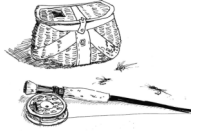




Squan-a-Tissit NEWS



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

April 2024

Chapter Meeting Monday, Apr 22nd, 7:00

Pete Smith

“Early industries along the Nissitissit”

Peter’s presentation will be in person and via Zoom.

Meeting will be in-person and online!

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

ID: 879 4868 1640

Passcode: 227499

Inside:

Sucker Brook -
Work Items
for 2024

April 20th
Cleanup
Day...

May 11th: Up-
dated info on
LEARN TO
FLY FISH
class...

Annual Day on
the River May
18th ...

- Chapter Notes
- Help Wanted
- Chapter News
- Event Calendar
- The Back Page
- Fly of the Month

Follow Us On



Pete Smith will be our April Speaker. Pete was raised in Pepperell and is a long-time resident of the area. He studied at UMass Amherst and is currently President of the Nissitissit River Land Trust which holds and manages a large amount of acreage along the Nissitissit. He has been involved with the river for the past 75+ years. Over this time Pete and our Chapter have joined each other in multiple river cleanups.

Pete has also been part of or worked with The Beaver Brook Association just over the line in Hollis NH on multiple protection, waterway, forestry, and education efforts. A picture from their archives shows area conservation pioneers Jeff Smith, Pete Smith, and George Keyes. Jeff and George are familiar for preserved areas/trails named for them locally including Keyes Farm and Keyes-Parker Conservation Area.

Pete will be speaking on “Early industries along the Nissitissit”. The history of the Nissitissit and its tributaries is full of small industries that used the available hydro power to power local mills, workshops, and factories. We see remnants of many of these when fishing and hiking. Some of these become large restoration efforts in our modern times, like Burke’s Pond Dam... Pete will provide an interesting perspective on all of this.

Pictures courtesy of Pete Smith and the Beaver Brook Association.



BBA Founder Jeff Smith with Peter Smith and George Keyes, at Beaver Brook in 1983.



Water wheel built and operated at the Millie Turner Dam



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,

It seems that the train, sailboat, tornado, or your favorite analogy has arrived. That yearly combination of fishing, yardwork, mud, and black flies. It is all good! Of course we are compounding it a bit with large work list on Sucker Brook, a Fly Fishing Class, Earth Month Chapter Cleanup Day, our yearly Day-on-the-River gathering... There are a lot of choices at our end and it will be great to see you at any of them, even if it is only for a little while.

Zoom Meeting Link

ID: 879 4868 1640

Passcode: 227499

*In March we held our Chapter meeting again at the PCF, but we were able to use the very nice meeting room in the front building instead of the back downstairs room. It is a much nicer setting and we had **Gaynor Bigelbach** as our speaker. Gaynor is local naturalist and has a special interest in aquatic mammals in our area. She shared a lot of pictures, video, and information. It was excellent and I think we all learned a lot.*

It is nice to have a mix of speaker types for Chapter meetings and we will continue this month with Pete Smith as speaker. Pete talk and presentation will focus on the historic industrialization that was on many of our local waters including the Nissitissit River. Pete is a wealth of information about many environmental topics and the affects that we have had on them. This should be a good one, too.

Pete's presentation and the Chapter meeting will be in the front building meeting room at the PCF as will all future Chapter meetings. Come check it out.

We should call out again that this year the Chapter is running a Learn to Fly Fish Class. There are many details later in the newsletter, but if you know anyone that wants to get started, please let them know about the class. A low pressure, fun class like this is great introduction!

*Prior to our next meeting, we will be having our Chapter cleanup day as part of Earth Month. Read about it, as well, but we will be at the **Columbo Area on April 20th at 9 AM** to start. Breakaway and join us!*

As always, thank you again see you on the 20th and then at the meeting,

Tim



Want to help with a small donation to the Squan-a-Tissit Chapter?

