

# THE BACKCAST

[www.southeastmasstu.com](http://www.southeastmasstu.com)

Trout Unlimited, SE Mass Chapter 241

December, 2007

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December, 11th 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 December Meeting features members gathering during the holiday season to celebrate the holidays!



## About Our December Meeting *The Annual Christmas Party*

### *The Annual Christmas Party/Election/Bucket Raffle*

Middleboro, MA

Everyone is welcome (only members can vote) but anyone can come and participate in the Bucket Raffle. There will be plenty of different items to choose from. Please bring anything that you would like to donate to the Bucket Raffle with you, and feel free to bring items for the snack table (snacks or sweets). So loosen your belt buckle two extra notches and fill your face with good food. Oh yeah, bring your wallet. The odds of winning the bucket raffle are far greater than Foxwoods or the Mass Lottery!!!



## Choosing a Fly Rod

George Costello

Source: [www.flyfishingbasics.com](http://www.flyfishingbasics.com)

***Special Instructions:** Leave on Coffee Table, Kitchen Counter or any other area clearly visible to your significant other. Note: The sooner that this page is made visible to others the better the odds of success.*

### **Tips for Choosing a Fly Rod:**

*There are three main variables when choosing a fly rod; "Weight, Action and Length. The following information will break down these components of a fly rod into easy to understand concepts, to help you choose the best rod that will suit your needs.*

### **Rod Weight**

The "weight" is an industry standard system for numbering the *weight* (go figure) of a fly rod.

Instead of using grams to measure a rod, a numbering system that ranges from 1-14 is used. Determining the optimal weight when choosing a rod is pretty easy, as it is based on the species and sizes of fish you will be catching.

In general, lower weights are for smaller fish, while larger weights for bigger fish. Secondary factors include the weather conditions of where you fish (lighter rods are harder to cast in the wind), as well as personal preferences (some advanced fly fishers enjoy lighter rods than suggested making the fish they catch "feel" heavier).

**Rod Weight** *(continued)*

**See the guide below to find the best rod weight for you:**

Wt. 1-4 Smaller Trout, Panfish

Wt. 5-6 Medium Trout and Smaller Bass

Wt. 7-8 Salmon, Large Trout, Large Bass

Wt. 9-14 Large Salmon, Tarpon, Stripers, Blues, Albies- Saltwater species

Choose a line and reel with the same rod weight that you have decided on.

**Rod Action**

Fast, Medium and Slow are the three main classifications used to describe a fly rod's action.

**Fast Action** – Most of the rod is stiff except near the tip.

*Pros* – Good for longer casts, windy conditions, larger fish and casting larger flies.

*Cons* – Harder for beginner, not good for small fish & streams where light cast is needed

**Slow Action** – Very flexible

*Pros* – Good for short casts in small streams and other tight surroundings

*Cons* – Hard for longer casts, windy conditions and larger fish

**Medium Action** – Moderately flexible and the most versatile

*Pros* – Works well for most fishing conditions and species. Easier for a beginner to learn

*Cons* – Harder to make long casts

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**Famous Fishing Quote:**

“The only reason I ever played golf in the first place was so I could afford to hunt and fish.”

Sam Snead – American Professional Golfer, 1912-2002

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**Stemming the Tide**

**By Charley Soares**

Charley Soares a noted Saltwater Angler and Striped Bass specialist has come out with a new book, called “Stemming The Tide”. He asked if we could feature an introduction to his new book in the newsletter. Having read his articles in The Fisherman Magazine and heard him speak, Charley is one of those no-nonsense guys that would put out a quality read.

Charley says that “Stemming The Tide” has arrived from the printer and copies are now available. The book has 42 stories on 223 pages and has numerous original illustrations and photos. The book retails for \$16.95 plus \$3.00 to cover the cost of mailing and taxes. He is also offering special Christmas gift packaging for the modest fee of an additional \$1.75 per copy.

Mail checks or money orders to:

Wing-N-Wave, 2 Pleasant View Ave, Swansea, MA 02777. Make checks payable to Charley Soares or Wing-N-Wave. Questions-comments to [linesiders@verizon.net](mailto:linesiders@verizon.net) or [www.fishingthesalt.com](http://www.fishingthesalt.com)

Stemming the Tide is a collection of award winning, entertaining and informative stories that will set you on the path to becoming a better fisherman and in the process a more inquisitive, thoughtful and understanding angler as well.



