

THE ROLLCAST

The eNews Letter of Cape Cod T U Chapter 460

February 2018



**Rarified Air
Show us your Fly
The Mafia Pool
Anticipation
February Meeting: Phillip Odence: The Confluence
Fly Tying Wednesdays**

On the WEB: www.capecodtu.com

Visit us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/capecodTU>

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Cape Cod Trout Unlimited

2018 Spring Fundraiser Banquet

Swan River Restaurant

Save the Date: Sunday April 15, 2018 3-7pm

This is the main fundraising event for the Chapter and the proceeds are used to fund coldwater conservation projects locally on the Cape and throughout the state. There will be many items in our silent auctions as well as bucket raffles and a special raffle.

Purchase Your Tickets!

Tickets are \$35 pp. Tickets can be purchased by mailing a check payable to Cape Cod Trout Unlimited to: Cape Cod Trout Unlimited

C/O Charles Orr 23 Harriette Rd. East Falmouth, Ma. 02536.

Donations:

Donations can be given to: Bret Bokelkamp or to a CCTU Board Member

Contact Bret to arrange deliver: flyfishinsalt@icloud.net, or 617-898-8960

President's Message

Thanks to Woody Mills for his presentation and fly tying session on the Cinder Worm/Hatch. He has kept detailed notes on this incredible spring, spawning event that occurs each year in our estuaries. As he noted in his remarks, he keys in on our south-side estuaries that have a dark bottom, a minimum water temp of 62 degrees, two days of sunshine, etc. He fishes the last few hours of daylight preferably with a high tide and the other parameters described above. Thanks for all your insights and thoughts on how to be at the right place at the right time when the striped bass will be up inside the estuaries for this feast. I hope to translate his info into many tight lines.

Next up is Phil Odenice who will be featured as our February speaker. He is a co-author (one of seven) of the book The Confluence: Fly Fishing and Friendship. It is a series of short stories from seven lifelong friends and their annual fishing adventures. We probably will all find this quite insightful since our own fishing journeys have gleaned new insights as we have grown and matured as fly-fishers. *(NOTE: this meeting has been moved to the 21st of Feb so as not to conflict with Valentine's Day).*

Winter tying nights have been well attended with between a dozen and twenty tyers on the first two sessions. Thanks again to Woody Mills (worm fly) and to Scott Dietrich (picket pin) for instructing and demoing both. (Congrats also to Scott as the 2017 winner of the Cape Cod Pond Challenge). Tying will continue on Wednesday nights through March on nights that a Board of Director or speaker meeting is not scheduled.

We will soon be entering our busiest time of the year for CCTU. Our 3 signature events are scheduled each year in March, April, and May. These are for everyone and I strongly urge all to be apart of the fun and camaraderie. So save these dates and join us:

18 March: "Back to the Quashnet" is our annual river conservation call for all volunteers to see what's new and to enjoy a streamside chowder lunch.

15 April: Banquet with raffles, auctions, and general good cheer.

4-6 May: 35th Annual Fly Fishing School on Peter's Pond.

At our Annual Banquet and Fundraiser, the chapter will once again announce this year's recipient of the Al Brewster Award. It is presented annually to an active member of our CCTU Chapter (5 years or more) that is an impact player (volunteer) and continues to help lead our chapter to greater heights. A list of previous recipients are listed on our website (capecodtu.org). Please submit your nominations to me NLT end of March.

Days are getting longer and Spring will soon be upon us...

Tim Lynch

CP 508-274-0936

tinylynch@comcast.net or cctuflyfish@comcast.net



Random Casts for February 2018

Gossip, News, B.S. & Assorted Twaddle from Red & the Staff of Random!

New and archived Rollcast's can be read at the CCTU website: CAPECODTU.org

Cover Photo: Scorton Creek East Sandwich January 7th

Something interesting to check out from Orvis that involves Tim Flagler our October 2017 speaker

Podcast: Tom and Tim's Annual Fly-Tying Spectacular - Orvis News
[https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/podcast-tom-tims-annual-fly-](https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/podcast-tom-tims-annual-fly-tying-spectacular)

LOCAL TRIVIA : How many Striped Bass did Patrick Grenier catch in 2017? Answer in the March Rollcast.



Upcoming Events

February Meeting: Wednesday February 21st (pushed out one week in order to observe Valentines Day) at Liberty Hall. 6:00pm

Our February speaker will be Cotuit's Phillip Oden. [The Confluence: Fly-fishing and Friendship in the Dartmouth College Grant.](#)

See details further in the Rollcast

Quashnet River Workday: Sunday February 18th

Sunday February 18th We'll be meeting at the Martin Road gate at 9:00AM. Come on down and join the gang as we continue to work to improve the habitat for wild native brook trout in this river. The work to preserve wild fish is very important here on Cape Cod!

Upcoming/Scheduled Quashnet River Workdays:

February 18

March 18

The 2018 CCTU Spring Banquet will be held at Swans River Restaurant in Dennisport on **Sunday April 15th**. Further details will be posted as we get closer to the date. If anyone has any donations for the 2018 banquet they should contact Bret Bokelkamp at "flyfishinsalt@icloud.com" or call [617-898-8960](tel:617-898-8960).

