



The Long Cast



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
NARRAGANSETT CHAPTER/TROUT UNLIMITED

NOVEMBER 2006 VOL. 26 #3

President's Message:

Pat Beck's presentation at our last meeting was of brook trout, salmon, and pike fishing in Newfoundland. We appreciated the fine commentary and pictures. Pat is one of our most eloquent spokesmen and an expert on fishing travel.

We have been discussing the need for younger members to whom we can transition the management of the Chapter.

Please mention this to any young trout fans among your family or friends. Our veterans can help young folks get in tune with the water with lessons and advice. Encourage their joining up, learning and participating. It's an opportunity for a lifetime.

Also come to our December meeting to take part in the election of new officers.

Thanks for your participation.

Chris Metakos

Environment Officer Report:

On Saturday November, 11th

we conducted our last Adopt-A-Highway clean up for the year on RT.165. There were 11 volunteers. We also picked up trash at the Pines, High Banks, the Check station and the parking areas on Brook trail.

On Tuesday November 7th and Friday Nov. 10th, Burt Strom, Al Jaffa and I hit the roads and trails in search of small stream crossings in our watershed. These are the small, so far unexamined, crossings and are an addition to last year's work. The NRCS has decided it would be helpful to log in all the stream crossings, so we will track down even the narrowest crossings that we didn't look for last winter.

There are about 36 more crossings on our charts to locate in this watershed and that will complete all the crossings in the Wood/Pawcatuck watershed. Hopefully after this we will be able to move on to the next watershed.

On November 17th Al, Burt and I will be joined by several people from the NRCS including an engineer and a biologist to assess the culverts for their restoration potential. Also someone from UMass. will be invited along with Denise Poyer

from the WPWA, a representative from the RI.DOT and a fisheries biologist from the RIDEM Fish and WildLife Division. We will determine *which of the crossings will be the first to be submitted for repair or replacement.* This will be something of a breakthrough in our goal to assist the brook trout to migrate to their upstream spawning grounds.

Anyone who would like to join us on the stream crossing project or any other project should see me at a meeting or call or e-mail me. We can always use more help.

I would like to thank my wife Gloria for providing the nice hot chicken soup at the highway clean up. She hopes everybody enjoyed it. I hereby thank her for this fine contribution.

Lawson Cary

Adopt -A- Highway Volunteer List

Lawson Cary
Gloria Cary
Al Ball
Dan Beltromi
Jim Martish
Al Jaffa
Ray Muschiano
Bob Orpen
Bruce Read
Jim Dewaele
Al Truchon

Carbuncle Pond in Coventry was stocked with Atlantic Salmon in late October. These were about 100 salmon from a New Hampshire Hatchery. Salmon have low levels of PCB and so there are some recommended restrictions (one meal per month max.)

Muzzle loading and shotgun hunting of deer began on October 28th. Only private land hunting was permitted for the first week. Hunting expanded to park land on Nov. 4th and continues until Nov. 26th. Note that there is much private land interspersed with the Wood River areas that flow through Arcadia Park. Please bear this in mind for the future. Don't rely on the intelligence of the hunter.

The Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association sponsored a feasibility study for fish passage along a section of the Pawcatuck River. There are presently three dams in the study area. A report will be issued this winter containing findings and recommendations. Check the organization's web site www.wpwa.org for more information and updates. Their newsletters are available at their site. The organization is worth a visit and well worth your considering joining.

Purple loosestrife is an attractive plant. The trouble is that it is an invasive species that prevents

propagation of native plants along our watershed. Thus far stands have been spotted on the Pawcatuck, but not the Wood. Please report any loosestrife sightings to the WPWA.



RI Department of Fish and Wildlife would like to establish a sea run brown trout fishery in the Pawcatuck River. Last year juvenile fish of around 6" were stocked in the lower Pawcatuck: 20,000 in the spring and 20,000 in the fall. About 45 were counted, having doubled in size on their return to the Potter Hill Dam base this fall. Certainly many more were spread out below. DEM plans to stock more juveniles this fall.

If this effort comes to fruition perhaps there will be a self sustaining sea run brown trout fishery on the Pawcatuck. Then the Wood River further upstream might be allowed to be more fully realized as fly fishing water that is managed more closely to its natural potential.

