



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, 2026

Chapter Meeting Adam's Parachute

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Join us for a presentation by Jim Faust on Adam's Parachute, a non-profit dedicated to bringing the therapeutic benefits of fly fishing and fly tying to individuals seeking long term recovery from substance use disorder and their caregivers.

Jim, the founder of Adam's Parachute and his wife started this non-profit in order to honor their son, Adam's legacy of passionate service to those suffering in this community.

Jim named this program after his son, who was dedicated to supporting people struggling with substance use.



ADAM'S STORY
A LEGACY OF HOPE

Follow Us On





Squan-a-Tissit Chapter Notes

Squan-a-Tissit Chapter Contacts:

Officers:

President
John Deery

Vice President
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Tom Burke

Secretary
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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,

Spring has finally arrived ! The weather and streamflows are cooperating, and the rivers and pond have been stocked. Take some time soon to get out to fish and welcome the season !

Our Chapter has connected with some fantastic organizations and individuals that do important work using fly-fishing to connect with the outdoors as a means to heal — such as Casting for Recovery, Project Healing Waters, and the Mayfly Project. We look forward to adding Adam's Parachute to this list !

The April Chapter meeting will be held Monday March 27 at 7 pm at the Pepperell Christian 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 !





Squan-a-Tissit Calendar of Events

APRIL

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

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

Water Quality Monitoring, Wed, Apr 15

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

MAY

BOD Meeting, Mon May 11 @ 7 PM,
Location: Zoom Meeting,

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

Water Quality Monitoring, Wed, May 20

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

NOTE: Squan-a-Tissit TU Chapter Meetings from June– Sept are held “On the River”

JUNE

Learn to Fly Fish Class, Sat, June 6
Location: NRWA

Water Quality Monitoring, Wed, June 17

APR

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

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						

JUN

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				

Upcoming EVENTS

Day on the River, May 16

The 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





Wild Brook Trout Research project

In April, Squan-a-tissit TU assisted Adam Kautza (MDFW) during electrofishing of Gulf Brook. A goal of the effort was to collect brook trout from Gulf Brook to transplant into Sucker Brook in order to re-establish a population of native brook trout in Sucker Brook.





Wild Brook Trout Research project

Each brook trout collected was carefully measured and weighed and the information was recorded.





Wild Brook Trout Research project

Adam carefully inserted a passive integrated transponder (PIT tag) into the abdomen of each brook trout. The PIT tags are about the size of a grain of rice. Each PIT tag has a unique code that can be used to identify an individual fish.





Wild Brook Trout Research project

The brook trout were quickly shuttled to Sucker Brook and released at locations upstream and downstream of the Wild Brook Trout Research study sites. The movement of PIT-tagged brook trout can be tracked by monitoring equipment located at the research sites.





Wild Brook Trout Research project

This was the third transplant of brook trout from Gulf Brook to Sucker Brook. If the MDFW study determines that the effort is successful in creating a reproducing brook trout population in Sucker Brook, there are about 150 additional streams in Massachusetts where this approach could be applied.





Wild Brook Trout Research project

Adam and TU members also visited stream temperature monitoring sites to download stream temperature data collected over the winter.





Water-Quality Monitoring Project

In early April, Merrimack River Valley TU and Squan-a-Tissit TU chapter members attended a training conducted by the NHDES Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP). The training reviewed monitoring equipment and methods and quality assurance data that the TU chapters use to monitor water-quality in Witches and Flint's Brooks in Hollis, NH.





Water-Quality Monitoring

Later in April, the TU water-quality monitoring team conducted the monthly water-quality monitoring at 5 sites on Witches Brook and 1 site on Flints Brook. In this photo, the team is calibrating a dissolved oxygen meter.



Project



Updates

Water-Quality Monitoring

Collecting a water sample from Witches Brook, Hollis, NH.





Water-Quality Monitoring

Collecting water-level data from Witches Brook, Hollis, NH.





