

THE ROLLCAST

THE eNews LETTER of CAPE COD TU CHAPTER 460
OCTOBER 2011



Time for Food, Fishing, & Fraternity!

October 12th Chapter Picnic. Hamblin's pond. 4:00pm.
Food and beverages provided by the Chapter. Food will be served soon after 4:00 as the sun sets early in October. This will be at the Town Beach reached from the drive next to the cemetery off Rt. 149. COME ON OUT! BRING YOUR RODS!

November 9th meeting will feature Joe O'Clair. Local professional fly tyer. Joe will talk about what it is like to take what is a hobby for most of us and make it a livelihood. This meeting will be @ 7:00pm Liberty Hall.

Quashnet work day is Sunday the 16th, Martin Rd gate 9:am.

www.capecodtu.org

Message From The President

October will be here when our T/U Members receive this monthly newsletter. It's a wonderful time of the year. The air is crisp and clean, and sunlight shows off the colors of the land and sea like no other time of the year. The striped bass are migrating south in full force, and although this is the time of year when fishing can be hit or miss, if you put your time in, the Fish Goddess has been known to grace fishermen with extraordinary success in terms of size and numbers of linesiders. This is also the time of year when brook trout are in full spawning mode, and the colors and beauty of this species of trout is beyond description.

Our October Meeting will feature a cook-out on the shores of Hamblins Pond in Marstons Mills, and there will be plenty of great food hot off the grill to be enjoyed by all. Everyone is invited to come and bring family or friends, as we hope that in addition to great table fare and some fine trout fishing on the pond, this event will attract lots of new members to this great organization. Be sure to read more about the cook-out further on in our news letter, and **“PLEASE REMEMBER”** that the success of this Early Fall Outing depends on **“YOUR ATTENDANCE”**. Your Board of Directors is doing all of the work. All we ask is that you join us for a great time!!!!

Steve Pickul, President

RANDOM CASTS

FeaturingGossip, Extraneous News, B.S. & Assorted Twaddle

Compiled by "Red Quill"—with reports in from "Mr. Nosey" & "The Upturned Eye"

GOT NEWS? Shops! Members! Friends! Email Red at: strathie@aol.com

The Environmental Police Radio Room 1-800-632-8075 (on alert 24/7)

Eschew confronting miscreants afield...call the above number and get the Envirocops involved!

And...

speaking of the Environmental Police, don't forget your Mass **fishing license expires December, 31st and a new one is needed on January 1st, 2012.** *Saltwater permit also.*

Both are available on-line so...no excuses. No computer? PC's are in some tackle shops and most shop personnel (we hope!) will be only too happy to assist you in your quest for piscatorial legality in 2012. You know you're gonna get 'em so why wait?

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! The CCTU elections are coming in December. If you are contacted by CCTU this month and asked to serve, please, take the time to think it thru. Don't just shoot from the hip and say no. We need new blood on the board and you may be it! Give it sum serious thought, OK? No experience needed! On the job training provided. CCTU offers equal opportunity...age? / sex? no factor! **The "official slate"** (or at least as much as we have at press time) **must be printed in the November RollcasT for CCTUers to peruse prior to the December election at Liberty Hall!**

OUR CONGRATULATIONS GO OUT TO LONG-TIME CCTU MEMBER "Pete" Gouger & his wife, Ellie on their 65th wedding anniversary. —65th!!!
(Pete was our CCTU Treasurer for many, many years and founder of the Fly Fishing School.)

Interested in what's going on down at WBNERR? (Waquoit Bay National Estuary Research Reserve) The Visitor Center is located at 149 Route 28 in Waquoit. Website: www.waquoitbayreserve.org. or call Laurie Tompkins @ **508-457-0495 x108**.

