



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

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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 !

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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

Chapter Email
chapter@squanatissit.org



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

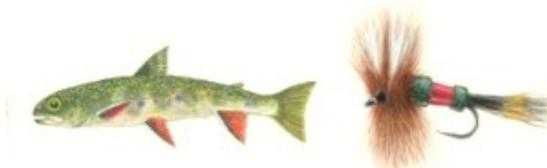
Hello fellow TU chapter members and friends,

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 !



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 2024, 2025	Nominee (Dave Armstrong) 2026, 2027
2-year Director	2025, 2026 Kirk Reynolds	Nominee (Tim McDaniel) 2026, 2027
3-year Director	Michael Rosser 2024, 2025, 2026	Michael Rosser 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



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



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 of the Month



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

Photo: Ohio steelhead !

Chip D.



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

Squan-*a*-Tissit Back Pages

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.