**Brook Trout** *(continued)*

**pH** - this is a measure of the concentration of H+ ions in water. pH ranges from 0 (very acidic) to 14 (very basic) with 7 being neutral. Water with a pH lower than 6.0 can cause metals found in soil and rocks to dissolve in solution and suffocate and poison aquatic organisms.

Brook trout have evolved to be the most tolerant of the trout species to acidic conditions, and adult fish can tolerate pH levels as low as 5.0. However, acid mine drainage and acid deposition often produce pH levels below this threshold, and currently render lifeless thousands of miles of former brook trout streams and hundreds of lakes and ponds across the East.

**DO** - Brook trout require relatively high concentrations of oxygen dissolved in water compared to other fish and even other trout species. Water temperature is inversely related to dissolved oxygen concentrations, so as water warms, it holds less oxygen. In nutrient-rich systems with high biological activity (high densities of plants and algae) or where diffusion rates between water and the atmosphere are relatively slow (stagnant ponds), levels of DO can fluctuate widely over the course of 24 hours. During the day, photosynthesis produces high concentrations of oxygen, but at night photosynthesis stops and plant, algae and bacteria respiration continues to use oxygen, causing DO levels can drop to dangerously low levels. High levels of nutrients also can cause algal blooms. As algae dies, bacteria consume available oxygen as they decompose the algae, reducing oxygen levels. This is referred to as BOD or Biological Oxygen Demand.

*Taken from [www.backthebrookie.org](http://www.backthebrookie.org)*

In an effort to spur interaction with the newsletter, I am looking for member participation in the newsletter. Please e-mail [george@southeastmasstu.com](mailto:george@southeastmasstu.com) with a short paragraph on Brook Trout

Please, site the source. I'll print it.



**From the President**

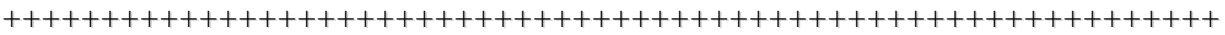
**Barry Guaraldi**

**Special Note: Elections Next Meeting**

Larry Cook is stepping down after several years of service as a Director. We will need a new director. Does anyone who is not currently a director want to step up? We will, as usual, ask for names from the floor before the election.

Thank you, Larry for your years of dedication. He's always looking out for new anglers, through helping with fly fishing classes and the impromptu Saturday casting instructions. Good luck fishing New Orleans.

Barry



**Sale of Stock from our Library**

**Jim Augenti**

Several of Our VHS Videos \$10.00/ each or 2 for \$15.00

*Please note: VHS only no DVD's*

We need to sell these VHS recordings to finance the transition into DVD versions of the "Classics", as well as adding some new titles that have been suggested by our membership.

Please stop by the collection at our next meeting

Jim puts in a lot of time identifying new DVD's to educate us and share with our children, the next generation of fly fishers. Please stop by borrow a new DVD and throw him a few bucks to upgrade the library.



### THE FLY BOX: - Pea – Cabou Brown

- Hook:** Mustad 9671 sizes 8 –14
- Thread:** Brown
- Tail:** Brown Marabou
- Underbody:** Fine lead wire
- Body:** Peacock herl twisted with thread
- Hackle:** Brown Marabou swept back collar
- Head:** Thread color

This can be a very effective pattern to have in your fly box, as most trout fisherman know peacock herl seems to attract fish and has saved the day for many of us.

*Editor’s note:* Please feel free to send me one of your favorite recipes for this column. Your participation is greatly appreciated. Stop by and tie a fly with Tom Magee. He is one of the instructors at the annual fly tying classes. He’ll show you some easy steps to tying flies that work!



### 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:

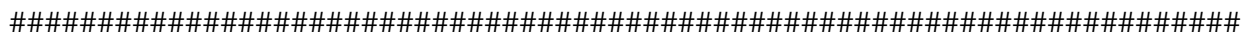
- Nov 3 – High Tide 11:12 AM
- Dec 1 – High Tide 8:34 AM

#### **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.



**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.

### Upcoming Events:

Red Brook work days, December 1, January 5, February 2  
Quashnet work days, December 16, January 20, February 17  
December Meeting, Christmas Party, Elections  
Annual Banquet: to be announced  
Fly Tying Classes: to be announcedly Fishing Classes: to be announced

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.*

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

