



NUTMEG NOTES

November '09

NUTMEG CHAPTER – TROUT UNLIMITED – FOUNDED 1973

P.O. BOX 1594, FAIRFIELD, CT 06825

www.nutmegtutu.org

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MONTHLY MEETINGS -- 3RD TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.

FAYERWEATHER YACHT CLUB, BLACK ROCK, CT

November 17, 2009

December 15, 2009 January 19, 2010

February 16, 2010 March 16, 2010

April 20, 2010 May 18, 2010

SEE BACK PAGE FOR DIRECTIONS

About the presentation at our Nov. 17th Meeting

Salmon Program on the Naugatuck River

This month, Tim Wildman, state fisheries biologist from the DEP will be giving the chapter a presentation on the Naugatuck River's salmon program. The Naugatuck has come a long way in a short amount of time and Tim will be speaking about the salmon program, trout and recovery of the river.

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

Hello All,

The fall fishing has been phenomenal this season with the trout in the Housatonic and Farmington being most cooperative. The Naugatuck has plenty of salmon and there are many saltwater opportunities. It is tough to figure out what to fish for this time of the year with all of these choices, and then before you know it, winter is upon us.

We had great turnouts at both the Hammo-Fest and the Aspetuck Land Trust's FunFest event during the first weekend of October, but I realized something in listening to people interested in T.U. at these events. For some reason, there is a complete misconception that T.U. is only for fly-fishermen. It is not. It is for anyone who is interested in maintaining, watching out for and improving our natural cold-water resources. You don't even need to fish. Many people said, "I cannot be a member of T.U. because I do not know how to fly-fish". I encourage all types of fishermen and anyone else who would like to be involved in our cause and I don't want our members to feel that they must fly-fish to be an active part of our chapter.

Our November presentation will be extremely informative on the fishery and the remarkable recovery of the Naugatuck River. Hope to see you there.

Good fishing,

Ron Merly

OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS 10/1/09-9/30/10

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Trout Unlimited Membership Service - 800-834-2419 or email at trout@tu.org

Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

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

11/12/09, 12/10/09, 1/14/10
 2/11/10, 3/11/10, 4/8/10, 5/13/10

All members are welcome to attend

Contact Bill Blaufuss for directions 203-856-2004 prosit67@hotmail.com

Report of Cleanup on the Mill

A big thank you to the Nutmeg TU members who gathered on Saturday, October 17 for the Fall cleanup of the Mill River: Dave Budds, John Dean, Bill Field, John Morresi, Jim Olsen, Rich Rosen, Dave Wegan and Gary Anderson. The day's haul was impressive: 8 bags of trash, 5 automobile tires, a lawn chair, a clay drainage pipe, pieces of a kitchen counter and a hockey stick...and all of this within a 1/4 mile stretch. Nice job!

**ANNOUNCING
 New Member
 of TU & Nutmeg Chapter**

LINDA WHITE

Welcome to Nutmeg Chapter!
 Please join us at chapter meetings and events!

**PLEASE SUPPORT THESE SPONSORS –
 THEY SUPPORT US**

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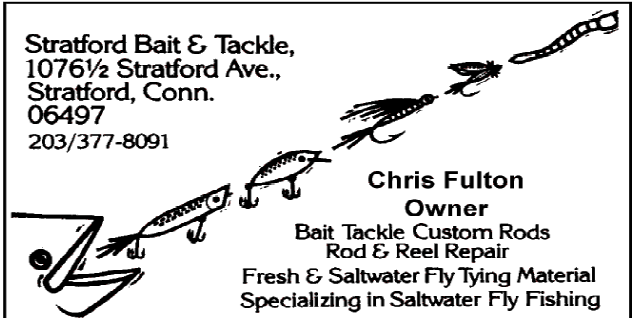
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USED FISHING GEAR SWAP - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2009

The Farmington Valley Chapter of TU will be hosting a Used Fishing Gear tag sale on Wednesday evening, November 4th, 2009 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Farmington Community Center located at 319 New Britain Avenue, Unionville. The Center is located approximately .8 miles east of the Rt. 177 Bridge on the south side of the Farmington River and on the left (river side) in the same complex as the Farmington Police Department. Since the Stonewell Restaurant can no longer accommodate the anticipated traffic volume, we have moved this event to the Farmington Community Center which has ample room, excellent lighting and plenty of free parking.