Water-Quality Monitoring

Water-quality monitoring is a team effort ! New members are welcome. Contact a BOD member if you have interest in participating or in joining in to learn about the monitoring. Sampling dates are typically the 3rd Wednesday of each month from April through October.





Nissitissit River Clean-up

Squan-a-Tissit TU Chapter members spent a Saturday morning in April picking up trash along the roadsides and streambanks of the Nissitissit River as part of the 30th annual Pepperell Green-Up. Sites that were cleaned include roadsides and parking areas of the MDFW Nissitissit Wildlife Management Area (WMA) at the former Mille Turner dam, North St, and Henry Colombo accesses, and also in the access behind Shattuck Oil in Pepperell. Keeping our home rivers clean adds to the beauty and experience of fishing the Niss !





Developing an Ethic for Free-Flowing Rivers

The Town of Groton will be voting on May 2nd to decide whether to remove or repair the Squannacook dam in West Groton. Groton is rich in ponds and lakes such as Baddacook, Knops, Wattles, Whitney and Martin's Ponds, and Lost Lake. The town also has its share of brooks, including Baddacook, Cow Pond, Nod, Reedy Meadow, and James Brooks. However, Groton only has two rivers - the Nashua and the Squannacook. These rivers are an important component of the nature and character of the town. There is no good reason to repair a dam that has no genuine purpose other than creating another pond. TU would like to encourage Groton voters to embrace the opportunity to restore this reach of the river.

Rivers provide more than water for humans. They provide water and habitat that sustain the life of other organisms. Damming a river degrades river habitat and can cause species to decline from a watershed. The science of enhancing the resilience of rivers through dam removal is well known and documented. Rivers support life far beyond the local boundaries of a river reach: **longitudinally**, through their connectivity with tributaries and mainstems which permits species movement, migration, and recolonization; **laterally** via connections with floodplains that support a great biodiversity of riparian plants and animals; **vertically** through aquatic insects that emerge and support birds, bats, and other animals; and **over time** as many species of fish and aquatic invertebrates require a range of high and low flows for life cycle functions such as spawning and rearing young. Furthermore, free-flowing rivers maintain connectivity and a diversity of flows that provide **resilience to changing climates** by allowing species to adapt to changes in temperature, changing flows, and invasive species.

Yes, there has been a dam in West Groton since colonial times. But the history of the Squannacook River is much older. The Squannacook was a free-flowing river used by wildlife and indigenous people since glaciers receded, well over 10,000 years ago. If the dam is removed, the Squannacook will have 3.7 miles of free-flowing river connected to the Nashua River. The identity of West Groton will remain closely tied to the river. There will be a beautiful riffle cascading through West Groton, and the bridge over the Squannacook will become a destination for people to observe and enjoy the variety of seasonal flows, habitats and animal life provided by rivers.

We cannot ignore our stewardship responsibilities - none of us have the right to destroy the diversity of life that once thrived on our lands and in our rivers. Groton has an opportunity to adopt an ethic that respects and protects all aspects of nature in harmony with the needs of people. The moral standard articulated by Aldo Leopold, one of the founders of environmental ethics, wrote: ***"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community, it is wrong when it tends otherwise"***.

Suggested reading:

Fauch, Kurt, D.2025, A Reverence for Rivers – Imagining an Ethic for Running Waters

Tallamy, D.W., 2019, Nature's Best Hope—A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard

Leopold, A., 1949, A Sand Country Almanac

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/>

Fly of the Month



Fly: Pheasant tail and CDC emerger

Hook: #18 light wire, curved

Dubbing: dark hare's ear

Thread: fine gold wire

Legs: grouse

Shuck: antron

Wings: 2 CDC feather



Photo: Jim Nugent



Source:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/mayfly-emerging-from-the-water-as-an-adult--324188873151821280/>



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: Fishing in the mist at dawn, on the Niss

D.



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

Squan-*a*-Tissit Back Pages

Photo: Otter, on the Niss

D. Armstrong



Email us your photos and fish tales to 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>