

THE ROLLCAST

Newsletter of Cape Cod Trout Unlimited

Chapter 460

November 2020

Presidents Message and November Events

Story from Swalkuk

Fly Film Festival

Book Review

On the WEB: www.capecodtu.org

November President's Message

Hello fellow CCTU members,

How quickly things change! I was just earlier this week cutting zinnias and dahlias in my cutting garden and watching Peter harvest green beans from his vegetable plot. Now we've had our first snowfall and the stripers are probably on their way down south for the winter. It's been a good year and now it's time to focus on the many ponds on Cape Cod. That reminds me... congratulations to Steve Petruska, the winner of our 2019 Cape Cod Pond Challenge. As 2020 has been a most odd year, we were just able to recognize Steve for his achievement at the recent in-person event held at Hamblin Pond with Tim Flagler. Way to go Steve!

Now for a few reminders:

We will be holding our November Chapter Meeting online via Zoom on November 11th at 7 p.m. After a short business meeting, Jim Rassman of WBNERR will be providing us with a presentation. If you need help getting set up with Zoom, please email capecodtroutunlimited@gmail.com and we will (virtually) help you out! Even if you don't have a computer, you can log in to the meeting with a smartphone or via telephone (audio only).

The login information for the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you the week of the presentation. If you need help getting set up with Zoom, please email capecodtroutunlimited@gmail.com well in advance of the meeting and we will be glad to (virtually) help you out!

Finally, Chapter elections will be held at our December meeting. Please make an effort to join via Zoom or phone if only for the voting portion of the meeting. We need to have at least 10% of the membership present and voting for a valid election to take place. Proposed Slate of Officers is as follows:

President: Mike Howard

Vice President: Peter Schilling

Treasurer: Open

Secretary: Open

Environmental Chair: Ron Reif

Board Members: Alan Alai

Board Member: Fred Monahan

Board Member: Ron Reif

Past President: Roberta Schilling

At present, we still have vacancies for several important volunteer positions: **Treasurer, Secretary, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Refreshments Chair, Fundraising Chair, and Membership 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

November 11 at 7pm:

Chapter meeting with Jim Rassman presentation. Login information for this Zoom meeting will be emailed to you.

November 15 from 9AM to noon:

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



TROUT UNLIMITED

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

From the Editor

It has been a pleasure volunteering as the Editor of CCTU's Rollcast Newsletter. My two-year term ends in December 2020 and my last newsletter will be the December 2020 edition. CCTU needs a new Editor to enable the Rollcast to continue in 2021. If you would like to volunteer to serve as the next Editor, please contact me: ccturollcast5@gmail.com. I will provide training.

Sincerely,

Ron Reif

Presentation to Steve Petruska for winning the 2019 CCTU Pond Challenge. Tim Lynch indicates that Steve caught a trout in 17 Cape ponds. Presentation/Picture was at Hamblin Pond last Sunday prior to Tim Flagler's Switch Rod casting clinic.



Beyond the Fish

By Joseph D. Swaluk

Man has contemplated the universe for thousands of years. It is an endless space unable to be measured. Beyond is simply beyond. Man has fished for the same amount of time. But the distance between man and fish can be measured. Still, just as in the universe, there is existence beyond the fish.

In the fall of 2011, I found myself on a little-known tributary of Lake Ontario. I was 69 years old and did not ever expect to reach the level of rarefied air destined for me that day. It was nirvana, or enlightenment, and it came in the form of a double-digit brown trout. I caught a twelve-pound male in absolutely perfect condition---kype and all.

It was a classic battle and worth recounting in its own right. Fraught with perils to overcome, it tested all of my fly fishing skills. Several times during the encounter, I was faced with the prospect of failure. In the end, my quarry made a tactical error and luck, as with most things in life, determined me the winner. After a successful release, I found myself needing to sit on the bank and gather my thoughts, drinking in what just happened.

The first thing that came to mind was, "I had been fishing for that fish my entire life." The second thought was, "Would I have rather had this experience earlier in life?" The answer was, NO. The timing was perfect. My next thoughts were, "Did it really need to have happened at all? Was I a better person as a result? Would anyone else even care? Was this just another example of how the journey is more important than the final prize?"

