



THE ROLLCAST

[April 2021 Edition](#)

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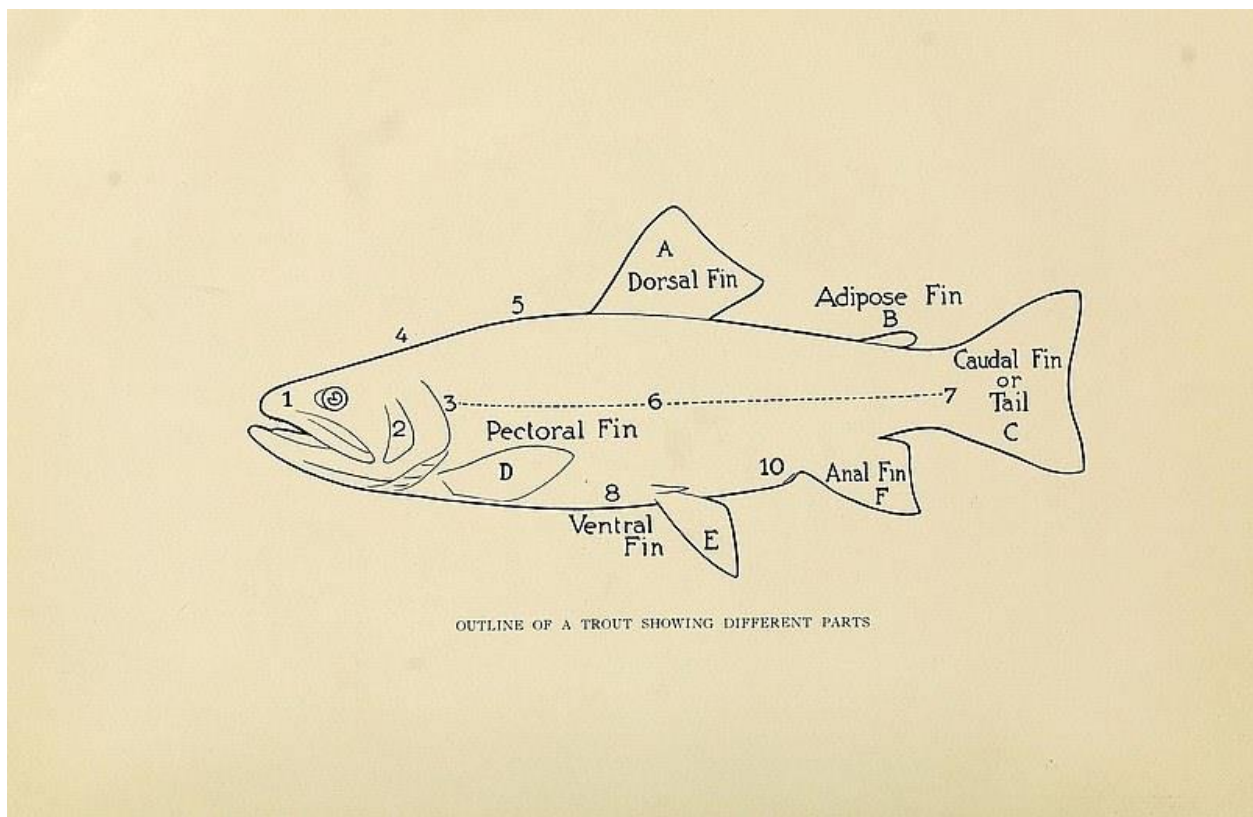
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President's Message



April 2021

Hello CCTU members and friends,

I continue to be so very pleased with the work of our Board and other volunteer leaders year to date. Just awesome- we are building great momentum! But there is so much need and opportunity. **Please consider stepping up to volunteer.** In particular we are looking for talent in the

communications/internet/social media area as well as in various aspects of membership and activities. Thanks in advance.

Our first online auction is going live April 1! Fantastic prizes are available! Proceeds will support our conservation efforts and ongoing chapter activities. Thanks to all the donors, and to Bob Lewis for getting us ready for launch. Please bid generously, or consider a cash donation. If successful, we will all be winners!

