

January 2011



THE HAMMONASSET CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

THE RISE

FROM THE BANK OF THE STREAM

President's Message



A Farm River wild brown trout that survived the summer drought. Caught and released by Ed Ochman on Dec. 30th.

Even though 2010 was a successful year for our youth education activities, it was not a very good year for trout in our state. Trout had a hard time enduring one of the warmest and driest summers in many years. Most of our streams suffered from lack of rain and flow that trout need to survive. On top of that, the stream flow regulations that TU and other river advocates hoped for did not make it through the regulations committee (see page 4). Hopefully, something meaningful can get approved in 2011. Despite such grave conditions, some trout did make it through the summer heat and there are still some wild trout to be caught, and the DEP has re-stocked trout in other rivers. If you don't mind the winter conditions, there are many opportunities to catch fish in the Trout Management Areas. Real diehards can still fish for steelhead in New York State or catch pickerel, bass and pike through the ice.

Our first meeting of the new year will be on Thursday, January 20 featuring **Jim Plante's** program on **Nymphing Techniques & Tips**. We will also have food and drinks, while it lasts, for those who don't have time for dinner before the meeting. We will open the doors at the Wallingford Rod and Gun Club at 5:30 for fly tying and the meeting begins at 7:00 sharp. All of our programs are always free and open to the public. It's a great time to trade some stories, swap some flies, and share some fishing reports.

Lets all hope that 2011 will be better for trout in Connecticut. We at HCTU will do our best to put together some fun events, group activities, and trips.

Kevin Fuller
President, HCTU

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 20, Thursday, 6:00 PM
Chapter Meeting Wallingford Rod and Gun Club
Jim Plante, Nymphing Techniques To Catch More Trout

January 26, Thursday, 6:00 PM
State Council Meeting CT Forest & Parks Bldg
16 Meriden Road, RockFall, CT (Route 66 Middlefield)

February 17, Thursday, 6:00 PM
Chapter Meeting Wallingford Rod and Gun Club
Walt Fell, Labrador Trip and Big Brook Trout

February 18-20, Friday -Sunday
Hartford Fishing and Hunting Expo
TIC Exhibit at the CT Convention Center

March 17, Thursday, 6:00 PM
Chapter Meeting Wallingford Rod and Gun Club
Fly-Fishing the Upper Connecticut River Trophy Stretch

April 9, Saturday, 5:30 PM
Awards Dinner Details to be determined later.

April 21, Thursday, 6:00 PM
Chapter Meeting Wallingford Rod and Gun Club
Two Trips to Alaska - To Be Confirmed

May 19, Thursday, 6:00 PM
Chapter Meeting Chatfield Hollow State Park
Special Kids Meeting, Fun Activities, Bring a Kid.
Casting instruction and more.

We are bringing back the fly swap so bring one of your own to trade with someone else at the meeting.

Durham Fair
We had greater attendance at the 2010 event which also ran one day longer than previous years, in no small part to the fly tying that many children had the chance to try for themselves and keep. We hope to have more tiers help to man the booth in 2011. It is a great chance to share your talent, so keep the fair in mind and join us next September.

Additional ideas always wanted!

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Meeting Highlights



January Meeting

Our first presenter of the year will be **Jim Plante**. Jim guides on the Housatonic and Farmington Rivers and teaches classes for the Housatonic River Outfitters.

The program will be on "**Nymphing Techniques and Tips to Catch More Trout**". Jim's techniques are very effective for catching trout feeding below the surface almost any time of the year.



Jim Plante fishing for winter Strippers in Norwich Harbor.

February Meeting

Our program for February will be Walter Fell's slide show on his recent trip to Labrador for huge brook trout. Walt is a member of both HCTU and the Wallingford Rod and Gun Club but does not get to many meetings because he is so busy making fishing trips to great places.

Fly Swap

We are bringing back the fly swap. If you have something that you have had success with and want to try a fly from another member, bring it in and swap.

Fly tying before the Meeting

Starting at 5:30 the doors are open to bring in your tying equipment. The meeting begins at 7:00 sharp, followed by our sporting goods raffle and our monthly program.



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Conservation and Protection



Fishing Show Help Wanted

The CT TU council will have a booth at the Hartford Fishing and Hunting Expo on February 18 - 20 at the Connecticut Convention Center. Some of the HCTU TIC mentors volunteered to coordinate the set up and breakdown of the Trout in the Classroom exhibit including the trout tank and display materials similar to what we just used at the Durham Fair.