Santuit River work with the Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition:

Stay tuned for the next scheduled outing on the Santuit.

Contact

Justin Fleming

603 365-5977

justin@searunbrookie.org

Upcoming Events continued...

2018 CCTU trip to the Catskills

We are planning on the week of June 2-9. Rooms book up fast. If you're considering going, reserve your room right away.

Riverside Café and Lodge in Roscoe. [607-498-5305](tel:607-498-5305).

Join the Southeast TU Chapter at the Westport Watershed Work Parties at Brookside Conservation area in Westport:

Help restore Bread and Cheese Brook and protect the World renown Salter Brook Trout.

Meet us on the first Saturday of every month at the Brookside Conservation Area parking lot 9AM.

The more the merrier.

Winter Fly Tying Nights: 2018 Dates are in! Bring a friend.

The CCTU fly tying nights will start in January. If you have never tied a fly before or have been tying for many years come out and join in. There is no cost for this and equipment and materials are available if needed. Tying will be from 6:00pm to 8:00pm or even later if there's interest to stay. These events will be held at Liberty Hall on the 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of the month starting in January: **January** 17th, 24th, ***31st** February 21th, 28th March 21st, 28th.

Fly Fishing School: **Spread the word!**

The 2018 date for Our annual CCTU Fly Fishing School has been announced. It will be held at the Oak Crest Lodge in Sandwich from Friday May 4th to Sunday 6th. This is our great school that includes lodging and meals with the same low price. Look for more details ahead and think about someone that you might know that would really enjoy learning to fly fish at this school. **May 4th, 5th, and 6th 2018**



TROUT UNLIMITED

CONSERVING, PROTECTING AND RESTORING NORTH AMERICA'S COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS

Upcoming Events continued...

Wednesday January 31st Patrick Grenier will be our featured fly tyer.

He'll be leading the group tying two of his favorite saltwater patterns. If you ask him he might even tie his overall favorite.

Bay Anchovy:

size 2 or 4 hook

Bills body braid

White Bucktail *

Black thread

Stick on eyes

Sand Eel

Size 2 hook

Bills body braid

Lead free wire— for weight

White DNA

Smoke DNA



Bay Anchovy



Sand Eel



TROUT UNLIMITED

CONSERVING, PROTECTING AND RESTORING NORTH AMERICA'S COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS

Upcoming Events continued...

Announcement for the Narragansett Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU225)

January 2018

The Narragansett Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU225) will host its first monthly membership meeting for 2018 on Wednesday, January 31st, starting at 6:30 PM, at the Coventry / West Greenwich Elks Lodge, 42 Nooseneck Hill Road (Rte. 3, Exit 6 off of Rte. 95), West Greenwich, R.I. 02817.

In addition to regular business, we will be discussing upcoming educational events and activities that the chapter will be involved in during the year. Suggestions will be taken from the membership as to how we can diversify our membership and what they would like to accomplish as a chapter in 2018. In addition, this meeting will allow our members and guests to network, tell fishing and fly tying tales of the cold winter months, and other stories of interest.

After a short meeting, the chapter will be hosting a fly-tying class open to members and the public. For those interested in tying with our experts, bring your tools. For those who would like to learn the basics of fly tying, we will also host a beginners tying table with tools and materials.

But wait, there's more!!

We will also be hosting our 1st annual Chili Cook-Off!! Members are invited to bring a pot of their favorite chili recipe for tasting and judging by members and guests. The "2018 Anglers Choice" award will be given to the winner.

But wait, there's more!!

TU225 will also be hosting a "sell and swap" for members to bring in their gently used gear for sale/barter/swap. Also, the TU225 Streamside Store will be open and our famous ½ price materials sale will be in full swing. You never know the bargains you will find.

For additional information, to reserve a seat for the fly-tying class, grab a table for sell and swap, or prepare a pot of chili for our distinguished member/guest judges, please contact Chapter President Glenn Place 1-401-225-7712 or email TU225President@Gmail.com.

For additional information about Trout Unlimited, please visit our web site and Facebook page <http://narragansett.tu.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/Trout-Unlimited-Narragansett-Chapter>



TROUT UNLIMITED

CONSERVING, PROTECTING AND RESTORING NORTH AMERICA'S COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS

Upcoming Events continued...

Trout Unlimited

Narragansett Chapter 225

Annual Banquet

The Narragansett Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU225) will hold its annual banquet on April 7, 2018 from 3:00-7:00 at Coventry/West Greenwich Elks Lodge, 42 Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI 02817 <https://www.elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?LodgeNumber=2285>

There will be numerous bucket raffles, silent and live auction items. Highlights include various high end fly rods and reels, multiple bundles of fresh and salt water flies hand tied by our members, including Al Ball's world famous Hexagenia flies, Wooden fishing nets, Various Packs, jewelry, vintage fly boxes, complete fly rod outfits, various fly tying tools, A handmade chest full of flies by Jim Less, Handmade nets and a "Wood River Paddle" donated by Dennis Fortin, a salt water guided fishing trip from Jeff Perry, martini basket, a Clouds Hill Victorian Museum private tour, numerous gift certificates, plus many more quality items donated by our membership and business partners Keep looking for additional items!!

