

THE ROLLCAST

THE eNews LETTER of CAPE COD TU CHAPTER 460
SEPTEMBER 2011



With summer waning it is time again for another season of Chapter meetings. Here is a run down of the schedule for the first half of the season.

September 14th Rob Romano on fishing the Rangely region of Maine. @ Liberty Hall, Marstons Mill 7:00 pm.

October 12 Chapter Picnic. Hamblin's pond. 4:00pm. This is a month later than the last several years. 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. More details next edition.

Quashnet work day is Sunday the 18th, Martin Rd gate 9:am.

www.capecodtu.org

President's Note

It's August 1st, and before you know it our monthly T/U Meetings will begin again at Liberty Hall in Marstons Mills. Our September meeting is schedule for Wednesday, September 14th @ 7PM., and thanks to Scott Deitrich, we have a wonderful speaker, Robert Romano, who will be talking about the pursuit of brook trout and landlocked salmon up in the Rangely Lakes area or Northern Maine.

Further on in this new letter is a historical summary, provided by our Council Historian, Howie Strathie, AKA "*Red Quill*", of some of the many things our chapter has been involved with, and contributions, both in terms of valuable time and money, that have been made, all in the name of promoting the protection and enhancement of our cold water fisheries. It's amazing what a group like ours has been able to accomplish, and all, without the need for public funding. If only our local, state and federal governments could work so well!

Our Board of Directors is in the process of setting new goals for the upcoming year, and among the things high on our list is (a) Expanding our membership, (b) Greater participation and attendance in our monthly meetings, and (c) Recruiting talent from our members to assume leadership roles in all of our various committees and programs. Bottom line.....We want to make this year even better than last year, and last year was a great year! So if you are interested in getting more involved, please call me @ 508-280-3449, or drop me a line: cctuprez@capecodtu.org <<mailto:cctuprez@capecodtu.org>> . We'd love to hear from you!

I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful "fishy" summer season, and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Steve Pickul, President
Cape Cod T/U

Random Casts

Featuring... Gossip, 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

First--welcome to the fall/winter CCTU season. Second--welcome to the "new" Random Casts column. Please look to the main body of the Rollcast for all your CCTU scheduling, Quashnet workdays, speakers, schools & conservation projects. Look to Random for gossip, extraneous news, B. S, & assorted twaddle--da FUN parts! The Rollcast--*the newsletter*--will have the TU serious stuff, while Random Casts--*a column*--is meant to be TU "lite" ...usually two (or, as here, three) easy-to-read pages.

There are tackle shops on the Cape that will take in your rod & reel repair work over the winter, work on your "stuff" when customers are sparse, and return them to you like new in the spring. Oiling, ferules, bails & springs, relining, tip-tops, rewraps & new guides, in fact almost anything repairable can be done in the relaxed atmosphere of a local tackle shop in mid-winter. If your local shop does this kinda thingy let Red kno and he will publish it here. In this scribes experience **Eastmans Sport & Tackle in Falmouth** and **the Riverview Bait & Tackle in Yarmouth** do this work in-house. Other shops may do repairs in-house or send their repair work out. Contact Red Q: c/o strathie@aol.com

While roamin' about at the--*may it rest in peace*--Red Brook Family Day 2010 "*the Upturned Eye*" bumped into Sharl Heller who runs the "**TAKE ME FISHIN' DAY**" at **Miles Standish State Forest**. She told "the Eye" that she is always **looking for fishing coaches for this annual September event**. *Wanna help?* Simply Google "Friends of Myles Standish State Forrest" for more info on this kids fishing event comin' up soon.

A belated "Thank You" to Steve Pickul & Pat Grenier for representing CCTU at the annual Marstons Mills River Day back on April 30th...a beautiful day indeedy. This public event at Burgess Park celebrates all that the river and clean water means to us. It has turned into a wonderful mix of both fun and conservation concepts for all ages. This was the 17th River Day (?) and CCTU has had a presence at most of 'em. *See you next year?*

The Falmouth Rod & Gun Club is running a spectacular fund-raising event this fall. The club is hosting a gala "drawing-a-day" raffle with a different prize every day for the entire month of September. Thirty days—thirty prizes! If you do win a prize (and most are substantial) and it does not appeal to you a gift certificate may be substituted. How can you lose? Any F R & G Club member can give you more information but **if you want info, a prize list or event rules just stop in and see "Mighty" Jim Young down at Eastman's Sport & Tackle, Route 28, Falmouth.** *Time does run short however!*

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

Don't confront miscreants afield...call the above number and get the E.P. involved.
Mr. Nosey queries...remember what happened to Marla Blair out at the Swift River last year?

