



The Long Cast



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
NARRAGANSETT CHAPTER/TROUT UNLIMITED

OCTOBER 2007 VOL. 27 #2

Presidents Message

I want to take this opportunity to thank **Rachel Calabro** from the Massachusetts Riverways Program for her presentation on the Massachusetts stream continuity project. This is just like the project that we have been doing here for the past two years and that we plan to continue doing for some time to come. Some of the photos used in her presentation were of our own work on the Queens done this summer.

We float stocked the Wood River on September 15th, as planned, with some very strong and healthy rainbow trout. When you hook one you will see just how strong they are. If they are not all taken out I think a good number of these fish will winter over because of their smaller size which is right for the river. Now all we need is some rain so they can spread out. We could have some good winter fishing this year.

On September 29th we had our third highway clean up of the year. There were only eight volunteers. I hope we can get more members to join us on December 29th. Remember: this

helps cut down on the trash that gets in the river and the river needs all the help we can give it. *There is a list of our volunteers on page 3.*

I am still working with the D.E.M trying to line up several projects.

Lawson Cary

DEM Fly Tying Classes

The state DEM is offering their annual fly tying classes on nine consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning October 16, 2007 and ending December 11, 2007. Both beginner and intermediate fly tiers are welcome. For more information, please contact Kimberly Sullivan at (401) 789-0281 or kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov Classes are held at the North Kingstown Community Center off of route 1A.

Fee: \$7.00/person for each class or pre-register \$56.00 for all nine (9) classes. Spaces are limited, and pre-registration is preferred.

Lawson Article On RI 'Regs' in the WPWA Newsletter

The Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Associations, summer newsletter featured an article by Lawson Cary on our goal of improving the fishing regulations in order to protect the native wild brook trout. Already we have obtained significant cooperation from the Fish and Wildlife Division with regard to stocking practices. Slowly but surely we hope to make the Wood River a more "realistic" fishery.

You can read Lawson's article on line at:

www.wpwa.org/Newsletter/Summer_2007.pdf



I'll have a ginger quill, extra dry.

Walking the Wood

Most of us are familiar with the trails that parallel the river we love to fish. Though some of us can find our way in the dark and hike great distances from memory, others (like yours truly) rely on the terrain to guide us. But we can get confused by forks and seeming dead ends. A good hiking map would be very useful!

At one point, hiking downstream from the popular "Pines" fishing area, the trail peters out and you have to cross the river to continue hiking downstream. This is a walk for those who know where they are going!

Someone ought to draw a trail map and name the famous "pools" along it. Newcomers would be better able to carry on the walking and fishing traditions that are second nature to the wily old veterans. I offer this as a challenge to those of you who know our river well.

One of my favorite walks is along the Falls River and I first took it before I ever held a rod. This is the Ben Utter Trail which can be accessed at Stepping Stone Falls off of Falls River Road.

This is a beautiful section of the river, which incidentally is home to nice native wild brookies. The Ben Utter Trail is named after George Benjamin Utter who was the son of a governor of RI (George Utter, Sr. was governor in 1905-06.) Ben became the editor of a newspaper,

the Westerly Sun, that his father founded and he was an original developer of the Appalachian Mountain Club's trail network in South County, Rhode Island. The AMC dedicated the Ben Utter Trail to him. Utter also helped to organize Rhode Island Camps, Inc. (Beach Pond Camps) for underprivileged children.

The Ben Utter Trail is within the Arcadia Park. Just north of the Stepping Stone Falls trail-head the Falls River gurgles through some private property which, unfortunately, was out of the reach of those who would have liked to see this land annexed to the Park.

The Nature Conservancy did manage to remove some nearby land from development in this area. This is a 56 acre parcel adjacent to the Alton Jones preserve. If you go past the West Greenwich Town Hall on route 102 North and turn left onto Plain Meeting House Road and travel about 3.5 miles and then turn left on Plain Road you can park across the street from a dirt driveway at #340 Plain Road. This drive is New Road and it is the access to the Nature Conservancy property.

The protected property of Alton Jones, the Nature Conservancy and Arcadia Park do much to protect the headwaters of our wonderful Wood River.

