

# THE ROLL CAST

THE eNews LETTER of  
CAPE COD TU CHAPTER 460  
JANUARY 2010



**NEW WEBSITE IS UP WITH ALL NEW FORMAT AND  
PAGES.VISIT @ [www.capecodtu.org](http://www.capecodtu.org) .**

**Join us for our monthly general meeting. Liberty Hall,  
Marston's Mills. Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:pm**

**Come hear Darby Hittle from CT TV speak on spring creek  
fishing in PA & update his "Silver Bullet" NY salmon fishing  
talk!**

## **SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

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**JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**LIBERTY HALL 7:00 PM**

**THE RETURN OF DARBY HITTLE**

**SPRING CREEK FISHING IN PA**

**AND AN UPDATE ON NY STEELHEAD FISHING**

**FEB 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**HOME GROWN PROGRAM FEATURING FISHING LOCAL MA WATERS  
WITH OFF CAPE OUTING SLIDE SHOW.**

**MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**STEVE HURLEY OF MASS FISH & WILDLIFE**

**WITH MICHAEL HOPPER OF SE TV.**

**TALKING ABOUT FRESHBROOK RESTORATION IN WELLFLEET.**

**APRIL**

**NO MEETING BECAUSE OF THE SPRING BANQUET IN SUNDAY  
APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>!**

## **PRESIDENT'S NOTES**

**HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2010 TO ALL AND GOOD LUCK IN YOUR FISHING THIS YEAR. SOME RESOLUTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER THIS YEAR MIGHT INCLUDE A RENEWED INTEREST IN OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS. THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY OF SEA RUN NATIVE BROOK TROUT IN THE QUASHNET AS WELL AS THE START OF A NEW EFFORT ON FRESH BROOK IN WELLFLEET.**

**I WOULD LIKE TO THANK WAYNE MILLER FOR SUPPLYING BROWN TROUT EGGS FOR OUR TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM EFFORT , IT'S THIRD YEAR, AT THE QUASHNET MIDDLE SCHOOL IN MASHPEE.**

**IF YOU ARE IN THE FALMOUTH/MASHPEE AREA AND WANT TO DROP OFF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE MARTIN ROAD GATE OF THE QUASHNET WE CAN USE THEM IN THE RESTORATION EFFORT. PLACE THEM PAST THE YELLOW GATE ON THE LEFT OUT OF THE ROAD WAY.**

**THE MA/RI COUNCIL OF TU WILL BE HOLDING A FUND RAISING BANQUET ON THE SATURDAY JAN 16 FOLLOWING THE MARLBORO FLY SHOW. SEE RANDOM NOTES FOR MORE INFO**

**THE CHAPTER IS HOLDING FREE WINTER FLY TYING CLASSES THIS WINTER ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS STARTING JAN 20 TO MARCH 3 @ 7:00 PM IN LIBERTY HALL. ALL LEVELS OF TYING WILL BE ADDRESSED. BEGINNERS WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH MATERIALS.**

**WE ARE SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE AL BREWSTER AWARD. CANDIDATES NEED TO HAVE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS OF ACTIVE SERVICE TO THE CHAPTER. EMAIL NOMINATIONS TO [CCTUPREZ@CAPECODTU.ORG](mailto:CCTUPREZ@CAPECODTU.ORG)**

**DON'T FORGET OUR SPRING BANQUET ON APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>. LOOK THROUGH YOUR GOOD STUFF FOR DONATIONS.**

**SEE YOU AT THE MEETING , THANKS . MARK**



***Yet another imPOSITION from, Red Quill . . . an olde coot!***  
**Some act and talk as though casting were the entire art of fly-fishing, and grade an angler solely by the distance he can cover with his flies. This is a great mistake and pernicious in its influence. Casting is but a method of placing a fly before the trout without alarming it, and within its reach. It is merely placing food before a guest. The selection of such food as will suit, and so serving it as to please a fastidious and fickle taste, still remain indispensably necessary to induce its acceptance.**

*Henry P. Wells, "Fly-Rods and Fly-*

*Tackle" -1885*

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Methinks that H. P. Wells was on to somethin' big here--and so, so long ago at that! Why, almost 125 years have passed by and I dare say if you were to ask any of your fly-fishing buds today just who they considered the best caster they know they would probably reply, the one who can cast the farthest! With absolutely NO mention made of accuracy--or style or finesse either, for that matter. However, distance is not the end-all or be-all of fly-fishing; it wasn't in '85, it isn't now, it never will be.