The annual banquet is our main fundraiser of the year that allows TU225 to realize our Vision: *To ensure that the habitats for cold water and estuary fish thrive in Rhode Island for future generations*, and accomplish our Mission: *To conserve, protect, restore, and sustain the cold water fisheries and their watersheds in Rhode Island through collaborative, educational, and environmental activities.*

The cost of tickets is \$35.00 and includes a buffet dinner, cash bar, and all the winning auction items you can take home. For tickets or additional information, please contact chapter President, Glenn Place at TU225President@gmail.com, or call 1-401-225-7712



TROUT UNLIMITED

CONSERVING, PROTECTING AND RESTORING NORTH AMERICA'S COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS

Upcoming Events continued...

2018 High School Fly Fishing Championship

CMTU last year hosted a very successful youth event for Trout Unlimited in Massachusetts. CMTU was very proud of the contestants that took part in the event and their excitement in the Cold Water Activity. It's more of a state wide event and they look forward to any and all support from all the chapters as they're holding this for every chapter's youth. This year's event will take place a week before our fly fishing school.

HIGH SCHOOL FLY FISHING TOURNAMENT WITH GIRLS AND BOYS DIVISION

Date: April 28, 2018

LOCATION: QUINAPOXET RIVER

MEET AT:

The Trout Brook Recreation Area, Holden, MA

STARTS: 10 AM

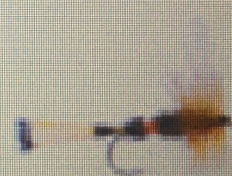
AWARDS: 4 PM

PRELIMINARIES – CASTING DISTANCE

FINALS – 3 hours "ON THE WATER"

For more information email:

centralmasstu@gmail.com



TROUT UNLIMITED

CONSERVING, PROTECTING AND RESTORING NORTH AMERICA'S COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS

Upcoming Events continued...

2018 CCTU Pond Challenge :

Rules:

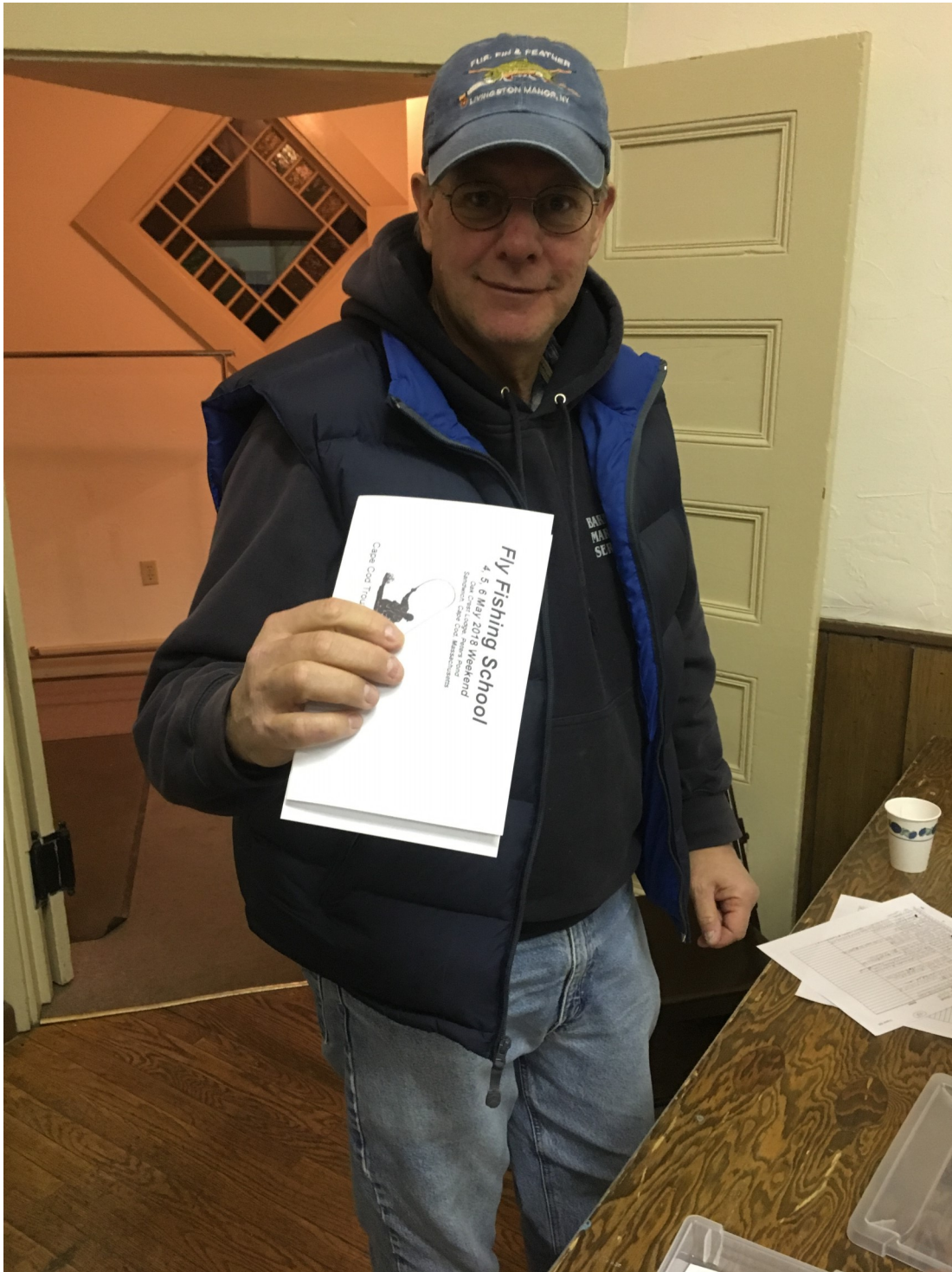
1. How many different Cape Cod Ponds can you catch at least 1 Trout? (1 point)
 2. Catch a Trout while fishing with a TU friend? (1 bonus point)
 3. Catch a Trout while fishing with a friend who then joins CCTU? (2 bonus points)
 4. Challenge ends 31 Dec 2018; Pat Grenier is POC and will collect all entries.
 5. Winner/Award Ceremony will be at January 2019 meeting. Happy fishing!
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TROUT UNLIMITED