There have been other experiences that have taught me the same lesson my twelve-pound brown did. Together, they all show the folly of setting benchmarks at the expense of just letting time run its course.

Edward Ringwood Hewitt once stated that there were four stages in a fly fisherman's life. The final stage was just wanting to fish regardless of the outcome. I propose a fifth stage—not fishing at all; just being content to watch and help others do something that brought great satisfaction to me. Possibly, this is the same as the deer hunter who is content to just watch deer walk under his stand or a bird hunter who just enjoys the dog work. Neither one needs to fire a shot.

Talking with other fly fishermen of my generation has shown me I am far from alone in these sentiments. The drive is gone---but not the passion!

Younger fly anglers will take the sport in new directions. They will transform my contemplative man's recreation into a high-powered adventure sport---and rightly so. Nothing should remain stagnant. In the end, I hope they all find their journey to be as fruitful as mine---by reaching beyond the fish.

Book Review.....Eye of the Shoal (Helen Scales, PhD)

By Paul Richards

In a past life many years ago, I was a Certified Fisheries Scientist so I had an active career in fisheries. That was about 25 years ago. Since that time most of my reading on the subject of fishes has had to do with catching/flyfishing. Nothing wrong with that except my focus became very narrow.

I recently came across a book that brought me back, in a non-technical way to my first professional interest, fish biology.

The book is entitled "Eye of the Shoal" by Helen Scales, PhD. Yes, her real last name is Scales. Dr Scales received her Doctorate from Cambridge University (UK). She is a marine biologist, diver, surfer, broadcaster and writer. She teaches at Cambridge and has a wide-ranging association with the BBC.

Eye of the Shoal is not a typical Fisheries Biology or Ichthyology text. It does [not] intensely cover systematics, distribution, morphology, physiology etc. Rather it hits a myriad of topics and covers the obvious and curious aspects of each. For example, there are discussions of what she terms ichthyo-curiosities, also fish lineages from the jawless hagfish and lampreys, through the cartilaginous groups (e.g., sharks/rays), to lobe-finned coelocanth, to ray-finned/bony fishes (the ones we know best). Dr. Scales introduces paleo-fishes, the roles of color, bioluminescence, electric organs, and toxicity, among other traits/characteristics of these unique creatures.

Sprinkled throughout are little factoids.....Greenland sharks may live to 400 years, the ocean sunfish (*Mola mola*) is the largest bony fish, around 3,000 species of fish contain trace to serious levels of venom, and on and on.....interesting stuff!

I realize that I have not done the book justice but hope I piqued your interest enough to give you some good reading this winter, i.e., reading beyond catch-and-release and exotic destinations. Reading that will open your eyes to the critters we pursue and most that we don't.

In paperback on the internet for under \$5.00

Bob Lewis is organizing a fly film at Cape Cinema, which he has done in past years. This year it will be virtual. Bob thought this might be of interest to CCTU members. Proceeds will benefit the American Saltwater Guides Association. Here is the link to purchase a ticket and watch the trailer: <https://watch.eventive.org/if4us/play/5f7622a06470d90071b01ce5>

The event is set for Thursday November 19th at 7pm...members can purchase tickets for \$10 and can watch at home. Your ticket entitles you to watch IF4 live on the time and date indicated. If something comes up, no problem! You can log in at any time within 48 hours of the event date and you will have up to 7 days to watch the film festival. Bonus...they will be awarding swag and sponsor offers to viewers at each and every screening. Plus, one lucky attendee will be selected to win the 2020 Grand Prize draw including thousands in the most cutting-edge gear offered by our sponsors!

Cape Cod Trout Unlimited

Officers and Board Members

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Vice President: Alan Alai

Treasurer: Michael Howard

Secretary: Peter Schilling

Board Member: Fred Monahan

Board Member: Charlie Orr

Past President: Tim Lynch

Rollcast editor: Ron Reif (ccturollcast5@gmail.com)

