



THE ROLLCAST

January 2021 Edition

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President's Message



Happy New Year to my fellow CCTU members!

CCTU leadership update

Thank you to Robbie Schilling for her outstanding service as President, which continues this year as Past President and interim Newsletter Editor. Previous President Tim Lynch and Charlie Orr are also very deserving of our gratitude for their just completed terms of service. Kudos for all three volunteer leaders!

We are blessed with a great team for 2021. In addition to Robbie, continuing on the Board will be Peter Schilling (as VP), Alan Alai (Secretary) and Fred Monahan (Fly Fishing School). Joining us on the Board will be long time member Joe Swaluk and new member Bob Lewis (Treasurer). We are also fortunate to have Dave Palmer return to volunteer leader service as Webmaster. Thanks to all for stepping up! The full list of Officers, Board members and Committee Chairs can be found in this newsletter, and also on www.capecodtu.org.

A few key chapter positions remain to be filled. The most pressing vacancies are Newsletter Editor and Program Chair. Other valuable open roles include Board Member at large and Fundraising Chair. Please contact me if you have interest or would like to refer an excellent candidate.

Outlook for 2021

Given the continuing COVID crisis, ***we are going to continue to operate conservatively in the first half of 2021*** while working to maintain a presence with our members and the community through quality communications and virtual programming. Meanwhile leadership will try to use any extra time to do some planning and improve our infrastructure so that the chapter emerges stronger whenever we return to a more normal public health environment.

Meetings and programs In the absence of a Program Chair the Board as group will be working hard to develop an attractive line up of speakers/programs through May, necessarily mostly using zoom. We welcome your suggestions. All such programs will be well advertised through the newsletter and email blasts, and also listed on our website calendar.

The Spring Fundraising Banquet has once again been cancelled due to COVID considerations. We won't be able to replicate the lost fellowship of the event, but to raise some money for the chapter we hope to pull together an on line fundraising auction in March or April. Other TU chapters as well as the TU MA Council have had success with such auctions. Please start to think about quality items for donation.

The Fly Fishing School for 2021 has also been cancelled. To offset this loss we will consider offering shorter fishing/casting clinics if public health conditions permit.

In closing

COVID has not changed our CCTU mission, just slowed us down for a period of time. The Board will be doing what we can in these tough conditions. I ask for your continued understanding, patience and support of your CCTU chapter during the next six months.

Looking forward to happy and healthy days ahead,

Mike

Mike Howard

CCTU President

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howard533@gmail.com

January Events



January 6

Board of Directors Meeting

7 p.m.

Zoom

January 13

Chapter Meeting

7 p.m.

Zoom (details sent via email closer to the event)

Speaker TBD

January 24

Quashnet Workday

9 a.m.

Martin Road Gate

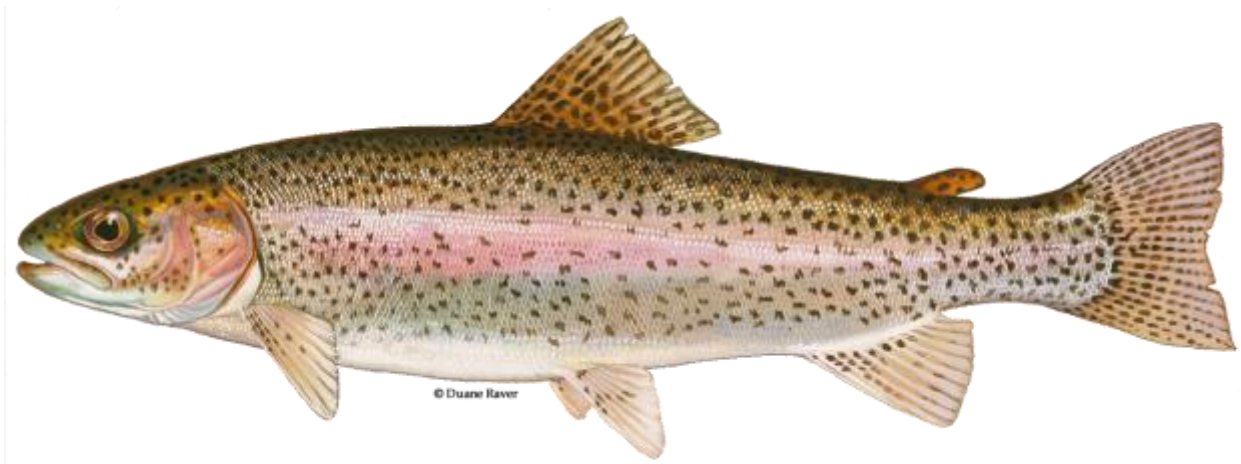
Weather Permitting, check email and Website closer to the date