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST! The 2012 "*Fly Fishing Show*" will be held in **Marlboro, MA, Jan 20, 21 & 22**. Can't make those dates? Well, the same basic show will be held in **Somerset, NJ, Jan 27, 28 & 29**. INFO? Just Google: The Fly Fishing Show. FYI: Truth is the NJ show is bigger in scope—not better just bigger and certainly more crowded! So, if you are contemplating a major \$\$\$ tackle purchase then it's best to compare items at the NJ show as almost all the major flyfishing manufacturers, book & art dealers, guides, lodges, tyers & fly shops set up at Somerset—a tad fewer at Marlboro.

DESTINATIONS! FLY FISHING “CELEBS”! DEMOS! SHOW SPECIALS!

CASTING POOL! “FAMOUS” TYERS! COLLECTABLES! FOOD & DRINK! GUIDES!
BOOK SELLERS! ANGLING ART, ARTISTS & AUTHORS! LODGES!

*“Last year I went fishing with Salvador Dali. He was using a dotted line.
He caught every other fish.” ~Steven Wright*

On a more serious note... You can make a difference in the life of a child on October 28, 2011. The Mobile Blood Van from Childrens’ Hospital will be at the Falmouth Rod & Gun Club from 1 – 5PM. All of the blood collected will go to children. This blood drive **will honor Fran and Sue Smith’s grandson Tyler**. Tyler is battling Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. He is an active ten-year-old who has been a student at North Falmouth Elementary School, a teammate on Falmouth Youth Hockey & Little League, an awesome big brother to Alden, and a delight to everyone who has ever met him. Sign up at: http://www1.mysignup.com/cgi-bin/view.cgi?datafile=tyler_s_team_blood_drive Use the password **donate** to log in. Find the time most convenient for you, fill in your name, email and phone number, and click on “I’ll be there”. Then go directly to your personal calendar and make a note of your commitment. You will be contacted before the date, but more than one reminder always works best! Red thinks that any FR & G Club member could furnish you with more info...or check in with Jim Young @ Eastmans.

SUM MID-SUMMER OBSERVATIONS, a coupla tips, if you will, from the “Eye”...

Tip #1 ~ The “Up Turned Eye” was out at the mighty **Swift River** in mid-August and is happy to report that numerous trout were spotted in the crystal-clear cold waters of the Swift just below the Route 9 bridge. Now “Eye” did not angle but others surely were by the looks of the number of cars parked nearby however they must have all been up at the “Y” Pool as the water near the bridge was totally devoid of anglers. NONE! The Swift, a tail-water fishery, has *active* trout about every month of the year so plan accordingly.

Tip #2 ~ With all that said, “Eye” did not see one single angler out on the **Deerfield** either, another touted western Massachusetts tail-water fishery, but “Eye” did see many recreational bathers, tubers & kayakers on the water...plus an occasional picnicker or two ashore. *You now have my permission to file these tips away under “totally useless info”.*

Enter “Fly Shop Closeouts” into your search box and see just what comes up. This is a local company affiliated with **Fishing The Cape**, Route 28 in Harwich almost on the Dennisport line. Get on their email list and get notices sent automatically. The FTC staff can rig lines, leaders and backing bought there and set up your reels and spools correctly.

→ *FTC has provided CCTU “tons” of Universal Vice materials for our fly tying classes!*

Other than F.T.C., shops on the Cape that have been historically very generous to the Chapter, especially at Banquet time are: **Eastman’s Sport & Tackle on Route 28 in**

Falmouth and The Orvis Outlet Store in South Cape Village in Mashpee. And the good ol' **Powderhorn (Guns & Tackle) in Hyannis** along with **Andy Little and his Little Fish Co.** All have been more than generous to CCTU over the years! When you patronize these shops in the future please mention that you are a CCTU member, OK?

