



# NUTMEG NOTES

## March '09

NUTMEG CHAPTER – TROUT UNLIMITED

P.O. BOX 1594, FAIRFIELD, CT 06825

[www.nutmegt.org](http://www.nutmegt.org)

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### MONTHLY MEETINGS -- 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.

FAYERWEATHER YACHT CLUB, BLACK ROCK, CT

March 24<sup>th</sup> (NOTE CHANGE FROM MARCH 17<sup>th</sup>)

The speaker will be Mark Sedotti, former casting columnist for Saltwater Fly Fishing magazine

*Remaining Meetings*

April 21, 2009      May 19, 2009

### About the presentation at our 3/24/09 meeting

Mark Sedotti was Casting Columnist for Saltwater Fly Fishing Magazine from 1995 - 2000, and he has authored many articles for various fly fishing publications, including Saltwater Fly Fishing Magazine, American Angler, Fly Tyer, Outdoor Life, and The Fisherman. In addition, Mark has spoken to fly fishing groups all over the country, from fly fishing shows to the Federation of Fly Fishers and Trout Unlimited. He also pioneered the practical use of big and giant flies - casting, fishing and tying "cast-able" giant flies (8 - 20 inches long). Mark's fly patterns (Sedotti's Slammer Bunker flies, Mackerel, Blueback Herring, Flashiceiver, Flounder) have been featured in various fly tying books and magazine articles.

At our March chapter meeting, Mark will present on a couple of topics (and more if time permits): (1) The New Direction Fly Tying - strike-triggering action in flies, the direction soft plastic baits have already gone. This will include a tying demonstration, as well as a discussion of how to cast and fish these flies, especially for big trout; and (2) Fishing the Fall Runs at Montauk - a slide show covering both bay anchovy and herring runs, and a discussion of how to fish giant flies imitating these baitfish.

Mark is enthusiastic and passionate about these topics - he will answer your questions and is open to broadening the presentation should time permit.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please come hungry - we'll have fresh hot pizza!  
We meet at Fayerweather Yacht Club: 51 Brewster St., Black Rock, Bridgeport. Meetings are free and open to the public. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

See back page of this newsletter for directions to Fayerweather Yacht Club.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dear fellow Nutmeggers,*

*On April 4<sup>th</sup> Nutmeg will hold its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Banquet at Tashua Knolls Restaurant in Trumbull, CT. With the current economic climate I'm sure most of us are focused on our finances and it's hard to think about spending money on anything. This year the chapter has tried to hold the line on banquet costs but as always some increase is to be expected. We really want our members to join us in celebrating TU's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and so we have decided to offer some incentives to offset the small increase in the price of the dinner. Please note the ad elsewhere in the newsletter listing the great gifts you can receive for reserving early.*

*As in the past many of you know that Tashua Knolls is a wonderful venue with great food and the banquet is a great opportunity to meet or renew fishing friends. It's also a great opportunity to lift your spirits on the heels of a tough winter. To make the banquet even more special we will be introducing a new category of prizes — gold raffle tickets— and we are striving to make sure that everyone goes home a winner by offering more prizes! I hope you will join us to celebrate TU's Golden Anniversary and welcome spring and another fishing season.*

*Several weeks ago several Nutmeg Board members attended a meeting with the Inland Fisheries Division of DEP to determine the stocking policy for the Housatonic TMA adjoining Housatonic Meadows. Since run-of-river was implemented, the Connecticut Council of TU, which includes several Nutmeg members, was intimately involved in attempting to influence the DEP to adopt the previous stocking protocol until adequate data under run-of-river conditions could be gathered. Last year DEP employed a more rigorous procedure to estimate the population with gratifying results. Based on the sampling there will be an increase in stocked fish, and although TU doesn't entirely agree with the number of large fish that will be introduced, the emphasis on put-and-grow will be maintained.*

*In addition, because of the concern for protecting the increased number of fish during periods of low flow and hot weather, enhancement of thermal refuges was discussed in previous meetings with DEP.*