I am enthused that Scott Dietrich has volunteered to host **fly fishing outings** on Saturday mornings this spring. Here's a great opportunity for socially distanced fishing with some old and new friends. Scott will be at Hamblin Pond on April 10 and Peters Pond on April 24. See more information elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks Scott!

Informative Zoom programs continue. Last month Member Rob Gartside spoke on Alaska, while GBTU member and guide Fred Jennings shared his method of fly-fishing estuaries on ultralight tackle. The **April 14 members meeting will feature Dwayne Shaw of Downeast Salmon Federation** speaking on efforts to restore Atlantic salmon in Maine. Hope you can join us!

I joined a happy crew of hard working members for the **Quashnet workday** on Sunday March 21. Fran Smith led a well-organized brush cutting effort under sunny skies. Tree planting will be on the agenda for the April 18 workday.

The MA Council continued a strong effort to support opposition to the proposed **zoning change in Wareham that threatens Red Brook**. Our chapter donated \$1,000 to the cause. The key vote at a Wareham Town Meeting is coming up April 10.

This past week **CCTU was the subject of a segment on the WXTK 95 Spectrum public affairs program**. I was privileged to represent our chapter for this opportunity to describe our mission, membership and activities to the Cape community. Host Leo Cakounes helpfully reinforced positive aspects of our story, referred listeners to our web site for information, and encouraged consideration of donations to CCTU. The podcast version can be accessed by googling "Spectrum 95 WXTK". Thanks to Paul Richards for working very hard to set up this opportunity.

The Board and a broader planning team has made excellent progress on building clarity and consensus for the **priority strategic thrusts for 2021-23**, as well as establishing specific goals for 2021. We should complete our work very soon, and I will share our plans with you next month.

Be kind to the trout,

Mike

Michael Howard, howard533@gmail.com, 412-418-7636

April Events



April 1

Online Fundraising Auction Begins @ 8 a.m.

April 7

CCTU Board Meeting @ 7 p.m.

via Zoom

April 10

Fishing with Scott Dietrich @ 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Hamblin Pond, Marstons Mills

April 14

CCTU Chapter Meeting @ 7 p.m.

Speaker: Dwayne Shaw, Downeast Salmon Federation

via Zoom

April 18

Quashnet Workday @ 9 a.m.

Tree Planting

Martin Road Gate, Falmouth

April 24

Fishing with Scott Dietrich @ 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Peters Pond, Sandwich

April 30

Online Fundraising Auction Concludes @ 8 p.m.

[Online Fundraising Auction](#)



We are excited for the **CCTU Spring Fundraiser online auction** that will begin April 1st. Bidding will begin at 8 a.m. on 4/1 and conclude at 8 pm on 4/30.

Here is the link for our auction: <https://go.tulocalevents.org/92a4d2>

You can preview the items now and get your bids ready. We are lucky to have received some very generous donations from members and have a great variety of items from flies to guided trips.

Good luck!

Saturday Morning Fly Fishing for Trout



Hosted by Guide Scott Dietrich

For this spring we are very pleased to announce CCTU member and professional guide Scott Dietrich will host Saturday morning fishing outings for CCTU members and their guests.

The focus will be on fishing and not instruction. Nevertheless Scott will begin each session with a short talk on how to successfully fly fish in that pond, and offer each participant one of his hand tied flies. And during the fishing, if he is not reeling in a big one, Scott will be happy to offer a specific tip or two as requested.

Each fly fisher is expected to come equipped and ready to fish with their own rod, reel, flies, waders and all needed accessories.

This will be a socially distanced event. Please have a mask available for those times when social distancing is not possible. No advance registration is required. You are welcome to come and go at a time convenient to you but Scott's talk will be first thing each morning.

Sessions scheduled for April

Saturday April 10, 7am - 10am, Hamblin Pond, Marstons Mills

We will meet at the car top boat ramp located on a short access road off Rte. 149 Cotuit Rd. There is no sign on Rte. 149- the access road is just north of Burgess Park (alternate site for parking if road is full).

