



THE ROLLCAST

February 2021 Edition

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President's Message



February 2021

By: Mike Howard

Zoom presentations including chapter meetings

At the January Chapter meeting Tim Lynch shared his experiences fishing for bones, permit and tarpon at **"Cayo Cruz, Cuba"**. Ron Reif joined Tim on the December 2019 trip, which was organized Cape Cod Flyrodders. Fish stories, beautiful photos, and information on life in Cuba made for a wonderful show. Thanks Tim!

Also in January we sent out notice of a presentation on the **"State of Striped Bass"** from the American Saltwater Guides Association. During the presentation concern was expressed that Maryland regulations for the Chesapeake fishery, which provides 70% of the coast wide stock of stripers, are biased toward overfishing.

Looking ahead, in February we are co-hosting a Zoom presentation by spey casting master and podcast host April Vokey on February 1. April will talk about **"Swinging Flies for Steelhead"** in her home area of British Columbia. April has a national following and this should be a special treat.

At our February 10 Chapter meeting Rick Little of Shadcreek Flies will return (via Zoom) to CCTU present **"Fly Fishing in Maine is Wicked Fun"**. Rick will cover fishing on five of Maine's top streams. We will endeavor to keep you informed of all presentations with a combination of eblasts, the Rollcast, and our www.capecodtu.org web site.

Stream restoration efforts continue

Recently my wife Sandy and I took a drive up to East Falmouth to **check out progress of work on the Childs River Restoration project**, which CCTU has supported with purchase of \$3800 of stream monitoring equipment through a TU Embrace a Stream grant. From Carriage Shop Rd we observed a very active, large and well organized jobsite. I came away feeling very positive about CCTU's role in facilitating this project.

Meanwhile Fran Smith and Tim Lynch spearhead **Quashnet River maintenance throughout the winter** when weather and stream flows permit. The current emphasis is on brush cutting to prepare for planting more trees in the spring. Consider getting outdoors and joining them to help with a variety of tasks. It would be appreciated.

You are encouraged to check out the article in this issue highlighting **proposed increases in fishing fees** and your chance to provide feedback and gain insight into work at Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife.

Online fundraising auction coming March/April

We are seeking high quality prizes for the auction including guided fishing trips, fishing/tying instruction, assortments of flies, or new or like new fishing equipment. We already have several commitments for very special donations- thank you! Please contact me, or one of our other Board members, if you would like to make a donation.

More chapter leadership help is needed

Thank you to my fellow Board members and other leaders for all their efforts in getting us off to a good start in 2021 under difficult conditions. Good stuff!

However my friends, we can only expect so much from each volunteer. **We need more leadership help to sustain chapter activities and services at a quality level.** Openings remain in the Newsletter, Program, or Membership areas, or for just general help. We will try our best to tailor a role that works for you on subject and timing. Please contact me if you will answer the call and step up.

Wishing you a warm, healthy, and happy month.

Mike

Mike Howard

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February Events



February 1

Special Event: **April Vokey, Swinging Flies for Steelhead**

7 p.m.

Zoom (pre-registration required, 100 participant limit)

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CYRf-XHHT5yAW7o9-4-rlA

February 3

Board of Directors Meeting

7 p.m.

Zoom

February 10

Chapter Meeting

7 p.m.

Zoom (details sent via email closer to the event)

Speaker: **Rick Little, Fly Fishing in Maine is Wicked Fun**

February 21

Quashnet Workday

9 a.m.

Martin Road Gate

Weather Permitting, check email and Website closer to the date

April Vokey, Spey Casting Master and Podcast Host



CCTU is happy to announce we have set up a Zoom event with spey casting master **April Vokey**. She currently operates the online community “*Anchored Outdoors*” and has one of the best podcasts in the fly fishing world, called “*Anchored*”. She calls British Columbia her home and will be talking about swinging flies for Steelhead. This event is hosted by Cape Cod TU, Osterville Anglers Club, Cape Cod Flyrodders and South Shore Flycasters. There is a 100 participant limit, so be sure to visit the link below ASAP and register to make sure you can join.

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CYRf-XHHT5yAW7o9-4-rIA



Check out April's [website](#), follow her on [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) or check out her podcast on [iTunes](#).

Rick Little, Shad creek Flies



Rick Little has presented to the Chapter in 2015 and 2018 and held some fly-tying sessions as well. Looking forward to having him back via Zoom for his **Fly Fishing in Maine is Wicked Fun** presentation on February 10th at 7 p.m.