*Cont'd on p. 2*

**OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS 10/1/08– 9/30/09**

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**Website:** Gian-Andrea "John" Morresi 330-8685; [webmaster@nutmegtu.org](mailto:webmaster@nutmegtu.org)

Trout Unlimited Membership Service - 800-834-2419 or email at [trout@tu.org](mailto:trout@tu.org)

**Board of Directors Meeting Schedule**

Second Tuesday; note holiday exceptions  
 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
 Fairfield Public Library

**Mar. 10, 2009 Apr. 4, 2009 May 12, 2009**

All members are welcome to attend

Contact Bill Blaufuss for directions 203-856-2004

[prosit67@hotmail.com](mailto:prosit67@hotmail.com)

**Celebrate TU's Golden Anniversary  
 with other TU Connecticut families**

at the  
**2009 Hammonasset  
 Festival**

Saturday, October 3, 2009

The Hammonasset Festival takes place every two years. It is a jam-packed event with many attractions for kids and adults alike and draws attendees from all over CT.

There will be a special TU Connecticut area where our member families can meet and gather 'round our Teepee to celebrate TU's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary together.

**Hammonasset Beach State Park  
 Madison, CT: 1 mile south of Exit 62 from I-95.**

Cont'd from p.1

*In this most recent meeting, DEP indicated that all of the permits will be forthcoming and by spring, dates will be designated and volunteers will be needed to help "roll rocks" under supervision to enhance thermal refuges. When dates become available we will inform all of our members so that you can be part of this effort.*

*Think spring and rising trout,  
 Bill Moskalski*

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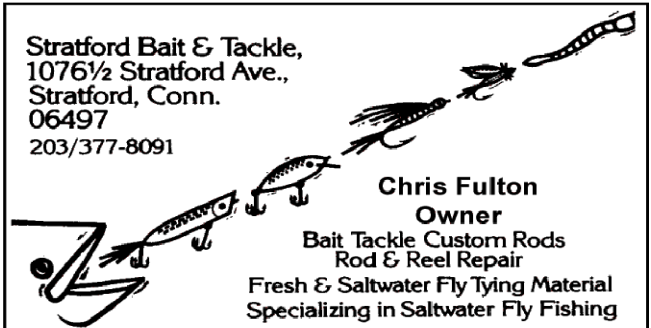
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**Kids' Fishing Derbies - Volunteers Needed!**

**By Ron Merly**

The Nutmeg Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be present to help out with two local fishing derbies for kids fifteen and under this season. The first will be on the second Saturday of April (i.e., April 11) at Gould Manor Park in Fairfield and is sponsored by the Police Athletic League. The second one is held annually at Toth Park in Easton, usually in the beginning of May, by the Easton Parks and Recreation Department. They have not yet given me an exact date for that event. We need volunteers to help the kids untangle and rig up, etc. and also to occupy a table with information about T.U. and our chapter. These events generally last for around four hours. Ideally, we would like one or two volunteers per hour so if you could give an hour for the kids, contact me at [rjmerly@yahoo.ca](mailto:rjmerly@yahoo.ca).

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

NUTMEG'S ANNUAL  
CONNETQUOT RIVER OUTING  
on Long Island

Details to Come

SAVE THIS DATE!

**New Members of TU & Nutmeg Chapter**

We announce the following new members:

JOHN BOHEIM    ALEX JINISHIAN  
JOHN COUGHLIN    TRISTAN WILGAN  
GREG VAN DEN HEUVEL

Welcome to Nutmeg Chapter!  
Please join us at chapter meetings and events!  
Contact any Board member for more information

**2009 is Trout Unlimited's Golden Anniversary  
and we will be celebrating TU's Golden Anniversary at  
Nutmeg's Annual Banquet on April 4<sup>th</sup>**

**No doubt about it . . .**

**current economic conditions are on the minds of many of us**

**But, of all years, this Banquet should be the Banquet to attend. After all, It's TU's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!  
TU has been making a difference since 1959 and that's something to celebrate!**