2021 CCTU Board of Directors



President:	Michael Howard
Vice President:	Peter Schilling
Treasurer:	Bob Lewis
Secretary:	Alan Alai
Past President:	Roberta Schilling
Board Members:	Fred Monahan, Joe Swaluk, Ron Reif
Environmental Chair:	Ron Reif
Newsletter Editor:	Roberta Schilling
Website Editor:	Dave Palmer

Fighters



FIGHTERS

By Joseph D. Swaluk

“There are two components to catching a fish on fly tackle. The first is to entice or fool the fish into accepting your imitation as real. The second is landing that fish on said tackle. Which of the two requires the most skill? When anglers sway in favor of the second, they may be missing the point of fly fishing in the first place.”

This is a statement I wrote a while back that was just waiting for an essay to follow. To defend it, I need go no further than Vince Marinaro, author of A MODERN DRY FLY CODE. Vince was interested in developing better dry fly imitations that sat on the surface in a way more conducive to the way naturals do. When testing his patterns, a strike or momentary hook-up was all it took to satisfy his goal. If the fish came off, it did not matter. He had proven his point and was going to release it anyway.

Not all of us are capable of being as altruistic as Vince Marinaro and there certainly is merit in the second part of the equation. Few of us, myself included, can deny that the challenge of landing a fish once hooked is the exciting part, a one-on-one connection to nature. It is the physical confrontation that results in the thrills and memories we seek. Of course, it is the individual fish that ultimately determines that confrontation. Some fish, put in survival mode, will put up a monumental struggle while others do not. There are several reasons why this happens.

In my early days of Great Lakes steelheading, my partner bowed out after a season because he did not think the fish fought very hard. I, in turn, stayed with it learning many reasons why one fish would come in easy while another would be a spectacular challenge. As it turned out, fishing for lake run fish proved to be the perfect classroom for exploring this riddle.

Water temperature as we all know is a major factor in fish behavior; the natural feeding and spawning cycles of fish are attuned to temperature. With guides icing up and feet freezing, winter steelheaders can appreciate what the fish are likewise feeling. Their metabolism slows as does ours. Neither we or the fish are at our best in extreme temperatures.

One cannot overlook the varied environmental conditions we fish under. The partner I mentioned in the beginning was fishing with me on a small tributary of Lake Ontario in which a hooked fish had limited space to go. Those same fish on a larger river with substantial current might have left him with an entirely different conclusion. A large fish on a lake, played from a moving platform of a boat, is one thing. A smaller fish with the aid of current and obstructions could be an equal or better challenge.

The stage of the fish in the spawning cycle also greatly affects the intensity of their struggle when hooked. Here again, steelheading as well as fishing for Pacific salmon are great examples. Fish entering rivers from either lakes or saltwater are in prime condition. As time passes, that condition, coupled with diminished feeding, is compromised. A fresh Pacific silver salmon can rival an Atlantic salmon in its determination to free itself. Later on close to death, that same silver salmon is a different story.

Steelhead as well as Atlantic salmon are capable of rejuvenation after spawning. I have personally caught spawned-out steelhead, rich in color, that have regained their strength and can rival their early season counterparts. Spring Atlantic salmon, or kelts, can do the same.

The age of a fish is also a factor in their behavior. Looking at ourselves as we age, it is inconceivable that the rest of the animal kingdom does not experience the same. I once encountered an outsized brown trout in New Zealand that was so lethargic, I could approach and almost touch him. I thought of myself in that same situation. How much energy would I have in an attempt to fight for survival? I left him alone.

Of course, the most important component to strong vibrant fish is a healthy ecosystem.

We want to see trout with small heads and large bodies, bass sporting a paunch, and schooling fish in numbers too large to count. This is where we come in. Without us doing our part on both the local and national levels, we would not even be pondering these thoughts.