Visit Rick's [website](#) for more information on Rick and Shadcreek Flies.

The West Branch of the Penobscot, Rapid River, Roach River, the East Outlet and Grand Lake Stream are all waters that are discussed in this program highlighting some of the wonderful rivers that Maine has to offer. Rick will talk about some of the areas that he enjoys fishing and the flies and techniques that he has found successful. The program is filled with photos of these great rivers and some of the flies that Rick uses. Join Rick and your fellow CCTU members for an enjoyable evening and a discussion about some beautiful country and fascinating fishing opportunities.

Input on MA Fishing Fee Increases

THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT PERMIT HUNTING ON POSTED LAND.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Resident Citizen's Combination
Certificate of Registration

No. 48667 **Fee, \$1.00, Paid**

This certifies that Mr. Albert A. Cook,
resident at No. 111 Main St., Dudley, Mass.,
(CITY OR TOWN)
and born in Holden Mass,
is a native born or naturalized citizen, resident in this State for six
months next prior to this date and has this day been registered in ac-
cordance with the laws of this State under the number above written,
and is hereby authorized to hunt and fish subject to the restrictions and
conditions provided by law.

DESCRIPTION OF PERSON REGISTERED

Age 36 Occupation Farmer
Color White Height 6 ft. 1 in. Weight 186
Color of Eyes Blue Color of Hair Brown

This certificate expires December 31, 1920, and should always be
carried when hunting, and must be shown upon demand of any person.

Issued by city or town clerk of Dudley **WILLIAM C. ADAMS,**
Director of the Division of Fisheries and Game.
Date, Oct 25 1920, James W. Thompson Clerk.

Not valid unless signed by city or town clerk, or if holder has been convicted within
one year of violation of any provisions of the Game Laws

I hereby accept this certificate with the understanding that it is not
transferable and that the facts stated above are true.

Albert A. Cook
Signature of person registered.

**THIS CERTIFICATE NOT VALID IF HOLDER HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ANY VIOLATION OF THE
GAME LAWS WITHIN ONE YEAR OF DATE OF ISSUE.**

Mass Fish and Wildlife is seeking input on proposed increases in fishing fees

Opportunity to learn about their programs

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife ([MassWildlife](#)) is considering an increase in freshwater fishing and hunting license fees. According to the MassWildlife, they have been able to maintain services and programs without raising fees since 1996 but with increased responsibilities and costs, revenue has not been meeting expenses for several years.

MassWildlife is seeking input from members of the public and has scheduled three online information sessions on February 4, 6, and 9, 2021 that will include a short presentation and an opportunity for discussion. I encourage all interested Cape Cod TU members and friends to participate in one of these sessions to learn more about MassWildlife's programs, how they are funded and why they believe a license increase is needed. After the presentation, you will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

Information Sessions Schedule

- **Thursday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m.** [Join the Zoom session using your computer, tablet, or smartphone by clicking this link](#) with Passcode SghJ6i, or you can join by phone by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering the Meeting ID: 894 4078 3155 and Passcode: 464676 when prompted.
- **Saturday, February 6 at 10 a.m.** [Join the Zoom session using your computer, tablet, or smartphone by clicking this link](#) with Passcode Vv0kX6, or you can join by phone by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering the Meeting ID: 896 0545 9093 and Passcode: 578518 when prompted.
- **Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m.** [Join the Zoom session using your computer, tablet, or smartphone by clicking this link](#) with Passcode u5S0rA, or you can join by phone by calling 1-929-205-6099 and entering the Meeting ID: 841 5314 1920 and Passcode: 564737 when prompted.

You can also learn more at: mass.gov/masswildlife-funding and provide feedback [using an online form](#) or by mail to: MassWildlife Re: License Fee, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

Thank you to Rui Coelho of the Greater Boston TU chapter for bringing this to our attention.

Keep Fish Wet



Keep Fish Wet

By Bob Lewis

(photo credit: [Dave McCoy](#))

KEEP
FISH
WET



Several years ago I organized a “keep’em wet” project with several local fishing clubs, including the Cape Cod Chapter of TU. The objective was to make members of the various clubs aware of proper fish handling and to solicit pictures of fish wet or dripping wet. We had some fun and I got many great

photos. It was a nice change from the traditional hero shot. After all, how many pictures do you need to see of someone just holding up a fish and depending on the conditions, such as water and air temperature, it's not so great for a fish to be hoisted up on the deck of a boat. Last year, the organization changed their name to [Keep Fish Wet](#) and they are in the process of adding some new educational tool kits and online curriculum for 2021. I know most fly fishermen are very familiar with proper fish handling, but it's always a good idea to read about some of the science behind their principles and tips.

