



From the Bank of the Stream

The February Speaker is Ben Bilello

See Page 3 and 8 thru 11 for more details.

New Chapter Website.

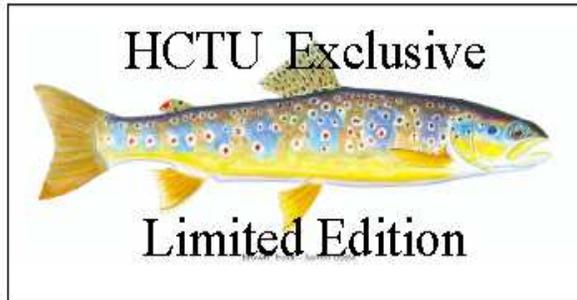
The Hammonasset TU Chapter Website Has Moved To
HCTU.ORG

Chris Caminski has put together a new website for our chapter, with help from our old webmaster John Buckley. This new website can be updated easily without any software or any training, This will make it much easier for the volunteers to update it. So we hope to keep it more up to date than in the past. We plan to make it even more useful in the future, but it's a great start.

Please check it out and send us your suggestions or comments.

James Prosek Print Raffle

In 2008 the Hamonasset Chapter commissioned James Prosek to paint a Farm River brown trout to raise awareness of our fish passage project on the Farm River. The project is moving forward to the fundraising stage. We need to raise money this year for construction in 2014 and we have fewer than 20 prints remaining.



HCTU also hopes to sell the original painting and remaining 5 artist proofs. The limited edition prints (Limited to just 50) are being sold for \$200 each. We need to raise money this year for construction in 2014 and we have fewer than 20 prints remaining.

Our chapter will also be raffling off a framed print in April. Only 50 tickets will be sold for a \$5 donation each. Now is your chance to get one - or take a chance and win one.

If you want to buy a ticket for just \$5 or inquire about the original painting, print or artist proofs, contact Kevin fuller at 860-632-2171 or email at kevinfuller27@comcast.net or come to our meeting to enter the raffle..

THE HAMMONASSET CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

THE RISE

**THE HAMMONASSET CHAPTER
OF TROUT UNLIMITED
OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND
COMMITTEES**

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Web site: Chris Caminski
Fishing Outings: Aidan Morgan
Welcoming: Wayne Gustafson
Youth Membership: Jesse Gardziel

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb.21st Thursday **7pm**, doors open at 6:15 for tying.
Chapter Meeting: Wallingford Rod and Gun Club.
Ben Bellilo **Traditional Methods for Brood stock Salmon .**

Feb. 22nd Friday **6pm, Girls Night In:** Wine and cheese followed by presentation **“Exploring Small Rivers and Streams”** Lisa Sheppard and Alicea Charamut. Call 860-666-6687 for *RSVP* and directions.

Feb. 25th Monday **Fly tying program** at the Rocky Hill Veterans Home.

Mar. 9th Saturday **HFFA Expo**

Mar. 16th Saturday **Chapter Fishing Trip**
Contact Aidan for time and place of meeting for the day on one of our local rivers. sadmorgan@yahoo.com

Mar.21st Thursday **7pm**, doors open at 6:15 for tying.
Chapter Meeting: Wallingford Rod and Gun Club.
Maine Brook Trout at Lakewoods Camp

Mar. 22nd Friday **Farmington Valley TU** Banquet
Chowder pot Hartford

Apr. 13th Saturday **Chapter Fishing Trip**
Contact Aidan for time and place of meeting for the day on one of our local rivers. sadmorgan@yahoo.com

Apr. 18th Thursday **7pm**, doors open at 6:15 for tying.
Chapter Meeting: Wallingford Rod and Gun Club.
Land Lock Salmon @ Grand lake Stream.

Apr. 30th Tuesday **HCTU Exhibit Vinal Tech Health and Wellness Fair**

May. 11th Saturday 8:30am-2:00pm **YED (Youth Education Day)** Chatfield Hollow Park Killingworth
Free Fishing Day (more details coming soon)

May. 16th Thursday **7pm**, doors open at 6:15 for tying.
Chapter Meeting: Wallingford Rod and Gun Club.
John Springer covers **Great Fishing out West** or group fishing outdoors.

May,20th 23rd Monday-Thursday **Group trip Fishing the Delaware** Contact Bill Glueck for details.

June 1st Saturday **Boy Scout Jamboree**
Hebron fair grounds.



