



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 2024

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Project Timing
Reset...**

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Follow Us On



Chapter Meeting Monday, Feb 26th, 7:00

Bill Pastuszek & Ellen Smith

TU National Leadership Council &
TU Embrace-a-Stream

**Meeting will be in-person and
online!**

Zoom Meeting Link

ID: 879 4868 1640

Passcode: 227499

This month we will have Bill Pastuszek and Ellen Smith as speakers. Both Bill and Ellen have roles that tie our local TU Chapters to TU National efforts. They will



each be providing an overview of their programs, plus strategic plans, and how the Embrace-a-Stream project may help us in our work.

Bill started with Trout Unlimited when he and his wife Ellen participated in water sample collection for the UMass Acid Rain Study. A longtime member of the Greater Boston chapter of TU, Bill served on the Board and was Chapter President from 2016-2019. During his term, the Chapter adopted the Neponset River as GBTU's home waters. He currently serves on the Board of the Neponset River Watershed Association.

Prior to the pandemic, Bill and Ellen moved out to Western Massachusetts where they are now both are active in the Deerfield River Watershed Trout Unlimited Chapter, and with the Franklin Land Trust.

Bill is the current representative for Massachusetts on TU's National Leadership Council. He heads the Council's Land Conservancy Work Group which helps to develop land trust collaborations.

Ellen is the current New England representative for TU National's Embrace-a-Stream program. She coaches New England applicants for EAS funding, and with the other regional committee members reviews the grants submitted nationally and determines funding for them.



Squan-a-Tissit Chapter

Chapter Notes

**Squan-a-Tissit
Chapter Contacts:**

Officers:

President
Tim McDaniel (Acting)

Vice President

Treasurer
Michael Lauritzen

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

Hi all!

Apologies for the gap in newsletters recently. There were some issues that slowed things down at my end. All good now and I hope the same at your end.

We will be meeting on February 26 for our regular monthly meeting. We will have some business items and updates followed by our speakers, Bill Pastuszek and Ellen Smith.

Our updates will include the latest on the Sucker Brook Project which is now a full blown restoration effort and has some very big next steps including a dam removal. This has proven a bit interesting/tricky or some other adjective like that to grasp related to timing, steps, and cost. At this point we and our partners have pretty good hold on these things, but know they will change. Read on later to see some of that info.

Related to the Sucker Brook Restoration efforts and key to understanding the things just mentioned, we have submitted an application to the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) for a grant. This is a big request for us and was the catalyst to make sure we have "that grasp". We have that grasp. (It is good that Ellen will speak to the TU Embrace-a-Stream program since we have a couple of items in the restoration we need to fund.)

Other info will include our outreach effort at the Lawrence Library, the upcoming 2024 Northeast TU Rendezvous, The MA TU Council CaddisFest, and our Day-on-the-River...

Lastly on the climate change front... There has been very little ice on the Niss this year, but some high water at times. One result is that trout have been caught in each month through the fall and winter including February. Hardy fishermen.

Thanks and see you at the meeting,

Tim

Zoom Meeting Link

ID: 879 4868 1640

Passcode: 227499

Upcoming EVENTS

The Sucker Brook Restoration , Burke's Pond Dam Removal, and a plan ...



It is a pretty clear that we have had to evolve our approach in our Sucker Brook Project. Originally we thought it would be a bit more straight forward and our PIT Tagging project would be a great way to watch the stream recover after the removal of the Keyes Parker dam and replacement of the culvert there. Conditions were a bit tougher than expected as locations and temperature data were reviewed for the PIT station effort. In the [October 2023](#) issue of the [Squan-a-Tissit News](#) we had an excellent write-up by Michael Rosser on the **Status, Observations, and Project Evolution** of the effort. It won't be repeated here, but it is worth the time to click through to that issue and read again.

Since then, to help understand the evolution of the project and what a full-on restoration actually means, there have been a lot of discussions, plan reviews, field visits, planning, and a few more discussions. It was not really a surprise, but this has led to a consensus on what is most important and will have the greatest impact for a successful restoration.

In a nutshell, the dam at Burke's Pond needs to be removed and that is the direction we will be headed. The temperature logging and PIT tagging are still in the plans, but after Michael's October article there was no doubt that the affect that the Burke's Pond was having on the Sucker Brook was extreme and in the wrong direction. The dam is in bad condition and was already on the long-term list for removal. The owners want it removed for number of reasons, TU wants it removed to help in our stream and Brook Trout restoration, the town wants it removed to avoid damage if it blows out, etc.