Check out this article on fish photography:

[Catch Magazine- A MOBILE VIEW featuring KWF Ambassador Team — Keep Fish Wet](#)

Conservation Corner



By Ron Reif

This month's column is a question and answer format about the Quashnet River restoration project and how CCTU could support new restoration projects and features Francis Smith (FS) and Tim Lynch (TL).



1 - Francis Smith



2 - Tim Lynch

RR to FS: How did you get involved with the Quashnet River restoration project?

My Trout Unlimited Membership started in September of 1973, only months after the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter was formed by avid trout anglers and conservationists like Tom Pero, Eugene R. McKenna and Stephen Messier. Tom, whom eventually became the editor of TROUT Magazine, and is now the Publisher and owner of Wild River Press in Washington State, was our first Chapter President, Gene McKenna was our first Chapter Treasurer and eventually the Treasurer at National Trout Unlimited, and Steve Messier was our first National Director representing our State Council at TU National. These three men were the reason the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of Trout Unlimited came into existence but they were also surrounded by a multitude of other very strong conservation minded trout fisherman.

Our guest speaker, at a February 1974 Southeastern Massachusetts TU Chapter Meeting, was Joseph D. Bergin, Aquatic Biologist with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Tom Pero, at the request of the Chapter Board of Directors asked the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife where we could conduct a trout stream restoration project and Joe Bergin was assigned to help us not only to determine the location of the project but to oversee, educate and mentor our efforts. Locating a site for this stream restoration effort became a process of elimination derived at by conducting the

water quality analysis of streams, beginning in the Spring of 1975, which Joe Bergin had recommended to us following a sit down discussion which involved all the possible candidates.

We applied for and received a grant from the Federation of Fly Fisherman (FFF) for the purchase of the necessary equipment to sample the water quality of the four selected streams. We sampled Stall Brook, Bellingham, Segregansett River, Dighton and Taunton, Mashpee River, Mashpee, and Quashnet River, Mashpee and Falmouth, for dissolved oxygen, pH, water and ambient air temperature. These are four critical components that when all are within the correct parameters make for a good trout stream. By August Stall Brook, correctly named, dried up, the Segregansett River was too warm for trout and the Mashpee River due to its contributions from Mashpee-Wakeby Pond was too warm in its upper mile and the warmth progressed downstream for a half mile below its crossing at Great Neck Road North through August and much of September.

We did not know that we were eventually going to restore a significant population of sea-run brook trout when we started qualifying the idea conceived in late 1973. We just wanted to 'Fix' a trout stream. The only candidate remaining was the Quashnet River which was channelized, dammed and ditched beyond any possible resemblance of a historical description. We had a decision to consider. Should we look elsewhere or take on the disaster begging for a 'Fix'?

At a meeting of the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of Trout Unlimited in the late fall of 1975, we decided, after all the obvious considerations and facts had been gathered, that we would restore the habitat within an 8,000 foot section of the Quashnet River. The restoration site was extremely convenient for several reasons; not the least of which, it was located on property owned by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. At the time the property was 32 acres in size and following its purchase in 1959 was the subject of a management plan for ruffed grouse. (I walk the woods often on the west side of the Quashnet River (the woods, not the trails that exist in the area) and thus far, this year I have had the pleasure of flushing three ruffed grouse living in those woods. If you know anything about the natural history of a ruffed grouse you would be inclined to say we are privileged to have them in the Quashnet Woods. I say it is a miracle. At that late spring chapter meeting I volunteered to take the position of the Quashnet River Restoration Project Leader.

In the late fall of 1975 and the early winter of 1976 we harvested over 400 eastern red cedar logs up to 16 feet in length from a development in the Quissett Section of Falmouth after gaining permission to do so from the developers clerk, Mr. Louis Francis. We transported the logs to the Falmouth Rod and Gun Club for storage until needed completing that part of the materials list, which also included rock, foot long dock spikes, 12 penny nails, and green white oak 1 inch planks. Our first effort was to repair a fallen retaining wall at Martin Road in Waquoit, which opened up the downstream side of the under road culvert allowing for better fish passage. That was May 6, 1976, and so it began.