Actually, I think **stream position** is the key factor in any fly-fishing success story. So, if you find that you are often "having" to cast 50 to 60 feet, more now, than ever before, then you are in the wrong place and are too damn lazy to move. There really is a legit reason why fly lines are delineated (in weight) for the first 30 feet, as twenty to forty feet is a nice comfortable casting range. I know that sometimes you simply must cast further than 40 feet or so but most of the time, especially in fresh water, you are simply not in the **correct position**. I see altogether too many 60-foot casts (and way too much double hauling) on rivers, ponds and streams when a **repositioning** is what is actually called for. This is, well, to be polite, just "show-boating" most of the time--anglers that are fly-casting, not fly-fishing!

And once you get over that magic 40 foot mark you open up (dare I say it here in a fly fishing newsletter) a can of worms, what with all the drag forces and physics that often affects your line, leader and fly on the waters surface. To say nothing of the sloppy landing of the leader, the hang-ups in the trees and those so-called "takes" that are really just casual "look-sees". Indeed, the old timers would be constantly wading the streams, walking along, stopping, making a cast here, a cast there, then moving a few feet along and, if they got no action, doing it all over again. They were actually **repositioning** themselves in the stream to take advantage of new targets and not trying to reach out 60, 70 feet or more inappropriately. They did not simply flail the water to a froth, while stuck in one spot while refusing to move, come hell or high water, simply because they saw a rise or two nearby and considered them "their" fish--within "their" angling boundaries, so to speak. They just moved on, read...**repositioned!**

Now I realize this concept is not in fashion now, this constant moving while on the stream, but it works. (*Hmmmmm*, although perhaps you are simply afraid of losing your previously hard-won claim to that "sweet spot" at Ferdon's, eh?) I think this "territory protection" thingy is really behind a lot of this angler **position stagnation**. Why, just look at Cairns Pool in the first week of June, anglers, like fence posts, lined up, unmoving, hypnotically casting over and over and over. It has really become the modern style of fly-fishing, at least at some places. (And, before you ask, no, I am not just picking on the Beaverkill.) So somehow you manage to maneuver to the "best" possible **position** and then? Why, you simply take root there! In the old days if a cast was made to a rising trout, and the trout did not take, you would make perhaps one or two more casts at this fish, or three, tops. You would then simply wade onward a few feet and look for new rising trout in "fresher" water. Ya know, this was a lot like hunting in that you actively sought out the fish; however you did not just cast away blindly and mindlessly--as a duck hunter might "sky-bust" sometimes, even though he really knows "his" prey is well out of range.

So next time you are streamside try this; pick your target, get in the **proper position**, try laying down a couple of casts in the 25 to 35 foot range and then, if you have no luck, try moving along, as you have probably put down both your fish and any nearby fish. It's a simple thing is it not, to just **reposition** yourself. Do not stand like the Statue of Liberty in one spot and reach out with incrementally longer and longer casts--yes, even double hauling--until you reach the point where you finally come to the realization that you have totally lost control of the whole damn cast--the line, the leader, the fly and, most importantly, the drift. Well, you have blown it my friend, now move along...and quietly please!