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*** 2017 CCTU Pond Challenge Winner ***



Scott Dietrich was our 2017 winner. Scott caught Trout in 22 different ponds/rivers on Cape Cod. He's the winner of a gift certificate to the Bears Den Fly Shop.



TROUT UNLIMITED

CONSERVING, PROTECTING AND RESTORING NORTH AMERICA'S COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS

February Meeting

Wednesday February 21st

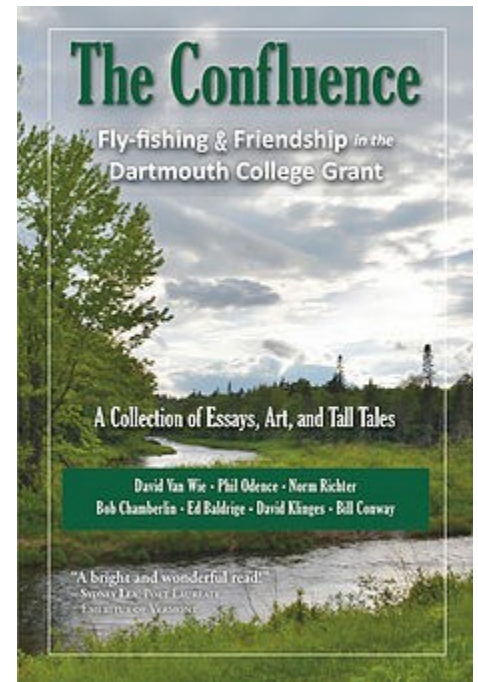
Doors open at 6:00 PM for coffee, raffle, and camaraderie.

Followed by general business, and our featured speaker at 7:00.

Liberty Hall Marstons Mills Address: 2150 Main St, Marstons Mills,

Our February speaker will be Cotuits Phillip Oden.

The Confluence: Fly-fishing and Friendship in the Dartmouth College Grant



Philip Oden is a Renaissance fisherman who caught his first trout in the Mashpee River. He is also an avid sailor, hiker, barefoot runner and watercolor artist. Philip spent every summer sailing Skiffs and reading books from the Cotuit Library, and he's now a 3rd generation resident of the village.

Seven lifelong friends head north each June to a remote cabin at the confluence of the Dead Diamond and Swift Diamond Rivers in Northern New Hampshire. What started as a single fly-fishing trip has evolved over 20+ years into an annual retreat to the mystical environs of Dartmouth's Second College Grant, far from the workaday world and vibrant with brotherhood, creativity and reflection.

Fishing is only a part of their story. In a collection of intertwined essays from seven unique voices, the authors reveal how their friendships have grown deeper as their lives flow into middle age, with laughs, tears and insight into the intersection between humanity and the natural world. The reader comes along to experience New England wilderness wonders, stinky outhouses, original watercolors, floods, a wine tasting, a dramatic search and rescue...and fly-fishing for native brook trout.

"... a collection of stories, essays and art compounded and distilled by seven literate friends, aging together like a bourbon drawn from a clean stream, suffused with wood smoke, and then passed among friends in a New Hampshire trout-cabin salon. Steadily engaging, often surprising, the prose here is polished but blessedly unpretentious..."

-Seth Norman, noted fishing author, Fly Rod & Reel contributing editor, Robert Traver Award winner, and Pulitzer Prize nominee

"This book... is about the very meaning of friendship..."

