



THE BACKCAST

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Trout Unlimited, SE Mass Chapter 241

November, 2007

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November, 13th 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 November Meeting features guest speaker; Jack Gartside on Fishing Africa.

About our Speaker

Jack Gartside is counted one the most innovative and prolifically inventive fly tyers of the modern era. He got his first fly tying lesson in 1956 from Ted Williams, the great Boston Red Sox outfielder. Ever since he's been tying and fishing, accumulating an extraordinary range of fishing experience in fresh and salt water. He was one of the first fly tyers profiled in *Sports Illustrated* magazine (Oct. 12, 1982). Jack's best-known original patterns include the Gurgler, Sparrow, Soft Hackle Streamer, and the Gartside Pheasant Hopper. His designs have been featured in Eric Leiser's "Book of Fly Patterns," Judith Dunham's "The Art of the Trout Fly," Lefty Kreh's "Salt Water Fly Patterns," Dick Stewart's "Salt Water Flies," and Dick Brown's "Fly fishing for Bonefish."

Book

Jack is the author of *Striper Flies*, the first book ever specifically written on fly patterns for striped bass. Another book, *Striper Strategies*, is described by reviewer Steve Raymond as: "...one of the most remarkable striper-fishing manuals to see the light of day," and by reviewer Tom Meade as "Blessed with bright writing, keen observations, and the most concise advice a striper hunter can find."

His recent books include *Secret Flies for Fresh and Salt Water*, *The Fly Fisherman's Guide to Boston Harbor*, and *Scratching the Surface*. "Wow," wrote *On the Water* magazine about the *Fly Fisherman's Guide to Boston Harbor*. "Easily the best guidebook to be found anywhere." In 2006 Jack published revised and expanded editions of his earlier seminal works *Fly Patterns for the Adventurous Tyer* and *Original Saltwater Fly Patterns*. Other books include *Flies for the 21st Century* and *The Soft Hackle Streamer*.

In the Press

Jack has been profiled in *Fly Rod & Reel*, *Fly Fisherman Magazine*, *Fly Fishing in Salt Waters*, *VillmarksLiv*, *La Peche en Mer*, *Tight Loop*, and other national and international publications. He appeared on the cover of *Fly Fishing in Salt Waters* (the famous photo of Jack and his inflatable giraffe) and *Tight Loop* (December, 1998).

What Some of the Experts Say About Jack

Kenney Abrames: "A rare angler of substance."

Gary Borger: "One of only a few who have ventured outside the ordinary."

Eric Leiser: "Exceptionally gifted."

Gary LaFontaine: " Few can match him for creativity in pattern innovation."

Dick Talleur: "As creative an angler as he is a tyer, with a great instinct for coming up with things that work when nothing else seems to."

Lefty Kreh: "His paint don't dry."

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Safety Tips: Before You Go

- Take polarized sun glasses
- Take binoculars
- Carry long nosed pliers
- Don't forget wading belt and wading stick
- Crimp the barbs on your fly
- When fishing alone let someone know where you're going

Bass on the Flats

Jack Gartside

Flats are shallow, relatively level expanses bordering deeper water. They may be found “outside,” along the ocean front or “inside,” bordering an estuary or perhaps within a large bay or near a river’s mouth. Flats may be large, covering many acres of water, or they may be small, being only a few hundred yards in area. Their bottoms may be light and sandy, as is usually the case with outside flats, or they may be dark and muddy, which is often the way it is with many inside flats. Whatever their size or composition, inside or outside, flats are almost always fertile places to fish.

Flats can be mysteries to many - simply because of their seeming flatness. I say “seeming” because no flat is ever truly flat throughout its entire expanse. There are always depressions, holes, and ridges, as well as edges to these flats. In addition, most flats will have some mussel or clam or weed beds and other places of structure. Try to make your first visit to a flat at low tide so that you can see it when it’s bare of cover, so that you can see its basic “structure.”

Walking across a flat for the first time, one of the first things you want to look for is the “drop off,” the edge of the flat, where the shallows end and the deeps begin. These “deeps” may be a river or estuary channel if you’re fishing an inside flat or they may be the harbor or ocean depths if you’re fishing “outside.” It’s here that much striper activity will take place, especially on the low falling or low incoming tides. And it’s here that your fishing should be concentrated at this time.

Later, as the tide rises, the fish will move up out of the channel or depths and onto the flat in search of food. If you’ve been on the flat since low tide and have taken note of the bottom and any structure (mussel beds, rocks, etc.) you can reasonably predict that stripers will sooner or later put in an appearance at these places and it’s a good idea to position yourself close to these places so that you’ll be ready for them when they appear. It’s also a good idea to train your eyes so that you can see fish as they come over the flats. A good pair of polarized glasses can be an enormous help here.