Sometimes, no matter what quarry we seek, or conditions we face, there is just no conceivable logic to an individual fish's behavior. One time, on the Mirimichi at Deadman Camp, I hooked a salmon of about 10 pounds. The fish showed uncanny strength and speed leaving the pool and causing us to follow in the canoe. My guide, Dion, deftly poled us behind the fish to the next pool down. Here, my salmon decided to sulk in a little eddy off to the side. At one point, I found myself in the unenviable position of being in an anchored canoe attached to my quarry lying straight down in front of the bow. Somehow, with coordination between Dion and myself, we extracted ourselves from this situation and continued with our struggle. Our fish had regained his strength jumping twice more. Finally, the top of his tail showed above the surface and signaled his fatigue. Eventually we were able to gain shore and net the fish. It was a buck in perfect condition and fair-hooked. As we eased the fly from his mouth with him looking up, I could only imagine the expletives he was hurling at us. Then, with just one flick of his tail, he was gone as if the whole incident had never even happened.

My friend and mentor, Sy, was fishing below me and witnessed the entire show. Back at camp, I knew I was in for some good-natured ribbing. "What took you so long, Swaluk," said Sy. "You should have landed that fish way sooner; a minute a pound is the standard." There was just one retort I could think to make, "He was a fighter, Sy... he was a fighter"!

Conservation Corner

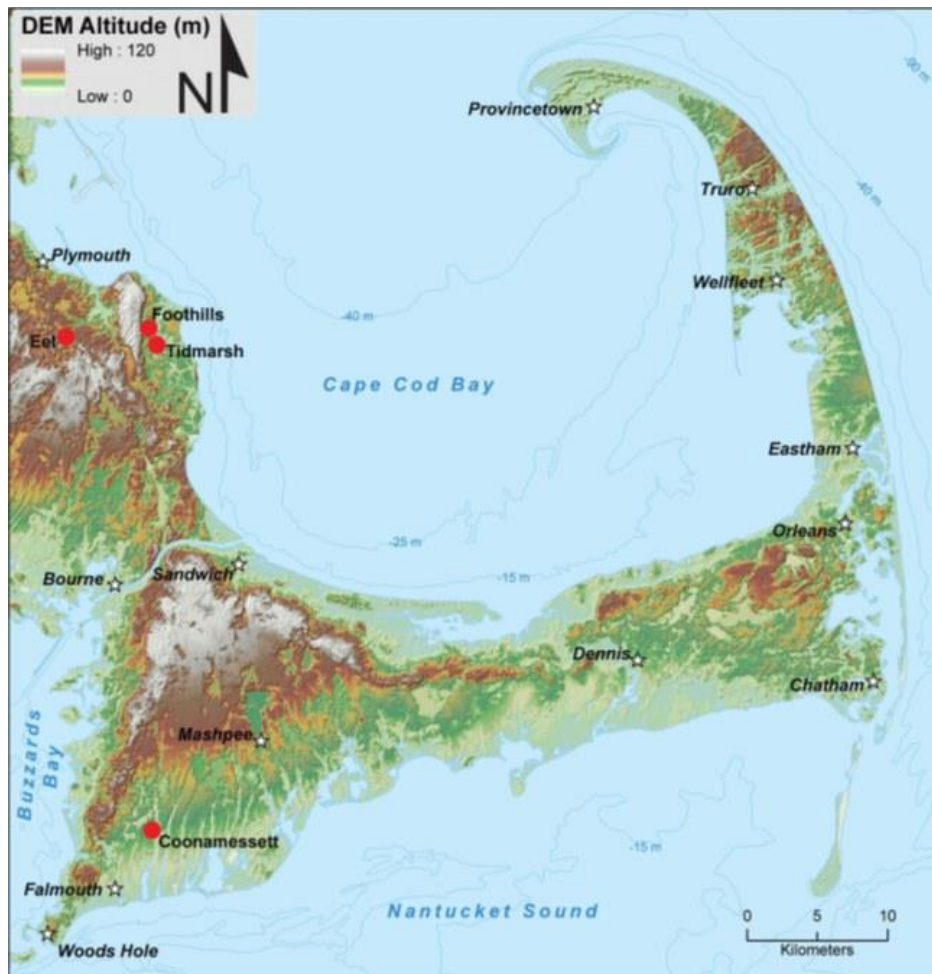


By Ron Reif

The Living Observatory, of Boston MA, completed a report in December 2020 on the restoration of cranberry farmland, entitled *Learning From the Restoration of Wetlands on Cranberry Farmland: Preliminary Benefits Assessment*.