For our part Michael Rosser and Tim McDaniel looked into and applied for a \$50000 grant from the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) to help with certain costs related to the removal of the dam. As part of the application we detailed goals/objectives/outcomes, partners and roles, costs, monitoring efforts, and planning. The grant application process was very thorough and our partners helped in a number of key areas.

The application is under review for approval at EBTJV. It will become part of the FY2025 federal funding cycle if approved. This obviously takes time but should actually dovetail with anticipated timings at some partners, seasonal conditions, etc. There is plenty that will continue while the application is pending. This includes more field work and grant applications to be filed.

Upcoming EVENTS

The Sucker Brook Restoration , Burke's Pond Dam Removal...Continued

So this is a pretty big project. Basically the most upper break in continuity in the Sucker Brook watershed and largest warm water thermal influence is being tackled. We will continue to have information on the removal, but at the high level:

Burke's Pond Dam Removal Project

Primary Project goals:

- Restoring aquatic connectivity and habitat along Sucker Brook.
- Restoring water quality and stream processes in the Burke's Pond Dam impoundment.
- Improving public safety.
- Elimination of liability and maintenance needs required by the dam.
- Restoration of habitat conditions to enable wild Brook Trout populations within areas they have been extirpated.
- Replanting riparian zones to increase shade and bank stabilization
- Creation of new in-stream habit through placement of woody materials

Expected objectives/outcomes:

- Burke's Pond Dam will be removed.
- 800 – 1000 feet of natural water flow will be restored to Sucker Brook
- New refugia habitat will be available through the placement of large woody material within the restored section.
- An additional 1.1 mile of Sucker Brook upstream of the dam will be reconnected to the downstream portions of the brook.
- Sucker Brook will have complete connectivity from source to the brook's mouth at the Nissitissit. (21,000 feet or ~4 miles)
- 2 – 3 acres of riparian zone and bank area will be restored and stabilized
- The yearly average stream temperature below the project site will be lower than previously observed monitoring.
- Brook Trout assessment will be performed for length of Sucker Brook for locations and population.
- Brook Trout will be translocated from Gulf Brook to Sucker Brook post assessment.



Upcoming EVENTS

The Sucker Brook Restoration , Burke's Pond Dam Removal...Continued



Partners:

- Squan-a-Tissit Chapter Trout Unlimited
- Town of Pepperell Conservation Commission
- MA Department of Fish and Game – Division of Ecological Restoration (MA-DER)
- MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife – Fisheries (MA-FW)
- MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife - Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (MA-NHES)
- Horsley Witten Group – Environmental Design
- Nashoba Conservation Trust
- Nashua River Watershed Association
- Brian and Kristen McPhail – Current property and dam owners

Phases:

- Feasibility and Prelim Design (Completed)
- Funding approvals
 - EBTJV funding approval and funds available with approval of FY25 federal budget.
- Permit level design
- Permitting process
 - Permit design and permitting process will take up to 18 months (current state estimate)
- Final design, bidding, construction (dam removal)
 - Up to 12 months total
- Post construction closeout and monitoring
 - Ongoing after dam removal

Summer/fall 2027 is current actual dam removal estimate.

Remaining Project Cost as of Feb 2024: \$487,300

(Majority of cost to be covered by MA-DER)

Upcoming EVENTS



The Squan-a-Tissit Annual Day on the River is coming...

Each spring the Chapter holds its Day-on-the-River. It is a simple gathering to do some fishing, share some laughs, and serves as one of our last Chapter meetings until the fall. **Pictures above are from the archives...**

This year we are planning on a little outreach to see if we can attract some non-TU members to come out for part of the day to learn what we are about and to make some new friends...Please mention our event to anyone you think would be interested. It's free to mention, free to attend, and free to eat!

