

THE ROLLCAST

Newsletter of Cape Cod Trout Unlimited

Chapter 460

October 2020

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On the WEB: www.capecodtu.org

October President's Message

Hello fellow CCTU members,

I hope you are enjoying the first days of Autumn. It feels like summer is still with us for a few more days at least! Speaking of the weather... the lack of rain has put every region in Massachusetts at Level 2 – Significant Drought status. This is having a serious effect on rivers and therefore fish, wildlife and their habitats as well as placing us at a higher risk for damaging fires. Please conserve water wherever you can. Massachusetts DCR has information about the drought on their website. Check out these links for more information on water conditions, precipitation levels and drought levels.

Current Drought Status: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/current-drought-status>

Water Data Tracking: <https://www.mass.gov/water-data-tracking>

Massachusetts Drought Management Plan: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-drought-management-plan/download>

We will be holding our October Chapter Meeting online via Zoom on October 14th at 7 p.m. After a short business meeting, Tim Flagler of Tightline Productions will be providing us with a virtual trip to the Kootenai and Yaak rivers:

“The Kootenai and Yaak rivers of northwestern Montana don’t get the recognition that others in the state like the Madison and the Missouri do. This is actually a good thing. Imagine five days of fishing from a drift boat without seeing another one on the river or wading miles and miles of a crystal-clear alpine stream and never seeing a soul. That’s what fishing is like on the Kootenai River and the Yaak drainage with the Linehan Outfitting Company. Presentation is entirely video-based.”

The login information for the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you the week of the presentation.

We will also have an in-person gathering on Sunday, October 18th at 2 p.m. at Hamblin Pond where Tim Flagler will present “Advantages and Versatility of a 7 wt 11’4” Switch Rod for Saltwater Fly Fishing” to a socially-distanced group (masks and social distancing required). He will include a show and tell of other equipment and accessories as well. We hope that you can join us for this interesting and fun event.

IMPORTANT: RSVP ASAP to capecodtroutunlimited@gmail.com to reserve your place at the October 18th event.

Finally, Chapter elections will be held at our December meeting. At present, we still have several volunteer positions open: **President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Refreshments Chair, Fundraising Chair, Membership Chair and Environmental Chair.** If you have any interest, or know of someone you think would be great at one of these positions, please let me or any current Board Member know. It’s the best way to get to know people in the Chapter and learn more than you ever believed possible from the highly-skilled but modest and super-friendly Chapter members you see around you at meetings every month. Looking forward to Zooming with you soon!

Tight lines,

Roberta (Robbie) Schilling

President, Cape Cod Trout Unlimited

Events

October 14 at 7pm:

Chapter meeting with Tim Flagler presentation. Login information for this Zoom meeting will be emailed to you.

October 18 from 9AM to noon:

Quashnet River Restoration. Meet at Martin Road Gate. Bring waders, gloves, hat, safety glasses, bug spray, and face mask.

October 18 at 2PM:

Switch rod demo by Tim Flaggler at Hambin Pond. Must wear face mask and practice social distancing. Must RSVP to reserve spot: capecodtroutunlimited@gmail.com



TROUT UNLIMITED

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

Quashnet River Restoration Update

By Francis Smith

The Quashnet River Restoration is an ongoing all Volunteer effort which first began on May 6, 1976. By the end of 2019 we had invested a total of 338 man-hours toward the restoration effort. So far, for 2020, we have invested 627 man-hours as of September 13. Here is what we have accomplished thus far this year. We began 2020 by cutting brush in Section 6 which is 1,200 feet in length. All but 300 feet was cut in Section 6 by April 1. An additional 300 feet of brush was cut from the upper east side of Section 7. The 300 feet of brush that remains uncut in Section 6 will be removed this fall. Over a total of 2,400 feet of stream bank, 167 trees were planted to augment a plantings which was accomplished in 2014 and 2016. A total of 34 additional black spruce were planted on the upper east side of Section 7 to enhance a planting of the same species in 2016. The 2016 planting has grown to 10 feet tall and the new trees added this year will give the area an uneven age growth spread over this 300 foot section of stream bank. In Section 6 a total of 133 trees were added to a planting that took place in 2014. The trees planted in 2014 are now 20 to 30 feet tall which is remarkable growth but bear in mind that they have all the water they could use and full sun. Those trees are now shading the river helping to keep it cool. A total of 9 tons of compost was boated in 5 gallon buckets, requiring the filling of 985 buckets, to plant the 167 trees in Sections 6 and 7. Planting one tree, depending on the pot size the tree was growing within, took from 4 to 6 buckets. The trees were planted on top of the abandon bogs by building a pyramid around the root ball. This batch of trees averaged 7 feet tall and thus far this year many of them have put on 24 to 30 inches of new growth.

Upon completion of the tree planting we cleared debris from spring flows to allow the 54 degree ground water to reach the river in a shorter amount of time thus exposing the cold water to less sun and air helping to keep it colder when entering the river. Maintenance was conducted to the trees remaining in our nursery and large wood, which are logs greater than 6 inches in diameter and 6 feet in length were drilled out prior to placement in the river to add significant habitat.

We hauled a 10 inch diameter 16 foot long log from the top end of Section 6, where it was being stored in the river to become water logged, to the upper end of Section 3 for use in the construction of a cross log device. A total of 3 ton of stone and one ton of 3/4 to 1 1/2 inch gravel was also staged at the cross log installation site. On August 16 the device was installed incorporating a mud sill into the installation. This device will eventually dig a pool that will attain a depth of four to five feet and a length of approximately fifteen feet. The left over rock was used to enhance an existing deflector just upstream and four conglomerations of large wood were installed in the area to further enhance the available hiding cover for brook trout. Present for the construction of the cross log and the large wood installations were: Tom Planert, Tim Lynch, Ron Reif, Bill Hoyerman, Ted Patlin, and Francis Smith.

