



# THE BACKCAST

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Trout Unlimited, SE Mass Chapter 241

May, 2008

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 13, 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.

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**May 13, 2008 – 7:30 PM**

*Speaker:* **Warren Winders**

*Topic:* **Redbrook – Then and Now**

Warren Winders will walk the group through a journey that has taken in excess of twenty years. Red Brook has evolved from a brook a dream to one of the prototypes for Eastern Massachusetts restorations.

## ***Bio – Warren Winders***

The New England Outdoor Writers Association has selected Warren Winders to receive the Joe Yerka Sportsman of the Year Award in recognition of his contributions to Red Brook and other conservation causes.

Joe Yerka was the co-creator of one of the most popular fishing lures in North America, the Mooselook Wobler. He was also a strong supporter of NEOWA and epitomized the ideal relationship between the outdoor media and product manufacturers.

Nominees for the Joe Yerka Award are individuals, acting on their own or representing an organization, who have done outstanding work in the conservation, wildlife or environmental fields, and for effort above and beyond the person's or organization's responsibility.

The selection committee was impressed with Warren's accomplishments and unanimously selected him for the award. The following is a small portion of the documentation material submitted with his nomination.

Warren Winders is an avid fisherman, hunter, conservationist and a longtime member of the Southeast Chapter of Trout Unlimited who has donated thousands of hours to clean-water conservation projects.

He started doing volunteer work at Red Brook in 1990 and became the Red Brook projects director for the Massachusetts/Rhode Island Council of Trout Unlimited in 1993, a position he still holds today.

Besides heading up Red Brook work days, conducting tours of the property and lecturing about conservation projects, Warren organizes a yearly Red Brook fund-raiser. He has also written several articles about Red Brook including a recent magazine feature for "On the Water." Read his "Red Brook Journals" here.

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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:** May 17th at 8:30 A.M. We will keep the 8:30 start time throughout the summer and fall months

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 Conservation Project News

Last fall SEMA TU members assisted MassWildlife fisheries biologist, Steve Hurley in placing 80 PIT tags in Red Brook trout. The PIT tags are about the size of a grain of rice and reflect information back to an electronic recording device in the same fashion that an Easy Pass works at the toll booth. The tag will remain with the tagged fish until it dies. The size of the trout, along with the location of the trout's capture was recorded as each trout was tagged. Just as cars do for Easy Pass on the Turnpike, each trout will have its own number or signal and the tagging data will be part of the trout's information base.

The immediate problem that we were faced with was that we had no means of picking up signals from any of the 80 tags that had been implanted. While permanent recording stations had been placed on the Quashnet River and the Mashpee River (also salter streams) by Brendan Annett of WBNERR (Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Reserve) and Francis Smith of CCTU, the Red Brook partners did not have the \$10,000 needed to set up a similar station.

On the Quashnet and Mashpee Rivers, the stations were set up to record the movements of brook trout to and from saltwater, and on the Quashnet in November (after the spawn?) over thirty trout were recorded passing through the station, over a period of a few hours, presumably in a downstream migration to Waquoit Bay.

The solution for us was to buy a wand, a portable tracking device that while not cheap at \$4600, will, because it is portable, provide us with information about the movements of tagged trout that have remained in Red Brook over the winter. We can also use it to, hopefully, record the return migration of tagged brook trout to Red Brook in the spring, and to monitor their whereabouts in the brook during the summer and right up until the spawn in November. The other advantage of the wand is that it can be used on streams other than Red Brook. For these reasons, the MA/RI Council decided to fund the purchase of the wand from the Council's Red Brook Fund. TU chapters were invited to defray the expense of the wand by donating back into the Red Brook Fund, with the understanding that they would, at some point, be able to use the wand for their own projects. In the mean time, the Red Brook partners are looking for the funding needed for a permanent tracking station for Red Brook. Obviously, the wand serves a different purpose than the permanent device, and information from both is needed if we are to understand the anadromous migrations of our salter brook trout. Although, if someone were willing to sit at the head of tide 24/7 for weeks at a time with the wand.... ?

So far, the Cape Cod Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the Greater Boston Chapter of TU have made large donations toward the purchase of the wand, each donating well over \$1000, and we are expecting other chapters to step forward with donations as well.

Over my years of involvement with the MA/RI Council of TU, several folks have questioned me about the role of the Council and how it affects the work of individual TU Chapters. It is not always an easy thing to explain, but this inter chapter cooperation to purchase a PIT tagging wand is a perfect case in point. We can all be proud of the work that we've done as TU members. And thanks to the member chapters of the MA/RI Council of TU, salter brook trout have gone from being a largely forgotten fishery, to a native trout on the verge of making a significant return to some of its historic habitat.