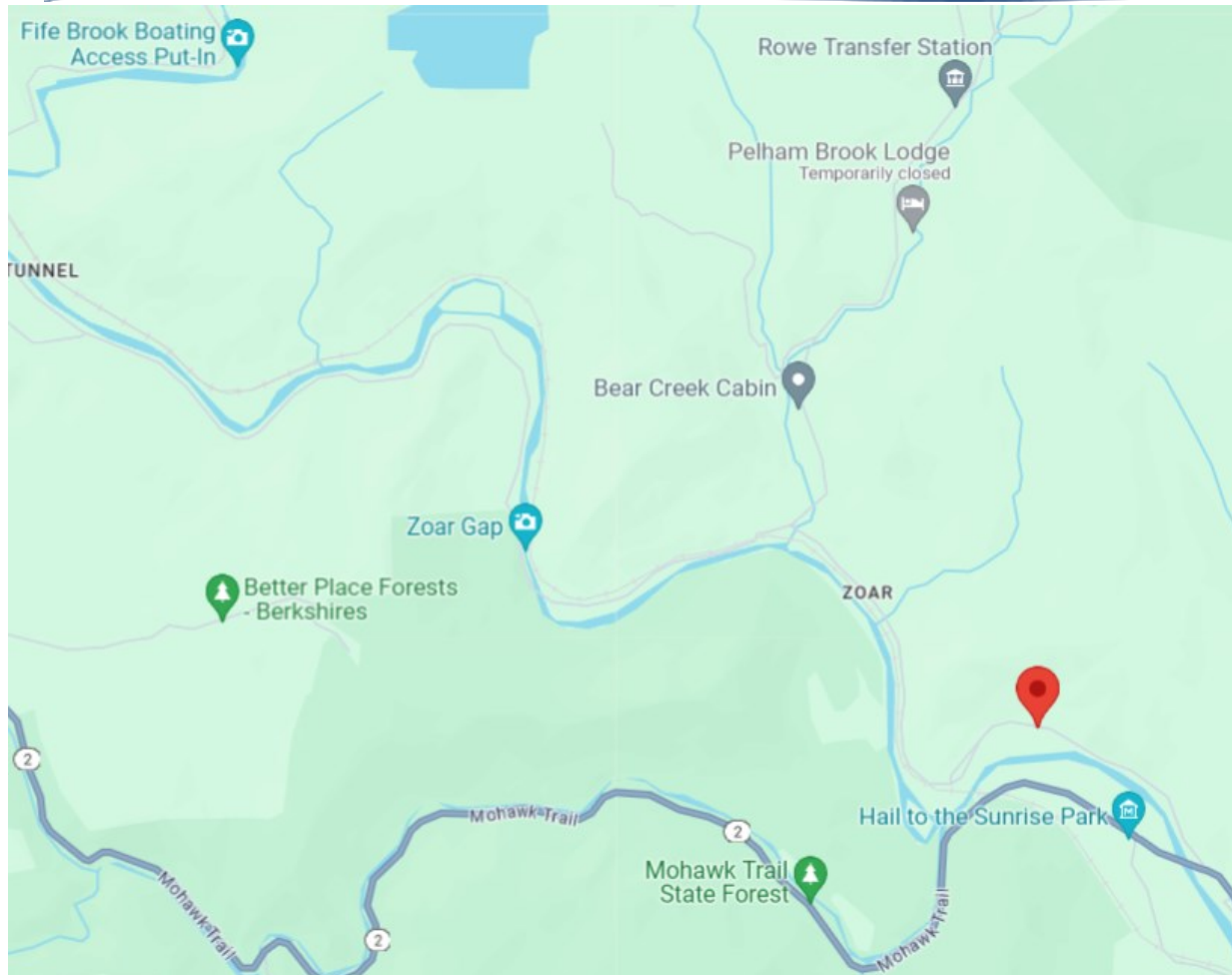
Date: Saturday, May 18, 2024

Time: Starts at 9 AM, Lunch @ noon

Location: Columbo Area, Brookline Street, Pepperell MA

Food: Cowboy Coffee for early risers and a cookout Lunch menu

Upcoming EVENTS



The 2024 Caddisfest Weekend is coming... May 31st to June 2nd ... Low flow weekend on Deerfield River ...

The 2024 Caddisfest Weekend will be held Friday, May 31st thru Sunday, June 2nd.

This year the event will be held again at the Foolhardy Hill Campground in Charlemont MA. The Campground is a TU Business partner and is giving us a 10% discount. We have secured the entire campground. Keep in mind that this is guaranteed low flow weekend for the Deerfield River.