Project



Update

The Sucker Brook Restoration and a project breakout list ...

After many discussions, planning, and site visits we have reached the point of getting started in the field. The net result is that there is a lot of work slated for May.

Our state partners have committed their time availability, but they are still finalizing their calendar. Spring is as busy as any other time for our partners. This means that we may only know their exact timing a day or two beforehand. We have asked for weekend availability, if possible, but most work will be on weekdays.

For some of these the major lifting is ours (TU) and for others it is MA F&W, but we will always be there. For some of the tasks listed, there may not be a lot of “lifting” for individuals, but there will be great opportunity to see a lot of action. (Some of these things are pretty cool.) If you are interested in either, then please send an email to chapter@squanatissit.org and we will keep track. (There will be emails sent to the Chapter as we know more per item, as well.)

We have the funds to cover most everything and thank everyone who has helped in this area especially Fleetwing Charitable Foundation Trust who provided a large grant last year.

The list on the next page shows a number of items that need to be tackled soon, within the next month and half. It is a bit of eye chart to read, but in several case like items will be done on the same day(s). The list is chronological for the most part.



Sucker Brook Dam Site — April 2024

Project



Update

The Sucker Brook Restoration and a project breakout list ...

For some of the tasks listed, there may not be a lot of “lifting”, but there will be great opportunity to see a lot of action. If you are interested in either, then please send an email to

chapter@squanatissit.org

and we will keep track. (There will be email sent to the Chapter as we know more, as well.)

Data Loggers (Temp) Sucker Brook	Install temp loggers with Adam K in multiple areas of Sucker Brook. TU, MA F&G, MA DER
Data Loggers (Temp) Gulf Brook	Install temp loggers with Adam K in multiple areas of Gulf Brook. TU, MA F&G, MA DER
Data Loggers (Temp) Gilman's Pool	Install temp logger with Adam K in Gilman's Pool on Niss. TU, MA F&G, MA DER
PIT Tag station Sucker Brook (1 station)	Install and monitor PIT Tagging station. Tag trout on Sucker Brook. Monitor trout movement. (Brookline Street) TU, MA F&G
PIT Tag station Sucker Brook (2 station)	Install and monitor PIT Tagging station. Tag trout on Sucker Brook. Monitor trout movement. (Keyes Parker) TU, MA F&G
PIT Tag station Gulf Brook (1 station)	Install and monitor PIT Tagging station. Tag trout on Gulf Brook. Monitor trout movement. TU, MA F&G
Game Camera Installation (s) (4)	Purchase and install 4 game cameras to monitor PIT stations and message board. TU
Brook Trout transfer (Gulf to Sucker Brook)	Electroshock Brook Trout, PIT tag, and transfer from Gulf to Sucker Brook. TU, MA F&G
White Sucker transfer (Gulf to Sucker Brook)	Electroshock White Suckers, PIT tag, and transfer from Gulf to Sucker Brook. TU, MA F&G
Trout tagging (Niss)	Electroshock or fishing for stocked trout in the Niss, PIT tag. Monitor PIT stations for movement. TU, MA F&G
Data Loggers (Temp) K-P Deep Area	Install temp logger with Adam K in area below K-P dam. Deep wooded area of stream. TU, MA F&G
Tree Planting (Sucker Brook)	Plan location, counts, type of trees. Order, deliver/pickup trees. (Moved to Sept) TU
Tree Planting (Gulf Brook)	Plan location, counts, type of trees. Order, deliver/pickup trees. (Moved to Sept) TU
Tree Survey (Millie Turner)	Review trees previously planted at Millie Turner for size and survivor count. (Moved to Sept) TU
Pebble Count/Sediment Tracking (Sucker Brook)	Perform next round of Pebble Count and Sediment measurements below Keyes Parker. TU
PIT Tagging Solar Panel Installation (s)	Add solar panels to the PIT Tagging stations (Moved to June+) TU