Our **2011 CCTU Fly Fishing School** drew a respectable 21 students and we had about 25 helpers from the Chapter. *Why we even had coaching talent shuttled in from NJ.* All those involved had a great time and the rain held off until Sunday afternoon. Tim is hard at work setting the stage for next year's school, as we type. Many thanks to Tim & crew. *Two FF School Directors emeritis were also there...Scott Dietrich & Bob Bliss—thanks guys.*

And,,,

if you would like to get in on the ground floor to help out, get more school info, or offer your pithy suggestions (be nice now!) contact **Tim Lynch: cctuflyfish@comcast.net**
➔ Also...contact Tim if you have any “potentials” for a FF school scholarship next May.

Nifty write-up back in May in a supplement to the Enterprise newspapers about the Quashnet. This was a two page article by Joanne Briana-Gartner on the rivers history with a “tip-o-the-hat” to Cape Cod TU & Fran Smith. *[You can read all about CCTU & Fran in “Restoring The Earth” by John Berger]* Plus a full page of color Quashnet photos capped off the article. It's nice for TU to get a little PR once in a while...thanks.

Sylvester Nemes made his last cast in February of this year. He was “our” soft-hackle fly guru. He wrote the book on fishing these English-style wet flies back in 1975. Very effective flies and easy to tie. Fished unweighted they are the forerunners to emergers.

Also...

nationally-known fly tyer and pattern designer, **Shane Stalcup, passed away** this past May at the youthful age of 48. He wrote articles for many of the fly fishing journals & newsletters and authored “*Mayflies, Top To Bottom*” in 2002. Over the years he has had many innovative and effective fly patterns credited to him...check the catalogs!

And...

expert tarpon angler, **Billy Pate, has passed on** at age 81. Billy had many tarpon records (20+) but was best known—well, up north at least—for his namesake, Tibor-produced, finely-machined fly reels which were considered the epitome of bonefish & tarpon reels.

Congratulations to loyal CCTU member, **Jerry Sutelman, for the winning entry in the February/March American Angler magazines “Name-That-Fly” contest.** Our Centerville based fly-fishing Munchkin got a box of nifty flies from Umpqua...we think.

As of July 1st the amount of anglers signed up for **the new Massachusetts Saltwater license** was *loooooow* indeed! The state originally estimated at least 250,000 anglers would sign on but by July only 70,000 had spent the required 10 bucks to do so. This is now a state permit and is required to fish legally in Massachusetts coastal waters—and, yes, it is reciprocal with NH & RI too. Remember tho **you must have it in possession.** You may apply for the permit online so there is really no excuse for not having it, eh?

Scott Dietrich tells Red that he and **Bob Bliss** were fishing out on the Monomoy rips in mid June and they ran into a vast “squiggle” of squid cavorting about in the breaking waves. And when a squid got a little too rambunctious and careless a huge striper would arch up out of the foam and grab it for lunch. An awesome sight to experience, says he.

— Speaking of Bob Bliss...he and **Teddy Patlen** (up visiting Mr.“Q” from NJ) were out center-consoling in early summer at the aforementioned Monomoy Rips and did very well indeed! A dozen keepers were caught & all were released...except for one. *Delish! Ted won this nifty guided trip (that was donated to CCTU by Bob) at our Banquet back in April.*

COASTSWEEP 2011, the statewide beach cleanup sponsored by Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and the Urban Harbors Institute (UHI) at UMass Boston, will kick off its 24th year on September 24. Volunteers throughout Massachusetts turn out in large numbers each year for this event, which is part of an international campaign organized by The Ocean Conservancy in Washington, DC. Participants all over the world collect marine debris and record what they find. This info is then used to help reduce future marine debris problems. **COASTSWEEP is scheduled September thru October.** More info?...see the [COASTSWEEP website](#) or check out COASTSWEEP on [Facebook](#). *(Good opportunity for Saltwater Permit holders and Stripers Forever members to get more pro-active, eh?)*