Meeting Highlights:

If you missed the
Last meeting, you missed *Something*



February Speaker Ben Bilello

Our **February program** will be Ben Bilello's presentation on Traditional Methods for Broodstock Atlantic Salmon.

Ben is an experience salmon fisherman, he has also fished for Atlantic Salmon in Canada and Russia and is a fantastic fly tyer. Ben's program covers a lot of guidelines and tips specifically for Broodstock Salmon fishing.

Ben has shared a summary of his program and it is included on **pages 8 thru 11 of this newsletter.**

Ben Bilello

ben@benbilello.com

www.benbilello.com/salmonflies



At the **November Meeting** we saw **Neal Hagstrom** of DEEP speak to us about how we can help the local trout.

The issue at hand is fishery fragmentation due to poor culvert design. As of his speaking date there have been 32 towns covered and 3-4,000 culverts photographed for his study and later grant to correct them. The fragmentation is an issue because fish are migratory and need all of their watersheds connected streams to adapt to the seasonal demands of temperature, water flow, food, finding appropriate spawning beds and their genetic integrity.

A fragmented stream in drought, without thermal refuges can crash populations leaving sections empty of fish. These lost fish can also affect the overall gene pool of the area negatively.

A topic Neil covered was **meta population**: the interchanging of genes over a large area. The strength of its fish to withstand stresses in a watershed is tied directly to the free association of the meta population across the watershed.

His speech also covered the particulars of culverts design and placement issues to correct these fragmented watersheds, and *what we can do to help change things for the better.*

Some of our members have contacted Neal for the proper training and forms to complete. 8 members are now armed with measuring tape and camera and GPS. Some have even started assessing culverts their own towns. So come to our next meeting and let **Rick Huntley** know that you want to help. An average town of 70 culverts can be covered in 3 or 4 days.



Fixing your Nymphing Mistakes Tips from Jim Plantes January

January's Presentation

Last month's guest speaker featured guide **Mr. Jim Plante** of Housatonic River Outfitters. While using an Echo practice rod with yarn line, demonstrated the technique inside for everyone. His upstream casting styles for nymph fishing worked with and without indicators for sight fishing and short drifts.

The first mistake he tries to correct for the client is not mending the line on the water. During the fly drift, without "mending" or putting slack into the line on the water; the different speeds of a column of water (water is fastest at the surface and slowest along the bottom) will pull on the line laying on the surface and drag the flies (usually 2) unnaturally out of the fishes reach toward the surface. Acceleration of helpless insects is unnatural and will be rejected by the trout. The first mend is the largest and when fishing faster water will be followed by 2-3 stack mends. A stack mend is smaller than the initial mend and looks like "S" curves on the surface. These are done when the line starts to straighten which is a sign of drag. He mentioned not to put too many initial large mends as it will jerk the flies as they move along the bottom.

The second mistake Split shot indicator placement, he said 1 1/2x the depth. Float placement is 1' from the fly line. Casting with split shot is difficult and can be done with a lob cast. Lob cast is an open loop cast with a delay between back and forward cast, the wait is for the weight to tug at the end of the back cast before the forward cast is started. Remember wherever the rod tip is pointed that is where the flies will go. Flies will be lost to bottom snags but that is where the fish are.

The third mistake is not the drift all the way through and pulling the flies out prematurely To correct, allow the flies to lift through the water before recasting, i.e. "Leisenring Lift") this will also allow the rod/line to load before a recast.

The fourth mistake is to make tight loop casts as if one is casting a single dry fly. This causes snarled rigs.

The fifth mistake is to put too much power into casting. It is better to use a lob cast when fishing multi fly rigs. Whether it is close, mid, or far casting, always limit the distance by stopping the line short, it tucks the flies down into the water first before the fly line, helping to limit drag and stay in control

The sixth mistake is stripping in line while the flies are in the drift. It is better to keep rod and line in one hand at the start of the drift. The line is tucked under the index finger. If a rod is in one hand and lines the other; ones attention is diverted away from the indicator onto the last rod guide, for a stabbing grab at the loose fly line. The line control (same hand with rod and line) is also important for casting.... *Putting it all together now.....* As I cast upstream with a lob or tension cast, I make the initial mend. Now all sections of the cast, rod tip...indicator...flies are in line. My hand is held up chest level arm held out a little bit...stack mends as needed to keep a slight slack...3/4 of the drift done lower the rod tip...wait until the line swings and tighten...turn the wrist with rod in hand lift and cast forward.

