



The Long Cast



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
NARRAGANSETT CHAPTER/TROUT UNLIMITED

NOVEMBER 2008 VOL. 28 # 3

President's Message

Greetings.

First I would like to thank Jeff Passante, for the fine presentation last month on the Housatonic. It was truly educational, even for those of us who have fished the river in the past.

On the conservation front there will be one last highway cleanup in mid December. I would urge all who are able, to come and assist in this effort, as it is a way to make a good impression with the general public.

Finally on the meeting schedule: Due to holidays in December and restrictions on availability of the school the Dec meeting will be on Dec 17th at the Aspray boat house in the Pawtuxet Village section of Warwick.

Also the chapter has the opportunity to move its meetings to the conference center of the Regan building at the Slater State Hospital complex in Cranston, beginning in January. I would ask that all members who are able please attend the November meeting to discuss this.

John

Our Backward State

(An Editorial)

Rhode Island has, by most standards, the worst economy in the country. Our state also has terrible social statistics: spousal assault, alcoholism rates, educational level achieved and other measures are also very poor. This has been studied and written about and the situation is largely a result of poor policies and practices in our political and bureaucratic systems, and relates to our economy. This stuff needs work.

Further down the socio-political chain is the way our Department of Environmental Management runs RI's cold water fisheries. It has been a trucking and hatchery system. It is designed (examine the scarcity of special regulations in RI trout waters) to provide as many fish as is felt would be needed to feed a voracious appetite for removing trout from our waters. The system engenders 'hot and cold'

fishing in our state streams: hot after the trucks arrive, cold after most of the fish are too quickly removed.

For many years, John Stolgitis (who retired four years ago) ran DEM's Fish and Wildlife division. His philosophy was unbending: that extending 'catch and release' and incorporating other restrictions would deny the majority of sportsmen what they want (more likely what he thought they would want and which would keep the hatcheries and trucks going full tilt.) The situation is unchanged since his departure. The Fish and Wildlife Division maintains virtually every inch of our streams as 'put and take' water. *This is almost surely not a democratic system* in spite of what has been argued.

The state of Pennsylvania completed an in depth survey of fishermen within the state and published the findings in a pamphlet called "Responsive Management." (see <http://www.fish.state.pa.us/pafish/>)

trout/
survey_trout_fishing2008.pdf.) Here are some of the data: 61% of the trout anglers mostly release the fish they catch. 12% mostly keep the trout they catch. Apparently some are straddlers (27%), but the preference for catch and release is very clear. A large majority of Pennsylvania anglers (78%) support special regulations and only 8% oppose (the rest being neutral.) The main reason given for supporting special regulations is that it improved the quality of the fish caught. The second most cited reason was that special regulations improved the chance of catching fish. (This agrees with what our October presenter, Jeff Passante told us about the Housatonic River in

Connecticut: “when catch and release was instituted there, fishing on the Housatonic improved drastically.”) 11% of Pennsylvania anglers thought that special regulations takes away from their fishing satisfaction, while 83% disagree with that. Only 10% of Pennsylvania anglers think that special regulations water prevents them from fishing as much as they would like. A fair summary of the survey would be that a clear majority of Pennsylvania anglers think that special regulations improve the quality of their fishing, should be extended, and even that it contributes to better stocking practices.

It is very unlikely that Rhode Island trout fishers would feel differently.

There apparently had been no attempt to evaluate the 'democracy' of the state's consistent rejection of special regulations. There are now only one and a half stream miles of special regulations waters in our state's rivers. This flies in the face of the wishes of trout anglers who have been surveyed on their preferences.

Perhaps RI Fish and Wildlife would prefer to operate under the assumption that Rhode Island anglers would not agree with the engaged respondents in the Pennsylvania survey.

Or perhaps Fish and Wildlife does not want to make the rest of state government look bad.

Burt Strom

Fly of the Month 'Pink Carnation' Tied by Hans Weilenmann



Hook: Standard wire #14
Thread: White 8/0
Tail: Whiting Hackle grizzly saddle barbs, dyed pink
Abdomen: Cream dubbing
Thorax: Dark purple/brown dubbing
Wing: Whiting dyed pink, base-of-hackle flue
Collar: Black cock

We are not sure where the pink comes in, other than something to do with the attractiveness to the fish's eye. This is a wet fly attractor or else an imitation of a caddis fly that has mated with a feather duster. But on the Wood River it is a common piece of advice to

“give them something new.” This would certainly fit the bill.

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November Presentation

Kathryn Zuromski is the Natural Resources Conservation Service intern who has been organizing the Stream Continuity Data that has now been gathered for a few years. Those of you who were at the August streamside meeting met her there.

Kathryn will be presenting at our November meeting. She will show us some beautiful (as well as some disheartening) pictures of stream crossings in our state. The goal of the project is to establish a data base of stream crossings. This will inform future construction projects that it is hoped will improve fish and animal migration along our streams (such as the recent Breakheart Brook project.)

Our December meeting will be on December 17th. The last Wednesday of the month will be Christmas Eve!

Cultivate our new younger members. Thanks to some new blood our average age is finally under 100 !

Consider contributing books, tackle, materials, etc for our bucket raffles. We need to increase our monthly income.

Roadside Clean Up

Our next roadside clean up will be on Saturday, December 13th. Volunteers should meet at the Check Station at 9AM.

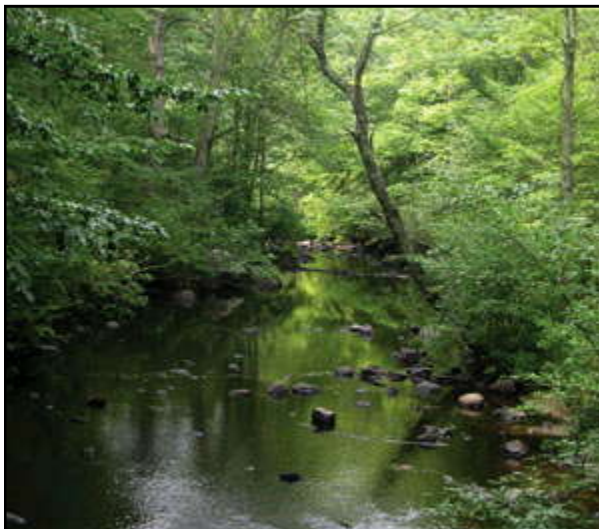
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Narragansett Chapter meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month-September through May at the Lippitt Elementary School in Warwick, RI. Meetings start at 7:00 PM.

**OUR NEXT MEETING
WILL BE ON
WEDNESDAY NIGHT NOVEMBER 26**



Connecticut's Eight Mile River, a wild trout stream.

**Our Meeting Hall
is the Lippitt Elementary School
30 Almy Street
in Warwick**

Directions

From route 95, take exit 12
To route 113 East
Cross Rt 5 and stay on 113 by bearing
slightly right. (Main Ave.)
Travel 2.3 miles (crossing Rt. 1)
Turn left on to Liverpool St.
In 0.2 miles turn left on to Gulf St.
Then right on to Almy St.