



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, 2026

Chapter Meeting North County Land Trust

Inside:

- **Chapter Notes**
- **Event Calendar**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **Project Updates**
- **-Wild Brook Trout Research Project update**
- **--and more !**
- **Fly of the Month**
- **The Back Page**



North County Land Trust's Anna Wilkins and Emily Merlino will share about NCLT's conservation and stewardship work being done in north central Mass. Anna will discuss a recent conservation project done in partnership with the town of Westminster and Nashua River Watershed Association to conserve 80 acres and 1500 feet of frontage of Phillips Brook, assisted by Trout Unlimited. Emily will discuss habitat restoration projects being done across properties, focusing on pollinators, invasive plant removal, rare inland sandplain grassland restoration, and more! Join us !

Follow Us On





Squan-a-Tissit Chapter Notes

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

Officers:

President
John Deery

Vice President
Michael Lauritzen

Treasurer
Tom Burke

Secretary
Tim McDaniel

Directors:

Dave Armstrong

Chip Detwiller

Steve Hogan

Scott Hraba

Jim Nugent

Jan Polex

Kirk Reynolds

Michael Rosser

Russ Schott

Chapter website
squanatissit.org

Hello fellow TU chapter members and friends,

Despite the recent snows, we are over the hump of the winter season and headed toward the longer and brighter days of spring ! Now is the time to tie some flies, go over your fishing gear, purchase licenses, and start making plans for getting out on the rivers.

This month's presentation will be an opportunity to see the activities of a conservation organization that our Chapter has partnered with.

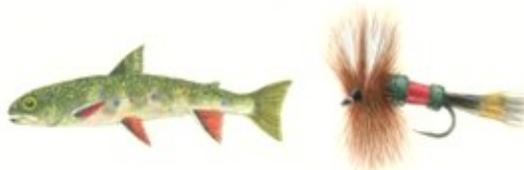
The Chapter meeting will be held Monday Feb 23 at 7 at the Pepperell Community Fellowship Hall, 17 Main St, Pepperell.

The meeting will be in-person only (no Zoom this month). The Chapter will be providing pizza and drinks. 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

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

MAR 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				

APR 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		

FEBRUARY

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

Chapter Meeting, Tue Feb 23 @ 6:30 PM
Location: Pepperell Christian Fellowship
17 Main St., Pepperell

MARCH

BOD Meeting, Mon Mar 9 @ 7 PM,
Location: Zoom Meeting,

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

APRIL

BOD Meeting, Mon Apr 13 @ 7 PM,
Location: Zoom Meeting,

Chapter Meeting, Mon, Apr 27 @ 7 PM
Location: Pepperell Christian Fellowship
17 Main St., Pepperell

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



Wild Brook Trout Research Project

Chapter members regularly assist MDFW Coldwater Fishery Resource Project Leader Adam Kautza with monthly data downloads from the PIT-tagging stations at the Wild Brook Trout Research stations on Sucker Brook in Pepperell. In February we were joined by Brian Keleher, Aquatic Biologist for the MDFW Connecticut Valley District.



Sucker Brook, Keyes-Parker Conservation Area, Pepperell



Wild Brook Trout Research project

Brian had visited to see the Sucker Brook stations and the solar panels the chapter had installed at the stations. Later this spring, Squan-a-Tissit TU plans to assist Brian with installation of solar panels at the MDFW Research stations that he operates to track brook trout movement in the Swift River.

Sucker Brook, Brookline Street, Pepperell





SQUANNACOOK DAM

For those who may not be aware, a MA State dam inspection has determined that the Squannacook Dam in West Groton/Shirley needs attention and is at risk of causing catastrophic flood damage if not repaired or removed. A recent Groton Select Board's meeting stated that the dam repair could cost \$810,000. The alternative is to remove the dam, the \$1.2 to \$1.7 million estimated cost of which could potentially be covered entirely by grants from various State and private sources. The Town of Groton has posted a study that summarizes the work done to date, see

https://portal.grotonma.gov/storage/Department_of_Public_Works/Squannacook_Dam/Squannacook_River_Dam_BOD_no_attachments.pdf

This study identifies the multiple benefits of removal, emphasizing reducing the risk of flooding damage from catastrophic failure and confirmation of potential funding sources to offset the cost.

The local Squan-a-Tissit Trout Unlimited chapter (TU), is a conservation organization whose mission is to preserve, protect, and restore the Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers. TU has been instrumental in facilitating the removal of three dams in Pepperell. These projects have removed passage obstacles and re-connected the Nissitissit and Nashua Rivers, and Sucker Brook with the Nissitissit. We invite Groton residents to come to Pepperell to view the site of the former Millie Turner dam at the Nissitissit Wildlife Management Area in Pepperell.

As many of you know, thanks to the hard work of many over the past 30+ years, the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers were recently designated as Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was enacted to preserve the free-flowing character and outstanding features of some of the nation's most beloved rivers. There is no genuine need for the Squannacook Dam. Removal of the dam would result in a 3.7 mile reach of the Squannacook River that would flow freely and be connected with the Nashua River, improve water quality and stream temperature, restore riverine habitat that supports biodiversity, make the river more climate resilient, and create a reach of the Squannacook River where Groton residents could observe the natural unimpeded flow of a river through all seasons.

