

# THE ROLLCAST

**Newsletter of Cape Cod Trout Unlimited**

**Chapter 460**

**May 2020**

**Cinder Worm Patterns**

**Quashnet River Restoration Update**

**April Photos from Cape's Ponds**

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



## May 2020 President's Message

I'm hoping this month's message finds you all well and coping as best you can with this new way of interacting with the world around us. Each day brings more data to science and hopes that things will get better soon via improved testing and/or vaccines. Social distancing is working on Cape Cod, as reported in the Falmouth Enterprise this week. Keep up the good work. That includes being mindful of keeping your distance from others on ponds, streams, rivers and beaches while fishing. The season is open and we should go and find our little patches of solitude – just us, the midges, the caddis, and the fish. This is also a great time to support local fly/bait/tackle shops and guides, as they have always been friends of the Chapter when we have looked to them for donations for our fundraising events.

CCTU continues our conservation mission. The CCTU Board approved the purchase of 500 PIT tags to track keep the Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife PIT tagging study going and evaluate the success of the Childs River and Coonamesset River reintroductions and habitat improvements as well as the continuing successes on the Quashnet and Red Brook.

We hope you are able to attend the Webinar by well-known fisherman and artist Jeff Currier on Wednesday, April 29 at 8 PM. His presentation is titled Saltwater Fly Fishing - Bonefish to Billfish.

The generosity of our members allows us to contribute to these important projects and bring speakers to our Chapter meetings. Many thanks for your support.

Unfortunately, all CCTU in-person events remain cancelled until September, when we will re-evaluate whether it is safe and allowed to meet in groups. Should things change between now and then, we will reach out via email.

As this is our last newsletter until September, I wish you all a safe, healthy and fun summer filled with fishing adventures. Looking forward to hearing some good fish stories at our Chapter BBQ in September.

Tight lines,  
Roberta (Robbie) Schilling  
President, CCTU



Tim Lynch reports the Upper Child's River Restoration Project is now fully funded. Thanks to the USFWS for their grant of 875K. DER's application to the USFWS for the Childs River Project is officially funded. Please see here: <https://www.fws.gov/coastal/coastalgrants/pdfs/2020-Coastal-Wetlands-Grants-Project-Summaries-Final.pdf>. Feel free to share this good news with partners and supporters. CCTU's very small role in this effort continues with our river temperature and dissolved oxygen collection of data. CCTU purchased these sensors with the funds garnered from the EAS Grant and the EAS Challenge that filled our coffers with just under 10K of conservation funds. WBNEER has been collecting and distributing the data.

# Events

## Board meeting:

Held remotely by videoconference

## Chapter Virtual Presentation:

CCTU and several other local fishing clubs have joined resources to bring a special fishing online/virtual presentation to you for your viewing pleasure.

Well known fisherman and artist Jeff Currier will give a webinar on Wed, 29 April at 8 PM. This presentation is titled: Saltwater Fly Fishing - Bonefish to Billfish.

Steps to participate:

1) Click link to register for presentation. Registering only requires your name and email address. If the link does not work, paste the address into your web browser.

## Link

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0CWdinKcQlOgQughzkECng](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0CWdinKcQlOgQughzkECng)

2) After registering a confirmation email will be sent to you from the South Shore Fly Casters that contains the presentation link to use on Wed, 29 Apr at 8pm.



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## Quashnet River Restoration Update from Francis Smith

Despite the conditions we are currently living with, progress has been made toward moving the Quashnet River Restoration forward. Beginning in November of 2019 CCTU Chapter Member started cutting brush in Section 6 in-lieu-of a tree planting that was scheduled for April 19, 2020. All but about 300 feet of the east side of the 1,200 foot length of Section 6 has been brush and a 200 foot Section of the east side of Section 7 has also been brushed where during April 34 black spruce trees have been planted. The remaining brush in Section 6 will likely be cut for a future tree planting by the end of April and the last of 45 available black spruce will be planted in a group on the banks of Section 6 shortly thereafter.

As of now, the plan to make a stab at planting the remainder of Section 6 with approximately 150 additional trees on May 17, 2020. An additional date of June 21 has been selected to try to plant the remaining trees in Section 6. There will be less than 150 trees to install in that section by that date and I am hopeful that some of the restrictions currently in place will be lifted thus giving us the opportunity to get them in the ground. The trees are in larger pots than in previous years because water levels last year were too high to accomplish the task. As a result when formerly it would take about 3 five gallon buckets of compost to plant one tree it now takes 5 or 6, five gallon buckets to accomplish the planting of one tree. There is currently 8 tons or 672 buckets of compost at the site and at least 900 buckets will be needed. So another 4 tons will be needed at the site before May 17 if we can do the planting.

During my travels in the area this spring I have seen a good number of young of the year rookies so I think the spawning has been successful. I have also noticed that the bed load of sand has left most of Section 5 and some of the upper portion of section 6. The depth of sand in Sections 7 and 8 has diminished and water levels in the river have lowered as a result of the sand loss and stream banks are more exposed. All of this is a good thing giving the trees we have planted in the past somewhat dryer ground with greater depth to grow roots and support themselves during high wind incidents.

The upper 4,000 feet of the project area is well forested and yet allows enough sunlight to filter into the stream to keep in-stream productivity high. The lower 4,000 feet of the project area is in various stages of reforestation and as that occurs over the next 20 years you should see a colder stream accompanied by larger wild brook trout. One of the current problems that exists in the Quashnet River is slow or no growth rates of brook trout in the summer! Because the water is too warm and the trout confine themselves to the colder areas of the stream which gives them less access to food during a time when food is most plentiful. As water temperatures in the river start to become cooler due to shade we will see larger brookies in the river. A situation that would also help is reducing the nitrogen content in the river which would help reduce the nitrogen loading in Waquoit Bay and perhaps the eel grass would return and brook trout headed into the estuary would have cover and an abundance of small baitfish and grass shrimp to feed on during the winter months when they prefer to be in the salt. The watershed needs to be sewerred.

I hope you will plan to help with the tree planting. If so, you will need waders, gloves, and please bring a shovel.

**Tree Planting on the Quashnet River. Photos from F. Smith.**





**Getting Ready for Cinder Worm Spawn. Photos from R. Reif.**



From Editor:

This will be the final Rollcast Newsletter until the fall. I hope everyone gets to enjoy some fishing. See you in the fall.

Ron Reif

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### Spring Fishing on Upper Cape Ponds. Photos from R. Reif



**Cape Cod Trout Unlimited**  
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