

The Backcast



January 15, 2017

Bait to Get You Hooked

[MA-RI Council of TU](#)

There are a lot of new developments with the Council. Be prepared to hear more from them.

[TU Taconic Website](#)

Please send us interesting info for the website.

[Cool Env resources on Council website](#)

There's a lot of interesting info to review on trout and rivers here.

Current Officers

Vice President

Henry Sweren

Treasurer

Bill Travis

Secretary

Open

President's Message

By now I can recognize the difference in light of our slightly longer days. As much as I love skiing, tracking and getting out in the snow, the January thaw also prods me to dawn the woolies and the waders and grab the rod and reel. Whatever the excuse, the winter is much nicer and easier to get through when you get out in it.

The new year also finds new leadership in our chapter. Speaking for Henry Sweren (VP) and myself, we're pretty excited to pick up the baton handed us from a core group of people who have become nothing short of legendary in the leadership of our chapter and representing us in the conservation fora of Berkshire County. We're ready to get started this week in meeting our fellow members and get going doing something fun.

Let me begin with a brief introduction of myself and how I came to Taconic TU. The short of it is, years ago I was in 3 chapters at the same time; 2 in VT and one in Mass. Leadership was questionable and no one was interested in doing anything "conservation-wise". Meanwhile, I was always fishing with my buddy Marc Hoechstetter and hearing about all the things Taconic TU was doing; removing dams, culvert inventories, teaching kids to fish, river cleanups. I thought "that's the chapter I want to be in!" Meanwhile, I was living in Vermont or had to take care of my parents in their aging years. Sadly, I am at the end of that journey, but gladly my home is now in Plainfield, Mass.



I have been a nature nut since I was real young and was even fishing at four. If dad was around, I could even have a hook on it. Didn't matter to me whether there was a hook or not. I went on to catch and study everything under the sun and all over the world. Now I have my own environmental consulting firm (Burns Environmental – www.BurnsE.net) and teach at Westfield State. I'm very involved in the botany circles of New England as well as other conservation groups throughout the northeast and just so you don't think I'm a complete square, I've been on ski patrol at Mt. Snow in Vt for 25 years and have played keyboards professionally for over 35 years. I'm a chronic reader, learner and world traveler and am looking forward to doing things with you.

John Burns
President
Taconic Chapter TU

The Next Move

This issue of The Backcast will be a little brief as I really wanted to just contact you to introduce myself and get the season rolling. Trout Unlimited is a conservation organization first and so I want us to engage in activities other than just fishing oriented gatherings. With that in mind, here are a few ideas I have. I welcome your input as to what you would like to do and the direction of the chapter.

Fish, Flow and Foam

Every two weeks or so throughout the winter, members will be getting together casually to meet, have a few drinks and talk about conservation, fishing and perhaps local lore or findings. The idea is just to meet each other without an agenda, formal presentation, or any expectations. The location will move around Berkshire County in order to be convenient to everyone at some point. This is a little like Green Drinks gatherings which occur all around the country but is for our TU chapter in particular.

Fish, Flow and Foam – Thursday January 19 at Barrington Brewery 7 – 9 pm

Just come in and look for a big beard is a good start. Bring photos, questions or just interest

February Fly Tying evenings to be announced soon

Fly Fishing Film Tour – Thursday March 2 – Barrington Brewery

Doors open 6:30 – Movie 7:00 – about 9 pm



Come see some amazing footage of fly fishing around the world at Chrissy's Barn.

This is our second film tour and it was a big hit last year. The sites are amazing.

Door prizes and raffles to be held as well. More news to come.

Chapter Meeting – April 20 – Location to be determined

Ron Merly is a guide on the Housatonic and Farmington Rivers in Mass. and CT and will be sharing hot spots and techniques for these rivers.

Saved the Date – Indian Hollow Camping Weekend – May 16-18, 2017

This is an awesome weekend where members of all the TU chapters in Mass. and RI are invited to come out camping at the Army Corps. facility below Chesterfield Gorge. The State stocks about 700 fish in the river, we have a big bonfire and people just sit around and eat, meet and greet. Kids, friends and family all welcome. It is free and it's a great way to learn new things and meet some great people.

MA-RI TU Council meeting on Saturday 10:00 free cookout to follow. Raffles and fun

Other Events in the Works

OLLI – Osher Lifelong Learning Institute – BCC class we're teaching on fly fishing – Apr. - May

Summer walks and talks along each of the rivers in the Berkshires

Scheduled Chapter Fishing Nights