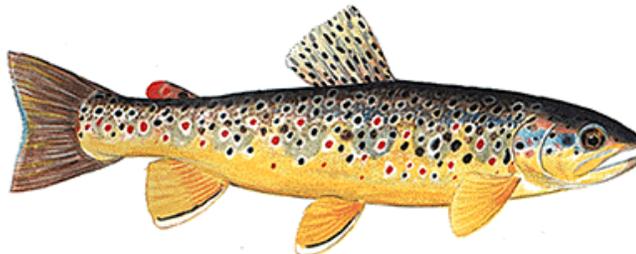
The seventh mistake is that people do not set the hook hard enough and that the direction to set should be down river followed by lifting the rod instead of setting straight up. At this point keep control of the fish while playing out its energy by applying side pressure instead of lifting.

Jims nymphing leader designed by Gary Borger starts with 2' Amnesia 25lb...3' maxima chameleon 12lb 4' fluoro-carbon 12lb...18" fluorocarbon tippet. Nymph tippet 3-5x and never lighter than 7x (fast and dirty water renders 3x unnoticeable). Order of knots in above design: surgeon knot/surgeon knot/perfection knot. This leader will sink faster than a standard tapered leader. Some brands in favor are frog hair and Erie steelhead. A long leader will spend a larger percentage of the drift on the bottom it also means less fly line on the water's surface.



Youth Education Day

11th ANNUAL
HAMMONASSET CHAPTER
TROUT UNLIMITED



YOUTH EDUCATION DAY

SATURDAY May 11, 2013

8:30am - 1:00pm

Rain or Shine

IF YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR A WAY TO TEACH A CHILD ABOUT FLYFISHING AND COLD WATER CONSERVATION THEN YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!

- FLY TYING
- FLY CASTING
- RIVER ECOLOGY & ENTOMOLOGY
- ASSIST WITH A TROUT STOCKING
- FREE PICNIC LUNCH
- FISHING FOR TROUT IN STOCKED POND
- CONNECTICUT FREE FISHING DAY
- FREE RAFFLES & PRIZES
- AND MUCH MORE ...



To register for this FREE event just email RON GRAZIANI at rongraz70@sbcglobal.net to reserve your child's spot. Please be 100% sure that you can attend this event prior to registering.

Space is limited to 36 children that must be at least 8 years of age to participate.

Don't be late and miss out on this great day of learning and fun.

This event will be held at Chatfield Hollow State Park, on Route 80 in Killingworth, CT. The day will start promptly at 8:30. Children should wear old sneakers for wet wading and bring a pair of dry socks and sneakers for afterwards. Parents are required to stay for the entire event with their children and are encouraged to fish with their children as part of "CT Free Fishing Day". Bait, hooks & rods will be supplied to those who need them.



Chapter Updates

TIC

Trout in the classroom is expanding with 9 new schools statewide; 3 of which are in Waterbury. This brings the total to 100 fish tanks. Of note is the inclusion of an ACES (area cooperative educational services) "Playgrounds fenced in" Classroom for troubled kids. Trout eggs totaled 21,000 were distributed on 30th of November. With the Christmas break close to the fish hatching, it has become policy to keep the tanks chilled to 40-42 degrees; slowing their hatching until after the first of the year. The State of Tennessee is asking for help from TIC CT. for how we run our program.

Delaware – Beaverkill River

fishing trip will be May 20th -23rd Monday-Thursday. 2 people to a room, each cost \$60 a night. Contact Bill Glueck for information.

Fishing with Aidan Morgan

Join us for monthly fishing on some of the better rivers across the state; from the Farmington to the Salmon or any river that you enjoy. Held on the Saturdays before our chapter meetings: Mar. 16th Apr. 13th May 11th.

Email Aidan at sadmorgan@yahoo.com

Quinnipiac River update:

With a super fund collected years before of some \$800,000 over pollution issues on the river; 2 dams will be removed, following a feasibility study. Clark Brothers dam in Southington and the Carpenter dam on the Meriden- Cheshire town line. The river will open up 16 more miles of access for anadromous fish species.

TU Regional Meeting will be held in the New York Catskills this summer in July. More details to follow.

HCTU Youth Coordinator Jesse

Gardziel is starting a small youth chapter at his school "The Sound School" a regional vocational aquaculture school located in New Haven. Monthly meeting include fly tying and community service hours.

Farm River Fish Passage

Pages Mill Pond dam began in 1698 and we, through our many partners, are here to re-connect the Farm River for the first time in over 317 years. Ted Gardziel has created a power point presentation to help spread the word regarding the Farm River Fish Passage Project, where the main goal is gaining non-federal funding support for construction. Ted added talking points to various slides throughout the slide deck to aid in our ability to communicate the project details to any audience.