RR to FS: What are your plans for the Quashnet River restoration project?

The plans for future improvements to our ongoing restoration effort are:

1. Plant an additional 150 trees this spring in Sections 6, 7 and 8, or the lower three section of the restoration site just upstream from Martin Road. The planting will follow previous plantings of trees that have occurred within the last ten year and will cause the area to have an uneven aged forest along

the banks. These three sections are approximately 3,400 feet in length combined. Section 5 has already been planted in this manner and Section 6 last year received an additional 167 trees to augment previous plantings. Section 7 and Section 8 (the latter being something you do not want to be the recipient of from the military!) will receive the majority of the 150 trees to be planted. The upper part of Section 4 of the original project area is completely forested over with some very large well established trees that we planted in the 1980s.

2. These planting will help lower the mean temperature of the Quashnet River as they mature increasing the amount of oxygen in the water and provide significant amounts of woody debris and large wood to fuel the system and provide in-stream cover for the trout. Everywhere that Steve Hurley (Aquatic Biologist with Massachusetts Wildlife) places his electro-shocker where there is large wood cover, brook trout come flipping out of the structure. While we wait for these trees to enter into the process that earmarks a good healthy trout stream, we will be placing woody debris and large wood into sections of the Quashnet to provide the needed fuel and cover for a properly functioning trout stream.

RR to FS: What are your thoughts on invasive species?

One of the abandonment problems that I see is the introduction of invasive plant species like grey willow, too much sweet gale, phragmites, Japanese knot weed, mustard garlic and a number of others. Some of these plants are all consuming of a wet land or an adjacent upland and completely crowd out native vegetation to the serious long term detriment of native wildlife. Take phragmites for example, in a wetland environment nothing else grows and nothing eats the dam stuff and its only benefits are to take up nutrients and prevent erosion, and I suppose it makes oxygen for us to breath but it does absolutely nothing for native wildlife except for a place to hide and subsequently die from starvation. The freshwater wetlands that are now filled with phragmites were formerly wetlands filled with cattails, muskrats, red winged black birds, snipe, Sora and Virginia rails and numerous other bird, reptile, amphibian and mammal species. Those places are now dead zones.

Most of the Japanese Knot Weed that I see growing in Falmouth and other locations are on town owned or state owned property, primarily along road right-of-ways. Knot weed evolved in Japan from the need to be one of the first successional plants in a lava field and its purpose was to break apart the lava so that other species could grab ahold of the site and grow. Today it has completely consumed the banks of many rivers, some of which are prized trout streams like the Beaverkill, the Delaware River and the Willowemoc Creek in the Catskills. Never was like that my first visit to the area. The knot weed root system is tough to say the least, it would likely survive a nuclear event! It is growing along a road side near you and waiting for the opportunity to take over your neighborhood and your favorite trout stream. Kill it whenever you have the chance. The best way to do it is without chemicals by repeated cutting every week so it cannot store any carbohydrates in its root system which would otherwise give the knot weed the energy and the opportunity to regenerate.

RR to FS: How could CCTU support new restoration projects?

If TU were to become involved in the restoration of cranberry bogs the site would have to involve a trout stream. If that were the case the continued use of the site for agricultural purposes would have to

cease before I would personally sign on and there could not be a manmade dam within the system that would be allowed to remain with a warm water pond behind spilling tepid water into the stream below. However, I think that the abandonment of cranberry bogs where there is no environmental degradation to the area or connected ecosystems is unfortunate. We need to eat and farming has been a significant part of our culture for thousands of years.

RR to FS: Any noteworthy stories from the Quashnet River?

On a trip this past fall I was confronted by a fisherman complaining about the degree of difficulty involved to be able to fish the Quashnet River. He complained about the overhanging limbs and branches, the difficult wading due to logs and rocks in the river, and the lack of easy access to the area. "All those things combined made fishing difficult", he said. I said, "the brook trout restoration that is underway here is being conducted to benefit the brook trout and not one consideration has ever been instituted, or time and funding ever invested to benefit fisherman". This place is one of the most challenging trout streams you will ever have the opportunity to fish and there are trout here in good numbers which will humble you. Don't fall in!

RR to TL: How long have you been volunteering on the Quashnet River restoration project and what motivates you to continue?