The CT TU Council still needs volunteers to run the TIC booth for several shifts on Saturday and Sunday morning. If you could help at the fishing show or assist with the set-up, or breakdown, please see Kevin Fuller at the meeting or email him at kevinfuller27@comcast.net.



Walt Sanford and Jim Woodworth at the Trout In The Classroom exhibit at the Durham Fair last fall.

Stream Flow Protection Regulations Are In Trouble.

The DEP spent five years working on stream flow regulations to ensure enough water for both our communities and our environment. However, big water users continue to delay the regulations when they are only being asked to leave enough water to keep the rivers healthy and allow people to enjoy the waters downstream. Industries such as car washes, golf courses, water companies, and agriculture are opposing the proposed stream flow regulations. The public hearing that was held in December was very hostile towards the stream protection regulations.

The DEP will submit the proposal again after they negotiate and compromise with industry representatives. The proposed regulations have already been watered down significantly. Proposed rules that regulate "groundwater" withdrawals have already been eliminated even though we all know stream water is all connected to groundwater. Agriculture, water companies, and golf courses will be exempted from regulations. Companies will also be given 20 years to comply instead of 10.

The water companies are also requesting that proposed regulations be changed so that all rivers or streams downstream from a potential water supply be classified as class "3" or "4", which receive the least protection to maintain healthy levels for aquatic life.

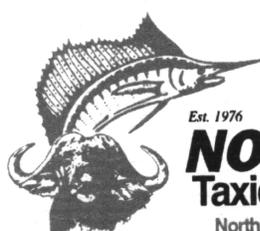
If the regulations get much weaker, they may not even accomplish what needs to be done to protect the health of our streams.

Please send a letter to your state representatives and the Regulation Review Committee members to pass the DEP Stream Flow Regulations and let them know how important the health of our rivers is to you.

For more information on the regulations, sample letters or contact info, see the CT Trout website.

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

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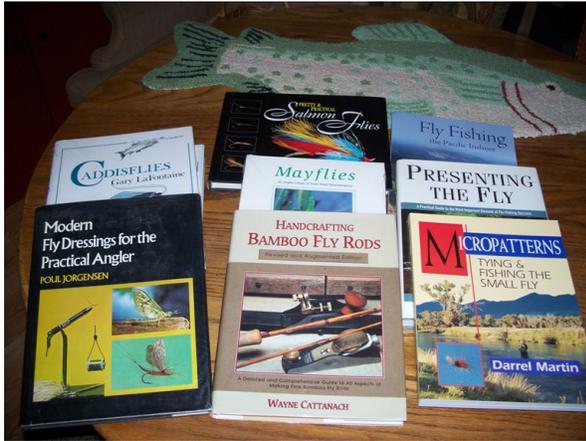
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Chapter Announcements



Jeff Serena's Book Donations



Jeff Serena has donated dozens of books and magazines to Hammonasset TU with an estimated value of \$2000. Jeff worked at Lyons press (publisher of fly fishing related books). Several of the items are full runs of magazines from the time of inception. There are also some waterfowl books that the folks at Wallingford Rod and Gun Club may be interested in. This collection was donated to fund many upcoming events or conservation projects for HCTU. The books will be included in our monthly raffles and are also available for purchase. A list of the books and magazines will be available at the meeting or you can contact Hugh McCutchen at hughmccut37@mac.com

Mr. Serena has moved to Ashville, North Carolina and is going to the "Land O'Sky" chapter of TU. Thank you, Jeff. Good luck to you in your new home.

Bill Lanzoni
will hook you up!



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Bus Trip Cancelled

John Springer made arrangements to rent a bus to drive us from North Haven to the Somerset New Jersey Fly Fishing Show on Saturday January 22nd for anyone that wanted to go. Unfortunately, not enough people were interested, and the trip has been cancelled. Maybe you can still make your own arrangements for a ride at the meeting on Thursday.

Tying with the Vets

Ed Ochman is looking for help with fly tying and casting instruction, for his Fishing with the Vets Program. The date is Saturday, January 22 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the First Congregational Church Pilgrim Hall, 1009 Main St., Branford. Please contact Edward Ochman at fatalbertandernie@yahoo.com or see Hugh McCutchen at the meeting.



