



The Long Cast



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
NARRAGANSETT CHAPTER/TROUT UNLIMITED

DECEMBER 2006 VOL. 26 #4

President's Message:

Paul DiNolo, our November presenter helped us to appreciate the kind of fishing we have here in New England. We appreciate his coming.

We are all a little depressed that days are short and temperatures are too low in both the air and the water. Please shake off the blahs and come to our next meeting. We have election of officers coming up.

You will read in Lawson's column that some steady volunteers have been doing important work that is leading to habitat restoration in the Wood River watershed.

Maybe someone out there will bring a young son or daughter, or niece or nephew to a coming meeting. We are looking across the meeting hall at mostly seniors. We badly need new blood. Please consider this.

Chris Metakos

Environment Officer Report

I would like to update everyone that didn't attend our last meeting. I want to let everyone

know that the stream continuity project for the Wood /Pawcatuck Watershed was completed on 11-28-06. In just one year and nine days from start to finish we surveyed a total of 270 stream crossings recording lots of data on each crossing, including 499 pictures. This project took 670 man-hours.

I want to thank Jim and Patti Dewaele for joining me on Saturday 11-24-06 to help complete the work. As stated at our last meeting, Al Jaffa, Burt Strom and I met with folks from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS) on 11-17-06. Also along were representatives of DEM and DOT, as well as Saul Saila the eminent freshwater fish scholar and other Wood Pawcatuck representative. This was an "in the field meeting and on that day we visited 10 crossings that we had identified that were candidates for repair and which would provide significant habitat improvement if repaired.

We decided that one crossing at Old Voluntown road would open the most miles of river upstream from it. So I submitted an application for a grant to the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP.) This action

was approved by the chapter membership on 11-29-06 at our chapter meeting. I was assured by the NRCS that there would be no cost to the chapter. As part of the process I went to an Exeter Town meeting with Mike Merrill of the NRCS to see if we could get a letter from the town granting their permission for TU to apply for this grant for work on an Exeter town road. The Town Council agreed to submit the letter. I should note that we can withdraw this application at any time if for some reason we feel that's necessary.

At our last meeting Stan Hopkins introduced to us an opportunity that I will describe by quoting our Secretary's report: Stan Hopkins introduced an opportunity for the chapter to play a role as steward for two streams in northern Rhode Island. He and members of his family are involved in a land sale transaction that could result in creating a land trust if certain conditions are met. Those conditions include public access and maintenance to be determined. The land Trust is interested in TU's suggestions as to its participation.

The land is between Dolly Cole Brook and the Ponaganset River

just South of route 6 in Foster.

After a general discussion of the opportunity which enjoyed the support of members, Jay Boyer made a motion that the chapter submit a letter of intent. Lawson Cary seconded the motion. Stan Hopkins indicated that the letter should be delivered by December 12. It then was agreed that a visit to the site on December 2, after the E-Board meeting, was in order. This would allow TU to gain further insight into the area and to formulate appropriate suggestions.

A possible next step would be to meet with the land trust members to discuss the opportunity and ways in which Trout Unlimited could help to achieve the Land Trust's objectives.

We will be meeting with the Land Trust in February.

Lawson Cary

The Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Across Arcadia Road from the Barberville Dam is the headquarters of the WPWA. Anyone who enjoys the Wood River or associated streams and the Pawcatuck below should know about this organization and its work.

For those who fish in the Wood and take its cleanliness for granted, be aware that this is a vulnerable stream whose fertility can be affected by issues, such as pollutant discharge, that are important to oversee.

As an example of the work of WPWA in this regard, WPWA's monitoring of Canob Brook (which

feeds the Wood near Skunk Hill Road) showed some worrisome data indicating possibly deleterious discharge which WPWA will seek clarification of.

WPWA is working with teachers and students in schools in Exeter and West Greenwich to involve them in monitoring the Wood River and its tributaries. Students will cover the Wood from Route 165 all the way down to the Alton Dam and also Breakheart Brook, Roaring Brook and other tribs. Measurements will not only include chemical testing but also focus on insect life which is near and dear to all our hearts.

WPWA conducts guided ecological tours, casting lessons, fly tying lessons and other activities as well.

Those of you considering year end charitable contributions should focus on the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association. At the least, consider becoming a member and finding out more. You can read their information at their web site: www.wpwa.org Their address is
WPWA
203 Arcadia Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832
401-539-9017

Apologies to Hunters

In the last newsletter, in a note about hunting season, I made reference to the interaction of fishers and hunters. I used language that though inadvertent may have displayed a certain prejudice that a neutral editor should avoid. To wit: I said that fishermen should "not rely on the intelligence of hunters."

I apologize for the unintended

denigration that one friend pointed out, in good humor, as he prepared for his annual hunting trip.

I realize that hunting is a pastime that is widely practiced by very sophisticated, accomplished and intelligent men and women; Dick Cheney springs to mind.

So please forgive the temporary abandonment of editorial standards displayed in my lapse.

On this topic it remains my responsibility to point out that wearing bright orange garb when in the woods during hunting season is not only a good idea, but it is the law. My own practice is to wear bright orange from the waist up and to play very loud rap music wherever I walk.

December Presentation

December's presentation will be a very interesting departure from our trip stories. All trout fishermen will be interested in our presentation by **Veronica Masson**, Principal Fisheries Biologist for the RIDEM. Veronica will give us information and pictures on the work she is involved in to create a sea run brown trout fishery in the Pawcatuck River. She will tell us that anglers have caught sea runs for twenty five years, probably stockers getting out and returning. The Division of Fish and Wildlife stocked 36,000 young browns in the lower Pawcatuck in 2005 and another 40,000 in 2006. Returns have been verified in increasing numbers. So attend our year end meeting and learn about the RI work and how it hopes to match successful similar efforts in Mass. and Long Island, and what it could mean for future fishing in the Pawcatuck and also implications for the Wood. Bring your questions.

Ed Lombardo

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Can you identify this Rhode Island river scene?

Our webmaster is Dick Pearce. He posts this newsletter in its original color format on our site. You can read our LongCast, past and present, on our web site if your computer is equipped with an "Adobe Reader." As the LongCast is sent out by bulk mail it can arrive late. Though it is almost always mailed out before mid-month, the bulk mail designation means that the newsletter can lay undelivered in post offices for much longer than would be the case for first class mail.

www.tu225.org

FLY OF THE MONTH Half and Half

You will be fishing for slowed down fish in the coming weeks. Probably you will be thinking of streamers. With a little luck you will pull one past a nearby fish that will perk up enough for the bite and fight. More likely you will long for the hatch days and acclimated fish that rise in better seasons. But facing facts, here is a version of the 'Half and Half' which is a sort of Clouser minnow. The colors suggest a little charr.

First you tie in the eyes somewhat behind the hook eye. This reverses the center of gravity of the hook so it 'swims' with the point of the hook facing upward, 'Clouser style.'

Half and Half

Hook: Streamer hook

Weight: Tungsten eyes

Thread: Pink

Tail: Hackle, cream over pink

Belly: Bucktail, white

Wing: Bucktail, peach over pink

Topping: Peacock herl



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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 December 27th**



Eagle Cliff in White Mountains by William Louis Sonntag