From September 1 to September 12 large wood was staged at Martin Road, which is the downstream end of Section 8, for installation in Section 8 on September 13. The large wood installation on September 13 consisted of placing logs up to 14 inches in diameter and 16 feet in length, pinned with oak stakes and 3/4 inch diameter rebar, welded with parts to form a nail 5 feet long, into the lower end of Section 8 and the lower end of Section 7. Getting those logs to the river was quite a chore but regardless we had quite a few laughs making it all happen. This installation involved about 180 feet in length of logs and was accomplished by: Charlie Orr, Tim Lynch, Mike Howard, Bill Berkley, Ted Patlin and Francis Smith.

Biologists have deemed that the optimal amount of large wood pieces per mile in streams for the best resulting habitat is 280. There are virtually no circumstances where large wood or woody debris should be removed from a stream's habitat scheme. Large wood and woody debris are essential components of a stream's ecology and these components provide the fuel or energy needed and consumed by the animals and plants that live in the stream. Without large wood and woody debris the stream becomes much less productive.

Our next Restoration Session is scheduled for October 18, 2020. I hope to see you there!

Here is something to consider. When fishing the Quashnet River and other Cape Cod Salter Brook Trout Streams be cautious of the fact that brook trout spawn from mid-October to as late as Christmas, and their fertilized eggs incubate in gravel until about mid-March. One wader boot could destroy 800 to 1,000 incubating trout eggs by stepping on the redd, which is the nest that is built by the female brook trout to contain the eggs during the incubation period. Limiting your wading during this time period could very well be the most beneficial part you can play to help this restoration effort. What is best for the fish is best for the fisherman.

Quashnet River Restoration Photos from Francis Smith, Mike Howard, and Ron Reif



Childs River Restoration Construction Begins

Submitted by Tim Lynch

Construction for the Childs River Restoration project is underway on land owned and leased by the Falmouth Rod and Gun Club in Falmouth and Mashpee. Construction in the river and upstream bogs is being completed by Luciano's Excavation, Inc. with oversight by the club, and from Inter-Fluve, which completed design and engineering for the project. The project will return the abandoned Farley and Garner cranberry bogs to natural wetland habitat and will restore the river to improve the productivity of this ecosystem for fish and other wildlife. A new culvert at the Carriage Shop Road crossing and replacement of a failed fish ladder with a functioning stream channel will allow Brook Trout, along with American Eel and other fish species, to migrate upstream to currently inaccessible habitat. At the same time, removal of an old earthen dam below Carriage Shop Road, along with improvements to water flow in the bogs, will reduce ponding and sources of warm water currently impairing existing coldwater habitat for the Trout.

The area is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge, and the river and its resources have been maintained by the club in coordination with the refuge, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and MassWildlife. The restoration project is a long-term effort begun by the Rod and Gun Club in October of 2016. With four years and about \$2.5 million committed for planning, design, permitting and construction, the club and the project team are now seeing their hard work come to fruition, according to Ron Densmore, club president. "This project supports the club's mission of improvement, conservation and preservation of the land and water systems of Cape Cod," said Densmore. "Restoring the bogs and river will ensure the public can enjoy the natural, historical beauty of these resources in perpetuity."

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod has supported the club in planning and project management since 2017. The project was also selected in 2018 by the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) as a priority project as part of their newly formed Cranberry Bog Program, which aims to work on retired farms to restore out-of-use cranberry bogs to natural wetlands. "Through our Restoration Coordination Center, APCC has been working across the Cape with partners like DER to provide technical support and help bring in grant funding for town and community projects like this," said April Wobst, APCC's restoration ecologist. "Clearing of excess plant growth and trees are a part of this first phase of work along with earth moving and stockpiling of trees for reuse for the restoration. Much like with the nearby Coonamessett River restoration project, there will be a period of transition during construction when it is going to look messy. However, the reward will be worth the wait when we have a new, functional and beautiful river when work and replanting is complete."

"The holistic restoration of the Child's River provides an opportunity to restore stream and wetland form and function by removing the physical barriers that have been impacting it for centuries," said Nick Nelson, senior geomorphologist and regional director at Inter-Fluve. "With remarkable foresight, the club has formed a team of club members and local residents, non-profit organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies to achieve the goal of a free-flowing stream with improved water quality and aquatic and terrestrial habitat from headwater springs to downstream tidal waters."

Additional support for the Childs River restoration has been provided by the Sporting, Safety, Conservation, and Education Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USFWS Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge, the towns of Mashpee and Falmouth, MassWildlife, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, the Falmouth and Mashpee Community Preservation Committees, Woodwell Climate Research Center, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through collaboration with Restore America's Estuaries Southeast New England Program watershed grants, the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, the Cape Cod Foundation, Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition and the Friends of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge.

For more information, contact Gary Anderson, Falmouth Rod and Gun Club treasurer and project manager at hunterga1@comcast.net or April Wobst, Association to Preserve Cape Cod restoration ecologist at awobst@apcc.org.

A short video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBbtEa76MA0&t> for those interested in learning more about the history of the Childs River and bogs.

Fishing photos...photos from Ron Reif and Tim Lynch



Cape Cod Trout Unlimited

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Vice President: Alan Alai

Treasurer: Michael Howard

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Board Member: Fred Monahan

Board Member: Charlie Orr

Past President: Tim Lynch

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Cover Photo from R. Reif