-Mel Allen, Editor, Yankee Magazine



<http://www.confluencebook.com>

Conservation Corner

CCTU Kayak Clean-Up is back. Look for the 2018 schedule in the March Rollcast.

Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition .

Check out their web-site (<https://www.searunbrookie.org>) and Like them on Facebook.



Southeastern Massachusetts Trout Unlimited

NEW Chapter Stream Team - Westport River Watershed

John Kokoska and Steve Angers, both of Red Brook Fame, have started a new restoration effort in the Westport River Watershed. The Westport River Watershed encompasses the towns of Westport, Dartmouth, Fall River, and in Rhode Island, Tiverton and Little Compton. We meet on the first Saturday of the month at the Brookside Conservation area off of Route 177 in Westport. This gives TU the access to Bread & Cheese Brook. B&C will be the initial restoration focus as there are 2 breached dams that need to be removed. All funds donated will be used for this effort. If you live on the South Coast and are looking for a dynamic project to join the Westport River Watershed will be the place to donate your time, effort, and money.

Rarified Air

By Joseph Swaluk

An old fly fisherman once told me, "Catching a big fish is luck; catching a lot of fish is skill". It is a statement I basically agree with---but not always. Certainly, catching fish consistently under various conditions denotes a skillful angler. No one would deny it. Landing a trophy fish can be seen as luck simply because there are fewer large fish. Yet there are many times when a skill comes into play with the capture of a truly great fish and that skill is patience. Time spent on the water will eventually put one into the rarified position of landing a "once in a lifetime" catch.

That being said, all of us have been witness to the novice who is in the right spot at the right time to catch a great fish. Often these anglers have no idea what they have done; nor do they care. World records have fallen to anglers who never fished before that fateful day., in my younger years, I often lamented my own lack of luck with larger fish. Why was it not happening? I am a skilled angler. Surely I deserve it! Time and patience have remedied this showing me that "all good things come to he who waits".

Destination travel to far off fishing locations has made the trophy fish a relative thing. A Pennsylvania trout fisherman who stays at home might never catch a trout over four or five pounds ---a substantial fish for his area. That same trout would be considered average in New Zealand or even small in Tierra Del Fuego. Does this suggest that one can beat the odds by having the means to travel to exotic fishing?...to some degree, yes.

All things being equal, that one five-pound Pennsylvania trout could constitute a more worthy catch than several of the same size caught elsewhere. The definition of a true trophy fish is then up to the individual angler to decide.

My own foray into the rarified air of trophy fish often is not decided by size ---but HOW. I cannot recall ever having caught a big fish without having done everything right. It was always an occasion where I did not "screw-up". Luck played a factor, but skill was at work as well. At those times, I can recall thinking; "That was a nice piece of fishing"--proud of the "how" more than anything else.

While exotic travel can put the odds of a big fish in your favor, it is not always necessary. While I had to travel to Labrador for my trophy brook trout, I caught my biggest brown trout in New York! It was 12 pounds, lake run, and took me 60 years to reach. The following year I did it again.

Recently, club member Joe O'Leary caught a 12-pound bonefish---not in Cuba, Christmas Island or the Seychelles, but Andros Island. This was a remarkable catch and surely put "Doc" in rarified air. In all my fishing at Andros, I have heard of few fish going that size. Luck played a part, undoubtedly, but at the end of a perfect cast.

For all those anglers still seeking that "big one", the solution is simple---just wait; it will come.

Fly of the Month

Woody's Worm



Tying the Woody's Whisker Worm

Hook: Mustad #2, 4XL, SS.

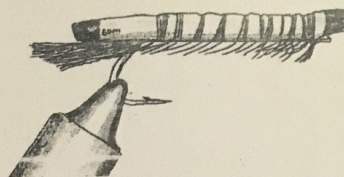
Thread/rib: Red (210 denier).

Body: Pink craft foam $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick, $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, 2" long.

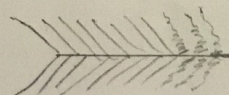
Under wing: 2.5-inch redish or orange hackle feather trimmed to 1-inch.

Head and tail: Black marker on foam.

Tail: Black over red Fluoro Fibre.