Link: <http://www.livingobservatory.org/learning-report>

This report is very informative and covers four ecological restoration projects completed on cranberry farmland in Massachusetts: Eel River, Tidmarsh Farms, Coonamessett River, and Foothills Preserve.



1 - Map showing location of these ecological restoration sites

Some excerpts from the report:

- Cranberry farms provide an important opportunity for Massachusetts to restore and conserve coastal wetlands, which in turn provide important ecological services.
- Ecological restoration of cranberry farms in Southeastern Massachusetts has the potential to be successful because these farms were built on former wetlands that developed within the region's underlying glacial geology. Hydric soils of these wetlands may help jumpstart recovery.
- Expanded retirement and wetland restoration of cranberry bogs has potential to reduce watershed nitrogen loading by both removing nitrogen- and phosphorus-fertilized bogs as watershed nutrient sources and by creating natural wetlands that act as locations of nutrient removal in watersheds.
- Restoring ocean-to-headwaters connectivity supports migratory and game fish. Fish that migrate between the marine and freshwater environments to spawn play an important role in coastal ecology as well as in coastal commercial and recreational fisheries. Anadromous and catadromous fish species that frequent coastal streams and rivers of the cranberry region in Massachusetts include: the American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), two species of river herring —

alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) and blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*), and the steelhead or coastal rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri*).

- Ecosystems are defined by the community of living organisms that are linked together with nonliving elements of their environment. These biotic and abiotic elements interact as an integral system through nutrient cycles and energy flows. When these natural cycles are disrupted or damaged, the trajectory of the ecosystem may be changed, sometimes degraded beyond repair.
- In order to scale ecological restoration of cranberry farms, three conditions need to be met:
 - Political will must be generated by federal, state and non-profit partners, and farmers, as well as the public as represented by advocates, educators, abutters and other visitors.
 - A scientifically informed approach to the design of the wetland restoration must be articulated, and one or more prototypes based on the underlying design must be implemented.
 - Early results from long term studies must indicate that these restorations are moving toward self-sustaining wetlands. These studies should encompass pre and post restoration data and seek to advance both ecological science and wetland restoration methods.

There Are No Wild Trout In Massachusetts



By Peter Schilling

Sit tight, because it's going to take a while for me to get where I'm going.

Sometime in the late 80s, after being in Trout Unlimited for a year or two, and just beginning to get involved in conservation work, I was at a monthly meeting of the Greater Boston Chapter. A biologist from the state Division of Fish and Wildlife gave a presentation on trout in Massachusetts.

Somewhere within the first five minutes of his talk, he stated matter-of-factly that "there are no wild trout in Massachusetts."

He then went on in great detail about the quality of the trout Massachusetts raised in its hatcheries, and the future of that program.

Confused and angry, I thought that biologist had a lot of chutzpah to come into a TU meeting and make a statement like that. And for a long time, that presentation defined my understanding of the attitude the Commonwealth of Massachusetts held towards its coldwater fisheries resources.

That biologist's attitude also helped inform the places I went trout fishing. One friend and TU member, Tom Montesi used to joke with me and ask how many fish each year I caught in Massachusetts. My

home rivers were in Montana and New Mexico. These opportunities were facilitated by the fish gods, and making some what seemed at the time risky choices about work. Being able to tolerate the fear of self-employment brought the incredible side benefit of learning early to define and truly own my time as my own when I was not working.

It didn't take that long to figure out the airplanes I flew all over the country for work conveniently stopped on weekends at some spectacular places with lots of wild trout. I still have very fond memories of the huevos rancheros for breakfast served with these incredible beans at a little diner in Farmington, N.M. most of the mornings I stayed there while fishing the San Juan River.

