



# THE BACKCAST

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Trout Unlimited, SE Mass Chapter 241

April, 2008

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at the Mitchell Memorial Club in Middleboro. Doors open at 6:00 for fly tying. General meeting begins at 7:30. As always, admission is free.

The April Meeting features the entertaining and informative speaker Marla Isaac.

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**April 8, 2008 – 7:30 PM**

*Speaker:* **Marla Isaac**

*Topic:* **A wildlife handler will bring live birds of prey to a free public lecture.**

Master falconer Marla Isaac of Taunton will exhibit several live raptors including a Merlin falcon and a Texas Harris Hawk, as part of her “Birds of Prey” talk. The Event begins at 7:30 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. Using a slide show, feathers, bones, anatomical illustrations and the birds themselves, Ms Isaac will explain the history of raptors and how they survive in increasingly fragile habitats. One of the few handlers licensed to fly raptors in Massachusetts, Ms Isaac has more than 20 years experience. She is known throughout eastern Massachusetts as a natural history expert on reptiles and birds of prey.

***Bio – For Marla Isaac***

Marla has been handling Reptiles and Raptors for over 20 years. She provides lectures, programs and educational exhibits. Her company Reptile & Raptor Exhibit, Inc. not only handles Raptors, but also venomous snakes and other dangerous reptiles. Their high standards include being licensed by both federal and state wildlife.

Marla is a great friend. She not only surrounds herself with organizations like Trout Unlimited; but also, with T-Rex the Monitor Lizard, Wally the gator and Sunshine the python. Though our presentation is on Birds of Prey; the skills and knowledge of wildlife and the outdoors, Marla has are truly impressive and come out in her presentation.

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***Eel River dates and other news***

Peter Motyka

On our given third Saturday of each month, Barry Guaraldi, Wayne Perry and Charlie Fortier lend their expertise to the observations. They are a fine bunch of guys indeed. We welcome you to stop by and see what we do. For any of you who have not been to the upper bogs, just doing so will give you an idea of how much land is going to be restored. We hope to see you there. Bring your waders if you'd like and dress accordingly.

**The dates are as follows:** April 19th at 8:30 A.M. We will keep the 8:30 start time throughout the summer and fall months

## **Southeastern, MA Chapter Fly Casting School <(\*)>> <**

**★ ★ ★ ★ ★ School is back in session: Abington High School ★ ★ ★ ★ ★**

***Bob Veracka Memorial Fly Casting & Fishing - Free Introductory Course April 2, 9, 16 & 23***

Free fly casting and fishing classes. Learn the basics of fly casting. Learn fish habitats, what they eat and how to fish for them. All of the equipment that you need is provided, along with; handouts and instructions for fly casting and fishing. If you have your own rod, bring it along. This is a perfect time to hone upon your skills and prepare for one of the most exciting spring fishing seasons. Nothing beats catching a fish on a fly.

**– WE LOOK FORWARD TO TEACHING YOU !!!!**

### **Directions to Abington High School**

#### **From Route 3 - South**

Traveling south on Route 3 (towards Plymouth/Cape Cod), take Exit 16B to Rte. 18 south (the Weymouth Exit). At end of ramp, bear right onto Rte. 18 south. Stay on Rte. 18 thru South Weymouth and into Abington. At the set of lights with Old Town Real Estate (on right) and Seoane Landscape Contractors (on left) take a right onto Gliniewicz Way. Abington High School is on your right.

#### **From Route 3 - North**

Traveling north on Route 3 (towards Boston), take Exit 16B to Rte. 18 south (the Weymouth Exit). At end of ramp, turn left onto Rte. 18 south. Stay on Rte. 18 thru South Weymouth and into Abington. At the set of lights with Old Town Real Estate (on right) and Seoane Landscape Contractors (on left) take a ) take a right onto Gliniewicz Way. Abington High School is on your right.

#### **From Route 18**

Traveling north on Rte. 18, at the set of lights with Miracle East Restaurant (on right) take a left onto Gliniewicz Way. Abington High School is on your right.

## **RED BROOK JOURNAL**

Warren Winders

### **February 15, 2008 – Birth Announcement**

Steve Angers called from Red Brook to tell me that the fry were out of the redds.

It was 14 degrees and Steve was pulling our old temperature loggers out of the brook. After 10 years of recording temps from 5 locations every 15 minutes of every day, the time to replace them had finally come. Onsett Computer was making some changes. The old loggers had become obsolete.

Meanwhile, Steve sounded pretty excited. There were fry just above the cement flumes where, along with John Kokozka, we had watched a big female salter sweep out a series of redds in early November.