Saturday April 24, 7am - 10am, Peters Pond, Sandwich

We will meet at the Town of Sandwich Oakcrest Cove recreational facility (site of our Fly Fishing School) off Quaker Meeting House Rd midway between Cotuit Rd and Rte. 130.

Hope to see you out there!

Dwayne Shaw, Downeast Salmon Federation



Dwayne Shaw is Executive Director of the Downeast Salmon Federation, where he has led the development of the Federation's fisheries and land conservation programs since 1989, beginning with the removal of the Pleasant River dam and the renovation of the facility as a hatchery and fisheries research center in Columbia Falls.

In 2000 he led the removal of the East Machias River dam and received the National Coastal America Partnership Award from President George W. Bush. The East Machias site is now home to DSF's Peter Gray Hatchery for the restoration of Atlantic salmon.

Dwayne was also one of three recipients of the prestigious ***Gulf of Maine Visionary*** awards in 2016. The Visionary Award recognizes the recipient's commitment to protect, enhance, and restore the ecosystem of the Gulf of Maine region and to safeguard and improve the well-being of the communities that depend on its resources.

Conservation Corner



Interview with Matt Patrick, President of Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay, (CPWB).

Submitted by Ron Reif, Environmental Chair, Cape Cod Trout Unlimited

What is your role with CPWB?

I am currently the President of Citizens for the Protection of Waquoit Bay, (CPWB). It's my third time at the helm of the organization. The first time was during our campaign to convince the state to purchase the 300 some odd acres around the Quashnet River. I went from being the President of the Cape Cod Chapter of TU to the President of CPWB after they heard that TU was going to initiate the campaign after Fran Smith announced at a Quashnet workday that the Quashnet land had been sold to developers who were seeking permits to build hundreds of condos along the river.

A couple of board members of CPWB, Henry Dick and Bill Overholtz met with the board of our Chapter. They wanted us to take CPWB over because they had a really good local mail list. Brian Tucholke, who was then vice president of TU would take over as President and I would move over to take over CPWB along with Don Bourne who won the Silver Trout Award from our chapter for his work on the Quashnet acquisition. We built a coalition of more than a dozen environmental and civic organizations to lobby the State House for money to buy the land. It was an exciting time and we

quickly gained recognition for the Quashnet and TU's restoration work. The deteriorating condition of Waquoit Bay was also an issue because the Commonwealth had recently purchased Washburn Island and South Cape Beach. We made the point that more housing along the river would contribute dramatically to the nitrogen input into Waquoit Bay. I was new to the area, young and gullible enough to take on the challenge. At the time I loved the Quashnet too much to let it go.

What is CPWB currently working on?

As all of you should know the rivers on Cape Cod that flow into our bays provide the freshwater that make them estuaries and estuaries are the nurseries for many anadromous fish. They need the fresh water mixed with salt to spawn, hatch in and grow up in. And of course, they are perfect for our famous Salter Brook Trout but also eels, herring (which feed numerous fish) white perch and various other fish and shellfish. In a study that was conducted by DFW in the early 1960's, found that Waquoit Bay was the most prolific bay in the Commonwealth. That's when it had lots of eelgrass and it was fairly clean.

CPWB and TU are still collaborating today in our combined effort to get road runoff addressed comprehensively with best management practices like vegetated swales instead of the conventional stormwater drains that do nothing to remove the nitrogen and phosphorus compounds that act like fertilizer in our bays. Right now the towns and state take the easy way out and install the drains. Road runoff also has heavy metals, combustion hydrocarbons along with dog waste all of which pollute swimming areas and shellfish beds. Under the right conditions it can cause fish kills.

Climate change has intensified the problem. After long dry spells in the summer, we get much more intense rainfalls that we would normally get once every 50 or 100 years making the pathogens swept up by the rainwater much more toxic. Unfortunately, several of the stormwater outfalls are places where road runoff flows directly into the Quashnet, Red Brook and the Childs. I'm sure there are other rivers similarly neglected on Cape Cod and the Commonwealth.

