



NUTMEG NOTES

November 07

NUTMEG CHAPTER – TROUT UNLIMITED

P.O. BOX 1594, FAIRFIELD, CT 06825

www.nutmegtu.org

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MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

WE MEET THE 3RD TUESDAY, AT 7:30 P.M.
FAYERWEATHER YACHT CLUB, BLACK ROCK, CT

Tues., Nov., 20, '07 – Tom Gilmore –*Northeast Grand Slam*
Saltwater flyfishing for most popular gamefish

Tues., Dec. 18, '07 – Holiday Meeting, Holiday Raffle,
& Special Speaker [to be announced]

Tues., Jan. 15, '08 – To be announced
Tues., Feb. 19, '08 – To be announced
Tues., Mar. 18 '08 – To be announced
Tues., Apr. 15, '08 – To be announced
Tues., May 20, '08 – To be announced

GREAT FISHING WEBSITES!

- <http://ctfishingreports.blogspot.com/> CT Fishing Reports (sign up for its free email newsletter that will email you the latest fishing reports from the DEP and from newspapers and tackle shops around CT)
- http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2696&q=322752&deNav_GID=1630 DEP Weekly Fishing Report (not year round).

DAVE BUDDS & MATT SAVITZ JOIN NUTMEG'S BOARD

In recent weeks, Dave and Matt have volunteered to help the chapter by joining the Board of Directors.

Welcome aboard guys! Thanks for stepping up!

FOR SALE

"Trout Streams of Eastern Connecticut"

By Mike Goodwin, published by Thames Valley TU

Text & maps on 125+ trout streams E. of the Ct. River

Available only at chapter mtgs: \$18.00

[usu. ~ \$20 in fly shops]

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow Nutmeggers,

The chapter's trip to the Connetquot on Oct 17th was successful with many members catching large numbers of fish. The unusually mild weather made for great fishing opportunities although the lack of significant precipitation took its toll on many streams.

Jerry Bannock's presentation during our Oct 16th meeting on salmon in the Naugatuck and the Shetucket raised everyone's interest in the fate of this year's stocking of salmon in those streams. Unfortunately to date only the Naugatuck was stocked as the Shetucket was too low so those salmon were put in local lakes. Note the new websites which our webmaster has discovered to get information on local fishing conditions including any additional stocking of salmon. Our November speaker, Tom Gilmore will be giving a presentation on saltwater gamefish. Ed Mitchell will be talking about flyfishing estuaries during our December Holiday Raffle.

Yesterday evening I watched a documentary titled Kilowatt Ours that I found to be quite interesting. Although you might be inclined to categorize the film as more hype about the global warming issue, the film focused on our wastefulness of energy and how it taxes the environment in other ways. Although I was aware of the impact of coal fired power plants from an air pollution point of view from my days as an environmental consultant, the film focused on the devastation of much of Appalachia and especially West Virginia caused by the local coal mining practices.

In the '70's I did some ecological consulting work for a prominent Pennsylvania utility company on a local stream that received effluent from a coal fired generating station. We sampled in a location that enabled us to watch the railroad hopper cars unload coal for the plant. I was appalled to see the cars rolling through the gates in a constant stream dumping their contents about every five minutes. Plant personnel told me that occurs 24/7.

A few years later I had an opportunity to go whitewater rafting on a well known stream on the Pennsylvania--West Virginia border called the Youghigheny. I went for the rafting but hoped to do some fishing too. The "Yock" was a beautiful stream in a beautiful valley with sparkling clear water--- completely devoid of life due to acid mine drainage from the portion of the watershed in WV. When the guides and local park officials told me about the absence of life, my hopes of catching anything faded.

Continued on page 4

OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS 10/1/07 – 9/30/08

President: Bill Moskalski, c218-5171, twozacrowd@hotmail.com, president@nutmegtu.org
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Holiday Raffle: Glen Gammill, h-affle@nutmegtu.org
Website: Gian-Andrea "John" Morresi 203-330-8685; webmaster@nutmegtu.org

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

Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Second Monday; note holiday exceptions, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Fairfield Public Library

September 11, 2007 October 9, 2007
 November 13, 2007 December 10, 2007
 January 7, 2008 February 11, 2008
 March 10, 2008 April 7, 2008
 May 12, 2008

All members are welcome to attend
 Contact **Bill Blaufuss** for directions
 203-856-2004 prosit67@hotmail.com

"TIC TALK"

DATELINE: Staples High School, Westport—site of Nutmeg's first TIC [Trout in the Classroom] program.

