



CONSERVATION EVENT EDITION

SEBAGO

# Mainstream

The Online Newsletter of the Sebago Chapter of Trout Unlimited

15-2

March 2015

## Chapter Meeting - Local Fisheries Developments March 17<sup>th</sup> (7pm - 8:30pm)

**Where:** Cabela's 100 Cabela's Blvd. - Scarborough

**Speaker:** Francis Brautigam

**Program:** Presentation on Region A (southwestern Maine) fisheries issues

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Gray Ghosts

Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:30

March 10 Tier Joel Anderson

March 24 Tier Todd Cloutier  
(final session)

[First Parish Church, Yarmouth](#)

#### 36th Conservation Event

Saturday, April 11

The Woodfords Club - Portland

**Ticket order form enclosed**

#### Sebago TU Board of Directors

President [David Miller](#)

Vice President -vacant-

Secretary [Joe Croteau](#)

Treasurer [Brad Ronco](#)

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Comm & Conservation [Steve Heinz](#)

At large: [Eben Marsh](#)

[Lou Zambello](#)

[Elijah Miller](#)

[Zach Whitener](#)

[Evelyn King](#)

Gray Ghosts [Rod McGarry](#)

**More on our website:**

[www.sebagotu.org](http://www.sebagotu.org)



**Francis Brautigam** will give us an update on local fishing issues. This will include results of the Crooked River Redd Survey, and the portable weir that will be installed on the Crooked River late this summer.

Those of us who have worked closely with Francis and the MDIFW Region A staff have watched our respect for him grow. Our achievements have been a reflection of his vision for improving fisheries here in southwestern Maine. It is hard to imagine our winning the Gold Trout Award without

his guidance and expertise. The redd survey was our most ambitious survey project to date, and both MDIFW staff and our volunteers were amazed and delighted by the number of salmon redds that we saw.

***The Sebago Lake - Crooked River system is arguably the most important landlocked Atlantic salmon fishery in the US. Come out and learn more about it.***

# Conservation Event

# 2015



## Sebago TU: Continuing to Evolve

For the 36th consecutive year, Sebago TU is calling concerned fishermen-conservationists together to further the fellowship our common goals create and to raise the funds need to support them here in southern Maine. This year's event will be more than a dinner auction: it will include speakers and activities to make it more attractive to a wider audience. We hope that **you** will attend with young people who are beginning to take an interest in trout fishing.

Your participation will help us build the sense of community that is essential to organization, and to help us to reach the goals that we aim to achieve by 2020:

- **Complete at least one habitat reconnection (culvert/dam) project every year**
- **Reclaim two more ponds in southwestern Maine in partnership with MDIFW**
- **Introduce 1000 new youth and women to fly fishing**
- **Continue to contribute \$1000 a year to support Maine TU Trout Camp**
- **Revitalize our interaction with the membership by both new "direct contact" activities and improved web technology.**

**Conservation** projects are integral to the TU mission, and our success continues unabated. Last summer, we reclaimed the third and fourth ponds under our 5in5 program: Crocker Pond and Broken Bridge Ponds in the White Mountain National Forest in Albany, Maine.

In 2014 Sebago Chapter was selected from some 400 TU chapters nationwide as the recipient of the 2014 Gold Trout award as the chapter that had made the



most noteworthy contribution through to the cause of coldwater conservation during the previous year. Our Swett Brook Dam and Randall Mill Dam removal projects, and our other accomplishments were deemed so significant by the National organization that we were selected over nearly 400 other chapters nationwide. This is an achievement all chapter members should take pride in.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT**  
- See page five

**Maine TU Trout Camp.** As fishing license sales continue to decline



nation-wide, TU in Maine (and nearly twenty other states) continues to train the next generation of fishermen-conservationists. The program needs more support than ever to operate; Sebago TU continues to contribute.

Closer to home, the Maine Water Festival continues to be a perfect venue for teaching that clean water and good fishing go hand in hand. We hope to connect with more local boy scout and high school groups to better spread the Trout Unlimited message.