## One Fly Tournament

**Nils Christesen; [www.cfrmr.org](http://www.cfrmr.org)**

Announcing the

Cape Cod Canal One-Fly Striper Tournament May 31, 2008

**F U N D R A I S E R**

**All proceeds to benefit Casting for Recovery - Wareham Retreat – 2008**

This is a fly fishing tournament that you can wade or use your kayak. Because of bluefish there will be 5 flies of the same pattern per angler. There will be several patterns to choose from before you go out on the water in your kayak or wading the shores.



*Indian Hollow, continued*

large rental tent is erected in the center of the campground and the Council caters a free Saturday lunch. Marc Hoehstetter, one of our very active members provides the material and builds a huge and I do mean huge bonfire for the Saturday night entertainment.

The nights are usually cool so bring a jacket for the evening campfire. The river is heavily stocked with good size trout for this event.

Mike Shepard once took a nice Rainbow trout pushing 5 lbs. The following year Dwayne Anderson did the same thing. This is a catch and release river. Other nearby streams are not.

At a large upstream pool you'll often see beaver in the early evening. Gene Chague watched a moose cross the river one year. Paul Ouellette saw a huge salmon leap in the air below the Rainbow Pool. Bring a few pieces of fire wood if you can. Free fire wood is scarce. The campground has men and women's toilet facilities. Also hot showers.

This is a fine chance to commune with nature and your fellow TU members.

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**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

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

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Keith Lincoln just sent me an email in regards to his operation out to South Beach and North Monomoy. The cost for the trip is \$20.00 this year. He will be starting his taxi service on May 16th. Our first chapter fishing trip to Chatham is set for Thursday, May 22nd. If anyone is interested on going please let me know so I can notify Keith on how many he can expect on coming down.

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***One Million Dollars Awarded for Plymouth 's Eel River Restoration Project***  
**Massachusetts Department of Coastal Zone Management**

WRP and the Town of Plymouth have received a \$1 million USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant to help the Town of Plymouth restore degraded aquatic habitats within the town-owned Eel River Headwaters conservation area. "The Fish and Wildlife Service is extremely excited to be working with the Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program, the Town of Plymouth, and other conservation partners on this groundbreaking restoration and habitat protection effort. These organizations have a very successful track record in completing challenging projects, and this grant will result in the restoration of important and rare natural coastal communities for fish and wildlife," said Wendi Weber, Deputy Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Eel River, *continued***

Combined with other partner funding, this US Fish and Wildlife Service grant will recreate a dynamically stable river channel with coldwater habitat, and restore nearly 40 acres of former, abandoned cranberry bogs (photo above) back to native wetland types. The restored river and wetlands will promote high ecological diversity and bring back valuable natural community types, including Atlantic white cedar bog habitat - designated as a rare and vulnerable wetland type.

Ian Bowles, Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, said “I am pleased to announce this grant to be used by the Town of Plymouth, our CZM office, and other partners to restore this exemplary wetland and river system. By providing vision and leadership for numerous open space and restoration projects, the Town of Plymouth continues to set a strong example of municipal action to protect the environment. With ambitious projects such as the Eel River, Plymouth has had extraordinary success in pulling together diverse partners and funding sources for projects that benefit the community, the environment, and the region.”

Additional project partners include Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game’s Riverways Program, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, US Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, American Rivers, The Nature Conservancy, MA Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, and Eel River Watershed Association.

**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:

<b>May 3</b>	High Tide 2:02 AM	<b>June 7</b>	High Tide 6:44 AM
<b>July 5</b>	High Tide 5:38 AM	<b>August</b>	High Tide 4:33 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.**

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.

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

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

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

**August 16** High Tide 11:54 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 your right just before you cross the stream.

For more information call Eel River Liaison Peter Motyka

Quashnet area High Tides

May 18 High Tide -- AM

June 15 High Tide 11:12 AM

July 20 High Tide 2:18 AM

August 17 High Tide 12:45 AM

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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.

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## **Up Coming Events:**

Massachusetts Rhode Island Council meeting at Indian Hollow

One Fly Tournament- Brenda Sears – May 31 8:00 Am- 4:00 PM

**Your Directors are ...**

\* Are also Council Delegates

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RED BROOK DIRECTOR: Warren Winders (781) 878-1074

**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.*

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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.

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|---|--------------|
| <b>Red Top Sporting Goods</b> , Buzzards Bay        | 508-759-3371 |
| <b>Rod Builders Workshop</b> , Kingston             | 781-582-1015 |
| <b>Bear's Den Fly Fishing Company</b> , Taunton     | 508-977-0700 |
| <b>Fisherman's Outfitter</b> on Union St., Plymouth | 508-747-7440 |
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