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

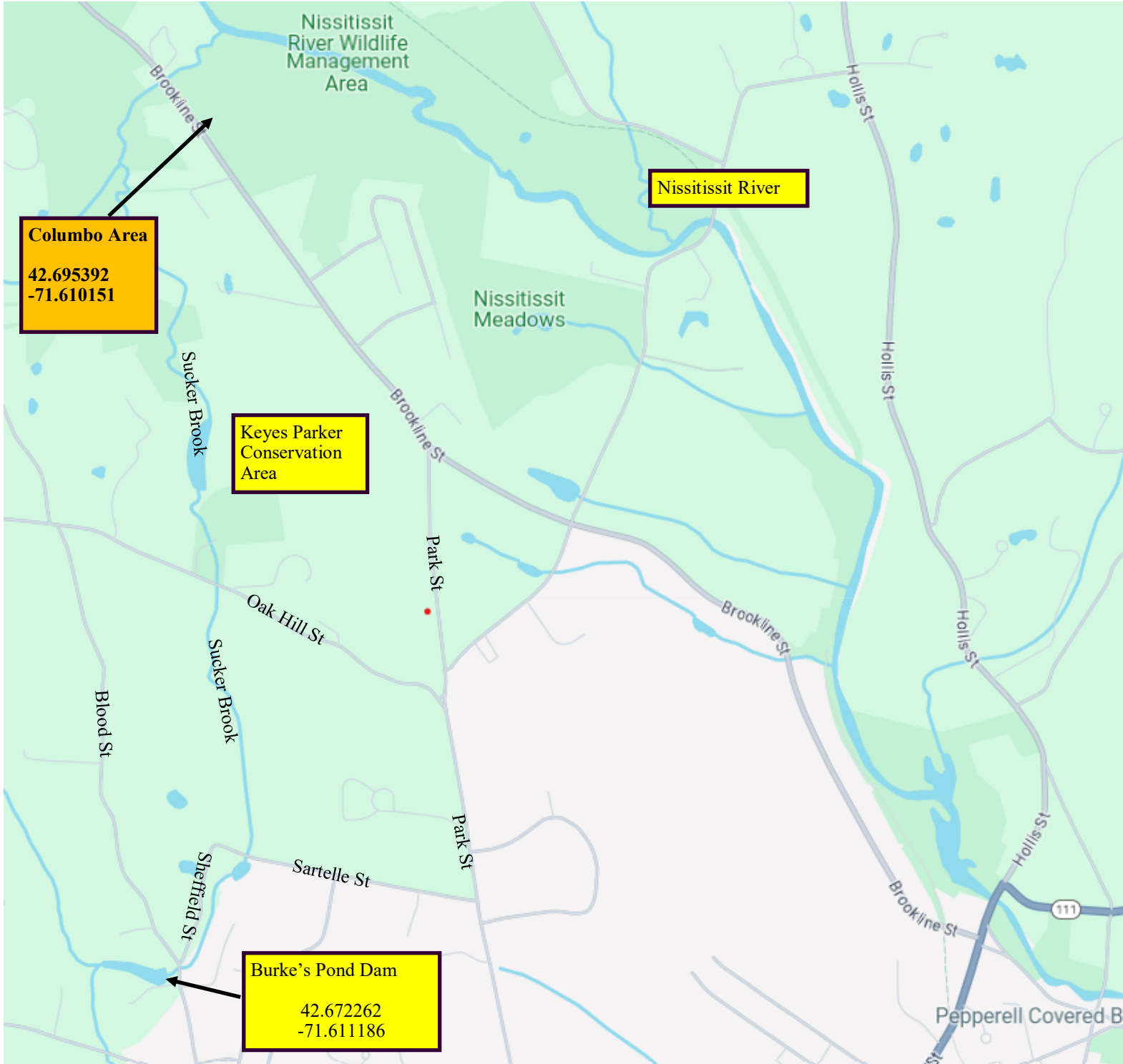
Location: Columbo Area, Brookline Street, Pepperell MA

