



THE BACKCAST

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Trout Unlimited, SE Mass Chapter 241

January, 2008

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January, 8th 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 January Meeting features a story of cast of characters and their travels through the Montana wilderness.

Montana Fishing in the Lewis & Clark National Forest Middleboro, MA

Speakers: Roger Moore, Bob Frederick, Tom Magee and Jim Clinton

Six members of the Southeastern Chapter of Trout Unlimited traveled to Northwestern Montana to fish the Two Medicine River in the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

The Sun River in the Bob Marshall Wilderness was the original destination but large wildfires in the area forced the group further north into Lewis and Clark National Forest.

Although water level in the river was very low, the group found many small but productive pools holding cutthroat trout in the 6 to 18 inch size.

The presentation includes trout fishing, camping, scenery, horseback riding and two beautiful working cattle dogs.

The one hour slideshow and discussion will start shortly after the business meeting at about 7:45.

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.

Red Brook Update Warren Winders

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

Red Brook Update, continued

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.

Marlboro Fly Fishing Show**January 18, 19, 20 of 2008****Royal Trade Plaza Hotel**

MA/RI T.U. Council Banquet – Saturday, January 19th

Reception: 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm – Dinner (Chicken, Fish or Beef) Tickets \$25.00

Raffles/Auction

Donations greatly appreciated. Especially flies!!!

If you have an auction quality item, please bring it to our January meeting. We will get them to the banquet.

Each Chapter will receive 10 tickets to sell (more if they would like)

Marlboro Fly Fishing Show – Raffles/Auction, continued

This year we are trying something new. We are inviting as many of the show's celebrities (at the Council's expense) and exhibitors (at their expense) to eat and socialize with those attending the banquet.

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Tenth Year! The Fly Fishing Show, Royal Plaza Trade Center – Marlborough, Massachusetts
January 18, 19, 20, 2008
Show Hours: Fri. 10 - 6; Sat. 9 - 5:30; Sun. 9 - 4:00
Admission: Adult - \$15 for one day.
\$25 for two day pass, \$35 for three-day pass;
Children under 12: \$2
Free YOUTH Fly Tying Instruction

For the past two years the Federation of Fly Fishers has been providing fly tying lessons to the Boy Scouts and other youths at The Fly Fishing Shows. The 2008 schedule is as follows: Jan 19, 1-2:30 pm FFF supplies all tools and materials. Admission to these classes is FREE. Those interested should contact Robert Ford at 617-536-6109 or e-mail fordrr@hotmail.com

Famous Fishing Quotes –

Behold the fisherman. He riseth up early in the morning and Disturbeth the whole household. Mighty are his preparations. He goes forth full of hope. When the day is far spent, he returns, smelling of strong drink and the truth is not with him. – West Palm Beach Fishing Club

LET'S HELP STOP PROSPECTING AND INDUSTRIAL MINING IN ALASKA'S BRISTOL BAY

David Glater, GBTU Board member

The guest speaker at a recent GBTU meeting, Nancy Murphy, manager of the TCO Fly Shop @ The Hungry Trout Resort in the New York State's Adirondack State Park , also conducts guided fly-fishing trips to Alaska. Not surprising, therefore, that she is on email distribution lists that keep her informed early on about actions that affecting the Alaskan salmon and wild trout fisheries. Following is an email she received and then forwarded to me. The message is from Scott Hed, Outreach Director for the **Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska** (www.sportsmansalliance4ak.org), and describes Federal plans to turn Alaska's Bristol Bay area into an industrial mining district. Nancy asked me to pass this information on to our GBTU members, and I am glad to do so. **Trout Unlimited (TU)** at the national level has taken a strong stand in opposition to the Federal Government's plan to allow hard rock prospecting and mining on publicly-owned land in Bristol Bay. At the end of this note I have attached an open letter sent to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Governor of Alaska, signed by TU and other national organizations of fly fishermen, and by many of the major firms in the fly fishing industry.

This letter appeared as a paid advertisement in several recent issues of Fly Fisherman magazine. TU and the Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska have also joined to oppose actions at the State level that would support mining operations by granting permits for water removal, dam construction, and other

Deal diverts wetlands fine south to Eel River project, continued

"On the whole, we certainly would rather not see people violate wetlands law," said Rob Johnson, southeastern Massachusetts program director for The Nature Conservancy. "But this is definitely an important restoration project that we're excited about,"

Lorusso-Bristol Stone agreed to the fine after the attorney general's office filed a complaint in Suffolk Superior Court alleging the company excavated and removed four acres of vegetated wetlands to a depth of 70 feet in order to expand its rock quarry between 1995 and 2001. The complaint also alleges the company removed a portion of an intermittent stream that flowed through the wetlands and that its excavation of granite from the wetlands caused an additional three acres of wetlands to dry up.

Aerial surveillance of the property helped make the case, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection. Three years ago the DEP began taking systematic aerial photos and matching them against photos taken of the same areas a decade or more, earlier.

The use of aerial photography to enforce environmental law shows "violators who think they can get away with illegally filling wetlands in the 'back 40' are sadly mistaken," said Arleen O'Donnell, the DEP's acting commissioner.

In a statement, the company said that it denied the charges, and had been "prepared to challenge" them, but agreed to the settlement after deciding that "litigation... would have cost both parties extensive time and resources to no positive gain for anyone. "

Habitat restoration is regarded as an important tool to combat environmental degradation due to lost wetlands, but state officials said the depth of the excavation left them with "nothing to restore" at the site of the excavated wetlands. Officials then looked for a valuable ongoing wetlands restoration program to support and found one in the effort undertaken by the town of Plymouth in conjunction with the state's Riverways Program and area partners.

Weymouth officials could not be reached for comment on the loss of wetlands.

Plymouth officials have been trying to acquire Lorusso-Bristol's mitigation money for the Eel River ever since they got wind of the quarry case last spring, said David Gould, the town's environmental manager and acting public works director.

"It's good to see the hard work pay off," he said of the decision to apply the money to Plymouth's project.

The Eel River head waters restoration project will return 35 acres of former bogs to an idealized version of their natural state, Gould said. The project consists of removing a small dam and other water control devices used for cranberry cultivation, restoring some of the original topography to allow the stream to meander and flow freely through the bogs, and planting native vegetation, including white cedar trees. The change will encourage brook trout to swim upstream to the head waters.

The town acquired two properties, totaling more than 90 acres counting the bogs' uplands, through Community Preservation Act funds.

Among the state's Riverways Program's priority programs, the Eel River restoration program is the closest geographically to the quarry area.

"This one is moving forward," DEP spokesman Ed Coletta said. "We can help get them some money for mitigation."

THE FLY BOX: Olive Dun Parachute Dry

- Hook: Dry fly, size 16 – 20
- Thread: Olive 8/0
- Wing: Poly Yarn
- Tail: Dun hackle fibers
- Abdomen: Olive dubbing
- Hackle: Dun
- Thorax: Olive dubbing
- Head: Olive

Parachute style dry flies present a very realistic profile when viewed from a fish’s point of view. Jack Dennis well known fly tier, Author and Lecturer gave a presentation at the United Fly Tyers about a year ago in which he showed underwater shots of both regular dry flies and parachute style the difference was striking, the Parachute flies looked much more realistic. Tonight we will show several ways to tie the Parachute style.

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! *Thanks again to John Kokoska for submitting a favorite fly!!!*



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:

January	High Tide 12:52 AM	February	High Tide 11:55 AM
March	High Tide 10:08 AM	April	High Tide 3:21 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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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.

