

November 2010



THE HAMMONASSET CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

# THE RISE

## FROM THE BANK OF THE STREAM

### President's Message



One of the salmon caught on the Naugatuck river following last months salmon program by Ben Bilello.

If you haven't been fishing these last few warm days before the cold weather sets in, what are you waiting for? The last couple of weeks have been fantastic days for fishing and winter will be here sooner than later. **So get out while you can!**

Our chapter has been very busy this fall with our youth education activities, Durham Fair Expo, stream clean-up and Trout in the Classroom preparation that I haven't had much time to fish until recently, but last months group trip to the Naugatuck River was a fun time for all. I hope we can have more trips like it. The chapter is planning some more activities for the winter and the coming spring and we will provide an updated calendar of events in January. If you have any suggestions or want to get involved please let me know.

Our final meeting before the holidays will be this Thursday featuring **Jack Smola's program on Fly Selection and Presentation Tips to catch more trout.** We usually have plenty of food and drinks at the meetings for those who don't have time for dinner before the meeting and our raffle is always fun. The doors at the Wallingford rod and Gun Club will open by 6:15 for fly tying and the meeting starts at 7:00 sharp. All of our programs are always free and open to the public.

Once again I want to thank all of the volunteers that have helped out throughout the year and wish all our members a happy holiday season.

Kevin Fuller  
President, HCTU

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**November 18** Thursday, 6:30 PM  
**Chapter Meeting** Wallingford Rod and Gun Club  
**Jack Smola**, Fly Selection and Presentation Tips to Catch More Trout.

**December - No Meeting**

**January** Thursday, 6:30 PM  
**Chapter Meeting** Wallingford Rod and Gun Club  
**Jim Plante**, Nymphing Techniques

**February** Thursday, 6:30 PM  
**Chapter Meeting** Wallingford Rod and Gun Club  
**Walt Fell**, Labrador Trip and Big Brook Trout

**March** Thursday, 6:30 PM  
**Chapter Meeting** Wallingford Rod and Gun Club  
Fly-fishing the Upper Connecticut River Trophy Stretch

**April** Thursday, 6:30 PM  
**Chapter Meeting** Wallingford Rod and Gun Club  
**To Be Determined**

**May 19** Thursday, 6:00 PM  
**Chapter Meeting** Wallingford Rod and Gun Club  
**Special Kids Meeting**, Fun Activities, Bring a Kid.  
Casting instruction and more.

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# Meeting Highlights



## October Meeting

Last month Frank Plona could not do his program on Atlantic Salmon Angling in Nova Scotia because he was recovering from back surgery. Frank is doing much better and we will reschedule him for next fall.

But we were very lucky to have **Ben Bilello** do his program about **Fishing for Broodstock Atlantic Salmon Using Traditional Methods** in local rivers like the Naugatuck and Shetucket.

Every I talked to was very impressed by his knowledge and enthusiasm about fishing the Naugatuck River and other for Salmon. Ben's Program included, designated broodstock salmon fishing locations, recommended tackle, reading the water, recommended dry fly and wet fly selection tips and a lot of his own personal experience. Ben even provided handouts to everyone who attended.



Ben Bilello landing a salmon on the Naugatuck River for HCTU member John Springer.

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## November Meeting

Our November meeting will feature **Jack Smola**. Jack is one of the funniest guides you could ever fish with and his program on **Fly Selection and Presentation** is sure to teach you something.

Jack Smola is a full time fly fishing guide who concentrates on rivers of western Massachusetts and CT. The Westfield, Deerfield, Swift, Farmington, and Housatonic Rivers are some of the rivers Jack knows well. Jack also contracts groups to travel to the Patagonia region of Chile and some western rivers in Utah.

Jacks program will include suggestions on flies, timing and techniques to catch more trout.

Whether you consider using Jack's guide services or just want to take notes, join us and come see Jack's presentation this Thursday, November 18th. Food and drinks will be provided, while it lasts.



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# Conservation and Protection



## Farm River Clean-up

On October 23, four dedicated TU volunteers met at the river behind the North Branford Public works building on Route 22 to cleanup the Farm River as part of our fish passage project on the same river. The turnout was not very good, but we accomplished a lot for a crew of just four guys. We began at the trailhead and we removed three bags of trash, two tires and an old water heater. Later we went down river by Taconic Wire off Totoket Road and the ball fields and cleaned up another nine bags of trash, another tire several tarps and about 16 softballs. Then we had some delicious sandwiches at Good to Go.

**Thank you guys for all your help!**



Hugh McCutchen, Jim Woodworth and Ron Graziani provide a lot of muscle during the Farm River Cleanup at Farm River Trail .