CCTU's president, Roberta Schilling, along Ron Densmore of the Falmouth Rod and Gun Club, Judith McDowell of Falmouth Water Stewards signed on to a letter describing the problem. It was sent to the boards of Selectmen and Conservation Commissions in the Towns of Falmouth and Mashpee. An article about our effort appeared in the Mashpee Enterprise March 5th and will appear in the Falmouth Enterprise March 12th. I'm very thankful to have the backing of these organizations and feel I can always collaborate with them on environmental issues. A copy of the letter and the article can be found on CPWB's website www.protectwaquoitbay.org.

How can CCTU and CPWB collaborate?

In Falmouth, a meeting of the Water Quality Management Committee to discuss the issue has been set for March 18th. You can participate in the meeting via the Falmouth's zoom. Another area where CPWB and TU can collaborate is in the restoration of Red Brook which is in both Falmouth and Mashpee. Like the Quashnet, it had long been a cranberry bog but now it is abandoned. A dam into a culver that flows under Redbrook Road needs replacing. WBNERR, Mass DFW and CPWB are looking at it as an

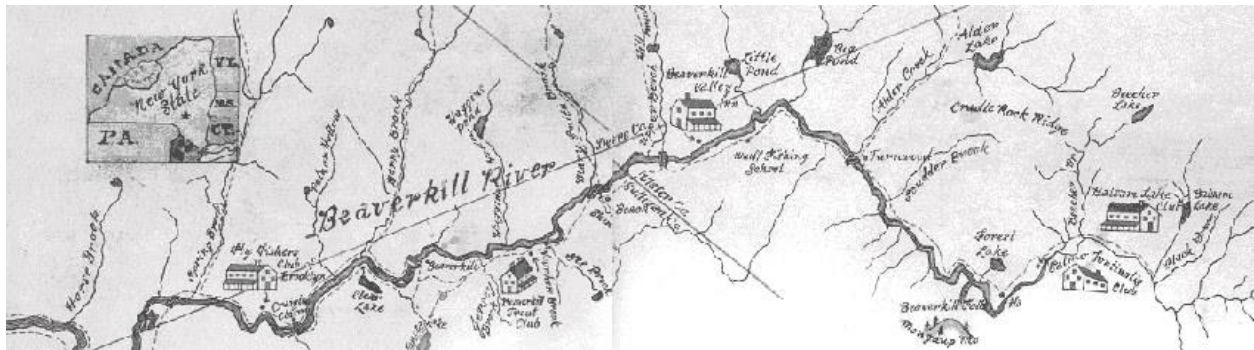
opportunity to restore Red Brook. Thank you [CCTU] for the interest...I'm really glad that the Cape Cod Chapter of TU is thriving and doing good things for the environment and trout.



1 - Matthew Patrick stands near an outfall where stormwater runoff flows down Martin Road and into the Quashnet River.

Photo Credit: RYAN SPENCER/ENTERPRISE

The Net Result



Submitted by Joseph D. Swaluk



Once while visiting my mother in her nursing home, she looked up at me from her wheelchair and said, “I never worried about you...I always knew you could turn a buck.” Owing to her own lack of education and the terrible times she endured during the Great Depression, I knew this was the finest compliment she could give and the finest I would ever receive. The importance of education and job skills never left her even when close to the end of life.

It was no surprise then that I chose to become an Industrial Arts teacher. It paid little but was secure and the skills I had to learn in order to teach it left me with the means to make a little extra here and there. That all came to fruition one day through, of all things, my obsession with trout fishing.

Visiting the Esopus River in the Catskills, I stopped into the Folkert Brothers Store. It was an eclectic combo of pharmacy, soda fountain and fly shop. One of the brothers made and sold a wooden landing net that was highly coveted. One look and I knew I could make one as well. As a matter of fact, I was sure I could make a finer one and connect with the business side of the sport I loved so much. It doesn't get any better!

