



# 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, 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 Detwiler

Steve Hogan

Scott Hraba

Jim Nugent

Jan Polex

Kirk Reynolds

Michael Rosser

Russ Schott

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

Hello fellow TU chapter members and friends,

Spring is finally here ! The snow is melting and the resulting high flows are scouring streambeds, eroding banks, building new gravel bars, and incorporating wood into the river channels. The river's are rejuvenating habitat—are you ready ?

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

The March Chapter meeting will be held Monday Mar 23 at 7 at the Pepperell Community Fellowship Hall, 17 Main St, Pepperell. Doors open at 6:30

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

### 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,

**Annual Spring Cleanup, Sat, Apr 25**  
Location: Meet at Millie Turner, 9 AM

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

### MAY

**Learn-to-Fly-Fish Class Sat, May 2**  
Westford Sportsmen's Club  
80 West St, Westford

**BOD Meeting, Mon May 4 @ 7 PM,**  
Location: Zoom Meeting,

**Day-On-The-River, Sat, May 16, 9 –2**  
Location: Henry Colombo WMA  
Brookline St, Pepperell

**Chapter Meeting, Mon, May 18 @ 7 PM**  
Location: Lawrence Library  
15 Main St, Pepperell

### MAR

| 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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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| 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

| 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*

# Upcoming



# EVENTS

## Annual Spring Cleanup, April 25

The Squan-a-Tissit Chapter invites all members and friends to participate in our annual spring clean-up. The event is part of the Pepperell Green-Up activities centered around Earth Day.



**Date:** Saturday, April 25, 2026

**Time:** Starts at 9 am

**Location:** Meet at at the Nissitissit River WMA Parking Area (former Millier Turner Dam site), Rt 111 in Pepperell.

After cleaning the Millie Turner site we will disperse to pick up roadsides, trails, and river banks at other nearby locations such as

- **Henry Columbo Wildlife Management Area -**  
We will target areas in the WMA as well as roadsides along Brookline Street, Prescott St.
- **MDFW Nissitissit River WMA**  
We will target access areas to the WMA on North St and on Brookline St adjacent to Upswing Farm.

Please dress for the weather, and potential for ticks and poison ivy. The cleanup is all on land, we will not need to wade into the river. Wear bright clothing/safety vest to work alongside roads.

Everyone is invited to help out !

# Upcoming EVENTS

## Day on the River, May 16

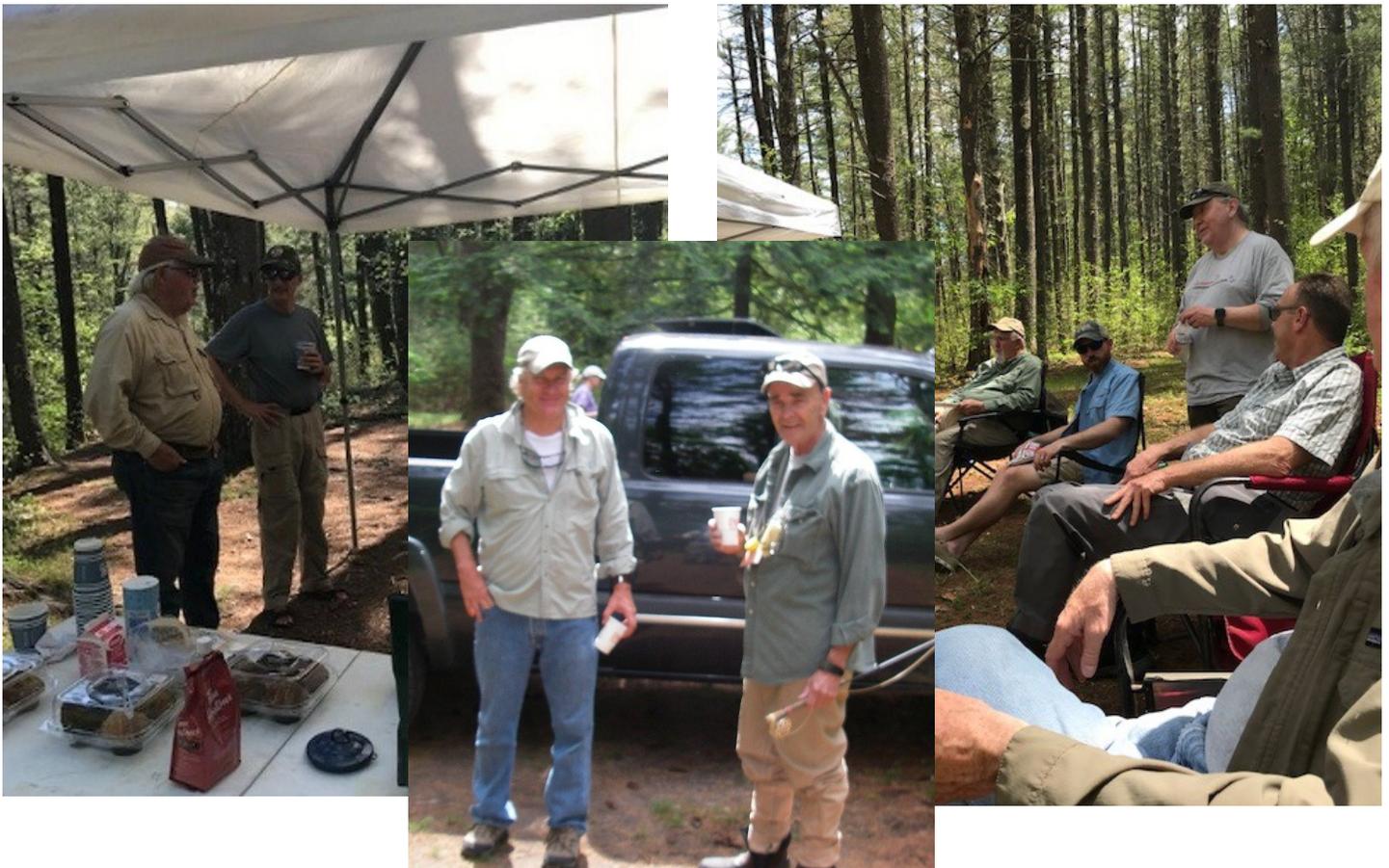
Squan-a-Tissit Chapter 's Annual Day-on-the-River is a simple gathering to do some fishing and share some laughs. It serves as one of our last Chapter meetings until the fall. Bring a friend and mention the event to anyone you think would be interested. It's free to attend and free to eat !