I have been volunteering since the early 2000s. Lots of names and faces have come and gone over the last 20 years. However, one constant and driving force has been Fran Smith's passion and leadership to see this project to a logical conclusion. Not that a river ever reaches a point where you can totally forget about it, but to a point that the major milestones and vision of this 40-year restoration is met. We are getting there. Nine of us were on the river this month; the temperatures started in the teens and we had a great time sharing the social time and distance. Moreover, we cleared a large section of stream bank for our upcoming tree plantings. So, a big shout out to these incredibly dedicated conservationists—Dan Tobin, Dave Burkitt, Charlie Orr, Ed Farrel-Starbuck, Tom Planert, Pat Grenier, Bill Hoyerman, and Fran Smith. Well done gentleman!!

Why do I do it? It is all about the people and the camaraderie.

RR to TL: Are there any other cranberry bog farms on Cape Cod that would be good candidates for initiating restoration?

Yes. There are many bogs and small streams that should be restored to their original, more natural state. Restorations would enhance the wildlife numbers that include the eels, darters, suckers, waterfowl, many other species of birds, insects/invertebrates, etc. Removing barriers to navigation could help the historic herring runs. Cranberry farming disturbed the natural flow of the water and added tons of pesticides and sand. However, many of these candidates and initiatives would not necessarily focus on the specific goals and objectives of Trout Unlimited—to restore, reconnect, and conserve the **cold-water fisheries for the salmonoids (trout)**. Many of these other Cape streams never

had a native population of trout. But there are many other valid reasons to support other organizations initiatives to do restorations of such bogs/streams.

RR to TL: How can Cape Cod Trout Unlimited support new cranberry bog restoration projects?

Current Cape Cod restoration projects that have a focus on Brook Trout include the lower Quashnet River (project leader Fran Smith), Coonamesset River (project leader Betsy Gladfelter), upper Child's River (project leader Falmouth Rod and Gun Club). Soon Mashpee's Conservation Department (under direction of Drew McManus) will begin restoration of the upper Quashnet River and associated bogs. The Santuit River is a candidate but pollution from its headwaters (Santuit Pond) needs to be addressed before the river will once again support trout. Red Brook (the one in Mashpee) also once held a small population of trout. Nitrogen loading caused by fertilizer runoff and homeowner septic systems leaching into the ground water will continue for the decades to come and until the towns make the tough, expensive decisions about sewer systems.

RR to TL: Any noteworthy stories from the Quashnet River?

One cold work outing, only two of us showed up to do all the heavy lifting. My partner in crime that day was Dan T (full name omitted to hide his identity). We were moving buckets of topsoil to enhance the root base of previously planted trees. I didn't actually see the swan dive, but did hear the splash. Mr. T surfaced and exclaimed, "I am good!" Thus, we completed our task assigned.

About a dozen years ago, I was fishing a streamer near one of the fallen in, concrete bog control structures. I had caught a few six-inch fish up to that point. My fly got hammered and I was into a world record Quashnet River brook trout. As I battled this fish on my 5 weight rod and brought said fish to hand, I got a chuckle at seeing a nicely striped 16-inch striped bass.



3 - Clockwise from Left: Charlie Orr, Dan Tobin, Ted Patlen

Quashnet Restoration Notes from Francis Smith

Our most recent Quashnet River Restoration effort was attended by 9 TU members on one of the coldest days thus far this winter. On Sunday, January 24 we began the river side preparations for the planting of the last of the trees in our nursery. There are approximately 150 of them and they range from 3 feet to 6 feet tall. The remaining species are red maple, silver maple, black ash, and river birch. On Sunday we cut about 300 feet of brush from an area in Section 6 that was not touched last year or since a previous planting in 2014. Last year 167 trees were added to Section 6 and many of them have exhibited phenomenal growth. The area opened on January 24 will give us enough space to plant around 40 trees which will give the area the uneven age look of a young forest. The day was a great start toward the planting which is planned for April 18, 2021.

The tough guys attending and playing in ice mixed with mud and brush were: Tom Planert, Bill Hoyerman, Dan Tobin, Dave Burkitt, Pat Grenier, Charlie Orr, Ed Farrell-Starbuck, Tim Lynch and Francis Smith. (The last guy on the list is a real wimp, his hands were frozen solid by noon.)

There is currently 3 tons of compost at the site which will be added to for use during the April 18 tree planting.

The future Quashnet River Restoration Dates scheduled for 2021 are as follows:

- February 21

- March 21
- April 18 - Tree Planting
- May 16
- June 20
- July 18
- August 15
- September 19

We had a lot of fun this session. I was wonderful to get outside and enjoy the company of fellow Trout Unlimited Members..We would love for you to join the tough guys and the wimp for some good clean fun on the Quashnet during the future restoration dates.