The engineering of my net took a little time and involved two somewhat humorous events. I needed a method of securing the laminated strips to my forms when gluing. A friend, who was a technician at M&M Mars, suggested I try the oversized rubber bands they used to seal covers over their giant bins of M&M's. The broken bands were discarded but proved perfect for providing the tension I needed for a neat glue line between the two strips of the hoop.

I needed a high-quality net bag and found a supply in, of all places, Elsie and Harry Darbee's fly shop on the Beaverkill. Elsie, ever the business person, agreed to sell the bags to me only if I would give her completed nets to sell in return. On returning home, I noticed a small white tag on each net bag. It read, “Made in Occupied Japan”! It was already twenty-five years since the end of the war—how she secured that supply of net bags remains a mystery.

Around this time, I met Len Codella through Trout Unlimited. Len was working in Human Resources but was slowly transitioning into the tackle business. Len was a Leonard Rod Dealer and thought they would be interested in selling my nets. He suggested I visit them in Central Valley, New York. Here, I found myself on hallowed ground---the birthplace of cane rods in America. I was overwhelmed! Working at

the shop were Marc Aroner, Bob Taylor and Ted Simroe; each would go on to become well -respected cane rod builders on their own. Tom Bailly, who originally worked for Jim Payne, was there as well still turning out reel seats on the lathe.

Hap Mills, the owner, was eager to handle my nets and a deal was struck. Now I was considered a Leonard “employee” and could buy a Leonard at cost, or trade for one with nets. It was a dream too good to be true and almost was! My penchant for fine care rods almost became my undoing but I sure had one “hell-of-a” rod collection.

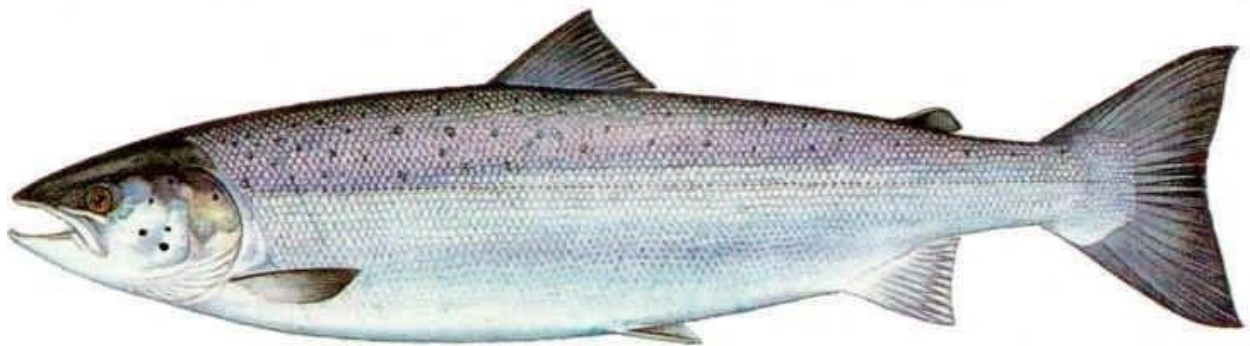
In time, I became bored with making the same thing over and over and moved on. I learned many valuable lessons about business and especially the tackle industry. These lessons and the contacts I made through my trout nets would be of tremendous importance when I transitioned to making fish sculpture a few years later.

Others moved on as well. Len Codella became a respected dealer in antique tackle. Ted Simroe is still making cane rods under his own name. None of us ever made substantial money off of flyfishing but we did turn a buck or two while having fun in a sport we all loved so dearly.

Today, my perspective on that sport has become more serious. I am looking at what I can give back to fly fishing rather than what I gain. Our resources are in even greater danger. Organizations like Trout Unlimited face a shortage of younger leaders to step into the game.

We need to act as a viable group, as well as individuals, whether we are involved in watershed protection or mentoring a beginner—no effort is too small. These efforts, like all of life’s endeavors, will prove to be the NET RESULTS!

A Grain of Mustard Seed



By Peter Schilling

There is a classic quote from the Bible that talks about having faith, “even as small as a grain of mustard seed,” and the power of that small, positive affirmation. This is one such story.