Way different than getting Taylor Pork Roll, a fried egg and cheese on a Kaiser roll for breakfast at a diner before early morning adventures as a kid. (Parenthetical note here. That did not happen in Massachusetts. Taylor Pork Roll only started showing up in the Commonwealth about ten years ago, when former GBTU member Curt Peterson contacted Taylor and wangled distribution rights for this area for one of his favorite childhood foods. Curt now raises incredible Icelandic Sheep in Vermont, where he still is an active TU member. If you're still at a loss over which state is ground zero for this food group, Google Taylor Pork Roll and see what state comes back at you. But I digress.)

I fantasized about buying land, building a ranch house, and spending a significant portion of my life traversing the Rockies, fishing.

Time passed, my involvement with TU deepened. My fishing skills got a lot better as a result of two things: good friends from TU sharing opportunities with me, and time on the water. Most years between trout, stripers and Atlantic Salmon fishing on the Penobscot River in Maine and several rivers in Atlantic Canada, I was on the water over 125 days a year, while still holding down a full-time job.

At some point, I began to understand that what mattered most to me was having a sense of home, and learning deeply about that place. The more I went out west, the more I realized I was a visitor, and always would be, even if I moved there. Home was here, in Massachusetts and New England. And Maine and Canada, which for anyone who has traveled north knows, feels very similar to what we have here in the Commonwealth, albeit with a lot fewer people.

I absolutely fell in love with Atlantic Salmon, and even today that is my overwhelming life's passion--- besides my wife, Roberta. But I also learned, over the years, and after seeing different parts of the country and different waters, how my home rivers were put together. Inevitably what felt most like home to me had to do with river systems transporting anadromous fish --- those species that spend part of their life history in both the salt and fresh water.

At this point you're probably wondering what all this has to do with wild trout in Massachusetts. It's coming.

All of these life decisions I was making in the foreground of my mind were profoundly impacted by the constant background music of my commitment to work with Trout Unlimited, year in and year out. Over time, I met incredible anglers and conservationists who were as passionate about what was right here in our backyard as I was about the Missouri or the Big Horn. Bit by bit, I began to learn, not from some

authoritative outside source, or state or federal agency, or book, but by the people who populated the river systems we live with right here, how incredible the cold water resources are in Massachusetts. Inevitably these same people haunted TU meetings as well.

When we went trout fishing on the Deerfield with the Harrison brothers -- Tom and Dan, I learned about and caught wild brown trout as big as those I was catching in Montana. Not as many, but that was because the river system wasn't being managed properly for the resources that were there. And not because they weren't there. They just weren't there in the numbers they should be, given the quality of the water and the river.

I learned about the wild, river-specific Atlantic salmon coming back every year to the Westfield, the Deerfield, and other Connecticut River tributaries as a result of the Connecticut River Restoration program. Salmon that started 50 years earlier as Penobscot River broodstock now had evolved, through years of careful management and science and good cold, clean water, into Westfield fish, or Deerfield fish. Tragically, and with no fight whatsoever, the plug was pulled on the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon program by the feds over ten years ago. It remains for me one of the saddest and most disappointing happenings of my adult life with regard to our coldwater resources.

It was because of this program, in place for 50 years, and the federal emphasis on river systems, even the tiny tribs in nowhere Massachusetts, that we have the reservoir of coldwater resources that we have today. That program gave our river systems time and shelter after the passage of the Clean Water Act in the early 70s to build capacity to nurture wild fish.

Look now, and talk to TU chapter members across the state, and there are wild trout in Massachusetts everywhere. Greater Boston has a program working on protecting and restoring tributaries of the Neponset, running right through metro Boston, containing wild trout.

This past summer, Chris Jackson, a member of the Deerfield River Chapter, posted a picture of him holding a massive brown trout out of the Deerfield that had to weigh at least 15 pounds. The year before, at annual Deerfield Chapter dinner he showed me a picture of a Hoosic River brown caught in January that went closer to 18 pounds.

That's right. Pounds. Not inches. In Massachusetts.

Here on the Cape, the Sea Run Brook Trout in the Quashnet, Red Brook, Mashpee and a host of other streams are the largest and strongest populations of this species on the East Coast. Restoration projects on the Coonamessett, the Childs and even Red Brook all followed the groundbreaking work TU quietly and consistently has done on the Quashnet since the 70s.