**Please attend the event, enjoy the fellowship of fellow chapter members and bid generously to support what we're doing here in Maine. If you can't attend, please donate on-line at:**

**[http://www.sebagotu.org/banquet\\_alt.html](http://www.sebagotu.org/banquet_alt.html)**

# Sebago TU's 36th Annual Conservation Event

## A message from - Chapter President David Miller:

*I hope you are all enjoying Winter – the gift that keeps on giving - and taking the time to tie flies, clean your fly lines, or daydream about the coming of flowing water this Spring! We are doing all of the above and are also planning our annual Sebago TU event for Saturday, April 11. This year, in addition to raising money to support our conservation and education programs, we are including guest speakers, fly tying booths and casting instruction in the event. We will be welcoming flyfishers of all ages, so **please bring your family members and young people** who will grow up to be our next coldwater fisheries conservationists. This year's event is at the Woodfords Club in Portland and will be catered by Salvage BBQ – the best in the area.*

*Come join us on April 11 to mingle with your fellow flyfishers and help us raise funds for our many projects.*

**An initial listing of what we will be offering at auction - start talking to your fishing partner about this summer's trips so that you can be ready to bid.**

### DESTINATION STAYS - and more:

**Bone Ami Abaco** - private beach house in the Bahamas (one week for up to 12 for any open slot in next 3 years). Perfect for bone fishing or a family getaway.

**Miramichi Country Haven Lodge** for two adults. Package includes 2 days of fishing for two adults, Day license, fly-casting instruction, experienced guide, necessary equipment, meals and 3 nights accommodations

**El Pescador in Belize** - 6 nights lodging & 5 days fishing for 2 including roundtrip transfers from Belize City, 3 meals/day & many amenities. Good to April 30, 2016.

**Upper Oxbow Lodge Atlantic Salmon Camp at Little Southwest Miramichi** - 3 days, 4 nights. American plan (meals included) guide - friendly atmosphere.

**Labrador:** A week (Sat to Sat) for two at **Riverkeep Lodge**. All inclusive package includes meals, guide, transport to/from Lab City.

**Weatherby's**: - 2 night stay opportunity on Grand Lake Stream.

**Red River Camps**: 2 day, 2 night stay for 2 people includes all meals. Excellent pond fishing for char & brook trout. In famous Deboullie Township - 5 minutes from 14 ponds. Canoes & kayaks available on all.

**Full Day Float Trip** on the Deerfield River with **Pheasant Tail Tours** of Deerfield MA - lunch provided.

**Grants Camps** on Kennebago Lake. Two days and two nights anytime after July 1 (American plan).

An afternoon of **fly tying instruction with Peter Smith** of **SS Flies**.

**A Day in the Field** with a Region A fisheries biologist.  
[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

### GEAR, ART, etc...

**LL Bean** starter rod outfits, net, wading staff, and fly collections.

**Cabelas** fly casting outfit and other fine equipment.

**Kittery Trading Post** gift certificates.

**Penobscot Canoe** 17 feet of wood and canvas beauty  
**Fly Collections** from our Gray Ghosts Tying Club.

**Artwork** by Dave Footer, photography by Dave Bowie.

**Port Harbor Marine** one day boat rental in June or September in Casco Bay. You just buy the gas.

**TICKETS:** Use your credit card to order tickets from the chapter's website [www.sebago.org/banquet\\_alt.html](http://www.sebago.org/banquet_alt.html) or mail in the ticket order form

### **Event Activity Schedule:**

3:00 Doors Open

- Fly-casting intros and tune-ups

- Fly Tying Demonstrations:

-- Sam Kenney (15 year-old phenom)

-- Sharon E. Wright (author of [Tying Heritage Featherwing Streamers](#))

- Silent auction begins

- Book Signings:

-- Lou Zambello - [Flyfishing Northern New England's Seasons](#) with short talk at 4:00

-- Brad Burns - [Closing the Season, Salmon Fishing in New Brunswick on the Miramichi and Cains Rivers](#) with short talk at 4:30

5:00 Food Service (Salvage BBQ) begins

6:00 Jim Pellerin & Scott Davis of Maine IFW: Fifty Cool Places to Fish in Maine That You Never Heard Of