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

Join the fun on 9/25/11 at the 14th annual [Massachusetts Outdoor Expo](#) held at the [Hamilton Rod and Gun Club](#) in Sturbridge from 9 to 4:30. The Big MOE—sponsored by the Facts About Wildlife and Nature Society (FAWNS)—is a free, family-oriented event celebrating outdoor skills, nature, art, and wildlife. This all-day event is free, thanks to co-sponsors Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Hamilton Rod and Gun Club, The Weatherby Foundation, and the Worcester County League of Sportsmen's Clubs. The Big MOE is the perfect opportunity to introduce young and old to a variety of outdoor skills and activities. Want more info or directions? www.fawnsociety.com or contact Gary Zima, (508) 389-6314. Volunteer opportunities for U at the Expo? ... call Gary ASAP.

The BOD had an impromptu cookout in July at Al DiCarlos poolside home. We discussed the success of several CCTU events in the past such as the Fly Fishing School and planned for future fall events like the annual alfresco fall BBQ & angling outing. And just as we finished with all the yakking the rapidly darkening skies opened up and the deluge hit! *The ark floats!* **Many thanks Al for hosting, grilling & cleanup too.**

And over the summer...

the CCTU BOD voted to send a \$500 donation to the Montana TU Council to aid in the fight to get Exxon/Mobil to **pick up the entire tab** for the June Yellowstone River oil spill, to **do the job correctly the first time around** and to **get the local Montana TU chapter a “seat-at-the-table”** in the clean-up talks. *(There is nothing new here! Back a decade and a half ago CCTU donated over \$5000 to help pay for TU to have a seat-at-the-table for the FERC dam relicensing battles that took about 2+ years to complete.*

And about 80% of this money went up to Maine to help free-up dammed Atlantic salmon rivers...ay-yuh.) We do feel our Montana TU gift is good news for TU, sport-fishing in general and the overall health of the Yellowstone River. In other words a good thing. Remember now, TU is a conservation & habitat restoration organization first, last and foremost, with “enhanced” angling being simply a secondary benefit. And none of this \$500 went for clean-up as the board felt Exxon/Mobil was 100% responsible for this.

Division of Fish & Game guided walking tour, Thursday, September 15, 6:30 p.m. at the Francis Crane WMA, in Falmouth. Visit two portions of this WMA managed for rare species habitat using a combination of prescribed fire and mechanical mowing. The tour begins in the northern portion of the WMA and continues across portions of an abandoned airstrip that has been reclaimed into grassland habitat that supports rare species including the [grasshopper sparrow](#). The tour will end in the southern portion of the WMA looking at reclaimed pitch pine/oak savannah and discuss the positive impacts this work has had on both rare species habitat and reducing wildfire danger. DIRECTIONS: Meet at the DFG parking area just beyond the Nickelodeon Theatre on the north side of Rt. 151. Contact the Bournedale F & W office for additional info.

Live on the Cape? Striper fish? Well here’s an organization you should join,.. Stripers Forever. It’s FREE!—however it is internet only. stripersforever.org

FYI from Howie ex RollcasT editor: Back in the day I used a supplemental fact sheet that I enclosed whenever I sent out press releases, auction item requests and thank yous or the RollcasT to shops, newspapers and other interested parties. Ya kno, sometimes I think we tend to forget what CCTU has done over the years so I am asking you all to read the following “What Cape Cod TU Is All About” fact sheet that I used back then. It just might open your eyes! Con\$ervation donations, habitat rehabilitation and education are what we are all about. → See any errors? Additions? Contact me: strathie@aol.com

What Cape Cod Trout Unlimited is all about!

Back in the 1970's the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of Trout Unlimited started work on a reclamation of the Quashnet River along the Falmouth/Mashpee town line on the upper Cape. The river had been channelized by cranberry bog owners in the early half of the last century into a series of irrigation ditches...not too pretty or hospitable to the native brook trout. This conservation/restoration project really caught fire and precipitated a boom in the number of TU members from the Cape Cod area. However the SE Mass group met in Middleborough and, as this was quite a trip from the Cape, local members decided to spin off into the Cape Cod Chapter of Trout Unlimited in 1984. Four years later, in 1988, the Cape Cod Chapter was awarded the Golden Trout Award from TU National as the best TU Chapter in the country. And we never looked back! TU has now been working down on the tiny, now meandering, Quashnet River for about 35 years and this beautiful little "salter" brook trout stream has never looked better. Listed briefly below are some of our accomplishments, donations and projects over the years. We talk the talk and we walk the walk!