*Hmmmmm...so, any suggestions, Mister Quill, you may well be asking right about now? Well, you just might try rereading the Henry P. Wells quote above, especially the part where he says, "Casting is but a method of placing a fly before the trout without alarming it, and **within it's reach.**"*

To that I might humbly add...and **within your reach also!**

# R A N D O M C A S T S

Gossip, Extraneous News, BS & Assorted Twaddle

GOT NEWS? *Shops! Members! Friends!* Email: [strathie@aol.com](mailto:strathie@aol.com)

√QUASHNET WORKDAYS! A CCTU project (Schedule changes underlined!)  
Quashnet workdays are held at 9am on the third Sunday of every month,. This is CCTU's main conservation project and has been for 30 plus years. For more info call Fran Smith @ 508-548-4087. We meet at the Martin Road access off Rt. 28 in Falmouth near the Mashpee line...but you knew that didn't you? Come on down, nonmembers too!  
JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> - FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup> - MARCH 21<sup>TH</sup> - APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> - MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>  
(Now this is the proposed schedule but it may change as the year progresses. Cancellations? Weather? Directions? To be on the safe side check with Fran @ 508-548-4087.)

√RED BROOK WORKDAYS! A MA/RI Council project  
Red Brook workdays are held at 9am on the first Saturday of every month. Meet in the Lyman Reserve parking lot, Head of the Bay Road in Wareham. This is an ongoing MA/RI Council conservation project staffed mainly by SMTU members. Directions? Info? Changes? Weather? Warren Winders: 781-878-1074 / [redbrook@verizon.net](mailto:redbrook@verizon.net)  
JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> - FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> - MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> - APRIL 3<sup>TH</sup> - MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>  
(Same schedule caveat as above but call or email Warren!)

CCTU FLY FISHING SCHOOL INFO? Contact the NEW! CCTU Camp Director Tim Lynch directly at [cctuflyfish@comcast.net](mailto:cctuflyfish@comcast.net) or 508-274-0936 for more info on the 2010 CCTU FF Camp/School! Or just go to our website: [capecodtu.org](http://capecodtu.org)

CABIN FEVER RELIEVER: Six sessions starting at @ 7PM @ Liberty Hall in MM. It's "official" we will be having our traditional FREE Fly Tying sessions at Liberty Hall. Learn more, go to our website – [capecodtu.org](http://capecodtu.org). Open to all member or not!

## SOME UPCOMING EVENTS AND SHOWS

- √The Fly Fishing Show - Marlboro, MA - Jan 15,16, 17, 2010 (entrance fee)
- √The Fly Fishing Show - Somerset, NJ - Jan 22, 23, 24, 2010 (entrance fee)
- √The Bears Den Show - Taunton, MA - Feb 20, 2010 (a freebie)
- √LL Bean Expo - Freeport, ME - Mar 20-21, 2010 (a freebie)

I suspect most of you know by now but in case you don't...Jack Gartside passed away the first week of December. Jack was a likeable yet very different kinda guy—one of the most innovative fly tyers of the past 3+ decades. He is responsible for a multitude of popular flies—Sparrow, Gurgler, Beastmaster, etc.. A staunch Bostonian, Jack certainly gave the word cosmopolitan new meaning! LOL...and I bet he kept the guys over at Town Taxi laughing too. Keep those heads nice and neat, Jack. Tight lines, old sport!

## BOOKS...for your consideration! This time a Catskill sampler

*Below are a few books to give you some of the “flavor” of the Catskill experience. These are NOT reviews but “thumbnail sketches” of books that you would enjoy both as reading material and how-to kinda stuff. Listed in order of RQ’s personal preference!*

**HISTORY, TALES, FISHIN’ LORE & MYSTIQUE:** Number one on my A-list would have to be, *Catskill Rivers, Birthplace of American Fly Fishing* by Austin Francis. This book was published in 1983. It is divided into two sections; *Catskill Angling Heritage* and *Portraits of the Rivers*. And, while illustrated in B & W only, it has some remarkable photos nonetheless. However the beautifully drawn maps of the individual rivers are what really sets this tome apart. A gem! Number two is another Francis book, *Land of Little Rivers, A Story in Photos of Catskill Fly Fishing*. This tome is much more vividly illustrated in both B & W and color. It could be had with a full set of separate river maps from his previous book (only available with the book back in 1999). Simply beautiful photography! Number three would be *The Beaverkill, The History of a River and It’s People* by Ed Van Put. Ed is a fisheries scientist for the state of New York and has acquired the moniker “the Admiral of the Delaware” due to his fishing prowess on the big river. This book, while very nicely done, does not have quite the “mystique” of Austin’s works but is extremely well researched and an absolute pleasure to read.

