza is the Coldwater Fisheries Project Leader for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. As Coldwater Fisheries Project Leader, Adam works all across the state with district staff and various outside partners like Trout Unlimited on management, conservation, and restoration of Massachusetts coldwater fish resources. He holds a BS in Biology from University of Wisconsin, a MS in Fisheries Science from the University of Idaho, and a PhD in Aquatic Ecology from Ohio State.

Adam will be presenting about **Wild Browns in the Deerfield**. The basis for this presentation is a talk he gave at a Symposium on Wild Trout in Montana. He has been studying wild trout in the Deerfield River for the past several years and has actively worked with the Deerfield River TU Chapter on many of their projects including brown trout spawning studies.

Adam will be presenting via Zoom.



Squan-a-Tissit Chapter

Squan-a-Tissit Chapter Contacts:

Officers:

President
Tim McDaniel

Vice President
Michael Lauritzen

Treasurer
Scott Hraba

Secretary
Vacant

Directors:

Dave Armstrong

Bill Creed

John Deery

Chip Detwiller

Kirk Reynolds
(Website)

Michael Rosser

Russell Schott

Chapter website
squanatissit.org

Chapter Email
chapter@squanatissit.org

Chapter Notes

Hi again!

Welcome to February! The weather has continued to be pretty mild and the river is up for now. Never sure about runoff when there is not a lot of snow on the ground, but it usually works out. Spring is so close and I'm sure a lot of people are looking forward to that.

We have a number of things going on or coming up. One of the biggest is the 2023 Banquet. Hopefully, you will be able to make it. There are a number of people working hard to pull it together after a multiyear hiatus. It will be a great way to have some fun for an evening and maybe win some raffle prizes. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and it will be nice to see everyone. Take a look at the banquet updates further on in the newsletter and please help spread the word about the event!

For our PIT Tagging project, Michael Rosser and I made it down to the river recently to take high water measurements at the installation site. The Niss and Sucker Brook looked great. It was a nice day to be out. We got some pictures and had a "uh oh" moment down by the rebuilt log crossing. There are some updates on the project below and the "uh oh"...It will be great when we can set an installation date for the equipment. We are not there, yet, but will update with that as soon as possible. I think this is very interesting project and should be fun, so please keep an eye out for updates on this.

Looking forward on the calendar, we will also be coordinating streamside and access cleanup efforts this year with the townwide effort in Pepperell. The cleanup will be in April. We will be registering our locations and exact dates with the town on April 1. This usually a quick half day effort that everyone enjoys helping out on.

On another front we have set our date for the Chapter's **Annual Day on the River** to be Saturday, May 13th. We will be at the Columbo WMA again on the Nissitissit. Always a fun day with food and fishing. This year we looking to have an etymology session to highlight the health and diversity in the Nissitissit. Great for everyone including kids...showing what lives in and along the river with some hands-on fun.

(Continued next page)

Zoom Meeting Link

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Also, the planning for our “Getting Started in Fly Fishing” event is still underway. There are still a number of things to finalize, but we hope to put out the date soon.

Last month we had Gerry Crowe as our speaker. It was a tough night weather wise so we did not have a ton of attendees. Those that were able to make it heard a truly great talk about fishing in Idaho and far western Montana. Mostly self guided, uncrowded fishing. It was really a well done presentation. I wish more could have seen it.

For February, our featured speaker will be Adam Kautza from MA DFW. Adam has been with us before and will be speaking about the Deerfield River, wild browns, and other highlights of the watershed. Many of us have enjoyed time out there, so this should be interesting.

Hope to see you at the Chapter Meeting!

Tim

Zoom Meeting Link
ID: 86121298527
Passcode: 746262



Squan-a-Tissit Chapter

Help Wanted/Needs

We have had some response to our requests, but still need help on a few. Some of these things only take a few minutes, but are helpful:

Newsletter content, etc.:

- Fishing and outdoor pictures...We did get some and will be using them in our newsletters starting this month. We could always use more!
- Members' favorite flies... send in just the name of your favorite fly/flyes and we will share it in [Fly of the Month](#) ...



Banquet help

- Will you tie some flies? Perhaps 1/2 dozen Clousers, nymphs, or dries for our bucket raffles?
- We will need some help serving the night of the banquet. Basically running food from the kitchen to guest tables... Only takes 5 to 10 minutes the night of the banquet..

Monthly speakers

- Do you have a presentation or have you seen a good presenter that would be a good fit for our meetings? We are always looking for suggestions...

Got one!

- ***Thank you goes out to Kirk Reynolds and family for their donation of a travel grill to the Chapter.***



Send questions/info via email:

chapter@squanatissit.org

Upcoming EVENTS

Updated...

Project: Sucker Brook PIT Tagging

Additional measurements...

The equipment purchases are still in queue and there discussion on the benefit of having multiple installations to gather more information...possibly more to come on this topic.

Originally the installation location measurements were done at low water and the sizing needed was extrapolated to what looked like high water measurements. The antenna needs to be sized to the higher water measurements as much as possible.

