



NUTMEG NOTES

NUTMEG CHAPTER – TROUT UNLIMITED
P.O. BOX 1594, FAIRFIELD, CT 06825
www.NutmegTU.org

Tuesday, 19 April 2005

Jeff Passante

A Year in the Life of a Fisherman

7:30 P.M.

FAYERWEATHER YACHT CLUB

BLACK ROCK, CT

Cash Bar

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April Greetings Nutmeggers:

ANNUAL CONSERVATION BANQUET 3/19 – A HUGE SUCCESS!

With 98 members and guests and a bigger-than-ever assortment of prizes, we just celebrated our 28th Annual Banquet. Fundraising is ever so critical to fulfilling our conservation and educational objectives. Thanks to all who attended, to member/donors and other supporters, and to members who generously gave time in months of pre-planning, set-up, and the evening itself. Comments and suggestions are welcome, so email them to me at proposit67@hotmail.com.

MOTOR BOAT FUELS TAX (and Writing your Legislators)

In the last newsletter and in recent email campaigns, I have appealed for members to write and/or call their state legislators to get motorboat fuels tax revenue restored to DEP instead of diverting to DOT, where highway fuel taxes go. It's too early to know the outcome and hopefully we'll prevail.

Spam and junk emails spoil the occasional sending and receiving of information on the "real" causes and important issues I wish to pass onto you from the dozens of appeals so good that we should write our legislators and congressmen on each and every one of them. I feel Nutmeg members risk becoming over-dosed, turned-off or tuned-out altogether. Please understand that when I *do* send out these notices, it is: [a] on issues that are deemed to be near and dear to our hearts, [b] on issues that we have a chance of winning, and [c] to 'spur' those members who *would* write, but haven't done so yet - *I'm one of them*—I know I need a kick in the 'pants' to get something done, and I suspect that I'm far from being the only one who feels this way!

If not for these letter-writing "campaigns," most of us know we would *not have won* [a] "run-of-river" on the Housatonic River, nor [b] would we have gotten the CT Senate to introduce a water flows planning bill a few weeks ago. To those who write: pat yourselves on the back for speaking up . . . and for a job well done!

BEST WISHES TO HAL AND SHIRLEY WOOD

We salute and thank Board Member Hal Wood who, with lovely wife Shirley, is relocating to North Carolina. Hal has been on the Board for more years than I know and has run our annual holiday fundraising raffle for most of them. Note to Hal: There's plenty of good fishing opportunities down there, and a strong TU organization as well. Thanks for everything. Enjoy!!

6/3-5 TRIP TO THE WESTFIELD RIVER [3 branches] IN MA

We'll make our annual trip to the Westfield River in MA in June. This is a "no license" weekend and there is no cost for attending. The fish are strong and healthy, there is a great campground in Chesterfield, MA on the East Branch of the river and include hot showers and no electrical hookups. The cost is \$30.00/site for 2 nights and no discount for just one night. Everyone is welcome.

The Hendricksons are comin' soon! Tight Lines!

Bill Blaufuss

NUTMEG OFFICERS

President: Bill Blaufuss...203-227-9085; president@nutmegtu.org; prosit67@hotmail.com
 Vice President: Bucky Reed; vicepres@nutmegtu.org
 Program Chairman: Bob Knoebel; flyrodbob@aol.com
 Secretary: Ken Balog; secretary@nutmegtu.org
 Treasurer: Pete Peterson; treasurer@nutmegtu.org
 Conservation: Mike Piquette; conservation@nutmegtu.org
 Newsletter: John Mikstay; newsletter@nutmegtu.org; mangrovefly@optonline.net
 Membership: David Moxhay; membership@nutmegtu.org
 Banquet Chairman: Ben Chin; banquet-chair@nutmegtu.org
 Banquet Prizes: Bob Eck; bnqt-prizes@nutmegtu.org
 Holiday Raffle: Glen Gammill; h-affle@nutmegtu.org
 Website: Gian-Andrea "John" Morresi...203-330-8685; webmaster@nutmegtu.org
 Board Members: Bill Field, Bob Knoebel, Red Nichols, Marty Vasas
 Trout Unlimited Membership Service - 800-834-2419 or email at trout@tu.org

Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM
 September 28, 2004
 October 12, 2004
 November 9, 2004
 December 14, 2004
 January 25, 2005
 February 8, 2005
 March 8, 2005
 April 12, 2005
 May 10, 2005

All members are welcome to attend. Call Bill Blaufuss at 203-856-2004 days, or 203-227-9085 evenings, for directions.