**LEGENDARY CATSKILL TYERS:** A true toss-up here! Two stand out in my opinion so I will do them alphabetically! First, *Catskill Flytier, My Life, Times and Technique* by Harry Darbee. This one came out in 1977 and is now a collectors item. Harry and his wife, Elsie, made up one of the two tying duos that really framed the Catskill scene from the 30’s thru the 60’s. A joy to read if you can find it. And lastly, the other notable duo, *The Dettas, A Catskill Legend* by Eric Leiser. This book arrived on the scene in 1992 and chronicles the story of Walt, Winnie & Mary Dette Clark perhaps the best known tyers in the Roscoe area. (Personally I’d flip a coin over which family would win here Walt, Winnie & Mary or Harry & Elsie) This book is loaded with anecdotes and it is packed full of photos. The pictures are what make this book I think. There are some Dette patterns photographed being tied so you can learn from the pros! Mary is still tying flies on Cottage Street in Roscoe! The Darbees & the Dettas really form the bridge between Gordon, LaBranche & Cross and the modern era tyers!

**OTHER STUFFAGE:** Some of the other great Catskill anglers and tyers worth reading are: anything by Leonard Wright especially, *Fishing the Dry Fly as a Living Insect*. *The Complete Fly Tier* by Rube Cross—an old pal of Al Brewster by the way. *A Streamside Guide*, by Art Flick—yet another old Brewster chum! *The Complete Fly Fisherman, The Notes and Letters of Theodore Gordon*, edited by John McDonald. And almost any of the numerous books and stories by, Dana Lamb and Sparse Grey Hackle.

*√FYI: Red Quill is reading, Tying Catskill-Style Dry Flies by Mike Valla. RQ will do a review next month. Great tales! Even greater photos!. Look for it! Most likely this tome will join the Valhalla of the above books in Red’s modest angling library.*

LAST CALL! LAST CALL! The MA/RI Council WINTER BANQUET January 16<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm! This is a MA/RI Council fundraiser and a social event! Held in Marlboro at the Holiday Inn on Route 20 just off Route 495. Only \$35! Do U wanna go? Want more info? Carpooling perhaps? Directions? See our CCTU website <capecodtu.org> Raffle & auction prizes also needed. And remember the annual MARLBORO FLY FISHING SHOW is a being held a half mile or so up the road at the Royal Plaza on the same day. HECK!—why not come on out and make a day of it. Fly Fishing Show info? Google: "the Fly Fishing Show" then click on Marlboro.

The year 2009 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United Fly Tyers—the country's oldest fly-tying club. UFT's periodical, the Roundtable, was the first (and at one time the only!) publication dedicated strictly to fly tying. Since 1959, the Woburn-based, United Fly Tyers has attracted both national and international attention. Want more info on UFT? Directions? Events? Wanna join up even? Go to: [info@unitedflytyers.org](mailto:info@unitedflytyers.org)  
√ And it was also the 150<sup>h</sup> anniversary of the building we meet in...Liberty Hall! This historic, privately-owned building recently underwent repair & painting and this takes buck\$! Donations? Liberty Hall – PO Box 401 – Marstons Mills, MA 02648.

FYI: MassWildLife — Southeast District (Bourne): 508-759-3406

In November we mentioned Carmine Lisella in these pages as a purveyor of collectable & new tackle. But Red Quill would be remiss if he did not also mention, Robert Selb, a dealer in tackle and books of high quality...and a fine gentleman! Bob has been in the business for about 25+ years now and has established himself as a go-to guy to buy or sell classic fly tackle & books. Bob also stocks some new cane rods. The latest rod maker to join his stable is Dennis Menscer from Hancock, NY. (Does the name sound familiar? Dennis used to commercial fish out of Chatham and is acquainted with seals, great whites and lunching with RQ. How's that for a small world thingy?) For a peek at Bob's complete "Classic Fly Fisherman" inventory simply Google, Robert Selb or call or fax: Phone: (toll free) 1-866-930-3667 - Fax: 215-412-3606. Lotsa neat stuff here!