Well for the first time in 17 years the “Upturned Eye” is not writing about the CCTU members. S.O.’s & friends who were “Eyed” at the **Red Brook Family Day** event. The Southeastern MA TU chapter (who, along with mucho help from Narragansett TU, supplied the vast majority of event volunteers in the past) grew weary and decided to take a pass this year. Just as well “Eye” say as attendance had been slipping for a few years now and the buck\$ raised was slipping also. *17 RB Family Days = burnout city!*

FYI: The **herring count on the Marstons Mills River** this spring **was alarmingly low**. The count was halted afta 153 count events (about 5 to 6 weeks) with only 41 herring counted. That averaged about 1 herring a day! ONE! Now this is not to say only 41 herring came up the river—just that 41 were spotted. (There is an extrapolation factor that Red has not been able to find yet.) The taking of river herring has been prohibited statewide for, oh, 5 or 6 years now so this loooow count is very troubling indeed. Our coastal rivers used to actually “pulse” with schools of herring numbering in the thousands. The MM River is not the only run in trouble either; it’s all along our coast. →*Perhaps, Stripers Forever (SF), the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), Fish & Game or Marine Fisheries has something upbeat to amend this sordid tale—which Red will be only to happy to share with our RollcasT readers if, indeed, it’s forthcoming.*

FYI: Mr. Quill has finally got wind of the dates of the **Fly Tying Symposium in Somerset, NJ!** It will be held on **November 19th & 20th @ the Doubletree Hotel**. This will be the 20th edition. A lot smaller than the January Somerset Fly Fishing Show, this is really a *niche* show...albeit a nifty one. INFO? Just Google: International Fly Tying Symposium. Ask for the show rate if you stay at the D’tree. *U may save sum buck\$.*

→ **Mass Wildlife (Steve Hurley) — SE Mass District, Buzzards Bay 508-759-3406**

The State of New York has declared a moratorium on commercial striper fishing in the Hudson until 2015. FYI: The Hudson is also one of the last remaining commercial sturgeon fisheries but no new licenses are issued so as the last few commercial sturgeon fishers die off so will the commercial fishery—***but the commercial striper fishing ban starts NOW.*** The next to go will probably be the commercial eel-weir fishery, if, indeed, it now exists. There may still be a few “*Pa Kettle*” hermit-like, commercial eelers hidden away in the eerie nooks & crannies of the Hudson even today. Why, we remember conversing with one not all that many years ago...ZZ Top beard, hand-rolled smokes, bib overalls and all. Two questions we didn’t ask. Who’s your barber? Who’s your dentist?

The haunting call of the Bobwhite quail has been sadly missing on Cape Cod for the past 20 or so years. But on Sunday, October 2 at 11 am at the CC Museum of Natural History you can join sixteen-year old **Nicholas Fiore of West Yarmouth as he releases his Bobwhites on Wing Island**, a licensed quail project to help the species reform a

habitat on Cape Cod. Nicholas will speak about his project in which he has raised and released Bobwhites over several years on Wing Island, where a good berry supply, dense brush and grasslands provide a promising natural habitat for the birds. (Now, we know this is short notice and if you WANT MORE INFO call: Julie O'Neil @ 508-896-3867.)

COME ON DOWN TO HAMBLIN'S POND & TIE THE 'OL FEEDBAG ON!

The October CCTU meeting/BBQ will be held at Hamblin's Pond (see details elsewhere in this RollcasT) and this would be a great time to introduce any potential newcomers to the organization. Have fishing buds? Bring 'em along to the BBQ! In any case come on down yourself! **Burgers! Dogs! Salads! Chips! Drinks! Desserts! —and yes, Fishing!**
→ **INCLEMENT WEATHER? HOP ON OVER TO LIBERTY HALL INSTEAD!**

CCTU's annual Fly Tying Classes & "social" tying nites start in January. You are welcome aboard at any stage of your tying career, from tyro to pro. For more info on this event see lead tyer, Scott Dietrich, at any meeting...or log on to: capecodtu.org

FYI: DEERFIELD WATER RELEASES: For the power company's water release schedule call **1-800-452-1737**. This will take you to a recording that will tell you the time-of-release @ the Fife Brook C & R--and the code # is **255123**. The Deerfield is also a "magnet" for paddle, raft & tube sports that require fast water. Rapids anyone? Nice day? Water release? Leafpeeper Weekend? Fishermen are outnumbered about 50 to 1.