The work with sea run brook trout spearheaded by Trout Unlimited on Cape Cod and Southeastern Massachusetts over the last forty years has been the most successful restoration of any anadromous salmonoid species on the East Coast of the United States in the last 100 years, and maybe in the entire country.

The Penobscot in Maine, freed now from the lowest mainstem dams, particularly the Veazie Dam at Orono and Eddington, is now flooded with herring. Two million this year, and the numbers are increasing. The shad population is exploding as well. The same is true for the Kennebec in terms of

herring and shad. Atlantic Salmon are coming back to the Kennebec, but more slowly. The Kennebec still has too many big mainstem dams with antiquated passage for fish in its lower reaches.

The shad and the herring numbers in the Connecticut are still strong, one of the incredible side benefits of the Atlantic Salmon program that was abandoned in New England.

Gradually, I learned to love staying home. I found rivers around me that I could drive to in 30 minutes rather than fly into in a day. I went more often, and began to study, learn and become intimately familiar with the handful of streams I came to know. I found incredible spring hatches, particularly the sulphurs. I learned how trout react to high water, and low water, and hot water. I can't count the number of nights I came home close to midnight, because the sulphur spinners were still going after dark, and I was casting blindly to trout I could hear slurping on the surface.

I look forward now that I'm permanently living on the Cape, to that same process with the Quashnet, and it's saltwater sister, the Moonakis. My way may not be for everyone. My joy is in picking one or two spots, and knowing them until they feel like home.

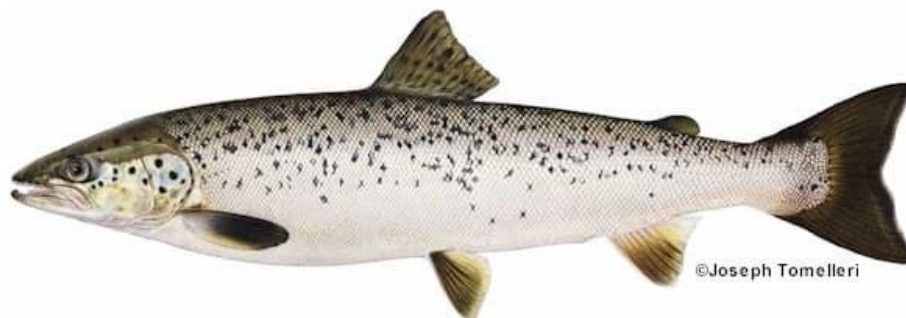
Because unlike what the biologist said so long ago, there are wild trout in Massachusetts, and they are superb. And the way to keep them here is to celebrate their presence, and not treat them as an ancillary appendage to a robust program of raising and stocking trout in a hatchery system paid for with license money.

I am delighted that we have a solid, well-managed hatchery system here in the Commonwealth. It populates waters with trout that cannot sustain wild populations throughout the year.

And the biologists at the Division are now much more attuned, and have shown incredible initiative over at least the last twenty years at identifying and protecting wild trout habitat, and protecting cold water resources. The Division showed particular leadership when DEP began a process of revising the water quality standards for the state about ten years ago. As a result, we now have standards in place that dictate water quality by the presence or lack thereof of coldwater species in a river or stream.

I'm looking forward to finding sulphur-slurping wild fish 15 minutes from home this coming May. I want once again to fish for the wild trout that aren't here and celebrate them.

For the Love of Landlocks



By Joseph D. Swaluk

Let's begin this story by refuting some myths and misunderstandings about this wonderful fish. Make no mistake about it, our landlock salmon are *salmo salar*, the same as Atlantic salmon period! One may refer to them as *salmo sebago* or *ounaniche* if they wish but scientists, try as they might, have not been able to classify them as anything but the same species.

The origin of a landlock version of Atlantic salmon is not evolutionary but rather ecological. Our landlocks propensity to forego migration coincided with that of the Atlantic smelt, its primary food source. This same scenario took place on our west coast with sockeye salmon and Pacific smelt. This resulted in Kokanee salmon, a landlock form, but still *Oncorhynchus nerka*. Both cases resulted in a smaller strain while retaining much of the similarities of the migratory version.

Science seems to doubt that the ice age was the catalyst for our landlock versions. Their development appears to post-date that event. This would then further promote the ecological theory of their beginnings.

