



NUTMEG NOTES

January '08

NUTMEG CHAPTER – TROUT UNLIMITED

P.O. BOX 1594, FAIRFIELD, CT 06825

www.nutmegt.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., Jan 15, '08 – Bob Sampson,
*Fishing the Thames River in Winter***

Tues., Feb 19, '08 – Mike Beauchene, *Macroinvertebrates*
Tues., Mar. 18 '08 – Ken Balog, *Fishing the Mill River in Easton & Fairfield*
Tues., Apr. 15, '08 – E. Richard Nightingale, *Lines, Leaders, Terminal Tackle*
Tues., May 20, '08 – To be announced

HOLIDAY RAFFLE WINNERS FROM OUR HOLIDAY MTG DEC 18TH

*The annual Holiday Raffle was a resounding success.
Thanks to all of you for your support.*

Congratulations to this year's winners:

- 1st Prize: Winston Fly Rod LINCOLN SCHOENBERGER
- 2nd Prize: Abel Xstream 4/5/6 wt Reel KEVIN FRENCH
- 3rd Prize: Two videos SLATER KIRBY)
- 4th Prize: Cabela's Duffle Bag FINN OLANDER
- 5th (Mystery) Prize: A Richardson Chest Fly Box, with multiple fly trays PAUL MEADE

TU FLY TYING COURSE – BEGINNER LEVEL WEDS., 1/9/ - 2/13

Pete Peterson, former Nutmegger and now a member of Candlewood chapter since moving to Newtown, is once again offering Fly Tying instruction this winter.

The course runs 6 weeks, Weds. evenings at 7:30 p.m. and costs \$100.00. The course is given at Pete's home in Newtown.

With Candlewood chapter members getting first priority, the class is full, but there is a waiting list.

If interested, please contact Pete directly at cpeterson3004@charter.net

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow Nutmeggers,

On December 18th we had our holiday party and raffle with plenty of food and a great presentation by Ed Mitchell. Unfortunately the first ticket drawn for the mystery prize belonged to a member who wasn't at the party. As in the past you need to be present to win the mystery prize; this year it was a Richardson flybox. The second ticket won. Besides the food and entertainment this is another great reason to come to the party.

With the holiday season passed the "show season" begins. Fly fishing shows, home shows, construction shows and craft shows can fill anyone's weekends for the next several months. I like the shows because they help relieve cabin fever and provide opportunities to listen to presentations by experts in the field. The fly fishing shows also provide the opportunity to see all the new equipment and gadgets that the industry offers. Not that I need any more equipment. But it's fun to see how silly we can get about the nuances of flyline tapers and coatings or the exact profile of the flex of the newest graphite rod. Silly too because although I own a multitude of mostly high-end rods, I discovered that my Fenwick fiberglass rod, purchased more than 30 years ago, throws a line almost as far as the others and further than I almost ever need to cast. Why would I ever want another?

Maybe I need an "i-rod" – a flyrod with a phone and a camera. Not yet on the market? Just wait. I could take pictures of the fish I catch and immediately send them to my wife... But that's as useless as most of the gimmicks I fell for over the last so many years.

The shows are, of course, a marketing opportunity for all the manufacturers and I can't help but become cynical when I think of how our society is driven by marketing. In fact, recently a commentator's on CNBC mused that a whole industry will grow based on the greening of America now that there is a market for those types of goods and services. I guess I should be thankful that someone can make money while doing something good for the environment.

I suppose that even global warming has to be marketed to convince most people to "buy" into the need to be energy conscious. Of course this "marketing" raises the ire of many folks who wonder: is it real or just hype?