On that gray Nov. morning, several smaller males were fighting for the privilege to be with “Big Momma”. They were chasing each other around the pool. Then one would dart in, flip on his side and leave milt on the redd. The old girl would back in, cover the eggs and then move up to clear some more gravel for more eggs. After half an hour of piscatorial voyeurism, we had to leave to get some work done. The hen and her entourage were still at it when we gave them a ‘thumbs up’ and slipped away.

The first big event of the year at Red Brook is the appearance of the fry. And, even though (having watched Momma and her suitors) we know that the fry are not spontaneous generation, their arrival seems a miracle. After all, it is still mid-February. It is still hard, nasty, cold winter, and by now it has gotten pretty old. Only the springs warming the brook keep these little larvae sized critters from freezing solid. What are these fish thinking?

Of course, they’re not thinking, nothing ‘thinks’ about being born. That is one of the experiences that we share with salters.

**RED BROOK JOURNAL** (continued)

Life is much more than thought, that puny device that humans put so much stock in. There are philosophers who maintain that the opposite is true, that existence depends on thought. This is delusional thinking, a product of spending way too much time indoors.

*“Monsieur Descartes, with all due respect, I’m not going to tell the leech sucking blood out of my leg that he doesn’t exist if I don’t happen to notice him.”* Anonymous French fly fisherman

So, it is February and the brook trout fry have arrived. Somehow they have forced their way out through the plume of sand that buried the redd shortly after the spawn, and they don’t care what we think, as long as we don’t think of them as lunch. And another seemingly thoughtless arrival is taking place; the little black stone flies are hatching. Once again, we might ask why in February, but that would be pointless. They hatch at the same time every year with no regard for what we might think. Perhaps it’s better to skip the logic and chalk up these events at Red Brook, in the cold heart of winter, as miracles.

I know that Henry Lyman and Charles Lyman reveled in those miracles and all of the other seasonal miracles of Red Brook. In a very real sense, they were nurtured by this seemingly insignificant stream as much as are the brook trout, the herring and the osprey. How else does one explain why these men, who had access to the world’s best fishing, found their contentment at such a small stream? If it defies logic, well, that’s life.

The awe that Steve was feeling was apparent in his voice when he called to tell me about the fry, just as it was several years back when he called to tell me that the salters were breaking down at the Road Pool. It was late May and the trout had just come in from spending the winter in the bay.

That’s why we work to restore Red Brook. And that is why Fran Smith and the Quashnet crew work so hard to restore their stream, and why there are many of us who would restore all of the streams and rivers, if we could. It’s not about logic; it’s about passing along the gift of miracles.

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**Casting for Recovery Event**  
**Gus Canty Center, Falmouth, MA**

George Costello  
**March 15, 2008**

I have never seen a larger, more enthusiastic group of instructors, than I did on the weekend of March 15, 2008. Brenda Sears and Linda Falstein were there from Casting for Recovery. Mark Hattmann, Howie Strathie, George Heimerdinger and Steve Donaldson came from Trout Unlimited Cape Cod. Tom Magee, Jim Clinton, Peter Motyka, Joe Verlicco, Cal Lane and Cindy Lane were there from Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Mitch Buck and Bruce Meyer were there from the Falmouth Fishermen’s Association. It was great Peter Motyka came from the Eel River project and Bruce Meyer came from clearing the Trunk River Herring Run just to help out.

Joe Verlicco had kids fly casting in a matter of about twenty minutes. His patience with the kids really shows, as they adjust to fly casting with what looks like very little effort. Howie Strathie has given me some great pointers on how to write a successful news letter. It was nice to spend some time going over what works and where to focus on the job of writing. Mark Hattman is a great friend also; he introduced me to members of the Cape Cod Chapter and invited our club to their banquet.

All of the kids learned a lot that day. Winners from the Boys group were, as follows: 1st Place Nick Harrington, 2nd Place Robert Sears, 3rd Place Anthony DiGiantommaso. Winners from the Girls Group were as follows: 1st Place Monica Costello, 2nd Place Riley Devlin and 3rd Place Renee Lane.

I saved the best for last. Renee Lane was the youngest in the group. Cal and Cindy were not sure whether Renee would be able to grasp the techniques used in fly tying, but Renee was insistent that she wanted to try. Well, try as she did; Renee did an outstanding job. To see Renee standing next to two teenage girls with a smile from ear to ear was a great closing to a really fun day.





**TU Southeastern Mass. Chapter fishing adventure's, care of Cal Lane**

They are all saltwater trips.