## Stream Flow Regulations Withdrawn, But still Alive.

Each year, we spend countless hours fishing throughout Connecticut and enjoying the scenery and wildlife in and around our rivers. The health of these rivers plays an important role in the quality of life for our state's residents.

We have fought a long, hard battle for streamflow regulations to protect our local rivers by ensuring adequate flows year-round. The proposed regulations make significant strides in improving the health and future of our states rivers.

The Regulations Review Committee is the last large hurdle. The regulations were recently withdrawn so some of the legal language could be revised and will soon be re-presented to the committee for its first vote on the proposed regulations. We need to let the Committee members know just how important the health of our local river ecosystems is to each of us. Now it is time for a final grassroots push to support the regulations as proposed by the DEP.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has spent five years working with the various stakeholders interested in these regulations to craft a proposed set of regulations and guidelines which ensure enough water for our communities, our environment and our economy.

To support the Streamflow Regulations recommended by the DEP. Please send a letter to your state representatives, urging the Regulation Review Committee to pass the Streamflow Regulations as recommended by the DEP. Because healthy streams cannot survive without sufficient flow and if allowed to dry up for just a short time could takes years to recover.

For more information see the CT trout website.

<http://cttrout.org/streamflowregulations.html>

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# An Adventure Worth Sharing



## My 2010 Trip to Russia

By John Springer



John Springer with an Atlantic Salmon in Russia.

The plans for this year's trip started at the end of the last trip when my Russian friend Sergey said Dos Vodonya John, in 2008 when I left him. Two years goes by fast when you're 58 and thinking about big free flowing rivers, Spey rods, beautiful Salmon flies, great food and plenty of Vodka and who can forget the infamous Bania for bathing? One part of the trips that never ceases to amaze me is the big smiles on the faces of the many fishermen I have been so lucky to meet. Without a doubt I am sure you have heard all the bad news from TV, Radio and newspapers about Russian's. Never having experienced anything besides a warm welcome from these people and making seven visits I can tell you most of what you have heard is false. A fellow fisherman came with me, Bill Keister. Bill is a self taught certified casting instructor as well as a great fly tier and fishermen, a good fishing partner to have along. Because I have friends in Russia my trip's cost is about a third what others must pay. Besides plane fares the cabin we stayed in cost \$45 a day, that was for a warm bed, a hot meal at night and a boat ride up and back to the pools we would fish. Our license fee each day was also \$45. We would spend about 12 hours a day on the river then come back. You can't fish for 9 days with a Spey rod for that many hours; breaks are taken for food, drink and a nap or two.

Each trip is different as to the amount of fish I have caught. As a rule I do not keep track of the amount of fish I catch, but in Salmon fishing I do. You've all heard that they are the fish of a thousand casts', Sergey likes to say in Russia it's eight hundred. Even though we were about 5 days earlier than past trips and they had much snow last winter by the time we got there the water on the Kista was coming down and it seemed not as many fish were coming into the river. That being said I did hook 24 fish and landed 10 of them, but just being there is such a great experience that losing so many does not matter to me. That old saying "there's more to fishing than catching fish" makes a fishing trip much more enjoyable if you live by that expression. You learn to enjoy the people and the conversation much more if you're not just trying to catch more fish. Years ago I was very fortunate to meet and make friends with George Terpening. He use to always say to me when I was in a hurry to get to the river, Johnny I have already caught all the fish; I don't have to catch them again. He would then explain to me that when he went fishing it was to meet and talk to new people, have a drink and a good meal and catch a few fish. As I was young I did not understand that then, but I sure do now. Terp would really have enjoyed fishing with these Russians; they all seem to subscribe to his way of thinking.



TU members John Springer and Bill Keister before their Salmon Fishing Trip to Russia.





# An Adventure Worth Sharing



## 2010 Trip to Russia, Continued.

Each day was the same routine; a time was set up the day before for Genaday to have the boat ready. We would get up and eat breakfast. We would boil a big kettle of water and make tea and open one of those dried soup mixes and prepare it, they really fill you up and last quite sometime. By the time it was “ready to eat” we would have our thermos filled up and our food sack filled up. Our goodie bag consisted of some type of cheese, sausage, cookies, bread and some dried fruit. After we ate Genaday would take 3 fishermen at a time up river. We crossed a big fresh water tidal area and headed up river to where the river dumped into the fresh water estuary and hike up to “the first pool”. The area we were allowed to fish is about three quarters of a mile long, after that the river is private. Inside the area we are allowed you have about ten spots that consistently produce fish. As the water drops you lose some holding water so fishing gets a bit tougher. Perhaps you have heard that a spot that holds a fish that is taken will fill up again with another fish, it’s very true in Salmon fishing.