At some point, the rising tide will considerably limit your access to many of the productive places that you were able only an hour earlier to fish with ease and will force you to fish closer to shore. This is the bad news - especially if you misjudge the speed or height of the incoming tide and find yourself suddenly swimming towards shore. The good news is that the rising tide will at the same time increase accessibility for the stripers coming up onto the flat, allowing them to move in closer to shore to feed around the eel grass and weed beds and other places that might harbor baitfish, shrimp, or other types of food. At the higher stages of the tide, then, you should spend most of your time fishing the “inner” edges of the flat closer to shore, casting along the edges with a baitfish or shrimp imitation or with a surface fly.

Signs to Watch For

As the tide moves in and you’re wading over the flat in search of stripers, it’s generally best to keep your eyes relatively unfocused so that your peripheral vision takes in a broader view. Let your eyes become accustomed to both the rhythms of the surface as well as to the general nature of the bottom, so that they become visually familiar. When your eyes detect something - anything - that doesn’t belong in the picture your mind’s eye has formed a moving shadow, for example, or a flash of silver, a puff of sand, a ripple on the surface, perhaps even a small patch of darkness standing out against a light bottom, then it’s time to focus your eyes more closely to determine if what you’ve just seen might be a fish. It often is.

Whatever stage of the tide you happen to be fishing, be on the watch also for actively feeding fish or for signs of feeding fish. Birds diving into a school of baitfish or baitfish popping out of the water are two of the most common indications that stripers may be feeding beneath. Striper tails projecting up above the surface are a sure sign that the fish are feeding on the bottom, digging their noses into the mud for crabs, worms, clams, or any other food they may find there.

When the tide is fairly low, only a foot or so deep at the most, look also for fish wakes, for bulges caused by stripers pushing up water from below. These bulges are usually quite visible when the water is calm, but when the water’s surface is rough, it takes a trained eye to detect them. If you do detect wakes, try to position yourself so that you can cast in front of them as they pass by. If this isn’t possible, cast to the near side of the fish that’s closest to you.

As you’re wading and wandering across the flat, it’s very important to remember to wade carefully and very quietly, disturbing the water as little as possible. Stripers that are moving out of the deeps and into the shallows will be predictably more cautious as they make this transition. If it’s necessary to get down on your knees at times to cast to a shallow-feeding striper, then do so. Your chances for success will be much greater if the striper is unaware of your presence.

Henry Lyman

1915 - 2004

2003 Inductee

The International Game Fish Associations Narrative**For Hal Lyman- IGFA Hall of Fame**

Hal Lyman is perhaps best known as the man responsible for the growth and popularity of salt water fishing in the U.S., which he promoted through *Salt Water Sportsman* magazine. His illustrious career in the publishing industry began simply enough as a reporter for the *Cape Cod Colonial* newspaper in Hyannis, Massachusetts, and then for the *Berkshire Eagle* in Pittsfield, following his graduation from Harvard University in 1937. But World War II soon intervened and Lyman spent six years serving aboard Navy destroyers. Released from active duty in 1946, he soon purchased *Salt Water Sportsman*. Originally launched by Ollie Rodman, Tap Tapply and Hugh Grey in 1939, the regional weekly cost five cents and covered the summer saltwater fishing conditions in New England. Lyman started as editor, then took over as publisher several years later, the title he held for a half-century. When he was again activated for military service during the Korean War, a young ex-GI with a love of surf fishing, Frank Woolner, agreed to become *Salt Water Sportsman's* editor. Eighteen months later, in 1953, Lyman retired from the military with the rank of Commander and returned to the magazine. As the years passed, *Salt Water Sportsman* evolved into a monthly publication with coverage expanded from the Maritimes to the Bahamas, then to the Gulf of Mexico, then to the Pacific. Hal Lyman and Frank Woolner had fulfilled the weekly's original slogan; they had indeed created "The Voice of the Coastal Sport Fisherman." Always believing that fishing and conservation should go hand-in-hand, Hal Lyman promoted marine conservation long before it became popular by printing some of the earliest pieces about the subject on *Salt Water Sportsman's* pages. He was always interested in helping the good, young writers and many of today's well-known fishing authors and personalities credit Lyman for giving them their first break. Fishing is not only Hal Lyman's business, it is also his hobby. He caught his first saltwater fish at the age of 6. Since then he has fished the world for everything from giant blue fin tuna to peacock bass, salmon and striped bass. He is the author of nine books — seven on saltwater angling (five with Woolner) and two on bluefishing, a subject on which Lyman is considered an authority — and has written hundreds of magazine articles and editorials for a variety of periodicals and technical journals. Known for his quiet, reserved but effective activism, Hal Lyman has been responsible for substantive changes to both commercial and recreational fishing practices while serving on many private and government boards, panels and committees, including the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, National Coalition for Marine Conservation, Atlantic Salmon Federation, New England Fishery Management Council, and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee for the U.S. Department of Commerce. As Publisher Emeritus of *Salt Water Sportsman*, Hal Lyman continues to go into the office weekly, and he has remained an ardent sportsman and conservationist. Accepting the 1996 John Rybovich Lifetime Achievement Award from The Billfish Foundation and *Power & Motoryacht* magazine for his dedication to conserving marine resources, Lyman stated, "It's so important - even more than it was in my time. We've got to keep getting people involved in protecting our oceans. Our lives really depend on it." In recognition of his lifelong devotion to conservation and responsible fishery management, his development and leadership of *Salt Water Sportsman* magazine, and his countless other accomplishments on behalf of the world's sportsmen, Hal Lyman will be remembered.