5/22 Chatham, we will fish South Beach

5/28 Sandwich , this will be a float trip down Scorton Creek

6/22 Chatham, fish South Beach or North Monomoy

6/27 Sandwich, another float trip down Scorton

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We will meet at the Wild Life Refuge on Morris Island at 7:00 a.m. and take the taxi across to the beach for the Chatham trips. The Scorton float trips, we will meet on Jones Lane in Sandwich at 5:00 a.m. Canoe's and kayaks would be the best way to enjoy this trip. Any question please give Cal a call @ (508) 378-2204

**Guaranteed Great Time and One of the Biggest Fishing Expeditions of the Season!!!**

Saturday, May 31st, there will be a one fly fishing tournament. This is a fund raiser for CASTING FOR RECOVERY. There will be either fishing from shore or by kayak on the Sacred Heart property in Wareham. Cost is only \$25.00 which includes a cookout that afternoon. There will also be a silent auction after the cookout to help raise money for the upcoming retreat. All money will go to the CFR, Wareham retreat. Lets all try to get together for what is sure to be a fun filled day for a worthy cause.

**Upcoming Monthly Events**

Red Brook work day is on the first Saturday of every month, rain or shine. We meet in the Lyman Reserve parking lot. Stream readings usually start at 9:00 A.M. Arrive early and wet a line. Check the railroad bridge tide chart. The dates are:

**April 5** High Tide 3:21 AM

**May 3** High Tide 2:02 AM

**June 7** High Tide 6:44 AM

**July 5** High Tide 5:38 AM

**Directions:** From Route 25, get off at exit 1 (to Buzzards Bay, Bourne) just north of the Bourne Bridge on the Cape Cod Canal. Bear right off ramp and take an immediate right onto Head of the Bay Road. Follow for approximately three miles around the eastern and northern shores of Buttermilk Bay. Parking lot entrance is about 250 feet beyond Packard Street on right.

Call Warren Winders for more news.

In order to relieve angling pressure on the salters in Red Brook during their fall spawning season, we request that you give them a break starting in mid October throughout the winter. Thank you for your cooperation.

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**Eel River work day** is on the third Saturday of every month, rain or shine. We meet Stream readings usually start at 9:00 A.M. Check the Plymouth tide chart.

**April 19** High Tide 11:41 AM

**May 17** High Tide 10:32 AM

**June 21** High Tide 1:31 AM

**July 19** High Tide 12:28 AM

**Directions:** We park in the Nature Conservancy property at 204 Long Pond Road, 02360 if you'd care to get directions online.

**From Route 3 south:** Get off at exit 5. Bear right at the bottom of the ramp onto Long Pond road. You will travel 1.8 miles. After you pass Boot Pond road on the right, you will cross over the stream. The Nature Conservancy driveway is on the left.

**From Route 3 north:** Get off at exit 3. Take a left at the end of the ramp and go over the highway. At the stop sign, take a right onto Long Pond road. Drive 3.7 miles from that intersection. The entrance is on you right just before you cross the stream.

For more information call Eel River Liaison Peter Motyka

**Quashnet area High Tides**

**April 20** High Tide 1:15 AM

**June 15** High Tide 11:12 AM

**May 18** High Tide -- AM

**July 20** High Tide 2:18 AM

For Quashnet Workday information Call Bob Nickerson. Cape Cod Chapter meets at the Martin Road gate, off Route 28 Falmouth- Call Bob Nickerson for info: 508-428-8320

GENERAL MEETING DATES AND SPEAKERS: The meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 6:00 PM for fly tying. Bring your mattarelli, deer hair, thread and hackle and tie a few.

**Up Coming Events:**

Fly Casting Classes - April 2, 9, 16, 23

Massachusetts Rhode Island Council meeting at Indian Hollow

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Your Directors are ...

\* Are also Council Delegates

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**Chapter Shirts, T-Shirts and Hats Available**

We have button down shirts with our embroidered logo, t-shirts with Jay Mulcahy's sketch of a brook trout and hats for sale in various sizes. *Prices are as follows:*

Button down shirts.....\$40.00

T-shirts .....\$10.00

Hats .....\$10.00

*See Nancy Dube at the general meeting.*

Thanks go out to Printing Unlimited in Holbrook for the fine job they do on our newsletter. Thank you.

Thanks to the following businesses for distributing the Backcast to the general public.

**Red Top Sporting Goods**, Buzzards Bay 508-759-3371

**Rod Builders Workshop**, Kingston 781-582-1015

**Bear's Den Fly Fishing Company**, Taunton 508-977-0700

**Fisherman's Outfitter** on Union St., Plymouth 508-747-7440