Individuals with any and all excess items in reasonable condition including fly rods, spinning rods, lures, flies, fly tying supplies and equipment, books, videos, clothing, and camping and outdoor gear are welcome. This is a great time to clean out your closet, and FVTU will gladly accept donations. There is no charge for exhibitors, but each is responsible for his/her own items. Doors open at 5:30 for exhibitors and 6 p.m. for buyers. This event is intended to bring all kinds of fishermen and reasonably priced gear together to benefit both sellers and buyers. There should be great buying opportunities, and admission is free.

Float-Stocking Trout – Volunteers Needed

The Narragansett chapter of T.U. has generously donated some of their float-stock boxes to our chapter. Float-stocking is a great way to distribute fish throughout a river rather than dumping them in a big pile off of a bridge somewhere. We would work in conjunction with DEP, meeting them in a designated spot, the boxes are put into the river, filled with trout from the truck and then walked down the river and distributed by the net full by volunteers. Rhode Island T.U. has been stocking the Wood River this way for many years. There are several advantages to this type of stocking, the first being survival rate. When the state leaves a big ball of trout under a bridge or at the side of a road somewhere, the fish are easily picked off by both fishermen and natural predators. Another advantage is that you will always know when and where the fish are stocked and you will learn new spots to fish.

If anyone is interested in a float-stocking program, please contact me at rjmerly@yahoo.ca. If volunteers come forward, I will make arrangements with DEP for their spring stocking.

“FISHING WITHOUT FALLING” NOW AVAILABLE

“Fishing Without Falling in CT” - a book pictorially representing 50 tested safe spots for the disabled and children, with lists of over 800 other, untested spots in CT. Send \$15 (plus \$3 for shipping) to Nutmeg Chapter at 175 French St, Watertown, CT 06795. The book is also available at Upcountry Sportfishing, McCallister's Fly Shop, Housatonic River Outfitters, Housatonic Meadows Fly Shop, Jimmy O's Bait and Tackle, Westport Outfitters, The Compleat Angler and Newtown Bait and Tackle.

PRE-MEETING FLY TYING!!

TIC coordinator Gian Morresi has gotten together with fly-tyer extraordinaire Fred Lord to offer chapter members the opportunity to tie flies one hour previous to our monthly meetings starting at 6:30. Fred will demonstrate fly tying for fresh and salt water patterns and members are encouraged to sit in and learn from Fred or just join him while tying your own flies. The program is offered at no cost other than a dollar or two donated to Fred for his hooks and tying materials. Some vices will be available or you may bring your own. Fred will supply all materials unless you prefer to bring your own. Come early, tie flies for an hour, eat some pizza and enjoy our regular presentation afterward.

**Upcoming Speakers –
Mark Your Calendars!!**

Nov.-Tim Wildman, DEP, on the Naugatuck River

Dec.- James Prosek

Jan.- John Springer on the Connecticut River

Feb.- Phil Shook discussing his “Flyfisher's Guide to the Northeast Coast”

Coming November 14 & 15, 2009

The Third Annual Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum Arts of the Angler Show -- "It's all about Fly Fishing"

Ethan Allen Inn, Danbury, CT
I-84, Exit 4

For updates and latest information, check out the Arts link at www.cffcm.net

THE SHOW -- not your ordinary fly show! Featuring seminars, clinics, classes and vendors all *related to fly fishing*, it is simply all about fly fishing and all proceeds benefit the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum. You will find everything related to fly fishing. It's all here in an intimate and elegant setting.

SATURDAY: 9 AM-5 PM, a special price fixe dinner at 5:30 and a live auction at 7:00 PM

SUNDAY: 9AM-4PM, Blind tying contest at high noon

VENDORS will be providing everything you can imagine: the latest and finest in rods, reels and accessories. classic and vintage tackle, equipment, books, fly tying materials, collectibles, destinations, and guide services. Visit over 50 tables, including the Classic Fly Fisherman, Jerry Girard, Whitewater Flies, The Variant, Badger Creek Flies, Richard Bradley Reels, Mike Longuil Fly Fishing Collectibles, Above and Below H2O, Kelly Baker Rods, Carlson Rod Company, MC Fly Fishing, and more.

30+ OF THE FINEST FLY TYERS providing non-stop demonstrations over the weekend: Ralph Graves, David Brandt, Jay 'Fishy' Fullum, Bob Mead, Jack Pangburn, Roger Plourde, Bruce Corwin, Bruce Marino, Leslie Wrixon, George Cherundolo, Greg Belcamino, Harold Williams, Bill Newcomb, William Hrinko, Peggy Brennan, Joe Soma and others...