In 2011, I still lived in Newton and was active in the Greater Boston Chapter. I had been on the board in various capacities, including President, Treasurer, Secretary, Conservation Director, etc., etc., etc. since 1988. Through a series of connections within GBTU related to our conservation agenda at the time,

which included Atlantic Salmon restoration, I met Dwayne Shaw, the Executive Director of the Downeast Salmon Federation (DSF).

We became friends, and at some point I invited him down to CCTU to give a presentation on the organization and its work. Time now is more fluid for me, so all I can say is this happened sometime between 2010 and 2015 most likely.

One day I got an email from Dwayne, followed by a call, inviting me to a meeting in Needham at the house of an active member of the Atlantic Salmon Federation. Several GBTU board members came along to hear a presentation about a new program that DSF was about to start.

In that meeting were two men, Peter Gray, and Ori Vigfusson, of the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF). I got that Ori was somebody important, but didn't realize at the time just who he was. Ori was quiet, funny and focused. He also single-handedly, with the NASF along for the ride, did more to protect wild Atlantic Salmon in the North Atlantic than any one person or other organization in as short a period of time.

He was an Icelandic, held leases on numerous rivers there, and made a fortune in the liquor business. He was also crazy about Atlantic Salmon and protecting them for the future generations. He helped broker the first Greenland deal to stop the net harvest by fisherman there, and bought out nets all across northern Europe. He fought against pen raised salmon, and the curse of disease that came with them, and still does.

Understand that every piece of Atlantic Salmon you now buy in the store supports an industry systematically destroying wild runs of fish.

Ori introduced Peter Gray, a silver-haired, ruddy-faced Englishman with a direct manner. He talked of his success on the Tyne, taking it from a river in the 1960s fouled with industrial waste and the slimmest remnants of salmon running through the system, to a restored river 20 years later sporting a run of 40,000 fish. The Tyne is located on the east coast of England, in the midlands. He talked about his unique methods, developed through trial and error, that stood conventional wisdom on raising hatchery fish upside down.

He spoke simply and seemingly without emotion. His flat laying out of his program was as simple as it was elegant. Use native river water. Put the fish in round tanks against a steadily increasing flow of water, to build their stamina. Let them feed on natural food from the river. Paint the bottom of the tanks black, so the anxiety the fish experience being so close to one another decreases. Release these hardened parr in the fall so they have more time to acclimate before turning to smolts in the spring and dropping down to the sea. And flood the system with extra numbers of parr in the early years, as a way of creating a buffer against predators, who have developed over time and are in place in the river system.

I was so excited listening to Peter Gray I could barely sit still. I said then, "if this works," it will completely change the prospects not only for fish in Maine, but also for the entirety of their historic range, down to Connecticut. He patiently corrected me five or six times every time I said "if" replacing that with "when."

DSF started the program either that year or the next. Every year there were markers of progress, slow but steady. GBTU kept supporting DSF, inviting Dwayne down to Boston to speak on a regular basis,

hoping that exposure to a broader market, if you will, would help with the fundraising necessary for an organization not on many people's radar screens at that time. GBTU also gave DSF a sizeable donation every year until 2014, when I left GBTU and transitioned more permanently to CCTU.

Fast forward to the fall 2020, and the news from Machias, Maine, is nothing short of breath taking with this Peter Gray Parr Project. The returns to the East Machias River from the parr released are 14 times greater than any other method used by partners in the restoration efforts, including USFW in the six other Down East rivers and the Penobscot.

The ten year proof of project period is over, and the work done by DSF has shown by the data, not by talk, that this program has legs.

As a result, the stocking of hardened parr is going to now become the defacto method of all restoration partners in the Down East rivers. A second hatchery is going to open on the Narraguagus River, using the Peter Gray Parr Project techniques. The Narraguagus is the river among the seven in Down East Maine that typically has the greatest returns.