The campground is on Zoar Rd., right off of Route 2 in Charlemont. Details about the Campground sites and cabins. There are 5 cabins with 3 or 4 bunk beds and 6 multiple tent sites. For more information on the campground go to <https://www.foolhardyhill.com>

This will be a first come first serve reservation system with all reservations directly through Henry Sweren (hsweren8@aol.com) and checks can be made out to the MA TU council and mailed to Henry Sweren, PO Box 624, Lanesborough, MA 01237. The fees are as follows.

Upcoming EVENTS

The 2024 Caddisfest Weekend continued ...

The fees are as follows...

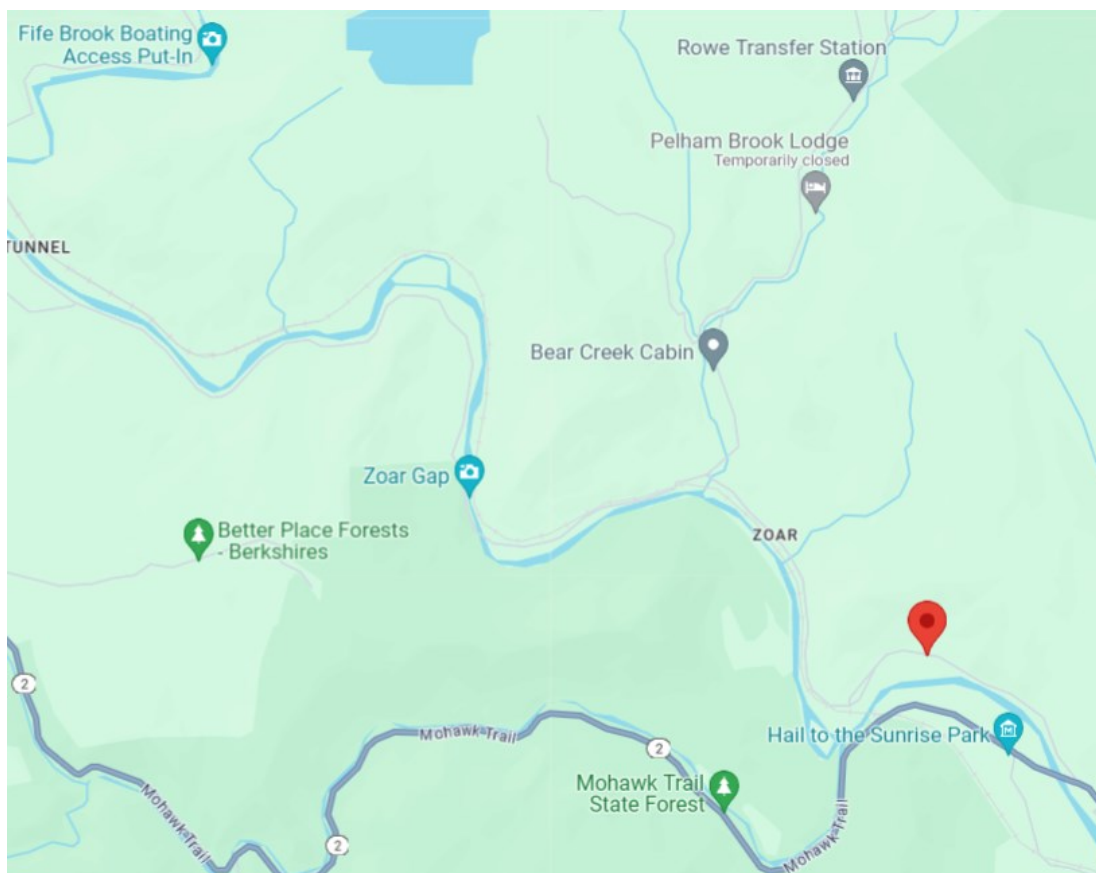
Cabins are \$100 per person at least double occupancy for the weekend. **(Sorry cabins sold out.)**

Tent sites are \$50 per person at least double occupancy for the weekend.

Agenda:

- Check in anytime after 3pm on Friday.
- Local TU fishermen/women will be available during the weekend to show guests some good fishing spots along the Deerfield River.
- Friday evening meet and greet at the campfire 9pm.
- Saturday Council general meeting at 11am followed by a cookout and some silent auction items. All proceeds from the silent auction items will go to the Council Coldwater Conservation fund.
- Saturday evening socialize by the campfire.
- Sunday check out by 11am and either fish or travel home.