### Join us !

**Date:** Saturday, May 16, 2026      **Time:** 9 AM, Lunch @ noon

**Location:** Henry Columbo Area, Brookline Street, Pepperell MA

**Food:** Cowboy Coffee for early risers and a cookout for lunch



# Upcoming EVENTS

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## Wild Brook Trout Research Project

Below is Adam Kautza's schedule for planned work at the Wild Brook Trout research sites on Sucker Brook for this spring. Dates subject to change, if planning to attend, please confirm the date/time with a BOD member.

| DATE                          | ACTIVITY   |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Wed April 1                   | Antenna check/upload   |
| Mon Apr 20                    | electrofishing Gulf Br and tagging/transplanting brook trout to Sucker Brook   |
| Wed Apr 22                    | Antenna check/upload   |
| Wed May 13                    | Antenna check/upload   |
| Mon June 1 and<br>Tues June 2 | Electrofishing Sucker Brook to look for surviving tagged brook trout and any new brook trout born in the stream since reintroductions. |
| Wed June 3                    | electrofishing Gulf Br and tagging/transplanting brook trout to Sucker Brook   |



## Wild Brook Trout Research Project

MDFW Coldwater Fishery Resource Project Leader Adam Kautza downloading data from the PIT-tagging station at the Wild Brook Trout Research site on Sucker Brook, Keyes-Parker Conservation Area, Pepperell.



# Project



# Updates

## Wild Brook Trout Research project

Cleaning antenna of sticks and leave at the MDFW Research station on Sucker Brook, Keyes-Parker Conservation Area, Pepperell.





## Wild Brook Trout Research project

Cleaning antenna and removing beaver dam at the MDFW Research station on Sucker Brook, Brookline St, Pepperell.





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## Letter of Support for the Removal of the Squannacook Dam in West Groton

On behalf of the Squan-a-Tissit Chapter of Trout Unlimited, we are pleased to offer our strong support for the removal of the Squannacook Dam in West Groton. Our chapter represents anglers, conservationists, and community members who are dedicated to protecting and restoring local watersheds. The removal of the dam is consistent with our mission, and presents a generational opportunity to improve aquatic habitat, restore natural river processes, and reconnect upstream and downstream habitats for native fish species such as eastern brook trout, white sucker and American eel, as well as local wildlife.

As a cold-water fish resource, the Squannacook River is an important ecological and recreational resource for surrounding communities. The proposed dam removal will provide many benefits, including:

- Restoring natural sediment transport and river channel processes
- Improving water quality and temperature regimes
- Reestablishing fish passage and access to upstream and downstream habitat
- Reducing long-term infrastructure and safety risks associated with this aging dam

Projects like this have demonstrated measurable ecological and community benefits across the region. By restoring connectivity and natural flow regimes, the removal of the Squannacook Dam will improve the long-term resilience of the watershed and the fish and wildlife that depend on it. The removal is also important for reconnecting wildlife (turtles, beaver, otter, etc).

We appreciate the collaborative work that has gone into planning and evaluating the dam removal, and we believe it represents an important investment in the health of the Nashua River watershed. Further – our chapter has been involved in 3 dam removals in Pepperell (by using grants and other funding, all were of no capital outlay cost to the town). Our chapter strongly supports the efforts of the town of Groton and its partners to advance this project.

Respectfully,  
John Deery, President  
Trout Unlimited, Squan-a-Tissit Chapter

# TROUT UNLIMITED



*Squan-a-Tissit TU supports the efforts of these allied non-profit organizations*



CfR provides healing outdoor retreats to enhance the lives of survivors and thrivers of breast cancer through wellness retreats that connect women to each other using the therapeutic sport of fly fishing and providing oncology medical and psychosocial support.