When politicians get involved it's easy to wonder if it's hype. But I believe, as a scientist, there are inescapable facts that point to the reality of global warming. Of course there will always be a question as to how much is really contributed

FROM THE PRESIDENT, cont'd from p1 *by manmade sources or how much can be tolerated. Yet, we need to be concerned. I suppose I get distraught when I think that we should probably be "marketing" what TU does too. But the "economic" rewards are a bit harder to see. It's hard to place a value on being waist deep in cold water on a clear day with a wild brookie on the line or perhaps nothing on the line but knowing they're there. True that state agencies and the Feds place a value on recreation dollars or angler hours to enable budgeting of environmental programs. Obviously clean water and protection of endangered populations are of value but it always seems that the value of these precious commodities doesn't compare with the value of the latest retail fad. I'll bet that if all the money spent on i-phones over the holidays could be spent on the environment we might be able to resolve at least one environmental crisis. Anyway, i-phones will be obsolete in a few years and then we'll have to worry about recycling them. Maybe we'll figure out how to use them to make flyrods.*

Fortunately, there was one Christmas present that was given to all of us by our friends at the Nature Conservancy. Recently they purchased a really enormous tract of land in the Adirondacks to be preserved for our children. These are really the most long lasting gifts that any of us can receive.

Happy New Year, *Bill Moskalski*

December Nutmeg Board Activities

Board activities focused on a revision to the chapter's accounting system that Treasurer Bobbi Kurman developed for us. Board members were of the opinion that the system provided by TU National was cumbersome and difficult to understand. Bobbi restructured the system to make it more user-friendly and easier to understand while enabling it to be linked to the system used by TU National. Reconciliation of checks, improvement in tracking receipts and the handling of cash from raffles, donations, etc was significantly enhanced by the new procedures enabled by in part by switching from Quicken to Excel. The chapter also discussed the use of our credit/debit card and the security necessary to prevent any misuse.

Individual members of the Board also helped to complete the retail value of our banquet prize inventory in the previous month so we have better control of our prize categories and suggested bids. We discussed any problems associated with that task. We also discussed ad space in the newsletter and how we should handle public service announcements. We are evaluating a charge for space since we want to be able to help our sponsors without adversely affecting our costs to publish the newsletter.

"TIC TALK" continued from p2

"They are pretty active but I'm leaving them in the box to initiate feeding.

"I fed them once over break and have fed them the past two days. I've added very small pinches of food about four times a day. It is a little tough to see if they are eating it all though because they swim away when the food is added. When I return after several minutes, I see a few feeding, but again, since they are timid of us, it is hard to observe feeding.

"The students have really taken to the project and they are quite amazed with how quickly the trout have been growing and developing. Students from all three of my AP Environmental Science classes are responsible for caring for the tank. Each morning, for about 20 minutes before school, a group of 4-5 students comes in to perform their 'trout duties.' This essentially involves testing the chemistry of the water (Dissolved Oxygen, pH, ammonia, nitrite, nitrates), making observations of the trout development, behavior, and population, and making water changes or cleaning the tank. It has been an incredibly fun learning experience for all of us and we can't wait to see them released in the spring."

If you'd like to get involved with TIC and be a monitor at a school, please contact Bill Moskalski at 218-5171. Bill had received some messages on his cell phone which he promptly lost because of a memory problem (not his--the phone) so please call again.

LOCAL SEMINARS & REGIONAL FISHING EXPOS

Winter's a great time to 'go back to school' learn and hone your skills:

LOCAL SEMINARS--Find out about seminars offered by our local supporters by visiting their websites or contacting them at:

- **COMPLEAT ANGLER**, Darien – www.compleat-angler.com. Sign up for their newsletter by visiting their site.
- **WESTPORT OUTFITTERS**, E. Norwalk – www.westportoutfitters.com Westport Outfitters is offering three salt water fly tying courses, one beginning January 9th, and two beginning in February. Find out more and sign up for their newsletter by visiting their website.
- **ORVIS DARIEN**, Darien – Google "Orvis Darien CT" and you will land on their website. Call 203-662-0844 for details on seminars.

REGIONAL EXPOS— www.flyfishingshow.com Visit this site and get listing of seminars offered day-by-day, directions, etc.

- **MARLBORO, MA** 1/18-20
- **SOMERSET, NJ** 1/25-27

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 meetings: \$18.00 [usu. ~\$20 in fly shops]

HOPEFULLY WE'LL SOON ALSO BE OFFERING ...
“Fishing the Housatonic River Trout Management Area”
published by Housatonic Fly Fishermen’s Association
&
“A Guide to Fishing the Farmington River”
published by Farmington River Anglers’ Association

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.amuseumofflyfishing.com) in Manchester, Vermont, home to the world’s largest collection of angling and angling-related items.

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

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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