**To encourage more members to attend, we are offering some great  
incentives if you reserve in advance:\***

Upon arrival at the Banquet, every adult guest (and kids over 12) will get a choice of:

☞☞☞ -\$10 of free Raffle Tickets- ☞☞☞

**-OR-**

☞☞☞ -a TU 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "Baseball" Cap- ☞☞☞

**-OR-**

☞☞☞ -a box of a half dozen Flies- ☞☞☞

**Kids 12 and under are invited to be prize runners. A special "THANK YOU" will be given to them that night.  
They will not be disappointed!**

*\*-This offer applies only to reservations made by March 27<sup>th</sup>.*

*Please use Reservation Form inside this issue.*

## **Westport Outfitters Seminar Schedule 2009**

March 7<sup>th</sup>- 11:00 A.M.-**Captain John McMurray-Fishing Jamaica Bay-NYC'S Hidden Jewel**-McMurray was recently nominated by the Governor of New York and then appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to represent New York on the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council. His presentation will not want to be missed by any light tackle/fly fishing enthusiast alike. After discussing the tips, tactics & techniques that apply to fishing this very unique body of water, encompassing approximately 10,000 acres of salt marsh, John will briefly touch on some regional as well as some national conservation issues. John is truly a steward when it comes to our great sport, be sure not to miss this one! Plenty of time for Q&A following the presentation.

March 14<sup>th</sup>-11:00 A.M.-**Successful Techniques of the Tube and Worm Approach-Back by Popular Demand!!**-Here is a great early season chance to learn how to fish the Tube & Worm from the originator of the T-Man Striper Tube & Quick Change Keel System. Great for beginners and experienced tube draggers, Capt. Pat Renna will cover all aspects of tube & worm fishing in Long Island Sound. Capt. Pat will also be available for a Q&A session after the instructional presentation.

March 21<sup>st</sup>- 11:00 A.M. -**Light Tackle and Fly Fishing Rigging Tips-Captain Steve Tiffinger**- Come here from our own Captain Steve who has fished the Norwalk Islands and Westport area for over 20 years. Topics to be discussed will be Steve's favorite rigging tactics for light spinning tackle and fly fishing, knots, butt to leader connections, leader to tippet connections and tippet to lure/fly selection to help you catch more fish! Bring in your spinning reels/fly reels to make sure those knots are correct so you don't miss the chance of landing that cow! Great platform to ask questions and get live demonstrations on difficult to tie knots, as well as tap this veteran captain's local expertise.

March 28<sup>th</sup>-11:00-A.M. **David Molnar- Marine Fisheries Programs and Management**-David is a Fisheries Biologist with the State of Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection. Come hear the latest news on the overall condition of our local fishery throughout the state, as well as the current and future programs that are in place to protect and grow the fishery as a whole, including the pending saltwater license. A unique opportunity to ask questions in regards to the fishery with one of the states key employees in helping to manage it.

April 4<sup>th</sup>- 10:00-2:00-**Lou Tabory**-Come spend the day with Lou and the crew from Westport Outfitters. Lou has been an innovator in the fishing industry for more than 30 years. The day will begin with a formal presentation on light tackle and fly fishing for the variety of Northeast species found in our local waters and beyond. Lou will also cover how to tinker with spinning lures to make them more effective as well as knot tying tricks for light tackle and fly gear. After the presentation, Lou we will be available for hands on fly-casting demonstrations!

April 18<sup>th</sup>-11:00- **Everything You Need To Know About Fishing From a Kayak**-"YakDawgs" own Kevin Mucha and Roland St. Denis possess a combined 40 years of fishing experience and 16 years of fishing from the kayak, using both sit inside and sit on top models. This seminar will educate anglers on the benefits of utilizing the kayak to catch more fish, tips, unique tactics and rigging will be discussed. We all know that this is one of the most rapidly growing aspects of our sport! Come here from the guys setting the new standard!

