



# 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 .*

DECEMBER, 2025

## Chapter Meeting: Chip Detwiller Steelhead fishing Lake Erie tributaries

### Inside:

- Chapter Notes
- Event Calendar
- Upcoming Events
- Project Updates
- Wild Brook Trout Research Project update
- and more !
- Fly of the Month
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Join us this coming Monday, Dec 15 at 7:00 for our Holiday Chapter meeting to see photos and hear Chip Detwiller's tales of a fantastic fishing trip that Chip, Gary Crago, and Dix Leeson made last spring to fish steelhead in Lake Erie tribs. Everyone should make at least one venture west to "Steelhead Alley" in OH, PA, and NY. Chip's tales will pique your interest and help you plan !

Follow Us On





## Squan-a-Tissit Chapter Notes

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

**Officers:**

*President*  
**Michael Lauritzen**

*Vice President*  
**John Deery**

*Treasurer*  
**Michael Lauritzen**

*Secretary*  
**Vacant**

**Directors:**

**Dave Armstrong**

**Tom Burke**

**Chip Detwiller**

**Jim Nugent**

**Jan Poley**

**Kirk Reynolds**

**Michael Rosser**

*Chapter website*  
[squanatissit.org](http://squanatissit.org)

*Chapter Email*  
[chapter@squanatissit.org](mailto:chapter@squanatissit.org)

Hello fellow TU chapter members and friends,

Squan-a-Tissit TU wishes Happy Holidays to chapter members, friends, families, and loved ones!

Join us this Monday 12/15 for the December Chapter meeting, Doors open at 6:30 for fly tying, and the meeting starts at 7:00. We will have a holiday raffle and the chapter will be providing pizza and drinks.

The meeting will include Chapter elections for 2026. Any members interested in being nominated for a chapter officer position or joining the Board of Directors are encouraged to reach out to a current officer or BOD member.

TU Chapter meetings are open to the public, and anyone may attend. See you there !



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





# Squan-a-Tissit Calendar of Events

## DEC

**BOD Meeting, Mon Dec 8 @ 7 PM,**  
Location: Zoom Meeting,

**Chapter Meeting, Mon Dec 15 @ 7 PM**  
Location: Pepperell Christian Fellowship  
17 Main St., Pepperell

## JAN

**BOD Meeting, Mon Jan 12 @ 7 PM,**  
Location: Zoom Meeting

**Chapter Meeting, Mon Jan 26 @ 7 PM**  
Location: Pepperell Christian Fellowship  
17 Main St., Pepperell

## FEB

**BOD Meeting, Mon Feb 9 @ 7 PM,**  
Location: Zoom Meeting,

**Chapter Meeting, Mon, Feb 23 @ 7 PM**  
Location: Pepperell Christian Fellowship  
17 Main St., Pepperell

## DEC 2025

| 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  |     |     |     |

## JAN 2026

| 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  |

## FEB 2026

| 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  |
| 25  |     |     |     |     |     |     |

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



## Squan-a-Tissit Chapter

### Chapter Elections

The following is a list of current Squan-a-Tissit officers and BOD members and a potential slate of electors for 2026. Chapter elections will be held at the December Chapter meeting on 12/15.

### 2026 SLATE OF ELECTORS

| <u>Chapter Officers</u> | 2025                               | 2026                                   |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| President               | Mike Lauritzen                     | Nominee (John Deery)                   |
| Vice President          | John Deery                         | Nominee (Michael Lauritzen)            |
| Secretary               | Tim McDaniel                       | Nominee (Tim McDaniel)                 |
| Treasurer               | Mike Lauritzen                     | Nominee (Tom Burke)                    |
| Board of Directors      | 2025                               | 2026                                   |
| 1-year Director         | Chip Detwiller                     | Nominee (Chip Detwiller)               |
| 1-year Director         | Jim Nugent                         | Nominee {Jim Nugent)                   |
| 1-year Director         | Russ Schott                        | Nominee (Scott Hraba)                  |
| 1-year Director         | John Deery                         | Nominee (Steve Hogan)                  |
| 2-year Director         | Dave Armstrong<br>2024, 2025       | Nominee (Dave Armstrong)<br>2026, 2027 |
| 2-year Director         | 2025, 2026<br>Kirk Reynolds        | Nominee (Tim McDaniel)<br>2026, 2027   |
| 3-year Director         | Michael Rosser<br>2024, 2025, 2026 | Michael Rosser<br>2024, 2025, 2026     |
| Past President          | --                                 | Mike Lauritzen                         |

| Other Roles         | 2025           | 2026           |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Newsletter          | Dave Armstrong | Dave Armstrong |
| MA Council Delegate | Tim McDaniel   | Tim McDaniel   |
| Financial Reviewer  | John Deery     | John Deery     |
| Website             | —              | Paul Apgar     |
| Annual dinner       | —              | Jan Polex      |
| Social Media        | Mike Lauritzen | TBD            |
| On-line Auction     | —              | TBD            |



## **Sucker Brook Wild Brook Trout Research PIT tag (Passive Integrated Transponder tag) project**

*Below are the latest communications from Adam Kautza, MDFW, and plans for work on the Wild Brook Trout Project:*

### **Uploading PIT tag antenna data**

The next date scheduled to check on antennas and upload data is Wed Dec 17.  
Meet in Keyes-Parke parking lot. The usual start time is 9 a.m.