Sometimes it takes a few hours sometimes a day. But there will be another fish there for sure. Sometimes as many as 5 fish will be taken from that same spot as all of us would fish it several times each day. As our morning progress the other fishermen will show up and would ask how we were doing and what flies we had luck with. We showed each other our flies and you got some ideas for what to tie or found out what you were using was wrong. For this trip I spent the winter tying tube flies. I only made about 10 patterns but had them in different weights from plastic tubes to brass. You must go prepared to cover the water from top to bottom no matter what the water temperature is. Ally’s shrimp flies worked at the start of the trip, while Green Highlanders were working at the end of the trip.

Each of us would have a favorite spot, mine was always because I had hooked a good fish and I am sure they all felt the same, but we would always keep taking steps down river as you made your cast if someone was behind you.

Nine days of fishing the same section of river might seem boring to some, but not to me. I guess the reason was because I know it will be two years before I can go back to such a beautiful place and fish with such a good friend. Our last day of the trip was like all the rest. You party to much the night before, sleep much too little, fish way to hard, eat too much.



John Springer and his salmon fishing comrades in Russia.

Then it’s a long drive about five hours back to Sergey’s house, but it is a quiet ride really so many things go through your mind knowing it will be two years until I go back. I took a two hour nap before we drove 3 hours to the airport for our trip home that takes 28 hours door to door. Totally exhausted you get home but with so many wonderful memories to share with my wonderful wife I must tell her everything before I fall into a deep sleep. And dream about 2012 and my next trip, and what to do to improve myself so I don’t lose 14 fish.

John Springer

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# Naugatuck River Trip



Wayne and Ed fishing the head of the pool at Linden park.

Several TU members at the October Chapter meeting were eager to go take a trip to the Naugatuck River to learn the areas where the DEP stocks the Atlantic Salmon broodstock each fall. Ed Albrecht was kind enough to lead two groups of guys to the locations. Ed led some of the retired guys during the week and another group on the weekend. Ed has stocked the river with the Naugatuck chapter and he fishes it from time to time, so he could tell us which pools the fish were likely to be, where to fish and cross the river etc.

First Ed took us Linden Park where we took turns fishing the upper and lower pools for a while. Wayne saw a really big salmon leap, But that was all. Later we picked up grinders at Nardelli's and had lunch at another location in downtown Naugatuck. Then Ed led us to four or five other locations down river to Beacon Falls before two more locations in Campville.

I had never seen the Naugatuck River before, but I had heard stories of how it used smell from all the pollution and that it was not clean and was once littered with junks cars and shopping carts. While fishing the lower pool, I noticed that shopping cart, so I waded across the river and dragged it to the shore and up the bank and felt like I did a good deed. Then I noticed a baby stroller, when I waded in close to baby stroller to drag that out I discovered two more carts and a bicycle within ten yards of river. A future river clean-up project is really needed. Other than that spot it was a pretty nice river and we all enjoyed the tour.



Jim, Wayne, Eric and Ed at River Bend Park, Beacon Falls.

## James Prosek Prints

If you would like to purchase one of the remaining prints for \$200 and support our chapters conservation project, please contact Hugh McCutchen at 349-3122 or [hughmccut37@mac.com](mailto:hughmccut37@mac.com)



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**HAMMONASSET  
CHAPTER OF  
TROUT UNLIMITED**

## **Hammonasset Chapter of Trout Unlimited**

### **Directions to our meeting place:**

**Where:** Wallingford Rod and Gun Club 411 North Branford Road Wallingford,CT 06492

**When:** Third Thursday of the month, From September through May at 6:30 PM.

#### **Coming from the I-91**

From I-91 South take exit 15, Turn onto CT-68 East / Barnes Rd (1.7 Miles)

Turn RIGHT onto N BRANFORD RD. (0.6 Miles) Turn Right into Driveway at 411 North Branford Rd.

#### **Coming from the Shoreline through Route 17 in Durham**

Follow Route 17 to junction with CT-68, Turn onto CT-68 West, follow CT-68 (3.5 Miles)

Turn LEFT onto N BRANFORD RD. (0.6 Miles) Turn RIGHT into Driveway at 411 North Branford Rd.

### **Monthly Meetings**

**Third Thursday of Each Month**

**September Through May**

**The Wallingford**

**Rod and Gun Club**

**411 North Branford Road**

**Wallingford, CT 06492**



### **This Month's Program**

**Jack Smola**

**Fly Selection and**

**Presentation Tips**

**To Catch More Trout**