The delicate Falls and Wood Rivers run cold even when low, and have the potential to be

managed at least partially wild, in balance between its history as home to wild sea run brook trout and a proper stocking program. (The brook trout were salters before dams and other development downstream revised their behavior after the dams and building that began in the eighteenth century.)

You get a better feel for all this by walking and/or paddling the river, and a good place to start is up at old Ben Utter Trail.

And a good place to continue would be with a fly rod all the way down to what veterans fondly call "Grassy Banks" where the river forbids much more walking downstream.

Below Grassy Banks you can paddle through sometimes thick overhanging brush and you will come to riverside homes and cabins, Frying Pan Pond and then the Barberville Dam.

Consider paddling and walking and learn how the river works and plays. Bring your kids and grandkids.

And while we are on the subject, suggest that they learn to fly fish and become members of our TU Chapter. We recently saw a young prospective member give us a look-see (at our September meeting.) Her presence lowered the average age in the hall by about two years! Help us avoid becoming more of a clinic than a club and bring in some youth!

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October Presentation

Frank Plona is an officer of the Farmington Valley Chapter of TU in Connecticut. Frank has made many fishing trips to Nova Scotia and has a veteran's compilation of Atlantic Salmon fishing in the Province of Nova Scotia.

His presentation, accompanied by color slides, includes river recommendations, tips for novices and more advanced fishers and is a great "how to" for anyone thinking about chasing Atlantic Salmon.

Frank originally titled this presentation "Ten Days of Salmon fishing for \$400 !" The figure has inflated since the seasoned presenter first offered the show.

Ed Lombardo

This Month's Volunteers

Sept. 25th Float Stocking:

Lawson Cary
Jim Martish
Doug Nagle
Dan Beltrami
Al Truchon
Bob Walsh
Fred Eddins
Al Jaffa
Gordon Gruetzmacher
Al Rosati
Mike Lemoi
Bruce Read
Al Ball
Ernie Brewster

Sept. 29th Highway Cleanup:

Ray Togeman
Jay Boyer
Lawson Cary
Bruce Read
Jim Martish
Doug Nagle
Al Ball
Al Jaffa

FLY OF THE MONTH Basic Buzzer By Martin Joergensen

A Buzzer is an imitation of the pupa of a midge or chironomid - in other words a gnat in the state between a larva and the adult, flying insect. The fly should be tied very sparsely and slender and fished dead drift. They are fished at or below the surface. Buzzers are popular fall and winter flies when fish are hungry but food portions are tiny.

Recipe

Hook Nymph hook, size 12-22.
Thread Black 8/0
Rib Orange elastic "floss"
Rear body Tying thread
Thorax Peacock herl
Wingcase Pheasant tail fibers
Wing buds Orange elastic "floss"
Head Tying thread



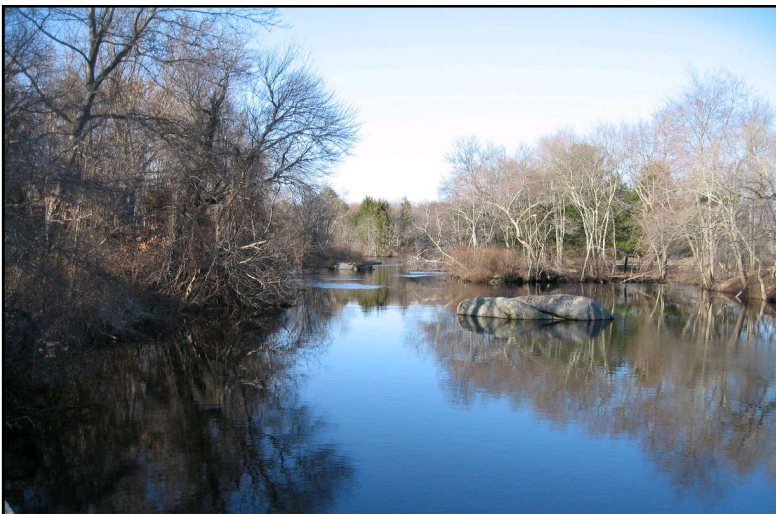
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Narragansett Chapter meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month-September through May at the Greek Orthodox Annunciation Church, Oaklawn Ave. (Rte 5), Cranston, RI. Meetings start at 7:00 PM.

**OUR NEXT MEETING
WILL BE ON October 31st**



The Wood River in Hopkinton