April 25<sup>th</sup>-11:00 A.M.- **Lordship Lures** Creator/Founder **Ron DiConstanza** has fished a lifetime, with most of that time catching cow striped bass on custom handmade wooden plugs. His passion has now evolved into a business and his plugs have quickly become a staple in any fisherman's tackle bag either from shore and/or boat throughout Fairfield County and beyond. Ron will be on site to demonstrate how to fish custom plugs more effectively to catch more fish. His presentation will go over the design, color scheme as well as a hands on demo from the banks of the Saugatuck River behind the shop. Matching the right color to the conditions, line & leader connections as well as an eel skin demo will also be covered. Don't forget your rods!

**Due to the overwhelming response and acceptance of these seminars during the previous years, please RSVP by emailing [ejohnson@westportoutfitters.com](mailto:ejohnson@westportoutfitters.com) or call the shop.**

**WE ARE NOW IN OUR NEW LOCATION AT 609 Riverside Avenue, Westport CT. Please note the new phone numbers in our business card on p. 2.**

### **BIG NEWS ON THE "HOUS"**

#### **TO IMPROVE THERMAL REFUGES**

### **ALL-TU ROCK-ROLLING DAY IN JUNE**

In June (date to be determined), members of all TU chapters and other organizations will meet in the Housatonic River TMA to work restoring and improving thermal refuges.

Now that we have run-of-river on the Hous, the next step in making this an even greater fishery is to make improvements to the thermal refuges where cold water tributaries connect with the river itself. On super hot summer days, fish crowd into the refuges where water is colder.

This winter, TU CT Council reps have been meeting with DEP and other stakeholders to design and plan projects to improve these refuges. The planning process has been so swift that we expect to make major improvements just with volunteer labor of our members.

Volunteers are needed and this should be a tremendously gratifying hands-on project.. Contact Bill Blaufuss at [prosit67@hotmail.com](mailto:prosit67@hotmail.com) if interested and you will be notified of the actual date[s].

# Nutmeg Chapter TU—32nd Annual Banquet

Saturday, April 4, 2009 -- 6:30 p.m.—RESERVATION DEADLINE Friday 3/27/09 !

TASHUA KNOLLS GOLF COURSE RESTAURANT, 40 Tashua Knolls Lane, Trumbull, CT 06611

Merritt exit 49N—go 5.9 miles N on Rt 25, left onto Tashua Road and go 4/10 mile, then left onto Tashua Knolls Road/Golf Course Entrance

***BUFFET DINNER: Green Salad, Roast Beef au Jus, Chicken Picatta, Seafood Scampi, Penne a la Vodka***

***Door Prize                      Auctions                      Cash Bar                      Raffles                      Visa & MasterCard accepted***

BANQUET SEATING IS LIMITED, SO PURCHASE TICKETS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY., 3/27/08

Use form below to purchase DINNER TICKETS by mail. DINNER TICKETS are \$40, \$30 for SPOUSES and \$20 for CHILDREN 12 OR UNDER. Tables seat 8 people. Please list all those who will be sitting with you, and indicate SPOUSE *or* the age of the child.

You can also purchase RAFFLE TICKETS by mail. More Raffle Tickets will be available at the Banquet.

- Red Tickets are \$1 ea. Buy a \$50 Red Bonus Pack and get 10 FREE tickets for a total of 60 red tickets.
- Blue Tickets are \$2 ea. Buy a \$50 Blue Bonus Pack and get 5 FREE tickets for a total of 30 blue tickets.
- Gold Tickets                      Introducing a new ticket category for a limited number of special prizes. Gold tickets will only be sold at the door in order to allow members to see these special prizes before purchasing tickets.

