



## FROM THE BANK OF THE STREAM

### President's Message

April was a great month that included a big Daddy, see last months presentation by **Ed Ochman** and the annual Awards; our recognition given to those members and non members who made so much of a difference last year. The Man Of The Year this year made a big impact for HCTU success and it is my pleasure to announce...

**“2010 Hammonasset Man Of The Year” goes to Bruce Tubby.**

Bruce has been a leader with our new Trout in The Classroom effort in Durham and he has also taken the lead with our chapters Durham Fair Exhibit. Bruce built some really nice bases for our youth fly tying vises and he also built a raffle drum to mix up the tickets during our monthly meetings. Bruce has participated in nearly all of our chapter events including, cleanups, stocking, festival setups and youth events.



This month we will try something new that I hope you come out to the meeting to try. The first we had heard of Orvis 9 hole field fly casting was from a report of the National TU meeting held last year and we are going to recreate it. A combination of field frisbee and fly casting. We have considered bring your own fly rod or using a rod set up at each hole but finally thought it best to let the players decide. As for any handy cap save that for the PGA. I look forward to seeing each and everyone of you there Thursday May 20th.

HCTU President Kevin Fuller

## HAMMONASSET CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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**Publicity:** Bruce Tubby

**Youth Education:** Paul Gray  
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**Fish Passage  
Project Manager:** Ted Gardziel

**Raffle:** Bill Glueck

**CT Council Members:** Ted Gardziel  
Kevin Fuller  
Ed Albrecht

**Web master:** John Buckley

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 20** Thursday, 6:30 PM

Chapter Meeting Wallingford Rod and Gun Club

**Orvis 9 Hole Fly Casting Contest**

Details to be announced

Visit our Website for More Details and Updates.

[www.hammonassettu.com](http://www.hammonassettu.com)

## Adventures Wanted!

Please contribute a story or photo from your fishing trips. The newsletter would be MORE ENJOYABLE WITH MORE STORIES FROM OUR MEMBERS.

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# MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



## May Meeting

Our May Meeting will include a copy of the **Orvis** 9 hole fly casting contest held at the TU national meeting last year. The game is a combination of fly casting and disc golf (Frisbee golf).

The object of the game is to traverse a course from beginning to end with the fewest number of casts.

This is played on dry ground with groups of casters, each person's score is separate.

Each hole i, e, hula hoop is set horizontally on the ground or vertically alongside a rock or tree. There can be other obstacles on the course as well either in front or behind; all of this is meant to ignite short fuses and laughter from others. Mulligan will make an appearance and help those in need.

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If you missed the March and April meeting you missed something



At the March meeting we featured **Mike Humphries**; who leads the state's program to reintroduce, protect and grow wild trout in rivers throughout the state. He discussed recent success stories and how protecting wild trout should be a priority to all anglers. His presentation covered many facets of wild trout and fingerling stocking in Connecticut streams.

At our April Meeting featured **Ed Ochman** who gave a really good presentation on his favorite fly for the Hammonasset River and many other rivers. Ed passed out color handouts about fishing the Giant Crane Fly. Some of these flies are close to three inches across. Many people call them Daddy long legs, particularly on European websites.

The largest Crane fly species in the world lives right in our area and fish will move many feet out of their normal feeding lane when they see one. Ed mentioned that many time when fish are not rising, he will use this secret weapon and often the fish make wakes from a couple feet away just to eat it. They are perfect for pocket water, eddies and even slow flat pools or near an overhang where you know that big one may be lying.

Ed donated a dozen of these giant flies to the meeting raffle, and they were in such demand that we split the prizes into two half dozen prizes. I was lucky enough to make a trade with winners for one of them. Ed also showed the group how to tie the legs, which require making 3 knots in a pheasant tail fiber.

**I can't wait to tie on this new fly and see what happens**

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## HCTU AWARDS NIGHT

### Cont. from Presidents Message



The first **Lifetime Appreciation Award** went to **John Springer** who has served our chapter for many years, including as President, programs director for almost 10 years, John ran our chapters main fund raiser, the Southern Connecticut Fly Fishing Show for more than 10 years, John also organized annual fishing trips to the Quinebaug Hatchery ponds and to the Connetquot River on Long Island. **John Springer** has run youth fly tying and fishing trips for the American School for the Deaf and the Norwich rod and Gun Club for close to 20 years now as well as volunteering to teach veterans to tie flies and Take A Vet Fishing. John has also contributed more fishing stories and photos than anyone in our chapter. When **John Springer** retires to travel across the country. It will take many volunteers to fill his shoes.

**Christine Albrecht** was also recognized as the first **Most Appreciated non-member Award** for her homemade Lasagna, Chili, Cheeseburger Macaroni and cookies that she prepares each monthly meeting this year. Chris has also supported last year's man of the year **Ed Albrecht** who gave so much of his time toward TU efforts across the state.

I want to express my thanks and appreciation would to the many other members, volunteers and directors who have helped to make our 2010 Hammonasset Chapter events fun for all. And with your support I will do my best to make the 2010 fall programs and 2011 chapter activities even better.