If you don't feel comfortable speaking, but you can set up the appointment with a possible donor and Ted will gladly present the project to any audience.

As a side note, we submitted our 2013 TU/NOAA grant for \$50,000 on 1/27/2013, and the team is moving forward with other grant applications but there is a lot of money to raise before this project becomes a reality. We look forward to any and all ideas you may have on how to gain project support.



Girls Night In and Directions to our Meeting



GIRL'S NIGHT IN!

Baby, it's cold outside! So join us for a casual, cozy night inside on Friday, February 22nd for the presentation "Exploring Small Rivers and Streams" by Lisa Sheppard and Alicea Charamut. Lisa Sheppard is an experienced angler and owner of Ultimate Angling and Tie One On Productions. Alicea Charamut is an experienced angler in training and adventure seeker. The evening will kick off at 6 PM with a wine and cheese social hour followed by the presentation at 7 PM. RSVP to Alicea Charamut at alicea_ski@hotmail.com or 860-666-6687 and to obtain location and direction.

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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 LEFT 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.



Traditional Methods for Broodstock Atlantic Salmon

These Tips are from Ben Bilello's presentation February 21 2013

Traditional Methods for Broodstock Atlantic Salmon

Ben Bilello

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www.benbilello.com/salmonflies

I. Locations and Regulations (from the CT Angler's Guide 2012)

The DEP stocks surplus broodstock Atlantic salmon during the fall, generally from mid-October through early December. Approximately 800 to 1,600 surplus salmon are stocked each year into three designated Broodstock Areas. Beginning in 2007, fish have also sometimes been released into several lakes and ponds (Beach Pond, Crystal Lake, Mashapaug Lake and Mt. Tom Pond). These fish are typically two to five years old and weigh from 2 to 20 pounds. They are the progeny of sea-run Atlantic salmon that have been raised in hatcheries for the purpose of producing eggs for the Connecticut River restoration effort.

Surplus broodstock are fish that are no longer needed in the restoration program. Stocked salmon surviving until March will begin to move downstream to the saltwater during the high spring flows.

Consequently, broodstock are seldom caught after March.

Fishing for broodstock Atlantic salmon is allowed only in the following areas:

- Naugatuck River: From the confluence of the East and West Branches

(Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River.

- Housatonic River: Entire river downstream of the Derby Dam.

- Shetucket River: Downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham)

to the Water Street Bridge (Norwich).

Salmon are stocked into three Designated Broodstock areas:

- **Naugatuck River:**

— From Route 118, Litchfield-Harwinton, downstream to the Thomaston Dam (Upper section).

— From Prospect Street, Naugatuck, downstream to Pines Bridge Road, Beacon Falls (Lower section).

- **Shetucket River:**

From the Scotland Dam, Scotland, downstream to the Occum Dam, Norwich.

Designated Broodstock area Fishing restriction

From October 1 to March 31, angling for all species in the salmon broodstock areas is restricted to fishing methods that are legal for Atlantic salmon (a single fly or a lure with a single free-swinging hook only).

Additional weight may not be added to the line. Anglers are reminded that the season is closed from

March 1st to the 3rd Saturday in April for all species other than broodstock Atlantic salmon except in the upper Naugatuck River Broodstock Area. This area is within the Naugatuck River TMA, which is open year-round for trout (catch-and-release only).

Daily Creel Limits

October 1st-November 30th: Catch and release only December 1st-March 31st: One (1) salmon per day

II. Recommended Tackle

Single Handed Fly Rods: 9'-10' for 6-8 weight lines

Two Handed Fly Rods or Switch Rods: 11'-13', rated as 6-8 weight (for larger water only)

Reel capable of holding fly line and at least 100 yards of 20lb.+ backing

WF or DT floating fly line for early season; Sink tip, full sinking and/or intermediate and sinking polyleaders for cold, high and/or fast water.

Leader: For floating line, 9'-12' tapering to 6lb-15lb test (based on fly size); sink tip, no more than 4' of 12lb-20lb test (based on fly size)

Sample 9'-9.5' tapered leader formula

Butt section: 3' of 30lb. test, 2' of 25lb. test, 1' of 20lb. test

Graduations: 8" of 17lb. test, 8" of 15lb. test, 8" of 12lb. test

Tippet: 12"-18" of 10lb. test

Accessories: nippers, forceps and/or pliers, fly floatant, extra junction tube and hooks for tube flies, tippet material (generally 6lb-15lb test Maxima Chameleon)

III. Flies

- Dry flies can be used in clear, low water 50°F and higher (55°F+ is optimal)

Popular patterns include: Bombers, various Wulffs, Carter's Bug, Whiskers, Irresistibles, etc.

