



The Long Cast



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
NARRAGANSETT CHAPTER/TROUT UNLIMITED

SEPTEMBER 2007 VOL. 27 #1

Presidents Message

Well here it is September and the kids are back in School, the fall fishing is coming soon and our meetings are starting up again as of September 26 .

Some of the projects we wanted to do this summer didn't happen because we were waiting for permits which we did not receive. One was the removal of the small dam on the stream feeding Breakheart Pond. I still have hopes of doing that project this year. It is an important piece of habitat improvement as it will allow passage up and down, to and from the pond, by our fine finned friends.

We are also hoping to accomplish previously planned fence work and more replanting in some areas that are crying out for this work.

Here's what some of us did do: We continued on the stream continuity project. Burt Strom and Al Truchon and on occasion Tom O'Connell and Bob Orpen joined me on the Queens River watershed and Beaver River watershed. We completed the information taking and pictures for all the stream crossings that could be identified. The data went

into the collection of habitat information at NRCS and for our own records. We completed the Wood, Queens and Beaver watershed work on this project on August 30th.

We have now collected information on about 400 stream crossings since the beginning of this project in November of 2005.

Recently I received a phone call from a worried fisherman with regard to the algae build up in the Wood and Falls Rivers. I tried to explain that the algae is growing because of the low water and the bright sun on the rivers and is being impacted by the lack of shade in some areas. (Over the last few years we have lost several trees that were giving the river much needed shade. Hopefully the moving of a Pines Area path that we accomplished will help new growth along that section of the river.)

I tried to explain to the caller that the algae can have an ultimately beneficial effect too. It will help to improve the insect population by providing food for the insects; and it will provide cover for the juvenile brook trout. And when the water level increases in the fall and the water level rises, that will cut down on the effects of the

sun, the algae will wash away and this will add to the mud used by many insects such as the hex mayfly.

I thought that I gave him a pretty good assessment of a complex situation that should work out, but he told me he felt that nobody cared about the situation. This experience gave me the idea to contact an expert, so I got in touch with a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at URI. She agreed to study the situation, so I took samples from four sites (two on the Falls and two on the Wood) and took them to URI where she is running tests on them as I write this. If I get her report in time I will have them at our next meeting on September 26th. I should note here that the person that called me is not a member of TU.

Please see me at any of our general meetings if you care to participate in our environmental work. It is ongoing and important, and we can use all the help we can get. The rivers will survive us all if we treat them well.

Our next meeting is September 26 and our next adopt-a-highway is September 29.

Lawson Cary

The Northern RI Chapter

The Northern RI Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets on the second Wednesday evening of each month at the Albion Fire Station (38 School Street in Albion). Chapter President Roland Gauvin reports:

“We will be having our meeting on the second Wednesday of September at the Albion Fire station at 7pm. Topics for discussion will be the clear river stream continuity project and a report on the progress of the fish ladder project for the first four dams on the Blackstone River, the opening of the Martin St. bridge in Cumberland/Lincoln and the bike path; also planning for comprehensive insect identification, and fly-tying and fly casting classes to be held in conjunction with the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Heritage Corridor Commission.”

TU Members can elect to be in either of our state's two chapters.

Our Chapter Web Site

Our Chapter web site is
www.tu225.org

There you will find archived newsletters and links to important related sites. Our site is maintained by our friend and member Dick Pearce. Please check out the site for possibly timely information that newsletter deadlines may miss. Also please direct possible future members to our site that they may consider joining us in our work.

The Healing Coop Event

We would like to thank those of you who volunteered to assist Ed Lombardo with his presentation to several ladies of the Healing Coop. The fly fishing seminar for the women cancer survivors of this organization was held last June at Deer Creek Farm.

The Healing Coop is based in Middletown, RI and the members who could attend all passed their deep appreciation to Ed for his work and to Lawson for creating the idea for an outreach program.

We heard that several would be attendees could not make the event owing to the death of a colleague. The director of the Healing Coop has expressed the wish that some of her members be able to continue their fly fishing education and we will keep you posted on that.

WPWA

The Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association is worth your attention. Its headquarters are on Arcadia Road across from the Barberville Dam. Check out their web site:

www.wpwa.org

In their summer newsletter is an article by Lawson Cary on all of our hopes for an eventual expansion of the “catch and release” areas in the watershed. You can read Lawson’s article at the site.

Stocking practices have been made a little more civilized and will

hopefully no longer involve throwing synthetic brook trout and lunker browns into the delicate waters of the Falls River. The Wood River does lure stocked fish into very challenging lies and behavioral patterns and understandably attracts fly fishermen willing to cope with sanity challenging fishing conditions.

There seems to be a balance between stocking and the quick removal of many stocked fish and the ultimate abandonment of the waters when pickings get slim.

Somewhere there is, hopefully, a sensible and sensitive balance between the management of the watershed by the state and the imperative to improve the lot of the wild and native brook trout that could do better and better.

Our mission is clearly stated in our parent organization’s statement of purpose. We all use the club as a place to see our friends, exchange stories and information and have fun. That’s great.

But in the interest of fulfilling our purpose as an organization you should consider a little rolling up of your sleeves. Not to donate blood, but to donate just a little more time and energy.

Our site and these newsletters will list areas where you can participate. Please try to do so.

And I cannot help but notice that the number of people at meetings barely surviving the need for a nap, would be improved with new younger blood. Please think of relatives, neighbors and friends who might be candidates for joining our club and reducing our average age and increasing our energy.

Burt Strom

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September Presentation

Rachel Calabro from the Massachusetts Riverways Program will speak about River Continuity pilot projects in Massachusetts as well as habitat restoration projects undertaken to restore trout habitat. "River Continuity works to reduce impediments to movement of fish, wildlife and other aquatic life that require passage along streams. We have conducted trainings with citizen volunteers to identify areas where culverts and dams pose a barrier to fish and wildlife migration. Several projects have been implemented to correct these problems on Massachusetts streams."

Rachel's presentation will gibe with work that volunteers in our own Chapter have been doing over the last three years on stream continuity in Rhode Island. Lawson Cary, along with Chapter members, and working with the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (a division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture) has mapped hundreds of stream crossings in the Wood, Queens, and Beaver River watersheds.

It is hoped that the very elaborate database of information and pictures supplied by Lawson and his volunteers (of about 400 stream crossings!) will provide help for significant future habitat restoration (which is already starting to happen.)

So we look forward to Rachel's presentation and to her sharing her thoughts with us.

Ed Lombardo

FLY OF THE MONTH CDC Caddis Emerger By Wayne Luallen

This one emphasized impressionism and "soft" materials.

It is an easy fly to tie. You can prepare a batch in varying sizes and colors.

Recipe

Hook: Dry #12 to #20
Thread: Color to match head 8/0
Shuck: Gold Z-Lon
Body: SLF Finesse to match natural.
Wing: CDC feather tied in by tip and looped over.
Thorax: SLF Finesse to match natural.



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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 September 26th**



Androscoggin River near Errol, New Hampshire