Presently stocked fish poundage does not relate well to the availability of insects. Weaker brook trout are marginalized in the Wood. Sea run brook trout, the historical denizens of the lower Pawcatuck are about gone. In the dance around between old Mother Nature and young Father Management who knows where the balance will be struck and what policies will endure. We hope and expect to see the wild native RI brook trout regain more of its

native waters. Time will tell. So will our efforts.

The Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) is a government agency created by the state General Assembly to regulate activities, such as commercial development, of our coastal areas. Some of its efforts impact our rivers. An example is the proposed restoration of the Lower Shannock Falls Dam. This would restore access to historic upstream spawning and rearing habitat for American shad, river herring and possibly interact with DEM's sea-run brown trout project. You can keep track of this project via the WPWA newsletters or on line at crmc.ri.gov.

The RI Rivers Council was created by statute to coordinate efforts to improve and preserve the quality of the state's rivers and other water bodies and to develop plans to increase river use. The General Assembly created the Council because "state jurisdiction over rivers, environmentally, culturally and economically, is scattered among state agencies and in some instances, state policies and plans [concerning rivers] are conflicting." The Council is charged with coordinating state policies to protect rivers and watersheds and strengthening local watershed councils as local partners in river and watershed protection. In 2004, the Rivers Council became an associated function of the Rhode Island Water Resources Board. The Council is not a regulatory body; its functions are planning, coordination and empowerment. Its web site is www.ririvers.org

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November Presenter

At our November 29th meeting **Paul DiNolo** will be doing a presentation on still water fishing in southeast new England. Paul has published frequently in On The Water and other magazines. He is an expert on New England fresh water fishing. Prepare to ask questions of Paul; his answers are sure to inform and expand your own opportunities to travel and fish in New England waters. Paul will also incorporate fly tying in his presentation.

Ed Lombardo

Environment Committee Meetings

The Environment Committee meetings are open to any of our members who want to contribute to our chapter's environmental efforts. If you have not participated yet you may come to one of our meetings and ask how to pitch in.

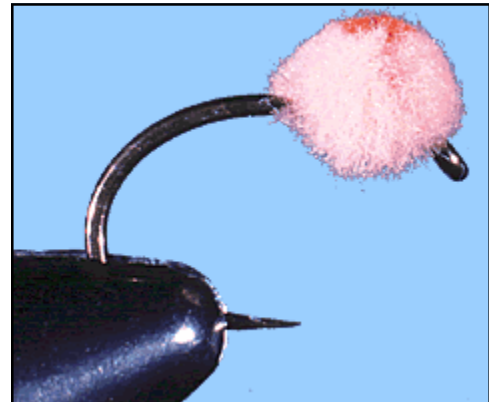
We meet at the Town Chef Restaurant in West Warwick. It is at 131 Washington Street. Meetings are breakfast meetings at 9am on the second Saturday of each month. This is about five miles from exit 8B of route 95. Get on 2 North, make a right on 117 (in about 2 1/4 miles)...Follow 117 until you see Brookside and make a right, then right on Roberts (route 33), left on John, and left on Washington.

FLY OF THE MONTH Egg Fly

Egg flies imitate a naturally-occurring food that trout, steelhead, and salmon love when they see it. When salmon spawn in the fall, there are always steelhead and trout just downstream from them, waiting to scarf up loose eggs. Whitefish spawn in winter, providing free meals to trout and an opportunity for fly anglers. Brook trout on the Rapid River in Maine will sometimes enter very shallow water to suck down little sculpin eggs!

During spawning seasons, dead drift near the bottom with an indicator or tight line presentation. This is not a searching pattern but one which should be used when you see fish

cruising below egg layers or when you know they are there.



Egg Fly

Hook: Caddis, such as Tiemco 2457

Thread: To Match Yarn

Body: Glo Bug yarn.

Weight the fly under the yarn or with eyes. You can even try a bead and color it which makes the fly about

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Narragansett Chapter meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month-September through May at the Greek Orthodox Annunciation Church, Oaklawn Ave. (Rte 5), Cranston, RI. Meetings start at 7:00 PM.

**OUR NEXT MEETING
WILL BE ON November 29th**



A small stream crossing in NW Rhode Island