- Under normal conditions, unweighted wet flies (with a floating line) can be used from about 45°F and higher

Popular patterns include: Ally's Shrimp, Butt Series, Butterfly, Sugerman Shrimp, Rusty Rat, Silver Rat,

Undertaker, Blue Charm, Green Machine, Shady Lady, L.T. Special, General Practitioner, Green Highlander, etc., in a variety of sizes

- **Streamer flies** can be used at any time and are a good “change of pace” fly

Popular patterns include: Mickey Finn, Chief Needabah, Black Ghost, Grey Ghost, Magog Smelt, Herb Johnson Special, Thunder Creeks, various Muddlers, etc.

- **Weighted flies** are typically used with full sinking or sink tip lines and/or sinking poly leaders, in water

temperatures below 45°F

Tube flies can be tied on plastic, aluminum or brass tubes, depending on the desired weight. For cold weather, use large flies 2”+ long in bright colors. Popular tube fly patterns include: Sunray Shadow, Willie Gunn (black or gold body), Green Highlander Tube, Snaelda, Red & Black Francis, Temple Dog series of tubes, etc.

- Though not traditional, other weighted flies can be used with good results. Woolly Buggers, Zonkers,

Bunny Leeches, etc., are effective.

IV. Reading Water

(Excerpted from Bates, Joseph D. Atlantic Salmon Flies and Fishing. Harrisburg: Stackpole Books, 1970.)

Salmon lie near a rock

Salmon lie near a combination of rocks

Salmon lie in a pool made by a bar or ledge

Salmon lie where two currents meet

V. Fly Selection and Miscellaneous Tips

- Salmon don't spook as easily as trout, but try to be fairly stealthy.
- In general, use a dark fly on dark days and a bright fly on sunny days.
- A heavily tinsel fly can be very effective on bright, sunny days.
- Consider the color of the fly against its background. Matching the fly color to the background color can be very effective (i.e. warm colored fly against autumn leaves)
- In stained water, shades of yellow, orange, brown and black tend to be most visible. Also, try a fly with a unique “motion” (i.e. Muddlers or Butterfly).
- Water temperature, river level and current speed should all influence fly selection. Fishing a larger fly maybe necessary in any combination of fast, cold or high water.
- When fishing a fly on the swing with a floating line, try to make your line land in as straight as possible so the fly swims from the moment it hits the water.
- When a fly is taken during the first 2/3 of the swing, the salmon usually hooks itself. An additional hook set may be required with a large, heavy wire hook or as the fly approaches the dangle.
- If the salmon leaps, bow your rod to the fish to put a little slack in the line.
- In most cases, a trout net is useless. A large landing net is great, but a burden to carry around, especially when fishing through a pool. A defeated salmon can usually be tailed. If it's a grilse or it's otherwise unable to be tailed, land the salmon in shallow water or beach it on wet gravel.

- Not all salmon are “takers” when you happen to be fishing for them. Don’t stay in one place too long. Try to put your fly in front of as many salmon as possible. Make a cast or two, swing, take a step Down stream and repeat.
- Don’t feel obligated to change flies often. I usually leave the same fly on through an entire pass through the pool, adjusting the swing speed according to fly size and changes in current speed. If there is no interest, change flies and start at the top of the pool again. Keep your fly in the water as much as possible.
- Often times, you will see salmon jump randomly, especially in slack or slow-moving water. Generally speaking, these fish are not good takers. Don’t spend very much time casting to them. The same goes for cruising salmon. If you see a salmon roll near the surface, cast to it! Rolling is a sign of a fish who is more willing to take a fly.
- Fishing in the “rotation” is a way to ensure each angler gets a fair shot at the pool. Start at the top of a pool or run and fish downstream.
- Never enter a pool downstream of an angler fishing wet flies and/or fishing downstream (without permission).
- Unfortunately, days with little to no action are relatively common. Inexhaustible optimism is a requirement for success.

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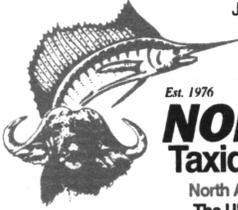
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