SEMINARS AND CLINICS -- throughout each day: **Fran Verdoliva** telling you about the latest in catching **Atlantic Salmon** on New York's Lake Ontario tributaries. How to select and what to look for in **used bamboo rods** by **Mike Longuil**. How to make and understanding **bamboo rods** with master maker **David Van Burgel** and a little leader furling with **Kathy Scott**. Every hour a different fly tyer will provide an up close and personal *roundtable* fly tying clinic on the floor.

Check on updates and more at www.cffcm.net

Sign up now for limited seating classes never seen before...Call 845-439-4810 and ask for Erin or Shelly

All registrations will require a non-refundable deposit.

All tying classes require students to bring their own tying tools, materials will be provided.

SALTY FLIES -- Bob Lindquist, master tyer, saltwater fly fisherman, writer and author will present a two-hour class on tying the most productive salt-water patterns that will last. Saturday, November 14, from 1-3 PM. Course cost: \$40

MAKE A MOSQUITO -- Join Bob Mead, the expert on realistic and imitative insect creations, to construct something you will want to slap. Be careful, this one hurts more. Saturday, November 14, from 10 AM- 1 PM. Course cost: \$75

WOODDUCK WINGS -- Handling and making wood duck wings is not as hard as you may make it. Dave Brandt, Catskill Fly Tyer, will show you the tips and techniques to make wings that will make you smile. This one-hour mini course is just that. Saturday, November 14 from 3-4 PM. Course cost: a ten\$pot

WET FLIES THAT WORK -- Ralph Graves will not only show you how to tie wet flies, but beautiful wet flies. He is the master. Patience will prevail, but when you are done, you will be proud. Learn the proper steps for proper presentation. You won't be disappointed. Sunday, November 15 from 9:30-1 1:30 AM. Cost 40 bucks

A VERY SPECIAL CLASS -- The Reel Deal- A Primer for Practical Reelsmithing by Michael Hackney In this one-hour seminar, Michael will show prospective reel smiths how they can build functional and attractive brass fly fishing reels using only hand tools and an electric hand drill! Attendees will get an overview of the materials and tools used, as well as Michael's proven reelsmithing techniques and reel design. Each attendee will leave armed with knowledge, materials and tools lists, and a full-scale set of reel drawings and templates. This program will be offered on Saturday, November 14 from 10-11 AM and Sunday, November 15 from 1 - 2 PM-. Course cost: \$50

MOUNTING FLIES FOR FUN AND PROFIT with Ted Patlen. Do you have a favorite fly or flies that you always wanted mounted in a shadow box? Here is your opportunity to learn from Ted Patlen. Ted will take you through each step to professionally mounting and have you leave with all the necessary materials to DIY. Class includes mounting materials for 1-6 flies and class fee is based on how many flies you want to mount. This course is available on Sunday afternoon from 1:30 - 3 PM. Cost per fly: 1 fly \$20, 2-3 flies \$30, 4-6 flies \$40.

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Report from 9/10/09 meeting with DEP's "Fisheries Advisory Committee"

by Mike Piquette

Most discussion concerned the license fee increase (Fresh Water license = \$40, Marine license = \$30!). Studies have shown that if this increase stands, there will be a VERY large decrease in license sales and participation in the sport (especially by younger people). While the thought of empty streams might be attractive, losing our advocacy base would be a disaster. Bob Crook's take was that this will be taken up early next year by the legislature and the increase will be rolled back to 25% rather than the current 100+%, but there is a chance that the increase could be rolled back this week with something called an "implementer" bill. The advice from the council was to contact your state representative and senator and express your anger at the fee increase and ask that it be rolled back immediately.

Due to so many retirements in DEP, Bill Hyatt is now acting director of the Bureau of Natural Resources, while keeping his role as Director of Inland Fisheries. Rick Jacobson is acting director of the Wildlife Division while keeping his fisheries responsibilities. The BNR Director and Wildlife director jobs will be filled, but DEP will lose the Assistant Inland Fisheries director position.

Good news for hatchery truck chasers! Kensington Hatchery will be shut down and disinfected this fall. Remaining trout, some large, will be stocked out this fall, including many Atlantic Salmon in early October. There will be no subsequent stockings of Atlantic Salmon later in the fall, but the number of fish put in will be at least as much as in previous years – they're just going in earlier than usual. We were told that the diseased fish to be stocked out are "not an issue". The Seeforellen brood stock maintained there will be relocated and returned after disinfection. This will result in the loss of one year's class of Seeforellens.