*We have TU meetings, fishing outings and trips every year that are open to the public
We were a leader in saving the Sandwich Fish Hatchery from closure in 1993 and 2003.*

We have contributed \$5000 to TU's "Living Brightwater Trust" this over a ten year span.

*We worked on the Marstons Mills River/Middle Pond herring run reclamation project.
We were instrumental in erecting an informational kiosk at the Sandwich Fish Hatchery.*

We have donated \$2700 toward electronic fish monitoring at the Quashnet River.

We started the first Cape Cod fly fishing school over 26 years ago and it's still running.

We have held local fly tying classes most winters for well over 25 years now.

We donated a \$1500 dissolved oxygen meter to the state-run Sandwich Fish Hatchery.

We have contributed almost 30 years of conservation education through our meetings.

We contributed over \$5000 to the New England FERC dam relicensing battle of the 90's.

We helped initiate & fund "Trout-in-the-Classroom" in the Mashpee schools.

We are totally committed to the MA/RI Council's Red Brook project in Bourne.

We were instrumental in producing the MA/RI Council's "Massachusetts Anglers Guide"

We helped start and fund the Quashnet River Conservation Rehab three+ decades ago.

We donated \$500 to Montana TU in the Exxon/Mobil Yellowstone oil-spill fight.

We support "Casting for Recovery" a women's breast cancer survivors group.

Well, we could go on and on but as you can see by now we advocate for the sport both nationally and on the local level. And don't let the trout in our name deceive you, as most members fly fish for local quarry and that includes salt water fish as well as fresh. This can be seen in the diversity of our monthly programs and speakers. But basically we are simply a local fishing club with a conservation, education and restoration focus. And we are not strictly a fly fishing only club. What

ever turns you on - bait, fly or spin - is OK with us! Speaking of education, our renowned fly fishing and fly tying schools feature a full range of fly fishing and tying techniques both salt and fresh, plus we have installed a Trout-in-the-Classroom aquarium in the Mashpee Middle School and have begun the education of students into all aspects of the trout life cycle. The students, with the help of a teacher, start with fertilized trout eggs (thanks to Wayne Miller) raise them to fish of stockable size and then release them into the wild. On the conservation and restoration side our Quashnet River project is CCTU's premier conservation and restoration project and it is nationally acclaimed. Come on down, you do not have to be a CCTU member to join in. We also have a banquet every spring, which is our primary fund raiser. This past spring saw one of our best banquets yet, both socially and financially. Most of the funds raised are used locally as you can see from the above list of accomplishments but we do have non-local projects too. This banquet is open to all, member or not. Want more info on any CCTU event? Our website is <capecodtu.org>

The Cape Cod Chapter meets on the second Wednesday of the month (except for April - our Banquet and June, July & August - our summer break) at Liberty Hall, next to the Marstons Mills Library, at 7PM and non-members are welcome to attend. We usually have a speaker at our meetings, which are mostly social and not all business oriented. The Board does the business, the members have the fun! The meetings are free to all, however a voluntary collection is taken at the door to help pay for the hall and the refreshments, along with a raffle/door prize. Feel free to attend, as, even if you are not a member, we welcome you. Coffee and snacks are available. For more info on joining CCTU, the "Trout-in-the Classroom" program, our conservation & education programs, outings, the Quashnet Rehab, our annual Spring Banquet, fall BBQ, our other fund raisers or any questions simply e-mail: Steve Pikul <CCTUprez@capecodtu.org>.

RED BROOK FAMILY DAY ON HOLD

The Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of Trout Unlimited will not be hosting Red Brook Family Day this September as it has for the past 17 years.

While we will miss getting together with old friends and family at the Lyman Reserve, the principle organizers of RBFD feel that they need a break from the work entailed in pulling the fundraiser together.

For almost two decades SEMA TU has carried most of the burden of preparing for and setting up Red Brook Family Day. They've done this in addition to their normal busy schedule of meetings, events, restoration work parties, and Chapter fundraisers; and, for this year at least, they've decided to take a rest.