After some minor equipment failures the aquarium setup at Staples was configured and the tap water was conditioned and challenged with ammonia in preparation for the eggs in mid-November. The students were involved in setting up the equipment and fashioning a Styrofoam blanket around the tank to help maintain the tank at 50 degrees which is ideal for trout. Mike Aikenhead, the teacher sponsoring this program, Bill Moskalski and Gian-Andrea Morresi have been active in monitoring various parameters to assure proper conditions for receipt of the eggs.

We initially had problems with the disinfectant (chloramine) used by the water company in Westport which appeared to inhibit the growth of nitrifying bacteria. Students had the opportunity to review the nitrogen cycle and the fate of the ammonia that would be produced by the eggs, juvenile trout and excess food. The nitrifying bacteria readily convert the ammonia to nitrites and nitrates. Ammonia is extremely toxic to fish and fish eggs but a healthy colony of nitrifying bacteria will help to eliminate the ammonia.

The chapter firmly believes that the TIC program is vital in establishing a connection between the younger generation and the environment. We would like to sponsor more teachers but we are limited by the lack of monitors from the chapter. If you would like to volunteer to help a teacher start a TIC project please see any board member.

PLEASE PARTRONIZE OUR SUPPORTERS

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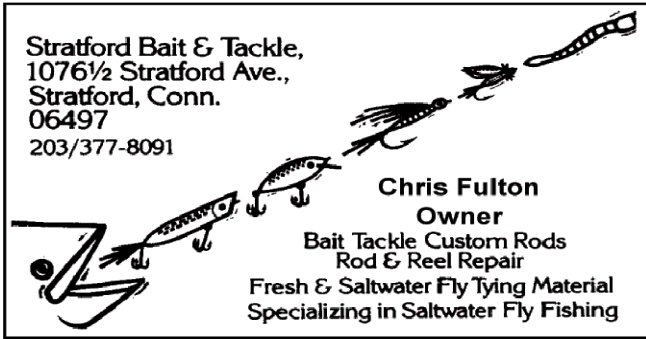
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Is TU "always asking" you to donate? Read on...

From time to time, I will hear of a TU member grouching that "all TU ever seems to do is ask for money." The complaint is, that after paying one's dues, it isn't enough...TU wants more. "And by the way, just what is TU doing for me?"

I agree that TU always seems to be asking for donations. I will further say that TU *should always* be asking for donations. *Why?*

Page 21 of TU's 2006 Annual Report says it all.

If you read nothing else in the Annual Report, just look at this page. It was sent to all members in early October--you should have it.

Note that TU's annual revenues in 2006 were about \$21 million. Of that, 75% [or \$15 million] comes from contributions/donations. There's another \$1.5 million in miscellaneous income. That leaves \$4.0 million from membership dues. That said, for every dollar each of us members pay in dues, TU raises another \$5.18.

On the Expenses side, \$15.5 million goes to "Program Services." I will not go into the detail of that here--there's plenty of coverage of that in the Annual Report and in Trout magazine. The other \$5.5 million goes towards running the organization—membership development, management and general, and fundraising. With dues accounting for only \$4.0 million of these expenses, one can see that TU couldn't accomplish much if it weren't for the donations and contributions of members and charitable foundations.

Ten years ago, TU's revenues were only about 10% of what they are today. So we have grown substantially. Still, page 21 shows that revenue from TU membership has *declined* by about \$1.0 million [20%] in just 2 years. However, revenue from contributions has increased by about \$6.0 million in the same two years.

Should TU be asking for contributions? Well, TU's revenue from contributions wouldn't have grown so substantially had it not asked for them. Few people and few foundations give money without being asked, wouldn't you agree?

Should you donate money? That's entirely up to you and your ability. However, no one's worthiness as a member of TU depends on whether one donates money. The fact that you're a TU member taking a stand for cold water conservation is first and foremost.

