

# THE ROLLCAST

**Newsletter of Cape Cod Trout Unlimited**

**Chapter 460**

**April 2020**

**Cinder Worm Season for 2020**

**Cancellation Notices**

**On the WEB: [www.capecodtu.org](http://www.capecodtu.org)**

## April 2020 President's Message

On Wednesday, while on a late-afternoon break from the computer in my temporary (or maybe not-so-temporary) work-from-home office, I heard the piping of at least two osprey drifting over the hill our house sits on. The scout herring have to be here by now if the osprey are. With a warm, early spring weather teasing us, stripers should be in the salt ponds and back bays within the month. Juvenile brook trout on the salter streams are busy finding hidey holes and scarfing up every morsel they come across. We are surrounded here on our beautiful Cape by the sights and sounds of life and the rejuvenation that comes along with spring.

Last month, the CCTU Board of Directors was faced with the difficult decision to cancel our Monthly Meetings, Annual Fundraising Banquet, Fly Tying nights, Fly Fishing School and all other Chapter activities until further notice to keep members safe in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are many cases here on the Cape and it continues to spread. Social distancing and more dramatic self-isolation among those impacted and those trying to prevent impact is here for the foreseeable future — the new normal, as it were.

For those who signed up for the Annual Banquet and would like a refund, please contact Mike Howard, Banquet Chair [howard533@gmail.com](mailto:howard533@gmail.com) if you would like a refund. For those of you who donated the cost of your tickets to the Chapter, we thank you.

Those who signed up for the Fly Fishing School should have been contacted by now, but if you have any questions, please reach out to Fred Monahan, [fredmonahan@yahoo.com](mailto:fredmonahan@yahoo.com)

The need to protect cold water resources continues even in these trying times. In light of this, last week the Board was asked to consider a donation toward the purchase of land that abuts the Crowningshield parcel along the West Branch of the North River. The Crowningshield land was purchased in 2015 by the Franklin Land Trust with help from the Massachusetts/Rhode Island Council of Trout Unlimited and member chapters (including a donation from CCTU). In January 2020, Will SloanAnderson from Franklin Land Trust asked the Council for assistance in finding \$38,000 to fill the gap between funds already raised and the purchase price for this parcel. The Council put out a call to the Chapters for support and after review, the CCTU Board felt that this is a worthy project and voted to donate \$5,000 to the purchase.

When the purchase is complete, the land will be held by MassWildlife in a perpetual conservation easement. It will protect another half mile of the stream, which is one of the major coldwater tributaries to the Deerfield River. It holds both wild brook and brown trout. Franklin Land Trust has a strategic vision for the entire area, showing a plan to ultimately protect another five miles of river over the next five to ten years through either outright purchases of land or conservation easements. They are a small, but highly effective land trust with a sophisticated set of land use protection tools integrating both farm, forest and riverine resources. So far, the council has raised \$25,000 toward the needed amount. The deadline for securing the needed funds is May 1, 2020. If interested, FLT is accepting individual donations from TU members. Please visit [www.franklinlandtrust.org](http://www.franklinlandtrust.org). or send email to [info@franklinlandtrust.org](mailto:info@franklinlandtrust.org). We plan to have a presentation from FLT at a future Chapter Meeting so you can all see how these funds are being put to good use.

The world around us shows life is going on and will continue to do so. We will get through these difficult times and resume the fellowship, dedicated conservation work, and joy of sharing one another's company again. Meanwhile, to the extent you are able, get outside, enjoy the warming days, and use this as an opportunity to fish that pond around the corner which, rumor has it, holds giant, holdover browns.

Thank you to our dedicated Board Members for your leadership and also to our loyal volunteers and Chapter members for your continued support.

Tight lines,

Roberta (Robbie) Mazzoli

# Events

## **Board meeting:**

Held remotely by teleconference or videoconference

## **Chapter Meeting:**

Canceled until further notice

## **Quashnet River Restoration Workday:**

Canceled until further notice



# **TROUT UNLIMITED**

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



## **2020 CCTU Annual Fundraising Banquet**

### **Impact of Cancellation – Thank You- Chance to Help**

The Board and many of you were looking forward to supporting the Chapter and having a good time with friends at the 2020 Fundraising Banquet. It was so disappointing to have to cancel. COVID 19 has been nasty stuff.

Of course in addition to missing a good party the Chapter will lose the proceeds of the event, which have been up to \$5,000 in recent years. Although we are fortunate to have Chapter reserve funds that should allow us to continue our programming and support of our mission, during the coming year we will be looking for ways to make up a portion of this loss.

Helping right away will be the generosity of many early purchasers of tickets for the Fundraiser who decided to donate their ticket payments in lieu of a refund, a total donation of \$725! Thank you so much.

Also, we have received many product donations from individuals and companies. Rest assured these items are safely stored and will be ready for either monthly meeting raffles, a special fall event if we can pull it together, or next year's Banquet. Anyway you slice it, a big positive for our Chapter. Again, thank you!

### **Ways you can help**

Consider joining those who donated ticket prices by making a donation to the chapter. Donations of \$10, \$20, or a ticket value of \$35 will collectively make a difference. If you can help please mail your check payable to Cape Cod TU to Mike Howard, 40 Winfield Way, Osterville, MA 02655.

Consider using your free time to go through your fishing and other items at home and identifying those suitable for donation to CCTU at the next opportunity.

Consider supporting our commercial Banquet donors. This year that list already included Loon Outdoors, Rio lines, and Tenkara rods. Last year we had SportsPort, Powderhorn, Sea Sports, Tenkara, Chris Jackson, Fisherman's View, and Mahoney's. Tenkara told us they are running a 30% off sale to help cash flow in these difficult times, which was a reminder that all vendors would appreciate your business.

Thank you again. Take care,

Mike Howard, Banquet Chair



## Worm Hatch Season for 2020

With the mild winter of 2020, stripers should be arriving early this year, by mid to late April. January turned out to be the third warmest on record, with nine degrees above normal, and February came in at six degrees above normal.

I expect there will be a few worm hatches that will take place in backwaters during mid to late April, ten days sooner than normal, especially if it turns out to be sunnier and warmer than normal as it was in April of 2015. If you did not pay attention or you missed those April hatches as I did earlier in my learning curve in 2012 (a mild winter), and again in 2015, (a polar vortex winter), both of those scenario's will throw off the normal pace and occurrence of the usual May hatches to the point of frustration and lead to a lot of head scratching in May.

To help narrow things down, the 12-day late afternoon and evening high tide cycle for late April will take place from April 22, to May 3<sup>rd</sup>, a good bet for any early worm hatches.

Good luck out there.

Woody Mills

Worm Hatch Inspector



The 2020 Fly Fishing School scheduled for May 1, 2, & 3 has been cancelled as a result of the ongoing corona virus pandemic. The cancellation is disappointing but our health and the health of our students must be our priority. We will begin planning for next year's school.

Be well & good fishing,

Fred Monahan

Framed Striped Bass print  
Titled "Decisions.....Striped Bass" signed by renowned wildlife artist Mark  
Susinno  
28' x 23"  
#134/750  
\$250 cash and carry

Paul Richards  
Centerville  
[striper239@gmail.com](mailto:striper239@gmail.com)



**Cape Cod Trout Unlimited**  
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**Board Member: Tom Planert**

**Past President: Tim Lynch**

**Rollcast editor: Ron Reif ([ccturollcast5@gmail.com](mailto:ccturollcast5@gmail.com))**