The recent and current flows are actually much closer to the high water level so on Feb 14 Michael and Tim visited the site to take additional measurements. Here's some photos of the site with the higher water:



Upcoming EVENTS

Project: Sucker Brook PIT Tagging

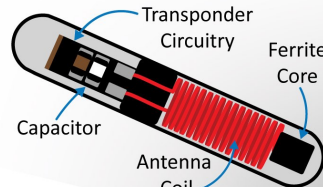
How do PIT tags work?

Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags are the most commonly used tags for identifying individual fish

FISHBIO SCIENCE
EXPLAINED!

1 Tags:

- Choice of different sizes depending on animal / fish size and desired read range
- Contain unique 10-15 digit alphanumeric ID code
- Are not battery operated and last "forever," or the entire lifetime of the fish



- Tags are inactive outside an antenna's electromagnetic field and fish are not detected



2 Injection Methods

Tags can be injected with a needle (left) or surgically implanted (right)



Antenna's electromagnetic field activates tags



An active tag transmits its unique ID number

Detection range usually 3-18 inches

Detection range influenced by:

- Frequency
- Antenna power
- Tag orientation
- Interference

Computer records detection time and unique tag number



3 Antenna

Can come in many sizes and shapes such as rings, rectangles, handheld wands, and mobile antennas



Learn more about PIT tags at FISHBIO.com

Upcoming EVENTS



Save the date!
Saturday, March 18th, 2023!

The Squan-A-Tissit Chapter will be holding its Annual Fundraiser Dinner from 5pm to 9 pm at the VFW hall in Pepperell, MA.

Please join us for a fun-filled night with a home cooked spaghetti dinner, bucket raffles, auctions, and door prizes. 2022 will be highlighted including short films about the Keyes-Parker Conservation area project successes.

This will be the Chapter's sole fundraising event to help continue our conservation efforts to protect and restore the Nissitissit and Squannacook rivers and their tributaries. The Chapter is planning several new projects for 2023. We need your support to succeed!

The Chapter is currently accepting donation items to be used in the raffles and auctions. Please contact the Chapter at chapter@squanatissit.org

Thank you for your support!

Upcoming EVENTS

Event: 2023 Banquet

Updated...

Hopefully everyone received a postcard and an email with the banquet date and information.

We are hoping for good turnout, so please spread the word.

We will be sending a couple of additional reminders, but here are some updates:



- We have reviewed our supplies on hand again and have begun purchasing replacement items for some older and missing items.
- The film about the 2022 dam removal has passed "final cut"
- Looking at the fly rods we have on-hand, there is quite a range from old school to new and lightweight, for example:
 - Multi-piece Herters fiberglass
 - Vernley 3 piece bamboo
 - Pretty sweet Cabelas 3 weight multi-piece w/ reel
 - Several more to be at the dinner...
- We have spinning rods, too, for the non fly fisher
- Also coming are some hand crafted bluebird nesting boxes
- The board of gift certificates is a perennial crowd favorite and will be back...
- Bunch more to come...

If you cannot make it to this year's fundraiser, will you consider a donation instead?

[Donation](#)

VALICENTI
PASTA FARM

Upcoming EVENTS



Other News...

If you have been down to the Columbo area this winter you would have noticed that the area near the TU Information kiosk and the Columbo marker was in great shape. Nicely raked, trimmed, and cleaned. This the work of the Pepperell Boy Scouts, Troup 13. They did the cleanup on 12/10/2022 as part of their continued community service and outdoor skills efforts.

Troop 13 is chartered by the Pepperell Firefighter's association, and meets weekly on Thursdays during the school year. If you know anyone that is interested in learning more about Scouting, or the Troop, there is an open invitation to join them at a Troop meeting. They hold monthly outings where Scouts have an opportunity to learn a variety of outdoor skills and challenge themselves to become better citizens, leaders, and community servants. For over 50 years Troop 13 has provided the Scouting program to Pepperell youth and is proud to have 42 Eagle Scouts since its founding in 1973.

Here is a picture of some of the December 10th Columbo cleanup team:



Squan-a-Tissit Back Page

Destination photos and fish tales from Squan-a-Tissit members



Tim McDaniel:

The squirrel larder from December has almost been used up now (Feb 14)...



Email us your photos and fish tales to chapter@squanatissit.org
Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Squan-a-Tissit Back Page

Uh oh...

Destination photos and fish tales from Squan-a-Tissit members

Michael Rosser



The water has been running high on the Nissitissit river and surrounding waters lately. Tim and I went down to Sucker Brook to take several measurements with the increased flows. We needed the width and depth of the water in several locations to determine the size of the antenna for the PIT tagging project. Last August we'd taken measurements in low water and returned this time during high water. We finished our work and walked along the Niss until we reached No- Name Brook. To our surprise the high water had lifted the bridge off its resting place perpendicular to the brook and floated several feet away. The 2 logs were still lashed together but in the wrong place.