We urge Groton residents to please consider a decision to remove the Squannacook dam.

There will be several locations around New England where one can travel to view the **Fly Fishing Film Tour**.



Fly of the Month



Fly: Light Hendrickson

Hook: 12-14 dry fly

Thread: tan

Wings: Wood duck

Tail: Medium dun

Body: Pinkish fox

Hackle: Medium dun



Photo: Jim Nugent

Fly fishermen often identify insects by using the common name for the fly tied to imitate them. In the case of the mayfly *Ephemera subvaria*, the female of the species is called a Hendrickson, while the male counterpart of the same species, which has red eyes, is called a Red Quill.



<https://www.troutnut.com/specimen/505>

Thomason, A. 2010, Bug Water: Mechanicburg, PA, Stackpole Books



JOIN TROUT UNLIMITED TODAY !

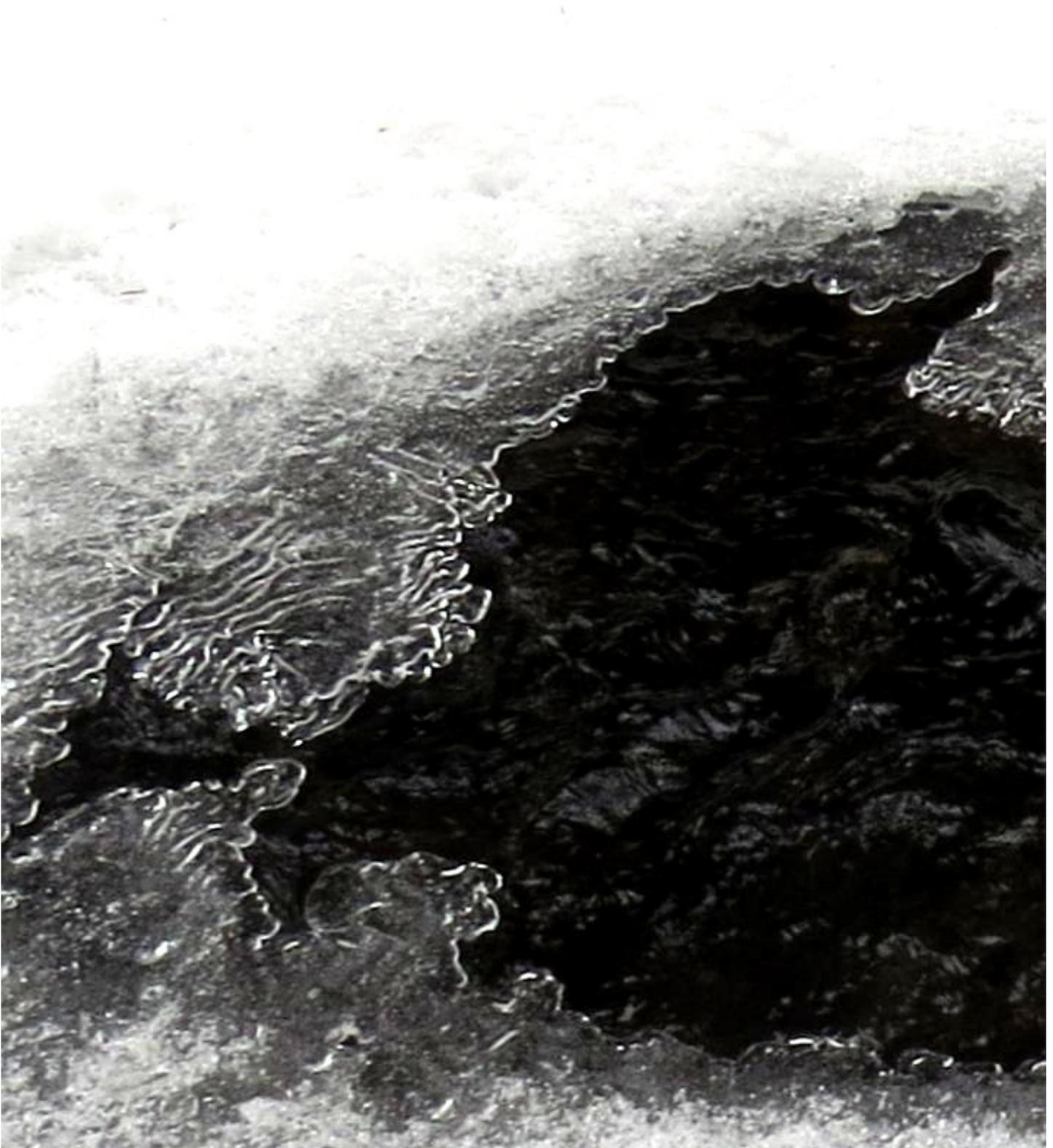
Fill out the name, address and other required fields and you are IN.

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: Shelf ice along a riffle, Sucker Brook



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, 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).

Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. However, members and guests are encouraged to arrive earlier (6:30) 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 (next to the Lawrence Library).

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 (next to the Lawrence Library.)

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 (next to the Lawrence Library.)

Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/6XjCMTfjoBLQwify8>