The Compleat Angler

FINE TACKLE, CLOTHING & GIFTS

Scott Bennett
 GENERAL MANAGER

987 POST ROAD
 DARIEN, CT 06820
 203-655-9100
www.compleat-angler.com

THE GREENWICH WORKSHOP GALLERY



Christopher Usher
 Director

1657 Post Road
 Fairfield, Connecticut 06430
 (203) 255-4613
 (800) 243-4260
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Westport/Weston YMCA

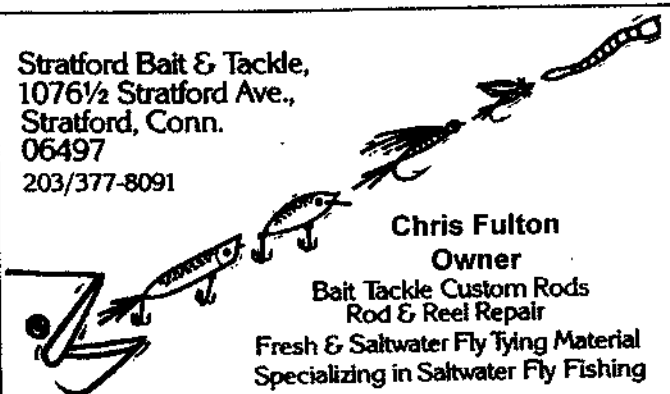
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Store Manager

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203-561-9683
 33 Pine Point Rd
 Rowayton, CT 06853

Capt. Paul Koopmann
captkoop@saltyflies.com

Conservation News

A new subdivision that will affect the Mill River WTMA in Easton has been proposed. This time, it's the east bank of the river that could be affected. The proposal is for 17 homes on 72 acres. The affected section of river is located across from the land where the "Running Brook Farm" age-restricted development is proposed. Specifically, it's the river section farthest from South Park Avenue opposite the "picnic area".

I've walked the property with the developer and he assured me that he would do whatever it takes to protect the river. Our major concerns are setback from the river, public access to the river, and storm water runoff. He is proposing a 120 to 200' buffer along the river (which we will request remains completely natural). He will protect this area by conservation easement or whatever means the town of Easton wants. There will be retention basins and structures for road runoff. Also, he's proposing to mitigate the two eroded gullies that have formed due to Trumbull road runoff down the steep bank to the river. These runoff channels are currently dumping loads of sediment into the Mill. At the 3/22 Conservation Commission hearing, I made a few comments about our concerns. I asked that the town request a review of the development proposal by the DEP Fisheries Division. I said that we would defer to the review and comments of DEP regarding width of setback, capacity and placement of storm water retention system, mitigation devices for eroded areas, etc. In addition to protecting open space (large wetland areas) on the property, the developer has proposed donating a fee to the town, in lieu of open space. This amount of money could be considerable (possibly several thousand dollars). I asked that this money be earmarked for purchase of the Running Brook Farm property across the river where the dense age-restricted development was proposed, and where an even more dense "affordable housing" development is in the works (Easton is waiting for an appraisal of the property and a lawsuit filed by the developer against the town, is pending).

While the only way to preserve the Mill and its unique wild trout fishery is to keep the land along the river natural, this is not likely to happen in today's housing market. At least this development follows Easton's 3-acre/unit zoning, will protect the land along the river and will mitigate existing severe erosion problems. We'll see what DEP Fisheries says about it. The meeting was held over until April 12th at Town Hall in Easton. Check your e-mail for more info.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1; April Fools' Day
 April 3; Daylight Savings Time Begins (2:00 a.m.)
 April 16; Trout Season Opens
 April 19; Chapter Meeting – Jeff Passante - Speaker
 April 22; Earth Day

 May 1; May Day
 May 5; Cinco de Mayo
 May 8; Mother's Day
 May 30; Memorial Day (observed)

**** PLEASE READ ****

EDITOR'S CORNER...

**** PLEASE READ ****

FISHING REPORT ...

THE LOCAL RIVERS HAVE BEEN RUNNING HIGH THESE LAST FEW DAYS DUE TO HEAVY RAINS AND SNOW MELT. THEY HAVE BEEN RECENTLY STOCKED AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT AFFECT THIS HAS ON THE FISHING ONCE THE RIVERS CLEAR AND RECEDE. MORE RAIN IS PREDICTED FOR THE FIRST WEEKEND OF APRIL WITH HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING POSSIBLE.

OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, STONEFLY HATCHES HAD BEEN OCCURRING DURING THE WARMEST PARTS OF THE DAY ON THE MIANUS AND SAUGUTUCK, AND FISH HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON DRY FLIES AS WELL AS NYMPH PATTERNS AND STREAMERS FISHED DEEP.

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THE FISHING REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, PLEASE E-MAIL ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO I CAN INCLUDE MORE INFORMATION IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR. MY E-MAIL IS MANGROVEFLY@OPTONLINE.NET. THANKS!!

JOHN MIKSTAY

MEETING & SPEAKER SCHEDULE

**NUTMEG MEETINGS: 3RD TUESDAY AT 7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER — APRIL AT THE FAYERWEATHER YACHT CLUB**

- March 15, 2005 — Sandy MacGregor: *Fly fishing the rivers and lakes
Of Western Maine*
- March 19, 2005 — TU Nutmeg Chapter Fundraising Banquet
- April 19, 2005 — Jeff Passante: *A Year in the Life of a Fisherman*
- May 17, 2005 — TBD

TROUT UNLIMITED MISSION:

**TO CONSERVE, PROTECT AND
RESTORE NORTH AMERICA'S
COLDWATER FISHERIES AND
THEIR WATERSHEDS**

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

I-95 (N or S) to Exit 24. South on Black Rock Tpke, past Sym's and BJ's Wholesale Club, to Fairfield Avenue. (Black Rock Tpke becomes Brewster) Go across Fairfield Avenue and from that point, go 0.3 miles to a stop sign at a flagpole. At the stop sign, Brewster Street takes a 90-degree turn 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 the road or in the Yacht Club lot in front of the new condos.