Vision of Restoring Brook Trout to the Upper Child's River



Vision of Restoring Brook Trout to the Upper Child's River

Submitted by Tim Lynch

(Past President of Falmouth Rod and Gun Club)

The Upper Child's River Restoration Project (UCRRP) commenced in earnest about a half dozen years ago. The upper river runs through the towns of Mashpee and Falmouth and is now either owned or leased by the Falmouth Rod and Gun Club. All this land is open to the public and under a conservation restriction. In addition, this land is part of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge that was recognized a couple of years back by Trout Unlimited as one of the "Thirty Great American Places." The refuge is a blend of rivers, pine barrens, cranberry bogs, and salt marshes. About a dozen groups (land owners) are represented in this partnership (federal, state, town, and private conservation groups). The primary goal of the UCRRP is to restore the river for brook trout. The project also includes restoring two abandoned cranberry bogs (Garner and Farley) to natural wetlands, removing/dewatering two warm water holding ponds that reside on either side of Carriage Shop Road, and to remove the earthen dam and dilapidated fish ladders south of the holding ponds. To date, over 2 million dollars have been raised by the rod and gun club for this project. CCTU contributed directly with an Embrace a Stream Grant that purchased river monitoring sensors (temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc.). CCTU also made a 2500-dollar grant to the gun club's 501c3 sister organization (Sporting, Safety, Conservation, and Education Fund) early in the project when additional seed money was needed. CCTU can be proud of the contributions made for this conservation project.

Update on Project:

- Garner Bog
 - Most construction complete
 - Some microtopography remaining this week
 - Tree, shrub, and grass plantings this Spring/Summer
- Farley Bog
 - Wood placement along the new river channel has been completed
 - Microtopography following completion of Garner
 - Similar plantings in the Spring/Summer
- Dam and Impoundment
 - Begin berm removal and channel excavation within Southern holding pond
 - Improve erosion mitigation measures and trap fine sediment
- Culvert Replacement
 - Culvert box currently being built with expected delivery at end of March
- Child's River Signage and Educational Kiosks
 - Currently being discussed for a Summer installation

Hello Dolly



Hello Dolly

By Joseph D. Swaluk



Whether this title evokes images of a glitzy Carol Channing in a Broadway production or a flamboyant country singer, you have to agree---Dollies give notice. So does the Char that bears the name Dolly Varden. It is then no surprise that the name was given to a fish that has the audacity to have pink spots!

The original Dolly Varden was a young woman who preferred brightly colored dresses in the novel, BARNABY RUDGE by Charles Dickens. The British textile industry took note producing a cloth simply referred to as "Dolly Varden". The cloth was quite popular and was evidently on the mind of the person who named this spectacularly colored fish.

Dolly Vardens share the same range with two similar species, Bull Trout and Arctic Char, leading to mis-identification since all three are very similar. By their aggressive nature and "schoolyard bully" appearance, Bull Trout are a little easier to distinguish. Dollys and Arctic Char are a different matter. Sex and spawning coloration come into play. There is both a northern and southern strain of Dollys as well as both resident and anadromous fish contributing to the confusion. Scientists are still debating whether we have three different species or just one. The only thing I am certain of is that they are beautiful.

In spite of their appearance, Dollys are often overlooked by Alaskan anglers who are in pursuit of Rainbow Trout and Pacific Salmon. Most Dollys are caught as a by-catch when fishing for these species consequently not receiving their due.

In smaller streams, Dollys are the perfect quarry for the angler who enjoys high-stick nymphing.

Here the fish are waiting for salmon eggs to drift by and will eagerly hit an egg imitation that is properly presented. The egg, actually a bead, needs to be pegged to the tippet two or three inches above the hook. So eager to take are the Dollys that they would simply swallow a standard egg fly and be impossible to release unharmed.

On a recent trip to Alaska, I enjoyed just this type of fishing. Growing up in hard-fished New Jersey, I learned high-stick nymphing long before it was referred to as Czech or Euro-style nymphing. Feeling right at home, I caught a Dolly on nearly every drift proving to myself that I had not "lost my touch."

Some might contend that Dollys are not that spectacular once hooked; I contend this is unfair. They are bottom-dwellers, do not jump, and act in a manner in which nature intended. We should expect nothing more.