If you find yourself annoyed at receiving direct mail solicitations for donation, I respectfully ask that you try not to let this be a bother to you. I spent much of my business career in direct mail, and it is a fact of life in direct mail that the average response rate is 2%. That means that in any direct mail fundraising campaign, the sender must send out 100 letters in order to get 2 of them responded to. Nevertheless, the system works. The cost of sending out all those letters is economically justified by the results. Have I convinced you readers to be more understanding and even thankful that TU solicits donations? I certainly hope so.

Let's look at another aspect of donating: donating one's time.

On page 21 is another interesting statistic: TU volunteers nationwide donate 582,000 hours of time and at a rate of \$18.04/hr this equates to \$10.5 million in value. In Nutmeg chapter, '06 volunteer hours totaled 2500 and at \$18.04/hr, equated to \$45,000 in value.

Unfortunately, 2500 hours is not long enough to achieve all the chapter needs to do. Sadly, this time is expended by only 6-8 Nutmeg members. The need is real for more members to help carry the load. Those who are carrying it now are on the brink of burning-out.

Should you donate time?

Absolutely yes. If more people don't step forward and help shoulder the load, the very existence of Nutmeg Chapter is threatened.

-- Bill Blaufuss

Seeing Wonders: The Nature of Fly Fishing

at the Yale Peabody Museum

Opening September 29, 2007 & on view through February 24, 2008

Fly-tying Demonstrations on select Sundays! – from Sept. 30, 2007 – Feb. 3, 2008 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm

The Yale Peabody Museum's newest temporary exhibition comes to us from the [American Museum of Fly Fishing](http://www.amff.org) in Manchester, Vermont, home to the world's largest collection of angling and angling-related items.

Seeing Wonders: The Nature of Fly Fishing includes some of the finest artifacts in the AMFF's collections, and provides a comprehensive overview of the history of the sport and the techniques of fly fishing and fly tying. In addition to displays of historical rods and reels, the exhibition also showcases celebrity outfits and equipment such as Babe Ruth's rod and tip case, Winslow Homer's rod, Bing Crosby's fly reel and John Quincy Adams's fly box, as well as the fly fishing stories of presidential anglers. One of humankind's oldest and most popular forms of recreation, fly fishing captivates millions of people across the world and inspires fervent devotion. An introductory video, made especially for the Peabody's exhibition, aims to communicate that enthusiasm.

For more information: <http://www.peabody.yale.edu/exhibits/flyfishing.html>

FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

I have no idea if the Yock is still devoid of life but my impression is that our growing hunger for energy probably pushes these concerns to the back burner. Certainly the plight of the residents of WV concerning the devastation of the mountainsides has not been adequately addressed to date. It surprises me that such blatant environmental mismanagement still exists.

Watching the documentary reminded me of my own experiences which I conveniently forgot. I guess that these events are so removed from my everyday life that I don't really connect them to my own waste of energy. Yet I suspect that I'm more energy conservative than many if not most fellow Americans. It's easy to become complacent about things that happen far away because we can't see them although in part we're responsible for the outcome. And so it's easy to become insensitive to local problems too if we don't take the time to become involved, to see how ever expanding developments and demands encroach on local streams.

I'm disconcerted that many of our members think that by simply paying their membership fees, TU has all that it needs to fend off the onslaught of insults to local streams. Throwing money at a problem works sometimes but more often letters, pleas and active involvement are the only viable solutions. This is why active participation is sorely needed and so we need volunteers for a host of different activities. This is also why involvement of the next generation is so important—children must connect with the environment before they can become concerned with its deterioration. Please consider volunteering some of your time for one the many programs we sponsor.

Good fishing, Bill Moskalski

Recent Nutmeg Board Activities

The Board recently discussed and voted to donate \$750 to the CT Council to help defray costs of conservation activities sanctioned by the Council. The Council receives rebates from TU National which it returns to the chapters. Nutmeg agreed to return some of the money to help finance unexpected Council expenses.

The majority of the October Board meeting was dedicated to preparing the mailing for the December Holiday raffle.

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 either side of road or in the lot in front of the condos.



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