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

Project



Update



Upcoming EVENTS



TROUT UNLIMITED PRESENTS
Squan-a-Tissit Chapter
LEARN TO FLY FISH
Saturday, May 11th, 2024
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Beginner Level - No Experience Needed
Admission: \$50 Adults
Pepperell Christian Fellowship
17 Main St, Pepperell, MA 01463

EQUIPMENT SETUP | CASTING INSTRUCTION | LUNCH | FUN
Class Equipment Provided | Free TU membership for 1 year



Scan to
Purchase Tickets

The Fly Fishing Class team led by John Deery has finalized the details for the Squan-a-Tissit LEARN TO FLY FISH class.

Note location and date change!

More info on the next page, but let anyone you know that may be interested.

Also mention that non-TU attendees receive a 1-year free membership!

The Squan-a-Tissit Chapter of Trout Unlimited Invites YOU to Learn to Fly Fish

- *Get started in Fly Fishing—Learn all the basics with us!*
- *No pressure beginner's class*
- *Experienced instructors*
- *Learn how to cast*
- *Equipment setup and care*
- *Important fishing knots*
- *Includes use of class equipment, tools, and gear*
- *Great instructor to student ratio*
- *Class size is limited to 6 students.*

- *Free 1-year TU membership for new members*

Date: Saturday, May 11, 2024

Time: 9 AM—3 PM, Lunch @ noon

Location: Pepperell Christian Fellowship

Fee: \$50.00

Upcoming EVENTS



Here are more details to pass on to anyone that is interested in signing up for the Squan-A-Tissit Chapter of Trout Unlimited Learn to Fly Fish School! It is our sincere hope that they will come to embrace this age-old sport that can them with new and exciting experiences and life-long friendships.

Date: May 11th, 2024 (rain or shine)
Time of class: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (approximate)

Three part class:

Classroom: Pepperell Christian Fellowship (Classroom hall)
17 Main St.
Pepperell, MA 01463

Fly Casting: Lawn of instructor – John Deery (5 mins from PCF)
39 Mt Lebanon St.
Pepperell, MA 01463

Fishing: Nissitissit River – Millie Turner Dam location (5 min from Deery's)
Hollis St.
Pepperell, MA 01463

What to bring: 2024 MA Fishing License (required) ,Sunglasses (eye protection), Hat. Sun screen

Equipment: The Chapter will provide (loan) all the equipment needed for class.

IMPORTANT! PRIOR TO THE CLASS: If an attendee needs to borrow waders, then they can be fitted for a pair Evening Sun Fly Shop (55 Groton Street, Pepperell MA). Shop owner, Charlie Shadan has generously offered to provide waders/wading boots for use in the class. **Attendees must contact Charlie to set a time at his shop and for fitting prior to the class.**

Charlie Shadan – Evening Sun Fly Shop 978 433-4910
<https://eveningsunflyshop.com>

Upcom-



EVENTS

April 20th @ 9 AM

The Squan-a-Tissit Chapter Clean-up Day...

The Squan-a-Tissit Chapter of Trout Unlimited invites all members and friends to participate in our annual cleanup day in Pepperell, MA.

Our event is part of Earth Month (April) and will be held on Saturday, April 20th.

We will be targeting several areas this year:

Columbo Wildlife Management Area - Located on Brookline Street in Pepperell MA, we will be cleaning up along Brookline Street from Sucker Brook to the end of the area approximately 1/3 mile east. We will also target the trail from Brookline Street north to the Nissitissit River. (This is one of the main access points into the Columbo area.)

MA F&G Upswing Farm Access Point - This access point is on Brookline Street east of Prescott Street at the most easterly end of Upswing Farm. We will be targeting the section of Brookline Street located at the access point.