All anglers have their favorite fish. Obviously, ours are the Salmonidae or we would not be in Trout Unlimited. As a fish artist, I have always been drawn to fish that are beautiful to look at. When carving and painting species such as Bonefish and Tarpon, whose sporting qualities cannot be denied, the painting end leaves me a bit cold. These species tend to all look alike other than for size. Salmonidae, on the other hand, have significant variation in both structure and coloration even amongst the same species. Just like us!

Fishermen could endlessly debate which member of the trout family is the most beautiful. Surely all native-born trout species could be in contention and "beauty is in the eyes of the beholder".

Still, the Dolly Varden is the only trout named after a beautiful and fashionable woman! I rest my case.



Massachusetts-Rhode Island Council Roundup



FROM THE OUTGOING COUNCIL CHAIR, PAUL BEAULIEU

It's a new year (insert sigh of relief) and I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on recent activities of the MA/RI Council. First and foremost, my term as Council chair ended on December 31, 2020 (insert second sigh of relief!). All kidding aside, I want to welcome our new Council Chair, Henry Sweren of the Taconic Chapter. Henry brings years of events management and fundraising experience to the role of Council Chair.

Henry Sweren is the current Vice President and former President of the Taconic Chapter of TU. Henry is passionate about cold water fisheries and land conservation and believes in making them available for many generations to come. Henry began his TU membership while living in New Hampshire as part of the Merrimack River Chapter. At that time, he learned to fly fish in Pittsburg, NH under the tutelage of Mr. Charlie Miller. After a Professional job change that relocated him to the Berkshires in 2001 he transferred to the Taconic Chapter and later became a Lifetime member. In 2016 Henry was appointed to the Taconic Chapter board and has been part of it ever since. Henry Lives in Lanesborough, MA with his wife Darlene and 2 teenage daughters. He is currently the Manager of Berkshire Hills Country Club. As well as fishing, he enjoys hiking, biking, golf and many other outdoor activities.

A new year warrants new ideas! NETU's Josh Rownd has taken on the role of Vice Chair and GBTU's Rui Coelho will be the new Council Secretary. (*Editor's note: CCTU's Past President Roberta Schilling has taken on the role of Vice Chair, Communications for the Council.*)

I'll remain active in Council activities as Vice Chair for Environmental Affairs. Feel free to reach out to me if you have an environmental/conservation concern that you feel warrants Council response. I'd like to note some of the MA/RI Council achievements over the past 3 years:

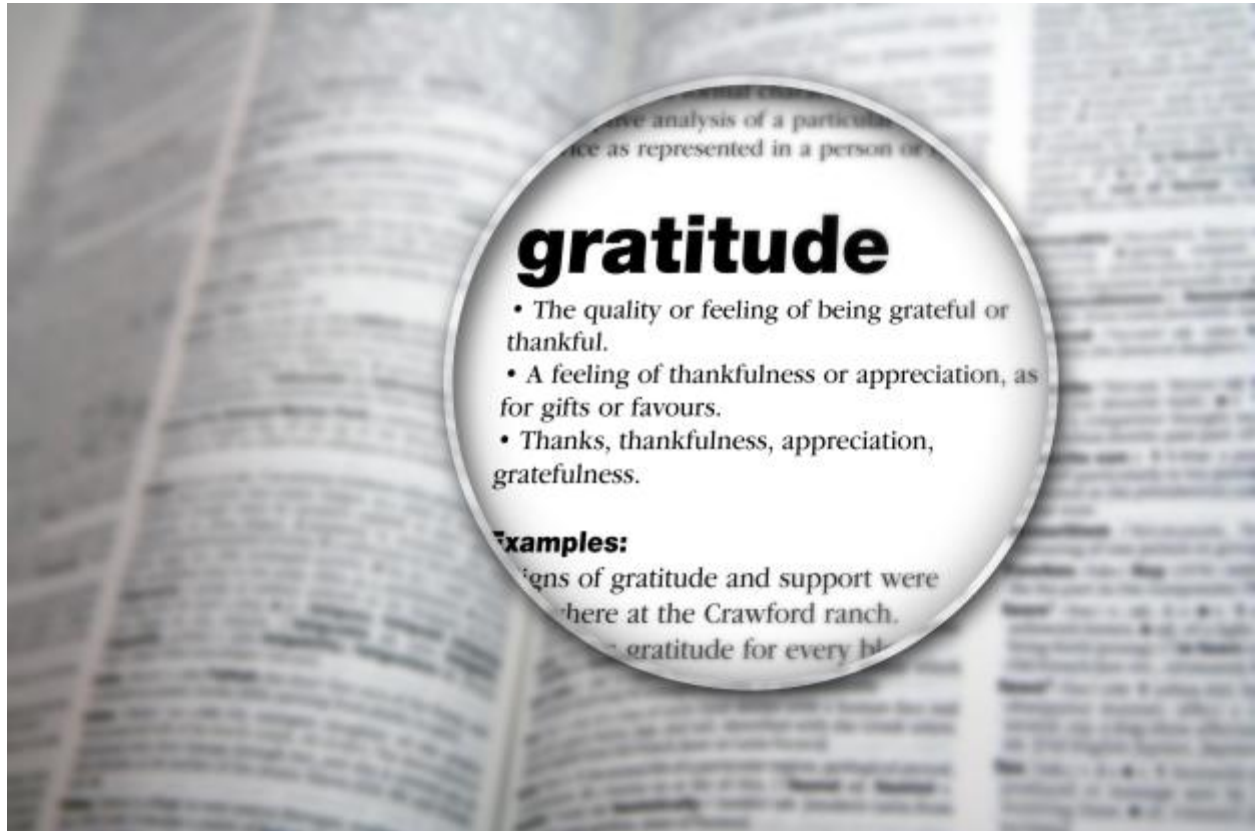
- Raised \$40,000 through generous contributions from our chapters and individual TU donors to assist the Franklin Land Trust in acquiring an additional 157 acres of open space along the West Branch of the North River in Heath
- Re-imagined our annual camping gathering and held the first Caddisfly Festival at the CountryAire Campground in Shelburne
- Instituted the Council Coldwater Conservation Fund grants program to assist our chapters in developing and implementing trout conservation projects. PVTU, GBTU and DRWTU chapters were the recipients of approximately \$6,000 total for habitat projects along Sodom Brook in Westhampton, Pine Tree Brook in Milton and Rice Brook in Charelmont
- Attended monthly meetings of the Mass Wildlife Board to further our partnership with the state's fisheries management agency

In addition to the above, I have recently been invited by Mass Wildlife to participate on two committees relative to their R3 initiative (Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation) and a forthcoming "Public Attitudes Survey." More on both of these collaborative efforts in future newsletters. In the meantime, be safe, be well and practice good social fishstancing.

Fishon4Ever!

--Paul Beaulieu

Gratitudes



FROM THE DESK OF
Tim Lynch

January 27, 2021

Cape Cod Trout Unlimited
Chapter 460

Dear CCTU Members and Board of Directors,

I wanted to sincerely thank you all for the many years of support you gave me during my years of service to the Chapter. Many close friendships resulted from our mutual pursuits of fish, fun, and conservation. Moreover, so many memories will be fondly remembered of all the camaraderie shared from the CCTU events held over the last decade or so.

During the December Zoom meeting (involving the annual meeting, election, and other roundtable stories), a round of thanks and appreciation was made to both Robbie Schilling and I for our recently completed service to the Chapter. Kind words and a gift certificate were given to each of us. So I didn't want to pass up this opportunity to express my deep appreciation.

Sincerely,

//signed//

Timothy M. Lynch

Thank you so very much for giving me the honor of serving the Chapter as President from 2018-2020. In spite of 2020 being a challenging year, we were able to continue our important coldwater conservation mission both close to home on the Quashnet and the Childs, as well as elsewhere in the state by contributing to the continued conservation of the North River via the Crowningshield project. Our Chapter remains strong in fellowship as well, another aspect for which I am deeply grateful. Many thanks for recognizing me with a gift card to White Flower Farm (those of you who know who I am married to can attest to the fact that I am not lacking for more fly fishing equipment - LOL), I will use the gift card to plant native plants that are friendly to pollinators - bees, butterflies, hummingbirds - which helps us all.

I will continue contributing as the Rollcast Editor and as Past President and other activities as time permits.

Thanks again for your membership and participation.

Best Regards,

Roberta (Robbie) Schilling



Just for Fun

FOUR LEGS? --- HELL,
THEY CAN'T COUNT ANYWAY.



Photo Credits

Keep Fish Wet: Dave McCoy

Conservation Corner: Ron Reif

Gratitudes: Roberta Schilling (flowers)

Just for Fun: Ted Patlen