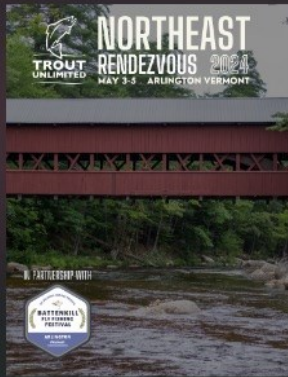
If you can't stay overnight, then consider popping out for the day!



Upcoming



EVENTS



Northeast Regional Rendezvous 2024 in partnership with the Battenkill Fly Fishing Festival

Events in Vermont

Join TU friends from across the Northeast for a weekend of learning and fun in Arlington!

\$25 - \$50

Fri, May 3 at 7:00 AM (EDT) - Sun, May 5 at 10:00 PM (EDT)

Arlington Common, Arlington, Vermont

The 2024 Northeast TU Regional Rendezvous will be held in Arlington VT... May 3rd to May 5th ...

TU is again holding a series of regional rendezvous' around the country to help bring together members and leaders at a more local level. This year the [Northeast TU Regional Rendezvous](#) will be May 3rd to May 5th in Arlington VT at Arlington Common next to the Battenkill River.

The rendezvous is a great chance to meet other TU folks and make connections whether they are related just to fishing or TU specific. Some chapters and councils have different degrees of success in what they do and it is great to hear what they have to say. This is in addition to being able to meet some of the TU names that show up in Trout magazine and in our mailboxes. TU offers a number of tools and ideas that are good for many chapters and there may be something that you are familiar with that you could bring back our Squan-a-Tissit Chapter.

At the same time and in partnership with the [NE Rendezvous](#), the 3rd [Annual Battenkill Fly Fishing Festival](#) will be held. (It actually starts a day earlier than the Rendezvous on May 2nd.)

"The Battenkill Fly Fishing Festival's mission is to promote the conservation and stewardship of our treasured Battenkill watershed. Funds raised from the weekend will support the Arlington Common in its mission to be a community hub that enhances and strengthens the Arlington area through creativity, wellness, culture, and education. A portion of funds raised from the festival will be directed to organizations whose missions support conservation, sustainability and accountability among the various Battenkill user groups."

With the location being so close to Orvis in Manchester Center VT, it should not surprise anyone that they will have a nice presence there and you can expect to see the likes of Tom Rosenbauer or Pete Kutzer running a clinic or presentation. Doug Lyons was a recent speaker at one of our meetings and shared his knowledge of the river gained through the years and will also be there.

One of the best things is you only need one ticket for both events... Click the image above to go to the TU Site for more information and to buy tickets. You may attend one day or the whole weekend.



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Interesting Tidbit #1

In Massachusetts we have 10 official TU chapters with Squan-a-Tissit being one of those. All the chapters are part of the MA TU Council, but they vary a lot in size. TU National provided the following counts to the Council:



...

Chapter Name	Member Count
Cape Cod	293
Central MA	268
Deerfield River Watershed	143
Greater Boston	750
Millers River	53
Northeast	338
Pioneer Valley	318
Southeast	307
Squan-a-Tissit	171
Taconic	149

This (according to TU National) gives MA a total of 2790 paying members across all active state chapters. (Note: Millers River chapter may no longer be truly active.)

Worth pointing out here is that although we are not the largest chapter by any means we have undertaken a lot of projects and work on the conservation front successfully. This includes multiple dam removals, culvert replacements/updates, field data gathering... In many comparisons disproportionate to our size.

This has not been done alone, but with our partners and members. Together, it seems like we are pretty good stuff.

It would great to find some more members for our Chapter!



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February 2024

Interesting Tidbit #2

Did you know new members may join TU at a nice discount?

The regular membership cost is \$35.00 per year...

New members are welcome to join at 50% off for only **\$17.50** per year and it is not complicated either...

If you know someone that may be interested, let them know that we would like to have them join us!

We have a custom URL that will take anyone interested right to our recruitment page setup by TU National. A special note: This new member recruitment link is only available for new members, not renewing members, and provides them a \$17.50 (half price) membership where our **Chapter also receives \$15** as a rebate for recruiting them. Excellent deal all around!