→ We suggest calling BEFORE making your plans for the loooong trip to the Deerfield River.

√ **Unique Fly Tying DVD For Sale--very few left don't waste any time!**

Catskill Fly Tyers Guild self-produced DVD "*Fly Tyers, Volume I, Mary Dette*"

Now this **is not** a Hollywood-ready polished production but **it is** of Mary Dette tying.

DVD \$8 (plus \$3 S&H). Contact Judie DV Smith @ darbee1@juno.com.

(When Red spoke with Judie in mid-August she only had 5 left and when they are gone, they are gone!)

Discovered in the staid pages of the NY Times! It seems a southern USA travel company that specialized in Brazilian fly fishing safaris was really the front for a teenage sex & illicit drug operation. HUH!? Mr. Nosey wundas what Izaak Walton might have thought about this...Izaak being the "Compleat Angler" and a contemplative olde piscator and all.

Loyal CCTU member, ex-Pres & current RollcasT editor, **Mark Hattman** has been laid up for the past month with both blood poisoning and a wrenched back. We wish him well and hope to see him soon...perhaps at the October 12th Hamblin's Pond BBQ.

At the September BOD meeting there was a discussion on whether or not CCTU should be putting more of a "play" on the conservation angle (a pun?) when we book speakers. There were arguments on both sides. Have you any thoughts on this? How about an **informal poll** here? Contact Chapter Prez, Steve Pickul, at: cctuprez@capecodtu.org and let him kno—(#1) **more** conservation, (#2) **less** conservation, or (#3) we have it **about right!** In other words should we be more of a conservation organization, or less,

or do we have a good mix right now? Also let him know of any potential candidates you may have for future speakers. Someone new, fresh, with new concepts would be nifty. Yet another poll item you may address!...should we resume a snail-mail meeting notice? Monthly? Twice a year? Shortened Rollcast? Postcard? Let Steve know your thoughts.

AL BREWSTER GARNERS AWARD & IT'S ABOUT TIME "EYE" SAY!

The "Eye" reports that local fly fishing & tying legend **Al Brewster gets the prestigious "Charles Brooks Memorial Life Award" from National FFF** at 2011 Conclave.

Please take the time to read Wayne Miller's letter (to be found directly below) that resulted in Al getting this long overdue award. Ya know, Al's story is really the story of fly fishing in modern-day America! **CONGRATULATIONS AL...Hip! Hip! Hooray!**



Well, as you all know by now, our very own, **Al Brewster**, a magician with feathers, silk, steel and cane, **was awarded the "Charles Brooks Memorial Life Award" at the 2012 FFF National Conclave** in Montana. Below is the letter that was composed and sent by CCTUer Wayne Miller (with very limited assistance from yours truly) that was instrumental in bringing Al's story to the FFF National organization. You really owe it to yourself to read this letter as it is not only the biography of one of fly fishing's "grandest & greatest" but also the history of the past 70+ years of American fly fishing. Al's friendship with Rube Cross bridges the gap between Al and the dean of American fly fishing, Theodore Gordon. Thus the "thread" runs from Gordon directly down to us. Al has been known to weave a convoluted, jump-about story on occasion but none quite so interesting as his own. *Hmmmm*, that reminds me of the time... ~R.Q.