However, it is the East Machias that has the best upriver habitat. The watershed of the East Machias has the largest block of undeveloped and protected land and tributaries of any watershed on the East Coast of the United States.

Read that again and take in the significance of what you just read.

And this is largely due to the quiet, determined efforts of the tough, taciturn Mainers living Down East, proud of the heritage and keenly aware of what they have.

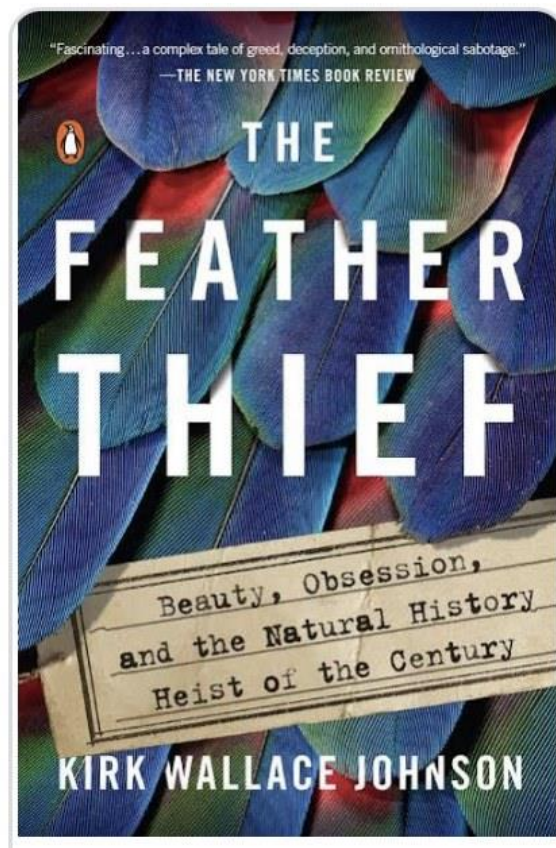
In what many would consider a backwater of swamps and marsh, pine barren thickets and large tidal drainages, one foresighted and I would argue courageous organization, year after year, is quietly and methodically plotting a course for the comeback of wild Atlantic Salmon over the entirety of their range in the United States.

Mustard seed indeed.

Book Review - The Feather Thief



By Bob Lewis



Do you have time for one more story before the fishing season gets in full swing? I know this came out back in 2018 and I am sure many of you have already enjoyed the book. However, if you are looking for a good read, this is a fascinating story. Ted Patlen told me he knows every character in the book and although he thinks there has been the usual dramatization you come to expect in a movie or book, he admits many of the facts are true. College student that is considered one of the best salmon fly tyers and flute players in the world breaks into a historic museum to steal 100+ year old bird feathers to help sustain his obsession. That sounds like a typical story!

I was trying to figure out why he was arrested on page 200 out of 500... what on earth could the next 300 pages possibly contain since the crime was solved... it only gets better and better!!

Oh and one more benefit of reading this book... when you hear the prices of these feathers you will think that \$70 saddle at Bear's Den is the deal of the century and NEVER feel guilty again about your \$300 trip to Taunton!

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Header photo caption and credit:

The Tring Museum's press release announcing the theft included this photo of the species of birds the thief—or thieves—had targeted the most: Indian Crow, Resplendent Quetzal, Blue Chatterer, and Birds of Paradise, several of which had been collected by Alfred Russel Wallace. Detective Inspector Fraser Wylie of the Hertfordshire Constabulary offered a number of theories about how the stolen birds might be used—for dressmaking, costume jewelry, or fishing lures—and asked collectors to keep an eye out for these species.

CREDIT: Natural History Museum, London

BOAT SHRINK WRAP RECYCLING OFFERED



This spring Woods Hole Sea Grant, in collaboration with the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, is conducting a free shrink wrap recycling program.

From April 16 through June 30, boat owners can bring their clean, bundled shrink wrap to one of six Cape Cod locations to be recycled.

Recycle locations and times and instructions on how to prepare shrink wrap for recycling can be found at: <https://seagrants.who.edu/community-engagement/shrinkwraprecycling/>