√FYI: If you had asked 5 years ago who RQ would have sought out to buy, sell or trade classic tackle/books, Mr. Quill would likely have mentioned a local dealer, Ken Reback or perhaps Martin Keane out in western Massachusetts; followed, in turn, by Bob Selb in PA or Carmine Lisella in NY. Well, alas, Martin is no longer with us and Ken, for all intents and purposes, is out of the collectable tackle business so that leaves us, Carmine Lisella and Bob Selb. Both are long-time, honorable dealers...just not "local" talent. Carmine may be reached @ [clisella@aol.com](mailto:clisella@aol.com) and Bob at the above addresses.

And by the way... **if you have contact with any of the people, shops, events or services mentioned on these pages, please mention the RollcasT or CCTU.** Among other things it makes it much, much easier for us when we go out to solicit for the CCTU Spring Banquet raffle & auction items...thank you.

And...The CCTU **Spring Banquet** fast approaches and we will need auction & raffle items! The Banquet will be held at **Harbor Point**, once again, on **April 25<sup>th</sup>**. We do need your help obtaining auction & raffle prizes. Search your attics, dens, garages and cellars for anything “saleable” and you might even try checking with the local tackle shop (and other merchants) you deal with on a yearly basis. If you do manage to come up with some items (either your own donations or a local merchant or tackle shop) please let Mark Hattman know how you did at: [cctpprez@capecodtu.org](mailto:cctpprez@capecodtu.org) We do send out thank you letters with tax information for IRS purposes afta the dinner is over. So, try your best, it’s for a good cause. Mark is collecting the items, keep him in the loop, OK?

**And...this is it! LAST CALL for 2010 Al Brewster Award nominations!**

This annual award will be presented to a CCTU member at our Spring Banquet. The only criteria is five years of active, loyal service to the Chapter...and good, hard, honest work should be rewarded, eh? You must submit a short written note on just why you think your selection is deserving of the award and send it off to Mark Hattman. Email is just fine but, please, do it **before February 1st**. [CCTUPREZ@capecodtu.org](mailto:CCTUPREZ@capecodtu.org)

**“FISHING AROUND”** Well, **Rob Conery** just completed his first year as fishing editor & columnist for the CC Times. Seeing as he was stepping into, the legendary, Molly “B”’s boot-foots, he had a formidable task ahead of him but he came thru admirably. Congrats Rob and keep up the good work next spring. We be readin’ ya!

The Winter 2009 edition of “Fly Tyer” magazine featured an article by our November TU speaker, Captain **Ray Stachelek** from nearby Rhode Island. In this article, Capt. Ray discusses his reasons for tying “sparse”...or not! This article is well worth reading if you fish the briny deep. We always try to get you the best speakers at our meetings, eh?

All CCTU members should realize that the RollcasT should not be the sole responsibility of one or two members. Afta all it’s our RollcasT! Everyone is encouraged to provide content and that includes info, suggestions, photos, news briefs, art and articles. Send YOUR camera-ready, spell-checked “stuff” to Mark Hattman for publication.

Last fall’s kayak-paddling tuna hunter got a BIG write-up in the NY Times in late November. Ya kno, sometimes notoriety like this is none too healthy as unseasoned & ill-equipped anglers may attempt this “macho” act themselves! And remember, it’s a mighty big ocean out there off our coast...and a deep one too, I might add!

**BROODSTOCK ATLANTIC SALMON** have been stocked, once again, on the Cape in **Cliff, Sheep & Peters Ponds**. This is perhaps your one and only chance of actually catching & releasing a “trophy” Atlantic salmon without a trip to Maine!