Millie Turner Dam Site - Depending on time, we will be cleaning the area at the old Millie Turner Dam site. The focus will be the parking area, the short trails to the Nissitissit River, and the close riverbank.

Everyone is invited to help out, but please dress for the weather.

Note: We will not need to wade into the river or streams. This cleanup is all on land.

Finally, a Thank You to the Town of Pepperell MA who will be removing the filled bags and any other trash we collect for proper disposal.

Date: Saturday, April 20, 2024

Time: Starts at 9 AM

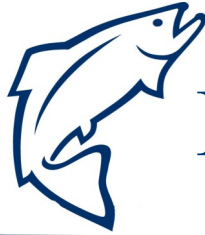
Location: Columbo Area, Brookline Street, Pepperell MA



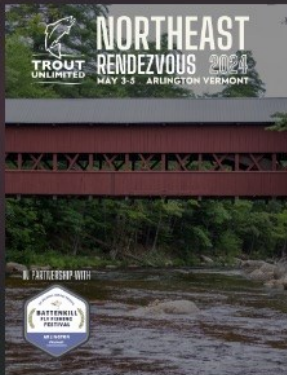
Please note that this year Earth Month and other events are being added to the TD Bank internal employee activities calendar. Trout Unlimited events are being added there, as well.

We may have TD Bank employees joining us for our cleanup!

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.



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.*

March 2024

Do you know anyone interested in TU?

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
Join via 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 (very 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.**



NO ATVs

Squan-a-Tissit Calendar of Events

April

Chapter Meeting Mon Mar 25 @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom. Speaker: Gaynor Bigelbach — Adaptations of Aquatic Mammals in our Local Waters

Meeting will be in-person and online!

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

**ID: 879 4868 1640
Passcode: 227499**

- **Chapter BOD Meeting**, Mon Apr 8 @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom
- **Squan-a-Tissit Clean-up Dat**, Sat Apr 20 @ 9 AM, Columbo WMA, Pepperell
- **Chapter Meeting Monday, Apr 22 @ 7 PM**, Speaker Pete Smith
- **Log Crossing Reset**, TBD, Columbo Wildlife Management Area, Pepperell

May

- **Lots of Yellow in the Calendar as Sucker Brook Work item dates are being finalized.**
- **TU Northeast Rendezvous**, May 3—5, Arlington VT in conjunction with Battenkill Fly Fishing Festival
- **Squan-a-Tissit Learn to Fly Fish Class**, Sat May 11 @ 9 AM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship
- **Chapter BOD Meeting**, Mon May 13 @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom
- **VRAP Training**, Mon May 6 @ 9 AM, Hollis NH
- **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)

June

- **Data Logger Installation**, Fri Jun 1 @ 9 AM, Keyes-Parker
- **Chapter BOD Meeting**, Mon Jun 11 @ 7 PM, Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom
- **Chapter Gathering, Jun 25 @ 7 PM**, Location Pepperell Christian Fellowship and via Zoom, (To be confirmed.)

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				

May 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	

June 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						

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

Soft Hackle Hare's Ear

- Hook: Lightning Strike DF3 or a regular dry fly hook, size 20.
- Thread: Black 12/0 gel spun.
- Tail: Medium gray Microfibbets.
- Abdomen: Adam's gray beaver dubbing.
- Wing: Natural dun cul de canard puff feather.
- Thorax: Adam's gray beaver dubbing.



“RIM CHUNG CREATED THE PATTERN WE CALL THE RS2 IN THE 1970s, and since then this fly has developed an extremely loyal following. I believe the main reason for its popularity is that regardless of conditions, place, or time of year, it almost always catches fish...”

...read more of this story from Tim Flagler and the history of the RS2: <https://www.flytyer.com/the-rs2-and-its-many-variations/>



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



Nice picture of the eclipse from Dave Armstrong

Email us your photos and fish tales to chapter@squatissit.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.