



# The Long Cast



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
NARRAGANSETT CHAPTER/TROUT UNLIMITED

JANUARY 2010 (!) VOL. 29 # 4

## President's Message John McCall

**G**reetings,

First I would like to welcome all members old and new, to a new year of meetings and conservation projects on the Wood and other rivers in southern Rhode Island.

It was decided at the December E-board meeting that the chapter will convert to an electronic format for the Long Cast beginning with the March issue. *Those of you without internet access must submit the request form located elsewhere in this newsletter in order to continue to receive a hard copy in the mail.*

For those of you who missed the December meeting, there was a first rate slide show given by Ed Lombardo which focused on fly fishing in Montana. He finished with one of his patented visual and musical odes to the Wood River.

Also for those of you who enjoy the monthly raffles the chapter has acquired a supply of Lamson Konic fly reels to be used as raffle prizes at the monthly meetings. These reels have received very positive reviews in the fly fishing community.

In an effort to increase the communication possibilities to the members the chapter now has a "Facebook" page available. For those of you who are on Facebook just search on "Narragansett Chapter Trout Unlimited" and look under "pages." This area also includes a discussion forum where various topics can be posted. For those of you who use this, I would just ask that all exchanges be kept to a civil tone.

For those of you who can make the January meeting early I have asked Jay Boyer to give a presentation on the use of hand tied leaders as part of the planned "show and tell" meeting. I am sure all who can make it for this will find it informative and entertaining.



Finally I would like to thank all members who elected me to another term as president at the December meeting.

**John**

## Presentations And Other Events

Chapter member **Gary Boden** has done quite a piece of work in photographing, mapping and drawing the pools of the upper Wood River. It is a thorough and artistic piece of work. Some of us are familiar with all the pool names, many of us are not. I have asked our webmaster, Dick Pearce to post the "pdf file" on to the Chapter's site and it is now up as a link. Just go to our home page, [www.tu225.org](http://www.tu225.org) and look for the "Wood River Pools" link. When you click it on you will be taken to another link to this beautiful "booklet." If you are one of the veterans who can supply names for the numbered sites, please do so and we will apply them where the pools are now numbered. This should turn out to be important reference material for current and future fly fishers on the Wood. Please look for the file on our site web page. If you know the pool names please email me at [swim@mtmfg.com](mailto:swim@mtmfg.com) with those names.



December's presentation was by **Ed Lombardo** and featured his annual idyllic fishing trip in Montana with his most recent accompanying fishermen. The wrap up was a musical/visual piece featuring some friends and some friendly waters.

**The Annual Banquet and Auction** will be 7PM (a Saturday) March 27. **Dave Porreca** is serving as the banquet chair person. Please start thinking about coming, contributing to our auction and to inviting guests. Make note of the date and also the venue: The Elks Lodge in Coventry. Tickets will soon be available (\$25.) Historically our annual banquet is the chapter's principal fund raiser. Please be aggressive about getting tickets for yourself, friends and kin. More on this as we draw closer.

**T**o follow up on John's Facebook announcement: to sign up, just go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). There you will see a form on your screen. When you are done filling out the form click on the green "sign up" button. If you are a little paranoid about being located by someone from your past (who searches Facebook names) then use a pseudonym. All you really need is an email address and, of course, internet access, to participate. Note that other users of Facebook who share the TU "friend" will have access to your own posts and to those who post to your Facebook page.





**The Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association**, along with the **Nature Conservancy** is meeting with federal officials to secure the “Wild and Scenic River” designation for our Wood River. The law which created the designation was a response to the over-building of dams and has as its main purpose the preservation of designated rivers as ‘free flowing.’ The process is not instantaneous, but once the designation is secured there will be required ‘environmentally friendly’ methods in river management. For example, erosion control will be via organic materials (such as our Chapter managed recently) rather than ‘rip rap’ construction. Wild and Scenic designation provides a nexus for the river managing agency’s involvement when water develop-

ment projects or restoration projects are proposed, to ensure that the health of the river is ultimately protected.

At our January meeting the “presentation” will be a “show and tell” sharing of the arts and crafts of fishing among our members. **Jay Boyer** will be hosting a table at which he will demonstrate and talk about hand tied leaders. We hope to have a few more folks pitch in as tyers or demonstrators of their own skills. At press time this is being organized.

**Fly of the Month**  
**Black Quill**  
**Tied by Alice Conba**

- Hook:** Dry #14
- Thread:** Black
- Tail:** Three strands of black cock hackle
- Body:** Well marked stripped peacock quill
- Wing:** Grey duck quill strip
- Hackle:** Whiting hen hackle



*Note: Recent flies have been taken (with his permission) from Hans Weilenmann’s web site:  
<http://www.danica.com/flytier/index.html>*

## On The Wood



Now that we are all hibernating, we are dreaming of spring. At around opening day when you start traipsing around the river, you may come upon bunches of 'wild buttercups' which are lovely delicate white flowers that poke through the moist soil, usually at the base of a hardwood tree. These are *anemones*, the name taken from the Greek word for wind, possibly because the flowers sway in the spring breezes. Admire, but don't pick. As with trout, leave them free to live their lives.