All the science, notwithstanding, our landlocks are here, a perfect companion to our native brook trout which can be fished for simultaneously. Does it get any better than that?

The pursuit of landlocks has resulted in a pantheon of classic streamer and trolling flies dedicated to his capture. Do we need yet another genre of flies to tie and carry? Of course we do! How dull fly tying might be if the likes of Carrie Stevens and others had not left us with books of patterns that literally jump off the page with excitement.

Make no mistake about it, our landlock salmon are salmo salar, the same as Atlantic salmon period!

My first encounter with landlocks took place at Prey's Big Eddy Campsites on the Penobscot River in 1972. Big Eddy is exactly what the name implies. A narrow chute of rapids empties into a large basin the size of a small pond. The force of the incoming flow causes the water to reverse itself and flow back upstream. Depending on your position, you could experience your fly drifting back upstream, lying neutral, floating toward you or drifting downstream. One needed to be at least half way down the pool before a dry fly floated in a natural way.

The amount of forage washing into Big Eddy or trapped by it can only be imagined. Fish were well-fed, reluctant to strike, and closely resembled their migratory counterparts in behavior. I learned to carry two rods: one rigged for dry fly and the other for streamers.

I learned that a salmon's propensity for coming off was high and a ratio of half the fish hooked being landed was pretty good. I learned patience and the willingness to go long periods without rewards. All of the experiences I gained at Big Eddy proved invaluable when, much later, I approached the challenges of migratory salmon.

In 2006, I ventured to a camp in West Labrador with large brook trout in mind. While that goal was not reached, I did very well on pike, lake trout and, to my surprise, landlocks!

Towards the end of the trip, I found myself on a section of stream forming the outlet of the lake on which we were staying. I noticed a good boil on the surface followed by another in about the same

location. By this time, I was an experienced Atlantic salmon fisherman and this behavior was textbook. I started well above the boils knowing my quarry might have moved upstream or down after showing his location. Patience was the key. I swung my offering, methodically moving down after each cast, exactly like I would for Atlantic salmon. When I reached the spot of the initial boil, I felt a jolt. In typical salmon fashion, he held bottom wondering what just happened. When he finally realized his predicament, he was airborne and “all hell broke loose”. When I finally landed him, he proved to be about 8 pounds. Larger than a grilse, smaller than a Mirimichi salmon, he was my biggest landlock ever and the highpoint of my trip. My most intimate encounter with landlocks came in the form of trolling on Lake Champlain the last decade of the 20th century. Here I was to connect to a uniquely American form of fly fishing practiced in the Northeast for over 150 years. With the retreat of winter ice in spring, both smelt and landlocks were close to the surface and could be efficiently reached by trolling a streamer behind a canoe. I, in turn, adapted modern modes of propulsion and practiced the same technique, but in the fall instead.

On Lake Champlain in early November, we would find both smelt and landlocks close to the surface. Watching for arctic terns to signal the presence of bait, our fishing took on the look of saltwater fishing. Three rods were fished at once giving us the appearance of a small ocean-going sports fisherman. Often all three flies were hit at the same time, only to result in one landed fish. Still, the action could be intense. One day my partner and I recorded a total of 62 landed fish. Most of the fish caught exceeded the size to which I was accustomed. Owing to the high concentration of forage, Lake Champlain landlocks were unusually heavy for their length.

Our most productive patterns were the Joe’s smelt, Governor Aiken and, our local favorite, the Champlain Jane which I will describe later.

Alas, this wonderful fishery has fallen on hard times. Ecological issues have caused its near demise. Poor natural spawning, warming temperatures, and invasive species have all taken their toll. Fortunately, overall landlocks in other watersheds have fared better. Since both landlocks in the East and kokanee in the West share the same waters as our native trout, they benefit from the preservation efforts of organizations like Trout Unlimited as well.



Now for the Champlain Jane---this fly was designed by Jim Booker at Pete Casamento's Long Pond Lodge on Lake Champlain and named for Pete's wife, Jane.

The hook used is a "Carrie Stevens" Allcock 10X long in sizes 6 to 8.