6:50 Live Auction

7:05 Sarah Lowe: Fishing the Catskills and Adirondacks

7:50 Door Prize, Silent Auction results

8:00 Conclude



# 2015 Conservation Event

## Saturday - April 11

Activities begin at 3 pm  
The Woodfords Club  
179 Woodford Avenue  
Portland, Maine 04102

*Family friendly fun - Activities, exhibits, door prize, auctions, raffles - International destination stays, Maine lodge stays, guided fishing adventures & gear.*

### 2015 Event Reservation Form

\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to join in your celebration of Maine's trout and salmon waters. Please:

Send \_\_\_ Adult Tickets at \$35 each  
Send \_\_\_ Children (under 18) Tickets at \$15 each

\_\_\_ I will not be able to attend, but I would like to:

- \_\_\_ Renew my membership (\$35)
- \_\_\_ Purchase a new membership (\$17.50) Must never have been a member previously
- \_\_\_ Make a contribution to Sebago Chapter Trout Unlimited

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT METHOD**

- Check (Payable to Sebago TU)
- Credit Card  MC  VISA
- Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_
- Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Total Remitted: \_\_\_\_\_

We must receive tickets ordered using this form by April 4th to guarantee availability. Check our website after that date to order through PayPal.

Mail to: Sebago Trout Unlimited  
c/o Brad Ronco - Treasurer  
182 Ludlow Street  
Portland ME 04102

# It's Back: The Metallic Mining Bill

Metallic mining is Maine's conservation issue of the decade. The rules that were rushed through rule making and the legislature only to be defeated last year, have resurfaced this year as LD 146.

Although the legislation will seek to cover all cases, earlier bills were pushed through in response to J. D. Irving's stated desire to construct an open pit mine at Bald Mountain in Central Aroostook County at the headwaters of the Fish River. Irving (yes, same company as the gas stations) is a privately-owned Canadian conglomerate with extensive holdings - and Maine's largest land owner.

Mineral deposits are located in places that could impact some of Maine's premier waters. Besides the Fish and Aroostook Rivers that are threatened at their headwaters by Irving's Bald Mountain Project proposal that has driven the proposed rule changes, the Magalloway and Cupsuptic, the Dead River, and the West Branch Pleasant River would be at risk as well due to the nearby location of similar deposits.

Your comments were key to stopping the Scribner's Mill Dam Application. This is a bigger issue with much wider-reaching consequences that could be permanent. Please write, e-mail or call your State representatives today opposing LD 146. If you don't know who they are, find out at : <http://legislature.maine.gov/house/townlist>.

The deposits they are looking to mine are known as volcanic sulfide deposits. These are some of the most toxic materials on the planet: if anything should remain buried, this is it. Although rich in metals including copper, zinc, lead, gold and silver, they are dangerous to disturb. It's a double whammy: the sulfides themselves turn into sulfuric acid when exposed to water resulting in acid mine drainage AMD (the picture on the right shows what that can look like), many of the metals like arsenic, lead, and mercury are toxic in themselves. **Once in the soil, these metals continue to do damage until they permute into other elements over millions of years - they make the tar sands that residents banned from being pumped through South Portland look like a slurpee.**

To make matters worse, the Bald Mountain vicinity is already high in arsenic, the water acidic naturally and because of acid rain. This is a fragile environment.

The Maine Board of Environmental protection (MBEP) that revisited the rules following public comment admits that they were not given time to come up with fixes to address public concerns that were voiced. These included: the rules are too weak, the "mining area" is not adequately defined, perpetual treatment is an option... This was after months of work - now they have sent the rules back to the legislature virtually unchanged.

Maine is not a mining state, and has little experience overseeing mining operations. Maine permitting metallic sulfide mining is like teaching a child to swim by throwing him into deep water - and the last one died: the Callahan Mine (metallic sulfides) in Brooksville, Maine just south of Castine has not recovered with [remediation effort](#) still ongoing at public expense for PCBs, lead and arsenic forty years after mining operations ceased.



Act **NOW** to fight this threat to Maine's fisheries environment.