MA/RI Council’s **“Massachusetts Anglers Guide”** is available at CCTU meetings. This is a must-read if you plan on fishing spots OTHER than the Cape. Like, the Swift, the Deerfield, the Millers, the Westfield or the Housetonc Rivers. *Lotsa info & only \$20!*

**CAVEAT PISCATOR!** Marla Blair (a western Mass guide and a former CCTU speaker) was fishing out on the Swift River with a client back in November when they were accosted by two worm “anglers” at the Hatchery Pipe pool—this being a designated “Artificials Only / Catch & Release” area. These two clowns waded right in where she and her client were already fishing, disrupting them. When this fact was pointed out a litany of serious threats and extremely foul language issued forth until nearby anglers and a hatchery worker finally intervened. The fact that Marla was a women angler was pointed out to her in no uncertain terms! The end result of all this was Marla’s getting three tires slashed as a parting shot! These jerks need to be reined in, eh? If you should see any stuff like this happening get involved, call: Quabbin State Police ASAP @ 413-323-7561. Contact Marla @ marlablair@yahoo.com or 413-583-5141. This is a crime, assault. (*Assault & Battery is the laying on of hands along with a threatening mouth.*) **FYI:** two of our own, Mark Hattman & Scott Dietrich, were treated to a little of this same verbal abuse last fall when they confronted a coupla bait fishermen up near the “Y” pool on the Swift, in “Fly Fishing only / Catch & Release” water. When will the state get wise and get these so-called “anglers” off the water, revoke their licenses & have them do community service? So, R U fishing the Swift soon? Well, take along your cell and these numbers. The state police are stationed less than a mile away so their response should be rapid. If you even suspect imminent foul play call! Better safe than sorry, eh?

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**MassWildLife — Central District (Belchertown): 413-323-7632**  
**The Environmental Police Radio Room: (24/7) 1-800-632-8075**  
**Our “QikPik” → Quabbin State Police Station: (24/7) 413-323-7561**

“The Upturned Eye” reports that **Brenda Sears** has relinquished her position in CFR. However, she is not thru volunteering, just taking a well-earned breather. Casting For Recovery is a breast cancer survivors therapy group that holds free retreats nationwide and Brenda has run the Wareham retreat for a decade. The “Eye” thanks you, Brenda!

RQ recently dashed off a letter of disappointment to the “new” Fly Fisherman magazine. It was a short epistle though consisting of just one word—UGH! Red has been getting Fly Fisherman since 1972 and this new incarnation (format, style, typeface & content) is, well, the pits, as far as he is concerned! HEY! the early 1970’s issues at least have some charm to them! He says he thinks that our own RollcasT is now a better read than this, this “pseudo” Fly Fisherman magazine. *Hmmm!* So, what’s your take on the quality of the once-great Fly Fisherman? And...does it seem to you that Fly Rod & Reel magazine is also experiencing some of the same quality & style problems too—although not quite as bad? Well it does to Red. Let us know. Email your comments to strathie@aol.com

**FYI!** To help preserve the drag system on your reels (fly, bait or spin) you should back off the drag when reels are in winter storage? Did ya forget? Well...DO IT NOW! Also, leave some breathing room for your reels in case they were damp when stored.

Don’t seal ‘em up tight they need air. Outboards too! *Get water out but let air in.*

# New Fund Raising Raffle!!!

Want to own a limited edition Orvis rod for short \$\$\$?

The Chapter is raffling an Orvis Limited Edition Superfine Trout Bum Rod  
This is a limited edition rod # 70 engraved with TU 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**We are offering two ways to get in on the action!!  
Come to a regular meeting and for every \$ 5.00 worth of  
monthly raffle tickets you buy you get a free ticket to  
the raffle!!**

**Want extra chances or can't make a meeting? Buy a  
ticket by mail**

**We are offering one for \$ 5 of three for \$10.**

**Mail a check to CCTU to**

**P.O. Box 405**

**Mashpee, MA 02649**

**Rod winner will be drawn at the May Meeting!**

**Join in and help support the Chapter!!**