### **Survey of Sucker Brook for surviving transplanted trout**

Later this coming spring or early summer I'd like to do a thorough survey of any and all accessible water on the brook to see if/where we can turn up any surviving transplanted trout and hopefully any offspring of those transplanted fish. Some fish have definitely survived from both of the last transplants so clearly they're finding refugia. We don't know if others have made it though because they haven't necessarily moved past any antennas.

### **Next round electrofishing brook trout in Gulf Br., pit tagging and translocation to Sucker Br.**

The weather looks pretty cold for the next couple weeks at least. Then it's the holidays. Even if it's not frozen I don't want to handle fish in that cold of temperatures. Not good on their gills and skin to be exposed to super cold air. And my dexterity drops off making careful tagging harder. There isn't really a set timeline where we absolutely need to do this transfer so we are fine waiting until we get a nice thaw/warmer weather later in the winter or into the early spring. The key is getting the trout safely from Gulf to Sucker with a good potential for survival. So it's best to do it post spawn before onset of full winter (like we did last year) or after the bulk of the winter season is over. At this point it looks like the latter is the best option. So maybe we start looking at March for this.

### **Construct and deploy an additional PIT tag antenna and more temperature loggers**

At some point we'll also need to construct and deploy an additional PIT tag antenna and more temperature loggers after (hopefully...) the dam at Burkes Pond comes down. Before that we'll need to assess whether or not it's appropriate to transplant some fish into that section - might take a little time before we have a good sense of this so not a rush yet.

Adam Kautza PhD | Coldwater Fisheries Project Leader

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife 1 Rabbit Hill Road Westborough, MA 01581  
(857) 275-6961 [adam.kautza@mass.gov](mailto:adam.kautza@mass.gov)



## **Wild Brook Trout Research project Update**

With low water in Sucker Brook beavers have continued to build dams in the culvert on Brookline Street and Trout Unlimited volunteers have removed the dams when needed. Last month Paula Terrasi and the town highway department removed a beaver dam and placed a grate in front of the culvert. The grate is a temporary fix to keep them away until normal water levels return or the beavers give up. Trout can swim under and through the grate, and we will continue to monitor the situation.

Three weeks ago, Adam Kautza and I checked out the Pit-Tagging stations and found everything to be running smoothly. After a summer of intermittent workings (for reasons reported prior), the solar panels were charging the batteries and information was downloaded without a hitch !

Summary of findings to date: 37 Brook Trout were been tagged and transplanted from Gulf Brook to Sucker Brook, 18 in December 2024 and 19 in early June. 2025. Sizes ranged from 85mm to 166mm. Eighteen trout have crossed over one of the antennas.

Temperature data-loggers are located: 1) Downstream of Sartell St, 2) former dam at Keyes-Parker Conservation Area, 3) midway through Keyes- Parker Conservation Area, and 4) downstream of Brookline St. Declines in mean summer water temperatures were almost a full 2 degrees F trending in the right direction. With that good news we also had higher temperatures in many reaches of the stream. Higher summer temperatures, drought conditions and the effects of the two dams upstream of Keyes-Parker all have negative influences.

We will continue regular data uploads, do another round of Pit-Tagging and transplants, and construct another Pit-Tagging station once Burkes Pond dam is removed, and electro-fish select reaches of Sucker Brook to look for surviving transplants that haven't crossed an antenna and or new trout born in stream.

Michael Rosser



Marlborough, MA Edison, NJ Denver, CO Bellevue, WA Pleasanton, CA Lancaster, PA More ▾ Exhibitor Info



## ADMISSION INFO

(Cash only at the gate)

Regardless of the weather, the show will go on!

## MARLBOROUGH SHOW INFO

**Dates:** January 16, 17 & 18, 2026

### Time

Friday: 10am – 6pm

Saturday: 9am – 5:30pm

Sunday: 9am – 4:30pm

**Location:** Royal Plaza Trade Center –  
Marlborough

181 Boston Post Road West  
Marlborough, MA 01752



## Fly: Dark Cahill wet fly

**Hook** - wet fly hook (size 10-14)

**Thread** - dark or black

**Tail:** Wood duck flank fibers, or dark ginger or brown hackle

**Wings:** a clump of wood duck flank feathers tied in an upright position to mimic the adult mayfly vertical wing profile.

**Hackle:** Dark ginger hackle feathers wound around the front of the body to simulate leg action.

**Body Profile:** Body made of dark brown or grey dubbing (often muskrat fur). The body is slender and proportioned to match a natural mayfly.



This wet fly pattern imitates a mayfly or caddisfly subsurface). The overall effect is a highly realistic, "buggy" appearance that makes it a versatile general imitation when no specific hatch is occurring. It is especially effective during dark mayfly hatches in the late spring and early summer.



## 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 Pages

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**Photo:** Ohio steelhead !

Chip D.



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

# Squan-a-Tissit Back Pages

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**Photo:** Ice forming on the Nashua R

Dave A



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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, typically on the fourth Monday of each month (Oct. through May) at the Pepperell Christian Fellowship (PCF) Hall, 17 Main Street, Pepperell, MA (Next to the Lawrence Library).  
NOTE: THE DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 12/15

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.