Brook Trout

Interactive

Brook trout occupy less than half of their original range in Massachusetts. These results reflect the condition of brook trout across their entire eastern United States range, according to an assessment released by Trout Unlimited and a coalition of state and federal agencies. The report, "Eastern Brook Trout: Status and Threats," is the first comprehensive assessment of the status of brook trout in the Eastern United States. These beautiful fish historically thrived in rivers and streams stretching from Maine to Georgia, but land use pressures have relegated the remaining isolated populations to the headwaters of high elevation streams. "Brook trout are the canary in the coal mine when it comes to water quality," said Gary Berti, Trout Unlimited's Eastern Brook Trout Campaign Coordinator. "The presence of brook trout in a watershed indicates that water quality is excellent. Declining brook trout populations can provide an early warning that the health of an entire stream, lake or river is at risk."

The few remaining patches of quality brook trout habitat in the state are located in the Berkshire and Taconic mountains and within portions of the Hoosic, Deerfield and Westfield watersheds and several tributaries to the Connecticut River. Brook trout have been eliminated from 7% of their historical range in Massachusetts, and they are greatly reduced in another 28% of habitat that formerly supported brook trout. Population status is unknown across an additional 42% of the historical range.

"While these results are sobering, we are already pursuing many opportunities for conservation of remaining high-quality habitat as well as restoration of impaired streams," said Todd Richards, Aquatic Biologist, Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife. "Our collective challenge is to protect the best remaining habitat and restore the rest." "Brookies are quick to respond to habitat improvements," explained Warren Winders, the brook trout coordinator for Trout Unlimited's Massachusetts Council. "We have already seen the results of our work with state and federal partners on the Quashnet River and Red Brook in southeastern Massachusetts. By scaling up these programs throughout the state and region, we will see wild brook trout returning to our streams. And that's great news for all of us who love to fish locally with our families and friends."

Taken from Mass Wildlife Website

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

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

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Famous Fishing Quote

"There he stands, draped in more equipment than a telephone lineman, trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb, and getting licked in the process"- Paul O'Neil—1965

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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.

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Fly Reel Care

Roland Henrion, Guide, Seychelles

- Avoid dipping your reel in water as much as possible and certainly in saltwater.
- Don't knock the reel against rocks, boat decks, hard floors etc. Small scratches and dents expose bare metal which will corrode.
- On a boat always place the rod butt (and reel) on a damp cloth, so it will not slide and scratch.
- Never drop the reel in sand! Sand grains are very hard and can scratch the inner housing, damage drag disks and even ball bearings.
- On a moving boat, make sure the reel is not exposed to spray. The power of the spray can force sea-water deep into the reel where it will attack the ball bearings.

NOTE: even though a ball bearing housing is made from stainless steel, the balls themselves are not. A corroded ball bearing will heat up and seize - in the middle of the fight with your fish of a life time. I have seen it frequently.

- Immediately after fishing, rinse the reel under a LOW pressure tap. Remove the spool, shake off excess water and leave it to dry before reassembling.
- Back home after a saltwater fishing trip, and before putting the reel away for a long period, give it an in-depth cleaning: remove fly line and backing, scrub carefully with hot soapy water to remove salt crystals, rinse and dry with a clean cloth.

NOTE: reels should NOT be soaked for long periods. One, because the fresh water will not dislodge salt trapped in the tightly wound backing. Two, because water will penetrate in the ball bearings and cause rust (remember they are neither waterproof nor stainless). Soaking can also distort the cork drag plates and cause a jerky drag. Apply new grease and lubricate according to the manufacturer's instructions. Apply a light coating of oil or car polish on the housing. For those who fish year-round in saltwater, in-depth reel maintenance should be done at least 4 times a year.

- Stow (saltwater) reels preferably empty. Backing may be left on the reel, provided it is completely desalinated and dry.
- Always loosen the drag completely when the reel is not in use.
- Fine leather (hand crafted) reel pouches lined with sheepskin are not suited for saltwater use. They trap salty moisture and cannot be washed. Like with rods, it is advisable not to put a wet reel in its pouch, especially after saltwater fishing. If the pouch gets wet, it should be washed, desalinated and dried.
- Don't stow a reel in its pouch, better to put it on shelf inside a cabinet.

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:

November 3 – High Tide 11:12 AM

December 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
November 3, December 1, January 5

QUASHNET WORK DAYS
November 18, December 16, January 20

November Meeting, Jack Gartside on Fishing Africa
Annual Banquet: to be announced
Fly Tying Classes: to be announced
Fly Fishing Classes: to be announced

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* 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

