



The Long Cast



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
NARRAGANSETT CHAPTER/TROUT UNLIMITED

JANUARY 2005 VOL. 24 #5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I want to thank **Paul Pezza** for his excellent slide show on two of my favorite areas of the country; Montana and Wyoming. So thanks again Paul for a job well done.

As you know we held our elections at the December meeting. The by-laws state that the president can serve only two 1 year terms. But as no one would accept the nomination for president and no one volunteered from the floor, I was asked by the nominating committee to accept the office for one more year and I agreed to do so.

On December 11, 2004 we had our last Highway Clean-up for 2004. We had only 6 volunteers show up, so it took us a while longer than usual. Those that attended I have listed below.

A reminder: our January meeting is our "Spaghetti Dinner and Presentation Night." Tickets will be sold at the door and I am sure it will be a great time. Only \$10.00 per person.

I am going to end my message now. **Gene Chague, our Council Chair**, asked that we allot room for his message.

Lawson Cary, President
Cleanup Volunteers we thank:
Lawson Cary, Dan Beltrami, Roger Earle, Jim Martish, George Rainville, Al Ball

Quote of the Month: The gods do not deduct from a man's allotted span of hours spent fishing. *Babylonian Proverb*

Your RI TU organization (The Narragansett Chapter) is the state's only Chapter. TU is organized into state councils. All of the chapters in one state comprise that state's council. However, it is required that there be at least two chapters for a state to field a council. The RI Chapter is therefore within the Mass/RI Council. The Mass/RI Council Chair is Gene Chague. He addresses us in this newsletter:

Greetings Fellow Tu-ers,

First of all, let me thank the various chapters for sending their finest to serve as delegates to the Council. Countless hours are being spent attending the Council Meetings and they are not just sitting there. They are engaged in wholesome debate and coming up with sound decisions as to where we are headed. Then there are the teleconference calls and e-mails. There is a spirit of enthusiasm and cooperation that permeates this delegation. We are working as a team, and it is a great feeling.

Want some examples?

- Over a dozen delegates showed up in Manchester, Vt. last October to attend the N.E. TU Regional Meeting. Valuable personal time was spent hashing out various strategies. Many paid for the expenses out of their own pockets.
- The last council (December) meeting had some 28 delegates attending.....wonderful turnout.
- At the meetings, people

eagerly step forward to serve on committees such as the wild trout committee, web page committee, strategic committee, etc.. Steve Angers, your NLC representative has been knocking on doors on Beacon Hill and in Westboro, trying to garner support for our agenda. Others are cozying up to DFW fish biologists and members of the F&W Board for the same reason.

Attendance for our Council Banquet was less than we had hoped, but we still netted around \$2,500. We need to do more to inform you of the great opportunities for bargains and the need to raise funds from this event. We are ever so grateful for the great meal put on by John Salamie and the Greater Boston folks, of the set-up work by Tom Towie and the Squannie folks, of Peter Schilling in the public relations and securing most of the items for auction and raffles, of the kitchen work by the Taconic folks, and the generous donations of guided trips, etc by all of the chapters across the state. Jeff Reardon (New England Conservation Director, TU) gave a very informative talk on our new grassroots campaign of bringing back the brookie.

There is one thing that we have to address very soon. The Council needs a new treasurer. Peter Schilling (Greater Boston Chapter) has been handling the books for us for some 4 years now (one year more than our by-

laws allow). He tried to step down last year, but we had no one to replace him. We are asking each chapter to try to come up with a qualified person who could take on this job. We need to know who it is within a couple of weeks.

So why are we so busy?
Your council along with the other New England Councils have joined forces to "bring back the brookie". This fish has been beleaguered by acid rain, urban sprawl, infestations of exotic plant and fish species, etc. What can you do about it as one person? Well, not too much. But a combined outcry of some 11,000 TU members in New England, (3,800 in MA/RI) might carry some weight.

We have been working on establishing a Council strategy. We must re-define who we are, where we are going and how we get there.

We have been working on a new Angler's Guide (a committee is in place). It is hoped that it will be released this spring.

We have been working on a wild trout policy (a committee is in place)

We have a committee in place to work on our new web site. (TU-MA-RI-Council.Org)

There are constant projects going on at Red Brook with reports being generated at every council meeting.

Our National Leadership Council rep.,(Steve Angers) is constantly updating us on what is going on at the national level.

And it is not just the Council that is working hard. Did you know that the individual chapters in the Council contributed 17,550 hours of their personal time to TU? Did you know that 5,740 hours were spent by you and co-members on

restoration projects in MA/RI alone? Whether you are working with Fran Smith on the Quashnet River on the Cape, with Warren Winders on Red Brook in Wareham, with Lawson Cary on the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed in Rhode Island, with Pioneer Valley folks working on the Swift River, and all of the other wonderful projects going on across the state, please know that your efforts matter. I challenge you to name an organization that is doing more on an ongoing basis. No matter where you go across our states, you will see TU volunteers involved in important projects, attending and speaking at meetings, lobbying politicians, etc. *Just click onto the council/chapter web sites to see how much is being done by your fellow Tu-ers across our states. Congratulations and thanks to you all!*

3,800 members, two states (Rhode Island and Massachusetts) environmentalists, hook and bullet guys. How can someone who lives in a high rise overlooking the Charles River equate with someone living in Lenox, overlooking October Mountain? Its simple, we all care about clean air, clean water and our quality of life. *The rallying flag? It's the wild brook trout.* He is our indicator, our canary in the coal mine. If foul air which is causing acid rain, mercury and other toxins are killing him in our feeder streams, aren't we also affected by breathing the stuff? If the waters are so bad that he cannot live in them, should we be drinking it?