Albert "Al" Brewster--A "Grand Old Man" of Fly Fishing

Al Brewster was born in Providence, RI on February 9, 1917. His grandfather and father fostered a love of the outdoors which included hunting, fishing and gardening. To supplement his family income Al commercially fished for eels and put food on the table through his fishing, hunting and gardening. He learned to also take enjoyment out of these activities, becoming an excellent trap shooter and growing flowers in addition to vegetables. His major transformation in fishing occurred through his friendship with Pap Hinman and Harold Gibbs. He met both Pap and Harold through their mutual interest in gunning. Pap was a local plumber and a member of many of the same sporting clubs as Al. Harold was Director of the Rhode Island Fish and Game Department and was a member of many of the same clubs. Harold is widely recognized as one of the initiators of salt water fly-fishing. Through Harold, Pap and other members of the South Seekonk Rod and Gun Club, Al was introduced to fly tying and fly fishing, starting him on his life-long love affair with all things to do with fly fishing, whether it be in the salt or in fresh water. The Gun Club had a Sunday night get together which gradually evolved into

a fly tying session. Rube Cross was a guest at one of these sessions, dazzling Al and the other members with his tying skills. Al's description of that event is one that all who are interested in fly fishing and tying should hear. Al still has the fly that Rube tied at that meeting. His friendship with Rube started that evening and continued for years. He and Harold were instrumental in starting the Rhody Fly Rodders. The organizational meeting of the club took place in Al's house in Riverside RI and Al was the first president of the organization. The club became the third affiliated club of the fledgling Salt Water Flyrodders of America headquartered in Cape May, NJ. As president of the Rhody Fly Rodders Al was a delegate to FFF.

Having fished for brook trout in RI's streams and lakes it was only natural that Al would apply his new skills to his fresh water fishing pursuits. Rube Cross introduced Harold Gibbs to the Catskills and to many of its famous fly tyers. Harold in turn fostered Al's interest in the Catskills. The FFF conclave in Roscoe eventually brought Al to the Catskills and led to the beginning of a long friendship with Art Flick. Al and Art spent many hours at the vise and in the stream together. During his time with Flick he met and tied and fished with many of the names that are legendary to American fly-fishing. His stories of time spent with Walter and Winnie Dette, Harry and Elsie Darbee, Paul Jorgenson, Lee and Joan Wulff, Ernie Schweibert and others closely associated with that time and place can entertain for hours if not days. Al attended most if not all of the early FFF conclaves that were held in Roscoe and Lake Placid, NY and participated with that informal group of devil-may-care fly tyers, The Attitude Adjustment Bug Builders.

With his good friend, the late Walter Burr, he was instrumental in the success of the early days of the United Fly Tyers organization. For years he tied commercially for Orvis and Hunters, forging a new set of friendships, memories and stories. After his retirement and move to Cape Cod, Al continued to be devoted to fly fishing and tying. He was one of the founding members of the Cape Cod chapter of TU while continuing his activities with FFF and UFT. During this time his circle of friends expanded to include the next generation of fly fishing notables including Kenny Abrams, Mike Martinek, the late Jack Gartside, Dave Whitlock and the late Warren Duncan among others.

Al is one of the most generous people. He devotes hours teaching fly fishing and fly tying, taking special pleasure in introducing children and women to the sport. He can often be seen at charity events and fund-raisers, holding court with a mesmerized audience while teaching the fundamentals of fooling fish with fur and feathers. At 94 he has slowed down but not stopped. He was able to get out and fish last year, fooling a 3+ pound rainbow at a local fishing club with one of his Brewster's Demon flies. Every week he shows me a new feathered concoction that he has dreamed up and wants me to try either in the streams or the ocean.

Al is truly a treasure and deserves this honor from FFF.

Wayne Miller ~ Cape Cod TU

Cape Cod TU Board of Directors

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**Wayne Miller, Al DiCarlo, Steve Williamson,
Pat Grenier, Howie Strathie, Dan McGovern.**

There is always a need for new faces on the Board. Please consider joining. There will be open positions to fill. We will need a new RollCast editor as this will be my last season for this job. This is simple and done on Word, anyone can do it and make it your

own creation. Contact any board member to ask about joining or come to a board meeting 5:45 to night of the general meeting. Contributions to the RollCast are very welcome, send to rollcast@capecodtu.org