1. Cut a 2-inch length of $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch pink craft foam $\frac{1}{4}$ -inches square, taper and trim edges, and cut a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch taper on the underside of the head to be able to tie in the leader and knot.
2. Gently burn a hot wire groove down the middle on the bottom to accommodate the hook shank, and tail materials. Too much heat will warp the foam. Use a small paper clip, a larger diameter wire or paper clip will hold too much heat.
3. Wrap the shank of a Mustad, #2-4xl SS hook with red thread (210 denier), and tie on a black over red fluoro fibre tail, just above the hook bend. Leave the bobbin hanging at the tail.
4. Epoxy the thread, and groove, and position the foam so the head extends $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch beyond the hook eye and wrap on the pink foam with $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch segments, stopping $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch behind the eye of the hook. Apply some epoxy to the thread and use a return wrap to the hook bend. Leave the thread and bobbin hanging, and let the 5-minute epoxy dry to prevent the foam from shifting on you.
5. Cut off the tip of a 3-inch red or orange hackle feather with a frilly after shaft down to $1\frac{1}{8}$ " long.
6. Turn the fly over on its side in the vice, and lash the worms "feelers" feather to the bottom wrapping towards the eye of the hook without glue. Use a hat pin or bodkin to move the feather barbs out of the way as you go, and tie off just behind the hook eye.
7. Tie in a 3-inch piece of white floss for the whiskers with one knot under the hook shank, just behind the eye, and epoxy the knot using a bodkin.
8. To finish, wear a magnifier, and lightly epoxy any dry threads on top and bottom with just a dab on the feather shaft at the thread joints being careful not to get any glue on the feather barbs.
9. After the glue has dried, trim the tail, and whiskers, and use a black marker to color the head and tail area of the foam. The whiskers should be about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch long, and angle back towards the tail.



Show Us Your Fly

What have you been tying this winter?

Here's what our Treasurer Charlie Orr has been tying.

What have you been tying?



At the work bench.



Alder wet flies perched on wine corks.



On the vise



Olive Sallies waiting to dry

2018 CCTU trip to the Catskills

Rooms are filling up fast!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We are planning on the week of June 2-9. The weekends are usually a mob scene so most people go up for 3-5 days during the weekdays. We will be staying at the Riverside Café and Lodge in Roscoe. They have small cabins and motel rooms. They informed me that they would begin to take reservations for next season after January 1. The first week in June is very popular and rooms book up fast so people should make their reservation as soon as possible. The phone number for the Riverside is [607-498-5305](tel:607-498-5305).

Wayne Miller
wamdoc@verizon.net



Anticipation

By Norman Holcomb

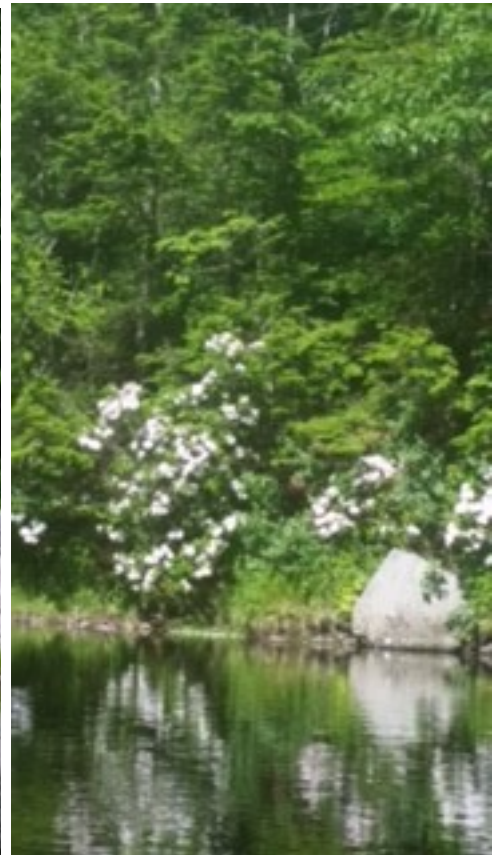
Envisioning a long cast to a splashy rise, I call up the previous destination on “Navigation” and turn onto Route Six for the three and half hour cruise to Barkhamsted, formerly home, now a frequent destination, to satisfy my long suppressed thirst for sparsely populated green hills, clear rushing streams and cooperative trout. Not that I can’t remember the route, having journeyed so often, but I remain ever hopeful that some miraculous change will make the trip even a half hour shorter. Or that somehow, the harping female voice will misdirect me through my boyhood home in the foothills of the Berkshires, where I can stop and purchase the unrivaled cheddar, lovingly nurtured at the Granville Village Store.

The familiar trip fades in the rearview mirror, punctuated with radio searches for mind occupying conversation, comedy, oldies music. The rest stop on Route 84, adjacent to the Willimantic River, awakens me, stretches my stiff legs, reactivates clear memories of each riffle and pool in the catch and release section, spectacular Hendrickson hatches, frustrating and splashy attacks on fleeing caddis, and warm, buggy evenings. Familiar faces of fishing buddies flash across my mind’s eye, punctuated by recollections of huddling under a tall, heavily leafed maple, rain drops sliding down my neck, listening to the thunder claps, while waiting for a break to resume fishing. I’ll stop, on some future trip, to rekindle those memories, add a few more, to store away for a long winter while tying new “killer” patterns for the new season.

But arrival at Campground Pool must wait until after the visit to Upcountry Sportfishing in New Hartford, methodical perusal of the latest equipment and fly tying materials, quizzing the owners on the conditions and recommended patterns, all part of the customary ritual leading to the first cast. A stop at the Black Bridge, sandwich in hand, helps to organize my thoughts, maybe a weighted woolly bugger, with a pheasant tail trailer and a small green caddis above it.