If you have any suggestions or would like to get involved in planning the fall season, please let me know.

Kevin Fuller

President HCTU



(Korn school fish release)



# HCTU ANNOUNCEMENTS



Clinton Town Hall: **Darby Hittle** is looking for members to attend the Clinton waste water treatment project. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month. The effluent may effect the Hammonasset river quality so it is in everyone's interest to get involved.

Fishing trip for this spring: The annual Delaware River trip is scheduled for May 17, 18,19 and 20th. Anyone wishing to attend should contact **Bill Glueck**.

**Trout in The classroom:** April 14 Korn school in Durham held their TIC release of brown trout into the Allyn Brook behind the school.80 students were involved with the release. The trout were started as eggs supplied by CT DEP in November and were raised in a tank in the Library. After hatching the fry were fed every day by the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who also kept a log of their development. The Korn school program was mentored and controlled by Walt Sanford and Bruce Tubby of HCTU. This was Korn's 2<sup>nd</sup> successful year with this program.

**Connecticut Trout Unlimited Council** meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of April, July, Oct and January. For details contact Kevin Fuller.

Trout in the Classroom: The Hamden Middle School is the latest to join the program, giving the chapter ten schools. The water is in the tank and they will receive trout fry next week. Fish releases in other schools are being planned as early as April.

The **Fishing Advisory Council** feels that the doubling of fishing license fees may have resulted in fewer anglers. The bill (HB5545) was passed and lowered the increase to just 25%. Reflecting this the freshwater fishing license is now \$28, and the all water license is \$32. There is no refund for previously purchased licenses.

**Help Wanted:**We are looking for someone to maintain the chapter website. If you can run Dream weaver software it should take 1 hour per week of your time. Contact Kevin Fuller

**A Volunteer is Needed:** to attend the “**Fisheries Advisory Council**” meetings held four times a year held the 2nd Thursday in March, June, September and December. To be held at either the DEP Headquarters in Hartford or Marine Headquarters in Old Lyme. Contact Kevin Fuller for details.



## HCTU ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Pond Lily Dam Removal

Last Month **Tom Cleveland** invited me on a tour of the West River in the New Haven and Woodbridge area to see if our local Trout Unlimited chapter would send a letter of support for a potential dam removal project. I met with Tom and **Frank Deleo** at the base of the dam near the Walgreen's store located on Whalley Avenue. Frank is very knowledgeable about the area and set the project in motion as a possible solution to the towns flooding issues. After looking at the water below the dam and also just below Konold's pond upstream of the dam, Frank directed us to some very nice brook trout water a couple miles upstream. We even spotted a few young brook trout and I plan to do some more scouting with my rod.

The town of Woodbridge, CT is requesting a grant for the planning and design work needed to support the possible removal of the Pond Lily Dam located in New Haven, CT. Pond Lily and its dam are located along the northern border of the City of New Haven and along the southern border of Woodbridge. This dam is 198 feet long and impounds a 3.5 acre pond. The dam, pond and adjacent woodlands are owned by the New Haven Land Trust. A fish ladder is already on the 4 foot high dam, mainly for fish alewife passage from the West River.

The purpose of the grant will be to determine if removing the dam will outweigh the benefits of leaving the dam in place, Removing the dam and creating more natural river habitat may reduce upstream flooding events, and improve water quality.

The New Haven Land Trust is consider changing the ecology of the impounded pond and its wetlands into a more sustainable natural system. The Town of Woodbridge would benefit from the flood mitigation and water quality improvements from a successful dam removal, the Town is willing to lead the planning and design process. The information gathered by the study and planning will help them choose the best design for the site's future.

Removing the dam could also increase alewife populations and future forest cover may allow cooler water temperatures downs stream on the West River that could someday support trout like the waters upstream. So, I sent a letter of support to the Town Selectmen and we will see if the project gets going in the future. I will keep you posted on any further progress or addition opportunities for chapter involvement.

**Kevin Fuller**

# Trout Unlimited National Meeting

## Coming to New England.

**September 15-19, 2010** Trout Unlimited will host its Annual Meeting at the Waterville Valley Conference and Event Center in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire. Waterville Valley is located in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest.

**2010. General Registration Fee** of \$300 includes meals and events Friday and Saturday. (Early Bird Discount, registration before July 1st, for only \$275) Additional events include a **hosted fishing trip** (\$50/each) with local members, an incredible **conservation tour** (\$25/each) and a **9-hole fly casting tournament** (\$10/each). Please register for these events in addition to your general registration. There will be a chance to win a fabulous door prize during the conservation tour. Participants planning to take advantage of entire conference activities and meals must pay full registration fees. Conference attendees will receive meal tickets, which will be required for entrance at each meal. For those who will be attending the BBQ and/or banquet only, please use the BBQ/banquet only registration form. BBQ tickets are \$45 per person / Banquet tickets are \$90 per person.