Email us your photos and fish tales to chapter@squanatissit.org
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Squan-a-Tissit Back Page

Destination photos and fish tales from Squan-a-Tissit members



Swift River...



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Squan-*a*-Tissit Back Page

Destination photos and fish tales from Squan-a-Tissit members

Have you been here?...



Email us your photos and fish tales to chapter@squanatissit.org
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Squan-a-Tissit Calendar of Events

February

Chapter Meeting Mon Feb 27 @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom. Adam Kautza "Wild Trout in the Deerfield River"

Meeting will be in-person and online!

Zoom Meeting Link

ID: 86121298527

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- **Chapter BOD Meeting**, Mon Feb 13th @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom
- **Chapter Meeting**, Mon Feb 27th @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom. Adam Kautza—"Wild Trout in the Deerfield River"

March

- **Chapter BOD Meeting**, Mon Mar 13th @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom
- **2023 Annual Fund Raising Banquet**, Sat Mar 18th 5—9 PM, VFW Hall, Pepperell MA

April

- **Chapter BOD Meeting**, Mon Apr 10th @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom
- **Chapter Meeting**, Mon Apr 24th @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom. Chip Detwiller—"2022 Fishing ..."
- **Chapter Streamside/roadside cleanup**, Date to be finalized, Possibly 8th, 15th, or 22nd

May

- **Chapter BOD Meeting**, Mon May 8th @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom
- **Chapter Meeting**, Mon May 22nd @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom. Speaker TBD
- **Annual Day on River**, Sat May 13th @ 9 AM, Columbo Wildlife Management Area, Pepperell

Operation of ATVs Is illegal in Wildlife Management Areas.

To report violations of off-road recreation vehicles, environmental, or wildlife laws please contact the

**Environmental Police Radio
Communications Center
1-800-632-8075.**



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Stay current! Sign up!
Everyone (especially Squan-a-Tissit Chapter members) is asked to please sign up for our
Email announcement list

Fly of the Month

Quill Gordon

HOOK: Size 12, 14, 16
THREAD: 72D tan
TAIL: Dark dun hackle fibers
BODY: Stripped peacock herl
WINGS: Tan Mallard Flank
HACKLE: Dun Dry Fly Hackle



“The Quill Gordon is one of the earliest eastern mayfly hatches in the spring. The flies hatch on the bottom and rise as fully formed adults, working on the surface to dry their wings and fly. The Quill Gordon dry fly has not changed since originated by Theodore Gordon in the Catskills. Skittering the dry fly a bit can improve production as the mayfly often makes multiple attempts to fly before it finally breaks free. The Gordon dry fly is a true classic. “

...from Orvis.com...

JOIN TROUT UNLIMITED TODAY !

To join or renew your membership in Trout Unlimited, please go to:
www.tu.org and click on the “Join the Community” and
“Become a Member” tabs

Fill out the name, address and credit card information.
Be sure to indicate Squan-a-Tissit as your local TU Chapter!

Any amount can be given above regular membership as an additional gift to help
Trout Unlimited promote coldwater conservation.

Trout Unlimited is a 501c(3) organization. Membership fees and other
contributions to TU and the local chapter are tax exempt to the extent
allowable by law.

Squan-a-Tissit Chapter of Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 654
Pepperell, MA 01463

Trout Unlimited - Our Vision

*By the next generation, Trout Unlimited
will ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish
once again thrive within their North American range, so that
our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.*

Monthly Meeting

The Squan-a-Tissit Chapter of Trout Unlimited holds monthly meetings for chapter members and guests on the fourth Monday of the month (Sept. through May) at the Pepperell Christian Fellowship (PCF) Hall, 17 Main Street, Pepperell, MA. Meetings are also streamed on-line.

Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. However, members and guests are encouraged to arrive earlier and participate in informal fly-tying. Bring your own vice and materials.

Meeting confirmation/updates are sent via email and posted on Facebook and the Chapter website and include on-line meeting attendance information.

Directions

From Rt. 3: Take the Rt. 113 Exit (Tyngsboro, Dunstable) and proceed west on Rt. 113, 9.2 miles, through Dunstable and into Pepperell. At the traffic circle take the 2nd exit onto Main Street. The PCF Hall will be located on the left side.

From Rt. 495: Take the Rt. 119 Exit (Littleton Common) and proceed west on Rt. 119, 9 miles, through Groton and into Pepperell. Turn right onto Rt. 111, and proceed 2.7 miles. At the traffic circle take the 3rd exit onto Main Street. The PCF Hall will be located on the left side.

From Rt. 2: Take the Rt. 111 Exit (Ayer, Harvard, Clinton) and proceed north on Rt. 111, approximately 12 miles (total, to the Pepperell rotary), through Ayer and Groton to Pepperell. Route 111 merges with Rt. 119 in Groton. Once in Pepperell, Rt. 111 bears to the right (off of Rt. 119). Turn right onto Rt. 111 and proceed 2.7 miles. At the traffic circle take the 3rd exit onto Main Street. The PCF Hall will be located on the left side.