A familiar face appears from the thicket, I struggle to contain a laugh, spurred by vivid recollection of a dinner with him and his buddy, from Brooklyn, listening intently to stories of his youth and his family's dry cleaning "business" and their sundry activities. Now, his family's fortunes exhausted, he fishes, in the Salt, in fresh water; I search my mind to imagine his life without work of any kind, dismissing judgement to simply enjoy his more recent fishing stories. He willingly shares his most recent successful flies, a weighted leather leech imitation, close enough to the real life versions I've found recently in my wader boots, to fool a handful of hungry trout; a dark caddis imitation, dragged across the surface after a dead drift. We'll catch up later on, banter with Sal, over a glass of Cabernet, at the Legends B & B, maybe fish for a while together in the Greenwoods Pool, a familiar conclusion to wonderful day astream. A short drive up River Road, absorbing every detail of this wild and scenic part of Connecticut, watching for the black bear that crossed last year near the senior Center. The anticipation is almost over. What a shame.

These are a few photos, from the Farmington River, Ct. Taken by Norman Holcomb.



January Meeting **Picture** Recap...



Woody Mills



Tim Lynch taking care of business



Full House



Patrick Grenier

Quashnet River *News*

2018 Quashnet River Restoration Dates

February 18
March 18
April 15
May 20
June 24
July 15
August 19
September 16

A group of 8 volunteers led by Fran Smith made up the work crew on Sunday January 21st. The team worked to clear areas in preparation for tree planting this spring,



Jim Driscoll Sunday January 21st work day crew (Brett Bokelkamp photo)

Quashnet River *News*



CCTU Volunteers Dan Tobin, Tom Planert, and Francis Smith - January 21st (Brett Bokelkamp photo)

The following story is an excerpt from my fishing journal, and other miscellaneous mythological musings, collectively known as “Tales from the Catskill Woods.”

by Patrick Sekerak, CCTU life member

The Mafia Pool

No doubt you have heard some of the many speculations about where the infamous mobster, Jimmy Hoffa, is buried. Well, those of us who regularly prowls the more secluded, obscure, out-of-the-way sections of the upper East Branch of the Delaware River, where cell phones still don't work, have our own theory.

We all knew where this long, somewhat secluded section of the East Branch was, and for many years (long before the NYDEC access at Long Flat) there was a convenient parking area available right off NY state Rte. 30 just downstream of Bumps Eddy. An old abandoned curved section of the state road, still connected to Rte. 30 at both ends like a paved rest stop area, could easily accommodate dozens of vehicles. The 'rest stop' was heavily used by anglers, and provided good access to Bumps Eddy and to Long Flat farther upstream, and to that other pool downstream running through a steep-banked hollow between two long ridges. The access to the as yet unnamed pool downstream was not quite as good, and required a moderate hike crossing the river twice to first get onto, and then off, a large mid-stream island. The crossings could be a challenge during times of high water, especially late on dark nights after fishing Green Drake spinner falls. It seemed to me that most anglers headed upstream from the 'rest stop' toward Bumps Eddy or Long Flat, but we more often hiked downstream into the hollow down toward the old Harvard Bridge.

Unfortunately, the convenient access to the river from the 'rest stop' came to an abrupt and controversial end. The large tract of land directly across Rte. 30 was sold to an obviously wealthy individual who promptly proceeded to construct “The Stone Mansion” on a rise of land looking south directly over the river. A beautiful home with a wonderful setting; its only issue was that 'rest stop' area with its transient visitors periodically despoiling the Mansion's panoramic views. Ownership of the small narrow strip of 'rest stop' land between Rte. 30 and the river was apparently cloudy in the deed of record since it was at one time a state roadway. It took some time to resolve, but you probably can guess how this ends. The anglers' favorite 'rest stop' access area was posted, and the entrances at both ends were blocked off from Rte. 30.

Now what. It didn't take long for Hank Locker to "discover" another way into the pool-down-in-the- hollow. Hank had recently purchased a great home of his own on Harvard Road which runs parallel to the river on the other side of the East Branch. At the dead end of Harvard Road, a narrow one lane, rough dirt road (Bump Road - very well named) branches off and follows the old abandoned Delaware & Northern Railroad grade down into the expansive Tomanex State Forest area bordering the south side of the river. We knew that Bump Road was certainly no secret, in fact it is the access road to a couple cabins down along the south bank of the river. But, traveling along that very narrow, one lane pot-holed tank trap, especially after dark, made access to this section of the river so much more remote and inconvenient that, for at least a little while, we saw fewer anglers down in the pool-in-the-hollow. We used the 'new' access on a regular basis, each time praying that you would not encounter another vehicle driving in the opposite direction where the road is cut into the steep, almost vertical hillside. The pool continued to be a favored destination, at least for Locker, Janicki, the Dutchman, Barnes, Doyle, and yours truly, and others willing to get a little mud on their tires (sometimes a lot of mud on their tires and everywhere else!). Now that we fished here frequently, especially during Hendrickson and Green Drake hatches, what do we call this place? It had not been identified on any map of the East Branch as far as we knew (and this preceded publication of Paul Weamer's book on fishing the upper Delaware River system). How do you quickly, conveniently answer the common question, "where did you fish last night?" Oh, I was down along Bump Road; or, I was in the Tomanex State Forest; or down in the pool-in-the-hollow. Awkward, and boring — a pool this good deserved a simple, unique name.

