



The Long Cast



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
NARRAGANSETT CHAPTER/TROUT UNLIMITED

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The Next Meeting Is the First Streamside Meeting

**There will be a cookout following a
short business meeting.**

At:

The Check Station off of Route 165

Wednesday 5:30 May 26th

As John mentioned at our last meeting, the banquet was very successful and netted the Chapter well over \$6 thousand. We now have \$18 thousand in cash assets.

On May 8th there will be a 'Kids' Fishing Day' at Silver Spring. This is from 9 to 12 and we can use volunteers. Please notify us if you can come and help out.

The RI DEM maintains a listing of its events and hearings here:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/events/index.htm>

There should soon be listed early May workshops. Ed Lombardo proposed that we introduce restrictions on brook trout removal within the Arcadia system. This proposal was unanimously approved and we hope to see additional protection instituted.

Jim deWaele is forming a new Environment Committee. It will exclude regulations issues. Please contact Jim if you wish to be on it.

For your convenience we will post the link to the 'Catch and Release' Blog. It is still not back up on the site:

<http://ricatchandrelease.wordpress.com/>

Gary Boden's outstanding work on mapping the Wood River can be seen at

<http://www.tu225.org/pdf/majorpoolsoftheupperwoodr.pdf>



Uh oh. Forgot my rod.

The Providence Journal

Editorial, March 22

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Fish and Wildlife division stocks some 85 streams with trout, making the Ocean State one of the biggest little unsung fishing meccas in the Lower 48. It releases thousands of hatchery-raised fish for opening day, April 15, all over the state (so you can go fishing after you file your income taxes), and in the summer and fall at well-visited fishing spots, such as the Wood River and its tributaries in western Washington County.

Angling for trout is an art, of course, and even though trout is delicious (fried camp-style with bacon or in more elaborate French preparations), many anglers (and certainly many spouses of anglers) are not interested in its culinary attributes. They fish for the pure joy of it, because it is a rite of spring or summer, because trout streams tend to be clean and beautiful and because the wily salmo (the genus that includes trout and salmon) is a worthy test of fishing skill. You seek to cast the fly so that it touches the water just so, and the line lies exactly as it should, and doesn't get tangled in overhanging trees.

For trout-fishing purists, the five-fish-per-day catch limit is simply crude. They practice catch-and-release fishing — a.k.a. “green fishing” — leaving the fish to be caught again another day. Not only is this easier on the fish, it's easier on Rhode Island, which, according to the Fish and Wildlife division, invests some \$10 to \$14 in each hatchery-raised trout. Indeed, such economics might argue for radically reconsidering the cost of a fishing license (\$18, plus \$5.50 for a trout stamp) in Rhode Island.

The Ocean State has only one catch-and-release fishing site; the Falls River, in the Arcadia Wildlife Management area, in Exeter. New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut have designated numerous sites as catch and release, and it is becoming recognized nationally as a strong incentive for increased recreational fishing.

Fish and Wildlife has long done an admirable — and insufficiently recognized — job in promoting a healthy freshwater fishery in Rhode Island. By more actively embracing catch-and-release fishing, Rhode Islanders could make its job easier.

*....and a “comment on it in the Providence Journal web site
from our Chapter President, John McCall*

First let me say speaking as the president of the Narr chapter of TU I am surprised that the Journal would publish it without attempting to contact us. Some facts after May 15th the limit on the Wood River goes to 2 fish per day which greatly reduces the number of fish being kept, in effect creating a virtual catch and release fishery as those who wish to keep fish go elsewhere. I also do not believe we have the right to keep the majority of fishermen from enjoying the major trout stream of any quality in the state, for no other reason than the sensibilities of a minority are offended. Finally I should also mention that the Falls River area was created strictly to protect a population of wild brook trout, which has greatly expanded into the Wood River proper.

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Narragansett Chapter
TROUT UNLIMITED
418 Pond Street
Wakefield, RI 02879

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The Falls River