<https://castingforrecovery.org/>



Project Healing Waters guides veterans in need to healing through camaraderie, connectedness, and fly fishing. Project Healing Waters helps active military service personnel and Veterans in need through a dedicated, developed curriculum of fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying, and fly rod building.

<https://projecthealingwaters.org/>



The Mayfly Project supports children in foster care through fly fishing and introduces them to their local water ecosystems, with a hope that connecting them to a rewarding hobby will provide an opportunity for foster children to have fun, build confidence, and develop a meaningful connection with the outdoors.

<https://themayflyproject.com/>

## ADAM'S PARACHUTE



Adam's Parachute is dedicated to bringing the therapeutic benefits of fly fishing to the community of addiction and recovery. Through our free programs, we empower those in recovery from addiction, those working in the high-stress field of addiction care, and their loved ones to find healing, focus, and peace.

<https://themayflyproject.com/>



## Casting for Recovery - New England



Casting for Recovery - New England

March 13 at 7:44 PM · 🌐



There is still time to sign up!

<https://castingforrecovery.org/program/new-england/...>



CASTINGFORRECOVERY.ORG

New England Retreats- Casting for Recovery

## 2026 New England Retreat Dates

*Apply to one retreat only that is in your state or geographically closest to you.*

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### May 29-31, 2026

**Type:** Any Stage / Any Age

**Apply by:** March 19, 2026 (2 days left to apply)

**Location:** Barbara C. Harris Center, Greenfield, NH

[Apply for May 29 Retreat](#)



*The mission of the Nashua River Watershed Association is to work for a healthy ecosystem with clean water and open spaces for human and wildlife communities, where people work together to sustain mutual economic and environmental well-being in*

NRWA goals:

- Protect and advocate for our water resources
- Restore and protect river and stream corridors and aquatic ecosystems
- Protect and advocate for our land resources and terrestrial ecosystems
- Address impacts of climate change with nature-based solutions
- Provide science-based, hands-on environmental education for adults and youth
- Build an equitable and enduring organization

**Help Make a Difference  
Become an NRWA Member Today!**

<https://www.nashuariverwatershed.org/membership/>

# Native Fish Coalition

Join Native Fish Coalition Inbox x

[nativefishcoalition.org](http://nativefishcoalition.org)

Native Fish Coalition info@nativefishcoalition.org via gmail.mcsv.net  
to me ▾



NFC is playing an important role in regard to realigning fish conservation with modern science, ecological realities, and a rapidly changing world. By focusing solely on wild native fish, and not being category or species specific, NFC is bringing a different, much needed, and long overdue approach to aquatic ecosystem conservation.



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

**20<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of the FLY FISHING FILM TOUR**

**March 14  
SOMERVILLE, MA  
Hosted by Greater Boston TU  
Somerville Theater**

**April 8  
DOVER, NH  
Hosted by the Coastal Conservation Assoc.  
North Country Hard Cider Company**

**SKWALA YETI COSTA**

**NRS Stranahan's AIRLITE FISH REELS USA Coors Sawyer SA SCIENTIFIC ANGLERS BENCH**

**FLYTIME FISHING RAMBLER ANGLER & BLADE CO. TroutRoutes YAKODA TURTLEBOX RESTORLINE Fly Fishing**

**Casting by Recovery FLY WATER TRAVEL ICELAND FISHING GUIDE GOT FISHING Flyerds London Lakes**

**ADVENTURE**

**WWW.FLYFILMTOUR.COM**

# Fly of the Month



## Fly: Little brown stonefly

**Hook:** #16 nymph hook

**Thread:** brown + fine silver wire

**Thorax:** brown rabbit dubbing

**Legs/Tail:** dark brown goose bots



Photo: Jim Nugent

Early Brown Stoneflies emerge from late winter to early spring, offering some of the first meaningful nymph and dry fly opportunities of the season, at a time when trout are eager to resume feeding after lean winter months.



<https://www.troutnut.com/common-name/390/Early-Brown-Stoneflies>

<https://www.troutnut.com/specimen/341#lg=1&slide=3>



## 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:** Wood ducks, Nashua R

D. Armstrong

Lots to see out on the rivers !



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:** Hooded mergansers, Nashua R

D. Armstrong



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Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

# Squan-*a*-Tissit Back Pages

**Photo:** Ring-necked ducks, Nashua R

D. Armstrong



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Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

# Squan-a-Tissit Back Pages

**Photo:** Common mergansers, Nashua R

D. Armstrong



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Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

# Squan-*a*-Tissit Back Pages

**Photo:** Eagles, Nashua R

D. Armstrong



Email us your photos and fish tales to [chapter@squanatissit.org](mailto: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, typically on the fourth Monday of each month (Oct. through May) at the Pepperell Christian Fellowship (PCF) 17 Main Street, Pepperell, MA. Select meetings may be at the Lawrence Library, 15 Main St., Pepperell, MA.

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 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 will be located on the left side (next to the Lawrence Library.)

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