Jim's original dressing was:

Body: fine mylar tubing

Tail: Separated tubing strands secured with red thread

Beard: tubing strands folded back

Wing: lavender or pink bucktail tied sparse

Topping: 6 to 8 strands of peacock herl

Head: red thread with painted eyes

(Jungle cock could be used as an alternative to painted eyes. Keeping the dressing sparse is key)

Do not forget to tip your hat to this wonderful fish the next time you release one!

Massachusetts-Rhode Island Council Roundup



by Peter Schilling

Trout Unlimited is a national organization, with local chapters in states across the country. Usually, each state has a Council under which the chapters are organized. For most of the last 40 years, Massachusetts and Rhode Island formed one Council. Now, that's changing. Over the past few years, the two Chapters in Rhode Island along with leadership of the Council and TU National, have been working out a process to join the two Rhode Island Chapters under potentially a new **Rhode Island Council**.

There are currently twelve individual Massachusetts Chapters in the Council, in addition to the now unified Rhode Island Chapter.

The former Northern Rhode Island Chapter and Narragansett Chapters have now merged as one, and there will be a breaking in period to see how well the combined entity works. That Rhode Island chapter is still known as the Narragansett Chapter. At some point in the next few years, a determination will be made about a formal separation of the two states, and the formation of either a single Rhode Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited, or a separate Rhode Island Council with just one chapter.

Now former Council Chairman Paul Beaulieu spent a good portion of his three year term helping to negotiate this transition, patiently and diligently taking into consideration the desires of the various constituencies and navigating the procedural requirements for the change.

Ultimately, the decision will be in the hands of the TU National Board of Directors, with significant input from the MA/RI Council.

There has been a long history of collaboration and cooperation between particularly the Narragansett Chapter, which was the original chapter in that state, and the different chapters in Massachusetts, including the Cape Cod and Southeast Chapters. In the 1990s, when the Southeast Chapter was doing a lot of heavy lifting on the Red Brook restoration, and that property was in transition from the Lyman Family to Trout Unlimited, the Narragansett Chapter volunteered to provide food and do the cooking at the annual Red Brook Day, held every September for over ten years. Chapter members also participated in Red Brook work days.

The Rhode Island Chapter also helped support the annual get together sponsored by the Council and started by former Council Chairman and Cape Cod Chapter President Dave Reid, at Indian Hollow, a campground on the Westfield River managed by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Former Council Chairman and longtime Narragansett Chapter member Fred Rugo very generously donated Red Sox tickets for raffles held at Red Brook every year. Somehow Fred found a way almost every year, to get TU National to chip in a great fly rod for the same raffle.

In regard to conservation work, the late Narragansett Chapter member Lawson Cary was instrumental in doing survey work across Rhode Island, inspecting locations where roads crossed streams, and finding areas where inadequate culverts blocked passage for coldwater fish species. Lawson was ahead of his time, and his reports back to the Council about the work being done in Rhode Island influenced work that goes on here today in Massachusetts. The Nor'East Chapter has been particularly active in addressing continuity challenges on rivers and streams in its area, and partnering with local communities and other conservation groups to replace crossings with inadequate passage for coldwater fish species.

As the transition continues, it will be incumbent upon the current Council leadership and leadership in the Narragansett Chapter to continue the decades long collaboration so beneficial to both states.

Peter is a former Chair of the MA-RI Council of Trout Unlimited.

Classifieds



2 - Fly Tyer

Saturday Evening Post cover of March 4, 1950.

70 years old!

17" x 21"

\$75 Cash and Carry from Centerville, MA

Contact: Paul Richards striper239@gmail.com



3 - "Free Spirit" signed print by David A. Footer #1394/2000

25" x 22"

\$175 Cash and Carry from Centerville, MA

Contact: Paul Richards striper239@gmail.com

Out and About



4 - Steve Petruska caught this beautiful brook trout in Hamblin Pond a few weeks ago. Fish were taking midges. He saw a huge head some out of the water and grab his Griffin's Gnat.

Photo courtesy of Scott Dietrich

Reminder

It's time to renew your Massachusetts Freshwater Fishing License and Recreational Saltwater Permits. Click [here](#) to go the MassFishHunt website. For tips on how to enjoy fishing during the pandemic, see [this information](#) from MassWildlife.

Cover Photo Credit

Great Sippewissett Marsh - Roberta Schilling