Don't forget to make your hotel reservations and don't forget to nominate a deserving volunteer(s) for the 2010 National Awards. Nominations are due by August 2, 2010.

In support of our "Farm River Fish Passage" project and conservation programs, James Prosek has signed 50 limited edition prints. There are ONLY about 20 prints remaining.

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 [hmac3737@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hmac3737@sbcglobal.net)



Brown Trout - Salmo trutta



## Abundance    By George Jacobi

It's hard to imagine a happier outdoors person than a Northeast fly fisher in late May and June. Everything about the trout stream world has come to fruition and the natural order of things seems rich and content. That satisfaction is transferred to you as you sit by your favorite pool in the early evening, awaiting the right time to step into the water and get to it.

You picked a good spot to park your butt, where it won't get wet, grassy but not in the weeds – tick habitat. You can see most of the pool from here, including the deer and raccoon tracks on the mud bank and the yellow warblers flitting in the brush. An oriole, shockingly orange, darts out from high in an old sycamore and nails a mayfly. When he's not in sight, you can still hear his bright “kewoo-li-li”.

Dimples on the flat water signal the end for some hatching bugs, but not yet often enough to get you up. The dull mayflies of early spring have been replaced by a profusion of cream and brown species in all sizes. Cahills, Dorotheas, March Browns and Grey Foxes. Mahogany Isonychias. They will all be lively tonight as spinners or duns. Caddis will be out as well, and even the zebra-striped Alder Fly, although they are more active in the morning. As dusk turns to dark, they will all increase in numbers, desperate to live and mate without being eaten by a bird or a fish. It's a mini version of the Wildebeest migration across the crocodile laden Mara River.

For now it's time to watch the trout, pinpoint locations, time the steady risers, and look for the more serious players. These guys rise inconsistently, betraying their secret locations and size. Eye out for big noses, big dorsals, so you don't spook them trying for a nearby dink. A Great Blue Heron works the next pool down, almost frozen in her stalking pose. You're motionless too, sitting stunned by the rightness of everything, by being in the right place at the right time. Whatever stresses go on in your daily life are gone. Somehow you know that the abundant perfection of this kind of evening is as ephemeral as a mayfly's life, and so you've left everything behind. Given your brain a vacation. “Be Here Now”, said Ram Dass in 1971. “To everything there is a season”, said Ecclesiastes. Well, this is the season.

Nature itself exults in late spring. The stresses of winter are gone, forgotten. Mating is over, even for the bass. Worries about the low water, heat, and less food that will come in August don't exist for a fish. Life is at its best, right now. If April was “the cruelest month”, and that's debatable, May and June are the kindest months. All the snow long melted, the green has spread like a slow flood. Starting with the skunk cabbage, marsh marigolds, and trout lilies in the stream bed, it has risen gradually up the bushes to the treetops. There the fuzzy pastels of buds have burst into rich emerald. Mountain laurels show off along every freestone brook.

The smell of mowed grass mixes with the smell of the river. Small clumps of Iris bloom yellow by the banks. Up north, it'll be the purple of the lupines for an accent. In the river, a covered bridge reflects its faded red like a cliché postcard, and the brilliant blue sky looks up at you from the water ,too, bedecked with flickering jewelry.

As characters in a play, you will soon interact with the speckled fish by being both their predator and their prey. You will hold glistening thrashing life underwater in your palm. The trout's breath will slow and get stronger and it will ease itself out of your hand and swim away. Both of you have participated in the game of life, as it goes on all around in the air, the land and water.

Like the trout, you've been in no hurry. Time will not be rushed. You can't speed up the evening rise anymore than you could speed up the spring itself. Anymore than you could slow down the passage of time, the fact that your hair is gray and your foot hurts, and Mom needs care now all the time. That stuff is all gone, thankfully. There's just now.

Now there are more bugs in the air, more trout sipping across the surface, which mirrors the beginning of a pink and orange sunset. You think maybe it's time to get up and catch one – right now

**8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**  
***HAMMONASSET CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED***



**YOUTH EDUCATION DAY**

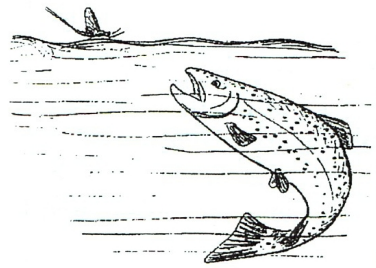
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 2, 2010**

**8:30am – 2:00pm**

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To register for this FREE event just email Paul Gray at **pstcgray@comcast.net** to reserve your child's spot by September 18, 2010.

Space is limited and children 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. This day will start promptly at 8:30, rain or shine. Children should wear old sneakers for wet wading so bring a pair of dry socks and sneakers for afterwards. Parents are required to stay for the entire event with their children. Also, please bring their personal fishing rods and tackle. Bait, hooks and bobbers will be supplied to those who need them.

**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 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.

## **Monthly Meetings**

Third Thursday of Each Month  
September Through May

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