Click or type into browser: <http://www.tu.org/join088SquanATissit>

Or just click:



Or cool kids can
scan with their
Phone:





Squan-a-Tissit Chapter

Help Wanted/Needs

Squan-a-Tissit
Chapter Contacts:

Officers:

President
Tim McDaniel (Acting)

Vice President

Treasurer
Michael Lauritzen

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

We still have some (a few) Chapter hats available for purchase. Nice muted garment wash colors with our Chapter name on the backstrap. Caution: They will make you look younger and stronger when wearing. We will have them at the Chapter meeting. Feel free to reserve yours via email:

chapter@squanatissit.org

\$16.00

Newsletter content, etc.:

- When you are out and about this season, take a few pictures for us...They will go great in our newsletter!
 - Members' favorite flies... send in just the name of your favorite fly/flyes and we will share it in **Fly of the Month**
- ...

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 looking for speaker suggestions for the coming fall and winter

Send questions/info via email:

chapter@squanatissit.org

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.





Squan-a-Tissit Calendar of Events

February

Chapter Meeting Mon Nov 26 @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom. Speaker: Bill Pastuszek and Ellen Smith

Meeting will be in-person and online!

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

ID: 879 4868 1640

Passcode: 227499

- **Chapter BOD Meeting**, Mon Feb 12 @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom
- **Chapter Meeting, Mon Feb 26th** 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom. Speakers Bill Pastuszek and Ellen Smith

March

- **Chapter BOD Meeting**, Mon Mar 11 @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom
- **Chapter Meeting Monday, Mar 25 @ 7 PM**, Location TBD, Speaker TBD

April

- **Chapter BOD Meeting**, Mon Apr 8 @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom
- **Chapter Meeting Monday, Apr 22 @ 7 PM**, Speaker TBD
- **Log Crossing Reset , TBD**, Columbo Wildlife Management Area, Pepperell

May

- TU Northeast Rendezvous, May 3—5, Arlington VT in conjunction with Battenkill Fly Fishing Festival
- **Chapter BOD Meeting**, Mon May 13 @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom
- **Annual Day-on-the-River**, Sat May 18 @ 9 AM, Columbo WMA, Pepperell
- **Chapter Gathering Monday, May 27 @ 7 PM**, Location TBD
- MA TU 2024 Caddisfest Weekend, May 31—Jun 2, Foolhardy Hill Campground (Deerfield River—Charlemont MA)

February 2024

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		

March 2024

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 2024

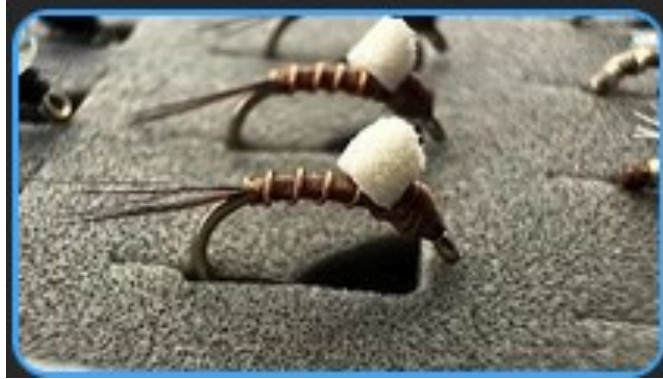
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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

Foam Wing Emerger

- **Hook:** Tiemco 2457 or Tiemco 2487 (16 –24)
- **Thread:** Thread Brown 8/0 - 12/0
- **Tail:** Brown Coq de Leon
- **Rib:** Copper Wire Small
- **Wing:** White 2mm or 1mm foam



“The Foam Wing Emerger is easy to tie, but don't let that fool you. This is a must have emerger pattern to include in your arsenal. We tie this pattern in several colors, brown, gray, and olive. It's easy to change the color of the pattern by simply changing the color of the tying thread.”

...from <https://flyfishsd.com/collections/foam-wing-emerger...>



JOIN TROUT UNLIMITED TODAY !

Fill out the name, address and other required fields and you are IN.

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 Back Page

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



February Trout...

Michael Rosser

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

Squan-a-Tissit Back Page

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



Eagle nest...

Dave Armstrong

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

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.