Among the earlier insects we will see attracting trout are the 'black quills.' The name for this fly refers to the biot quill or hackle stem often used for the body. You can get biots and stripped quills in various colors at one of the shops that carry tying paraphernalia, like River and Riptide Anglers in Coventry. (*We urge our members to patronize local fly shops, especially those operated by active and supporting Chapter members. River and Riptide is owned and operated by Dave Porreca who chairs our committee on stocking, regulations and habitat.*)



The picture is of our 'fly of the month' and is of a hackle stem body quill dun. The recipe is at the 'fly of the month' section. Black quills are *Leptophlebia cupida*. This is a name worth remembering as insects only answer to their Latin names. No bug will come to you if you call it by its common fishing name!



The black quill emergence is a chance to do well. Duns float for some time before they take off, making them vulnerable and attractive to the trout. We have a lot of these guys in our Wood River because the accumulated leaf debris and rotted vegetation is their preferred underwater home. And they like stagnant or slow flowing water. We'll see them again in April and May. Make sure your fly box has imitations for the nymphs, the duns and the spinners.

Nymph quills will gather in shallow water and migrate upstream a mile or even more in order to compensate for the drifting that had carried them downstream. They will become active an hour or more prior to emergence, swimming up and down before finally plopping on to the surface. The emergence and prior to emergence periods present great fishing opportunities.

*"If winter comes can spring be far behind?"* Percy Bysshe Shelley

## Environment/Regulations Committee

The Regulations and Environment Committee met at River and Riptide Anglers Fly Shop in Coventry on Wednesday night December 16th.

There was a discussion of the recent bank restoration along the river at High Banks. The accompanying picture shows a section of the bank now augmented with saplings tied down in order to reverse the deterioration of the banks in that area. In addition seedlings were planted. Thirty five volunteers from our Chapter participated in this ambitious project. It is expected that the serious erosion in this area will be arrested and reversed when the augmentation adheres and gets incorporated as a base for bank solidification.



With the 'High Banks' restoration project so well performed we will interact with the forestry head, Jay Aron concerning future projects.

There was a discussion of a survey done along a significant length of the stream by the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association Director along with noted biologist Saul Salla. A sad and telling conclusion was that there is significant bank and stream bed deterioration spread over the river. It is largely a consequence of over use of the paths along the river and concentrated wading in certain areas.

Dave Porreca and Brian O'Connor will draft the proposed regulation change limiting taken fish to two in water above Route 165 after mid May. The "fishing out" of the beautiful waters from 165 up to the wooden bridge is a sign of excessive permissiveness in current regulations.

This committee is doing important work which Dave summarizes in his presentations at each general meeting. Please attend and participate. Our Chapter is engaged in important environmental and regulations proposal efforts to improve and perpetuate the fishing and the beauty of our Wood River.

Members interested in participating in future projects would be welcome. Please provide contact information to Dave Porreca at [info@riverandriptide.com](mailto:info@riverandriptide.com) or contact Dave at his Fly Shop at 2435 Nooseneck Hill Road (rt 3) in Coventry.

**A**t our November meeting we passed a resolution making ‘The Long Cast’ an electronic publication beginning in March. The print version will be available to those of our members who specifically request that a copy be mailed to him or her. This will result in a significant saving to us of paying to mail the Long Cast to all of our almost 400 members.

*Attached here is a form that you must fill out requesting that you remain a recipient of the printed version of the Long Cast.*

The Long Cast is available on line. Just go to [www.tu225.org](http://www.tu225.org) and select the link to the Long Cast.

**John McCall**

**Trout Unlimited  
Narragansett Chapter # 225**

**Long Cast Hard Copy Request**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZipCode: \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring this form to the December meeting or bring  
or mail to River and Riptide Anglers in Coventry  
(2435 Nooseneck Hill Road, Coventry, RI 02816 )

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***Narragansett Chapter meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month-September through May at the Regan Building of the Eleanor Slater Hospital in Cranston, RI.***

***Formal meeting starts at 7:00 PM.  
Tying, Socializing etc. starts at 6:00 PM***

**OUR NEXT MEETING  
WILL BE ON  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT JANUARY 27TH**

**Our Meeting Hall  
is the Regan Building  
of the Eleanor Slater Hospital  
Cranston, RI**

**From north**

Take I-95 S toward Warwick.  
Merge onto RI-37 W via EXIT 14B toward RT-2 / CRANSTON.  
Take the PONTIAC AVE. exit- EXIT 3- toward JOHN O. PASTORE CENTER.

Turn SLIGHT LEFT to take the ramp toward MEDICAL CENTER.

Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto PONTIAC AVE.

Turn RIGHT onto HOWARD AVE at the light. See note below.

**From south**

Take I-95 N toward Providence.

Merge onto I-295 N via EXIT 11 on the LEFT toward WOONSOCKET.

Take EXIT 2 toward WARWICK MALL.

Merge onto RI-2 N.

Turn RIGHT onto HOWARD AVE at the light.

**Look for sign on the right for Eleanor Slater Hospital.**

**Take a right into the parking lot. See note below.**

**The main entrance to the Slater Hospital directly faces you.**

**The entrance is marked Regan building.**

**The Arnold Conference Center is on the right side of the building.**

**TURN INTO DRIVEWAY NEAR WATER TOWER**

**Tieing With Biots and Quills**

**G**oose biots have been favored among most tiers, but turkey biots are often preferred. The turkey biots come a little longer for larger flies where goose is sometimes too short. The two differ in stiffness, with the goose being denser and the turkey a little softer. The longer length and softer bodies may make turkey biots easier to work with. Turkey biots come in a variety of colors and the resulting bodies are bright and translucent.

There is a synthetic quill product made by "D's Flies." These come in many colors and are easy to tie with once they are softened with soaking.

When tying with biots and quills you get nicely segmented bodies.

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