I personally want to thank all of the wonderful people who have helped with Red Brook Family Day and attended the event over the years. You have made something that was once widely believed to be impossible - the restoration of Red Brook and its wild, sea-run brook trout - happen. You've helped forge strong and effective working relationships with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, the United States Fisheries and Wildlife Service, the Trustees of Reservations, the USGS, U. Mass., and a host of NGOs and conservation non profits. These are working partnerships, with each partner bringing its expertise and resources to the task, that are now paying dividends for dam removals and habitat restoration projects across the state of Massachusetts.

The chapters of the MA/RI Council of TU have received \$150,000 in grants for projects that will restore our wild, coldwater fisheries during 2012. Trout Unlimited has begun a movement that is catching the notice and imagination of people and institutions across our region. By working together, and applying good science combined with conservation and innovation, we will restore our streams and our wild, native fisheries for future generations.

Warren Winders, SE MA TU

KNOT TYINING 101 A LESSON IN LIFE

The voice mail message from Dave Reid was short and to the point. “Noah Weather Forecast looks good. Be at my house tomorrow morning @ 7:30. We’re fishing the flats at Jeremy Point.” And so I arrived on time the next day, and started putting together my gear as Dave walked out from his garage to greet me and immediately start in on one of his “stories”. Things were looking pretty good. The sun was out, the wind was down, the “story” was new, and Dave, Brian Tucholke and I would be anchoring the boat in the shallows an hour or so before the tide turned incoming. That is of course, if Dave managed to finish his “story”, one of many that Brian and I would hear over the next few hours.

If you’ve never fished with Dave Reid, it’s something not to be missed, and his “stories” are part of what makes the overall fishing experience so special. To be polite, but more so because I’m always interested in what he has to say, I split my attention between listening and tying a flats fly to my tippet. There would be consequences later that morning.

Launching from Seasuit Harbor, Dave was well into “story” number three or four as we passed by the Brewster Flats on the way to Wellfleet. The wind had picked up and instead of the predicted 4-8 mph it was blowing close to 20 making things difficult for those

who fish with the long wand. We anchored up just off of the flats and Dave passed around some of his famous blueberry muffins as we waited for the tide to turn. No offense to Dave, but these are the smallest muffins you can imagine, and for some reason my muffins rarely have any blueberries, a point I made by showing Dave and Brian while we sat munching in the boat. But by then, Dave was into another of his “stories” and we listened and waited while the wind grew stronger and the water started moving onto the flats.

Storytelling done, and tiny muffins finished, we all got out of the boat and went our separate ways looking for fish. They were there, as we knew they would be, but visibility was poor. By the time we spotted them they were just about bumping into our knees because of the heavy chop caused by the wind: Except for one great fish that I saw coming directly towards me from about 60’ away. I saw this fish early because it was huge, and my first thought was “it’s a small seal”, one of several we saw prowling the water in search of a meal. Its broad back and shoulders were dark, almost black because she had come in from deep water. I punched a cast well in front of her. It wasn’t a great cast, certainly not worthy of a fish like this. The wind was howling and my fly landed a good 15’ short of its target. But it was on the right line, and the fish kept coming towards me. I stripped just once as the bass swam over my fly and I saw her gills flare as she inhaled the small sand eel

pattern. Feeling the hook, the fish immediately turned and her bulk was such that the change in direction created a hole in the shin deep water, a void that could easily be seen by me and Dave who was fishing to my right. Then there was a huge splash as she turned again and angled up then down, then away to my right left. This was an enormous fish, the biggest I've ever had on while fishing skinny water, and I did my best to control the line in my stripping basket out through the rod guides so that I had a direct connection to my reel. My reel spool spun as the fish surged and I could feel her tremendous power. And then.....my line came slack and she was gone! The culprit behind her early freedom was a failed Homer Road's knot, the one I was tying as I listened to Dave Reid's story # 1 back at his house earlier in the morning. There was something not quite right about that knot. At least that's what I kind of remembered as I pulled the fluorocarbon tight forming a loop in front of the hook eye. I can't tell you exactly what the problem was beyond the fact that it was just a feeling, a subliminal message in the back of my mind that this knot might not hold and I should clip the tippet and start again. But I didn't, and when the unexpected fish of a lifetime came tight to my reel, I paid the supreme price....and re-learned one of life's great lessons. "When in doubt, go with your gut instincts. Trust in your inner self. Re-ty the damned knot. Of course, that fish probably thinks otherwise.

Steve Pickul

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