The Answer: One fine late May evening, anticipating a Coffin Fly spinner fall, I scouted along the very deep upper end of the pool where the main channel runs along a steep cliff on the Rte. 30 roadside bank. The water was really low that Spring, exposing more of the cliffside bank than usual. That's where I first saw it.

Partially buried, lying upside down against a dead tree in the mud and gravel at the exposed base of the cliff were the remnants of what appeared to be an old vintage sedan, with dented remains of one door and trunk lid still in place. It was pretty far gone, and I couldn't wade close enough to identify the make, but it appeared to be a very old sedan, looking much like the hulk of a wrecked mafia limo after a prohibition gangster car-chase shootout scene from an old Al Capone movie.

Finally, a potential simple name with some flair -- The Mafia Pool! Now that had a definite ring to it!! I suggested the name, and it stuck (at least among the residents of Doyle's Public House).

My overactive imagination run amuck, you say? Well, Mr. Luciano, I have photos of the "Mafia car" to verify it's existence, and validate the whimsical name -- and believe me, I never drink while I'm on the water! The skeleton of the old wreck, whatever it was, is still partially visible. It has suffered further ravages of floods, ice, and rust since I first saw it many years ago. The door and trunk lid, and parts of the frame have since been ripped free, and it is buried deeper into the bank undergrowth, but the upside down chassis frame is still visible when the river is low enough.

The infamous remains of what, or who, may have been stuffed into the trunk are also probably long gone downstream into Delaware Bay by now, if you get my drift.

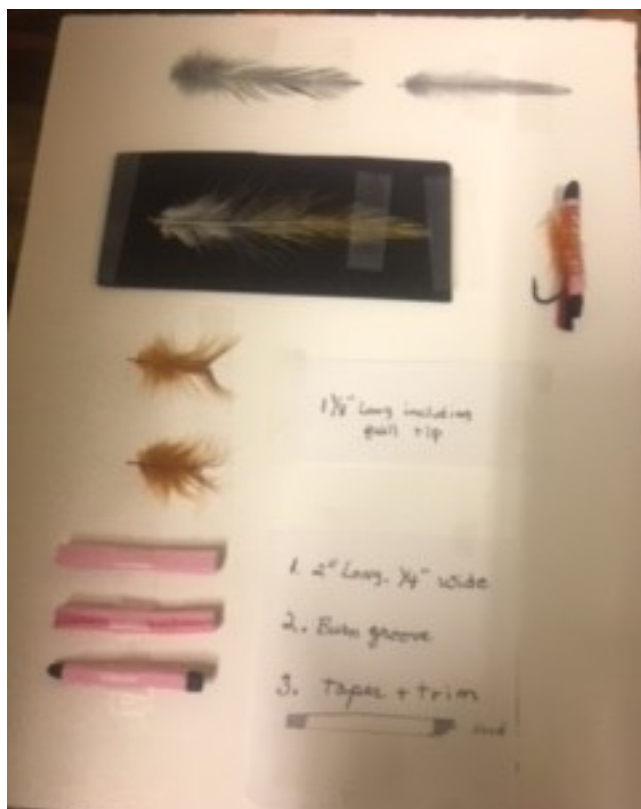
Not too many other anglers recognize the informal name, and that's OK. I enjoy sitting at the Riverside Cafe bar with host/barkeep/NY state angling guide Dan Eliezer talking about fishing the Mafia Pool, and watching the puzzled expressions of others wondering: where the hell is the Mafia Pool? Oh, it's just down a narrow, one lane mud hole rut road off the dead end of Harvard Road, following the old, abandoned Delaware & Northern grade, across an unmarked open field, down into the Tomannex State Forest. You can't miss it!

The NYDEC has since constructed a small graded gravel parking area on the south bank of the river near the mid-section of the pool. The sign they put up next to the parking lot did not identify it as the "Mafia Pool" access. That's OK, too.

Fly Tying Wednesdays

We kicked –off our Fly Tying Wednesdays on January 10th with Woody Mills .

Woody demonstrated how to tie “Woody’s Worm”.



Fly Tying Wednesdays

Our featured fly tyer on Wednesday January 24th was Scott Dietrich. He lead the group tying the Picket Pin.



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More pictures from January 10th Fly Tying with Woody Mills

Fishing Photos



Flag!!!!!!!!!!!!



Nice size Pickerel from Wequaquet Lake

Share a Story with Our Readers:

We are looking to see if some members would want to share a short story of experiences they have had. This can be anything from a couple of paragraphs to a couple of pages. If you have something to share please email it along and it will be included here.

Email to: ccturollcast4@gmail.com

Classifieds

Tioga 4 plus spare spool in VG condition

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Paul Richards

striper239@gmail.com