In the upcoming months, you will be hearing a lot about this little guy and our efforts to help him. Whether we fish, hunt, hike or rarely leave the confines of our homes, we all have to be concerned for his well being because what is good for the brookie is good for us all. Thanks to your involvement, I've got a feeling that 2005 will be a very

good year for the brookie and for us.

If you feel that there is little that you can do, that you don't know where to start, and that others are better qualified, believe me, we all said that at one time or another. You have to ask yourself just how strongly you feel about the brookie, clean air, clean waters. If you feel strongly enough, have solid facts and know what you are talking about, you will convey your message well and people will listen. You can make a whale of difference by writing letters to politicians or contributing funds to your chapter and this council. You can also make a difference by spreading the word and recruiting new members to TU. The \$15 new member rebate program has been extended to March 31, 2005. What a wonderful way to bolster your chapter's treasury while at the same time doing him/her a favor.

If you are a member of a chapter whose leadership has thinned or became "burned out", don't despair. It happens to the best of us. It usually happens to an organization whose membership leaves everything to be done by someone else. Please step forward and help out. Ideally, your leadership will be made up of us grumpy old men who possess a world of expertise and knowledge and younger, enthusiastic folks with the new ideas. Your Council and neighboring chapters are also ready and willing to help your chapter get back on track. Just ask.

Lastly, let me say this. If you are an active, "can do" type of person who cares about cold water fish and their habitat and want to do something about preserving them, you are in the right organization. Happy New Year
Gene Chague
MA/RI Council Chair

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Meeting dates remaining:

01-26-2005
02-23-2005
03-30-2005
04-27-2005
05-25-2005 Stream Side

Executive Board meetings:

01-08-2005
02-05-2005
03-05-2005
04-02-2005
05-07-2005
The Executive Board meets at 9 am at Eva's Family Restaurant in Coventry on Rte. 117.

*Please make note of the following planned **float stockings**. If you can volunteer, the stockings begin at the route 165 check station at 8am*

April 23

May 14

Sept. 17

***Summer float stockings** will occur on Thursdays at the same location at 8am. They will occur from June to early Sept.*

***Roadside pickups** have also been scheduled. We meet at the check station on pickup dates at 9am*

March 19

May 21

Oct 15

Dec. 10

JANUARY PRESENTATION

Our January meeting is our so-called Show & Tell or Demo Night. Along with these events we will enjoy our annual spaghetti and meatball dinner.

Tickets will be available at the door at a price of \$10.00 per person.

UFTRI will host a table at which a group of tiers will demonstrate both Fresh & Saltwater flies. John O'Meara, Angelo Mangili, Deb Duran, Joe Kiselica, Dick Pearce and Joel Hamilton will be the instructors. Come and see some extraordinary tying.

Jay Boyer will have his famous net display including advice and instruction on how to build them. George Rainville will be showing his bamboo rods and will also be demonstrating how to build braided leaders.

Jim Rubovitz, the mad inventor, will show you what a fly fisher can accomplish with odds and ends, commonly available apparatus and a fertile imagination. He will be demonstrating some of his marvelous apparatuses.

I will be helping people with their casting, providing fly casting instruction.

We will have some lovely new videos running as well during the night.

Show and Tell Night is a special ritual.

Ed Lombardo

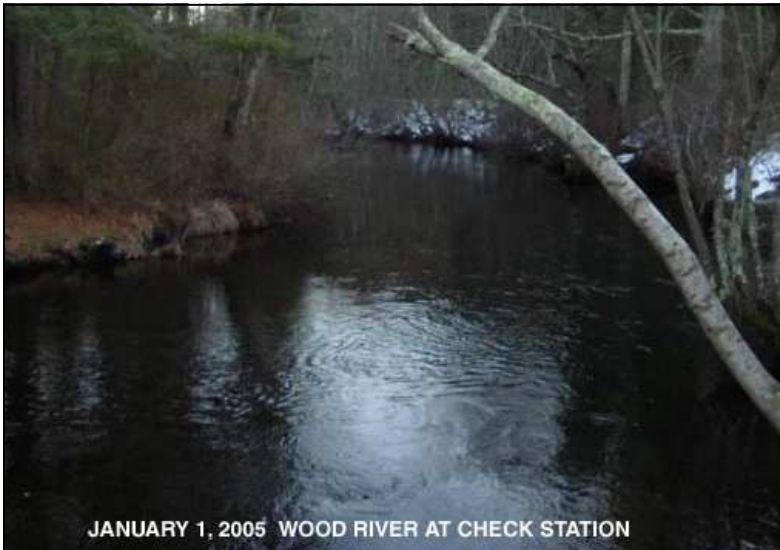
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Narragansett Chapter meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month-September through May at the Greek Orthodox Annunciation Church, Oaklawn Ave. (Rte 5), Cranston, RI. Meetings start at 7:00 PM.

**OUR NEXT MEETING
WILL BE ON JANUARY 26th**



JANUARY 1, 2005 WOOD RIVER AT CHECK STATION