A presentation on a project to restore anadromous fish passage in the Shetucket River system was given by Steve Gephardt. It's a very ambitious project, the main component being to obtain fish passage at dams on the Shetucket and Quinebaug via the FERC relicensing process, but it also involves fish passage at many other, smaller dams in the system that are not FERC licensed. Main goals are the restoration of river herring, shad and eels. Sea-run brown trout are included, but are a minor component of the plan.

Fisheries' budget is now a line item in the general fund. The conservation fund is gone and fisheries will be subject to the whims of the legislature and a quarterly allocation from them. A very nice, glossy DEP publication on the fresh water fishes of Connecticut may survive the governor's prohibition on state publications due to a dedicated fund for the publication that somehow survived when all other dedicated funds were "swept" into the general fund (someone should explain to the politicians the meaning of "dedicated").

Housatonic projects funded from the PCB \$ are going forward. \$1.3M is "left over" and its fate will be decided by the Trustees (DEP, NOAA and USFWS), perhaps by mid 2010. Frankly, I'd rather have the money in the hands of the trustees rather than have projects proposed from outside groups as in the first round - which is now being implemented. I believe that we're more likely to get projects like thermal refuge enhancement/habitat improvement in the Housatonic watershed instead of projects like pulling phragmites in Stratford and improved trails in parks in New Milford.

Holiday Meeting To Feature James Prosek

Mark your calendars for the Holiday Meeting on December 15th. Author, fisherman and artist extraordinaire James Prosek will be giving a presentation to the chapter for our annual holiday meeting/ raffle. This is definitely one that you do not want to miss. How often do you get a chance to win a T+T fly-rod and see James' presentation in one evening?

News From Our Sponsors

We have a new sponsor this month, Jimmy O's Bait & Tackle at 3389 Fairfield Avenue in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport, CT. Jimmy is a great source of information as well as all the bait and tackle you might need, so stop by and say hello.

GIVE A CHILD A "TU YOUTH MEMBERSHIP"

By Bill Blaufuss

TU has a great website just for kids: www.streamexplorers.org. The site has lots of information and activities -- take a look at sections like "Go Fishing," "Fish Facts" or "Get Active." Together with our new quarterly magazine for kids, *Stream Explorers*, you now have a great way to introduce that special kid in your life to the world of clean water and wild fish, as well as the joy of fishing.

For just \$12, your child, grandchild or other special young person will receive:

- TU's new quarterly youth magazine *Stream Explorers*, full of activities, games and fun facts for kids ages 13 and below. (Kids 14 and up receive *Trout* magazine.)
- A welcome letter announcing your gift with a personalized member card, *Stream Explorers* decal and a TU wall calendar that will mail in late summer.
- Early invitations to view the launch of new features on www.streamexplorers.org.

For a gift of \$24, the recipient will also receive *A Kid's Guide to Flyfishing*:

- Retailing at \$16, *A Kid's Guide to Flyfishing* is written by Tyler Befus, a fly angler who wrote the book at age 8.
- There's no better way to introduce your child, grandchild or other special young person to cold water conservation and fly fishing than by [giving a TU Stream Explorers membership](http://www.streamexplorers.org). It's quick, easy, and secure.

Nutmeg Fishing Report by Ron Merly

October 23, 2009

The weather has been holding out so far and the fishing has been excellent all around. Blackfish have been biting well and are one of the best-eating fish living in our waters. Fish for them around the rockpiles. Large bluefish are still about in good numbers and the night fishing for stripers remains steady although the expected fall blitz has still not arrived.

Both the Farmington and the Housatonic Rivers are still fishing very well with sporadic hatches throughout the day. The Housy in particular has been fantastic due to the heavy flows throughout the summer and some healthy stockings of large rainbows by Housatonic River Outfitters. The Mill River in Easton is loaded with wild spawning brookies right now and it is close by.

Farther north, I just spent four days on the Salmon River in Pulaski, New York with fellow Nutmegger Sal Tartaglione. The salmon are dying off and fresh runs of beautiful chrome steelies are moving up from the lake. The weather was unbelievable and we hooked into many nice steelhead.

Anyone wishing to add to the monthly report, or if you have a great fishing photo, contact me at rjmerly@yahoo.ca

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.



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