*Pick-up your DINNER TICKETS and RAFFLE TICKETS at the door.*

RESERVATION FORM -- cut on dotted line above and send to: KINSEY LAMB, 183 Fairfield Place, Fairfield, CT 06824

Please circle if Guest is SPOUSE or CHILD & INDICATE AGE OF CHILD

YOUR NAME _____	GUEST _____ [SPOUSE] [CHILD'S AGE _____]
GUEST _____ [SPOUSE] [CHILD'S AGE _____]	GUEST _____ [SPOUSE] [CHILD'S AGE _____]
GUEST _____ [SPOUSE] [CHILD'S AGE _____]	GUEST _____ [SPOUSE] [CHILD'S AGE _____]
GUEST _____ [SPOUSE] [CHILD'S AGE _____]	GUEST _____ [SPOUSE] [CHILD'S AGE _____]
YOUR ADDRESS _____	CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
EVENING PHONE _____	E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE SEAT US WITH: \_\_\_\_\_

DINNER TICKETS:	No. OF: DINNERS _____ @ \$40.00 EA. = TOTAL\$ _____
<u>SPOUSE</u>	No. OF: DINNERS _____ @ \$30.00 EA. = TOTAL\$ _____
<u>CHILD 12 OR UNDER</u>	No. OF: DINNERS _____ @ \$20.00 EA. = TOTAL\$ _____

RAFFLE TICKETS: (MORE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE BANQUET)	RED RAFFLE: \$1.00 EACH OR 60 FOR \$50.00 (10 FREE) TOTAL\$ _____
	BLUE RAFFLE: \$2.00 EACH OR 30 FOR \$50.00 (5 FREE) TOTAL\$ _____

**GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*I can't attend but I'd like to participate in the success of this fundraiser with a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

-----PAYMENT-----

_____ CASH (IN PERSON ONLY, PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CASH)	_____ CHECK [PAYABLE TO "NUTMEG CHAPTER"]
_____ VISA CHARGE # _____	VERIF. #* _____ EXP. DATE _____
_____ MASTERCARD CHARGE # _____	VERIF. #* _____ EXP. DATE _____

\*--Card Verification Number = 3 digit non-embossed number following your card number on signature panel on back of card

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

*For Nutmeg Use Only - Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Table No. \_\_\_\_\_*

**Nutmeg Fishing Report by Ron Merly**

**February 23, 2009**

By the time you are reading this report, the regular trout fishing season will have ended. However, this means that the TMA's will receive a healthy stocking of fish in the beginning of March.

The Mianus TMA is usually done by the first Tuesday of March and generally receives around 1700 fish. This is a great place to hone in on your early season techniques. Their chapter has alleviated the dog problem, which is something that we need to address at the cascades on the Mill. The Mill will also be stocked in early March but not nearly as heavily as the Mianus.

The Fly area on the Saugatuck should be productive as well with the flows being very fishable. The sea-run trout fishing is open in the tidal estuaries year-round and don't forget Atlantic Salmon. Anglers are consistently pulling them out at the Derby Dam.

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to go steelhead fishing in Pulaski, New York for a week this February. The night we arrived, the temperature was -22 degrees and the next day it never rose above +10 degrees. We caught fish that day despite the bitter cold; luckily, as the week progressed, so did a warming trend. It turned out to be the most productive steelhead trip that I have experienced thus far. I hooked up many fish and landed over twenty up to fifteen pounds. My neighbor caught many more than that with his largest being a beautiful sixteen pound male. All fish were caught on flies using six pound tippet. The river is loaded with fish so if you can get up there, I suggest you do so. Bring extra gear with you if you do decide to go up. I fought one fish for well over an hour when it decided to run downstream and completely spool me!

If you have anything to add to the next report contact me at [rjmerly@yahoo.ca](mailto:rjmerly@yahoo.ca)

R.M.

**Directions to Fayerweather Yacht Club --- Brewster Street, Black Rock**

I-95 (N or S) to Exit 24. South on Black Rock Tpke, Go past Sym's and BJ's Wholesale Club, to Fairfield Avenue. (Black Rock Tpke becomes Brewster)

Go across Fairfield Ave., then go 0.3 miles to flag pole At stop sign at flagpole, Brewster turns 90-degrees to the left.

Stay on Brewster Street and go another 0.3 miles (just past "Port 5") to the Fayerweather Yacht Club. Park on either side of road or in the lot in front of the condos.



Nutmeg Chapter  
Trout Unlimited  
P.O. Box 1594  
Fairfield, CT 06825