John Springer enjoys a few laughs tying with the vets.

Trout in the Classroom

The TIC fish eggs are now hatching. Statewide the program includes 17,000 eggs and 83 aquariums spread across 63 schools. **Bruce Tubby and Walt Sanford** were named **Men of the Year** at the Korn Elementary school for their efforts with T.I.C. **Congratulations, guys!**

Ed Albrecht has been asked to make a special presentation about the Trout In The Classroom program at the Durham Fair next fall at the Discovery Center podium across the tent from the T.I.C. exhibit.



Chapter Announcements



Thanks - Waterbury Aquarium

The Hammonasset HCTU TIC program and Ed Albrecht, Hugh McCutchen, and Bill Glueck would like to recognize and thank Chris Derouin of Waterbury Aquarium. Many TIC schools have benefited from his generosity and his knowledge of raising thousands of fish right in his store. The store is located at 580 Lakewood Road and offers a unique buying experience for all levels as an aquarist. Chris will even buy your used aquarium equipment if you are looking to get rid of it. It has been our experience that he has offered special pricing for the TIC program as well as the opportunity to pick up equipment that may not be brand new but still very usable and functioning in the TIC program.

Chris is an expert on fresh and salt-water fish and eco systems as well as a coral expert. In case you have any questions about fish and raising fish, I know of no one or any other fish store better versed on the subject. No matter where you are in the state, it is worth the ride over to Waterbury to get your aquarium and fish supplies. Make sure to visit his "dog pound". It is a tank dedicated to orphan fish that owners can no longer keep. Chris takes them in and new fish owners adopt them.



Waterbury Aquarium owner - Chris Derouin has supported our TIC classes across CT.

We thank Chris for his generosity and his knowledge and for supporting Connecticut's TIC programs. Please support his local business especially in this economy so we can enjoy a lasting partnership for years to come.



Waterbury Aquarium - 580 Lakewood Rd. Waterbury
Live Bait/crawlers and worms too! 203-757-3832

Fishing License Rebates

If you purchased a fishing or hunting license or permit between the dates of 10/01/2009 and 04/14/2010, you may be due a credit.

You can only get the credit at either the DEP Headquarters in Hartford or Old Lyme. DEP **does not** have the ability to issue a refund for a license purchased online or at an agent location. See the DEP website to check your CT Sportsmen's profile and to determine if you are due a credit before purchasing your 2011 license.

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Tips From Jack Smola



Jack Smola spoke at length at our November meeting. Jack is a fly fishing guide, fishing 250 days a year; he spoke about his methods when fishing, including for trout in the Farmington River. He considers this tail water one of the best fishing rivers in New England.

For those people new to fly fishing when fishing a pool, the client is started in moving water at the head of the pool; here the turbulent water flow will cover most noises. When a river is high, Jack brings them to the widest pool because the river is slowest here. When a river is low, he goes to the fastest flow, also under tree branches or bridges, into shady areas and relative safety. Interestingly trout usually separate themselves within a pool, rainbows to the entering faster flow, browns to the belly and brook trout into the tail out. After arriving, the client needs to be on the river and fishing quickly, before someone else moves into their spot.

Once set up and fishing, look for other people catching; if one person is catching keep changing flies every 3-5 casts until you figure out what is working; if no one is catching move to another pool. OK you see fish eating; when fishing through any hatching insect swarm, the largest are first so it is important to switch to a smaller fly as soon as the bites slow down. To eliminate the guess work, look in back eddies for floating insects. This will tell you what it is, size and color as well. Some of his flies are white, and with a touch up of colored markers: orange, brown and green to match body color. A dab of "easy body" can create an egg sack and snips can trim away the tail or part of the hackle to change a mayfly into an emerger, spent adult; even a caddis.

On to the set up now, when fishing the Farmington's hatches he starts with 7x tippet then goes smaller to 8x or 9x. This fine tippet means that he that he always fishes with a net.

Flies on hand include: Griffith's gnat 18-28, and ants with wings. The leader for dry flies is 12 to 18 feet in length. He finds that if the line is mended early and often he can obtain a good drift of 30 feet.

With no slack line between the fly at the end of the line and the reel, the fly reel drag is correct when setting the hook on a fish and the reel won't backlash; anything tighter is too much. His reels have 50 yards of backing because he has been into fish big enough to warrant it.

Other things to bring along include handy wipes to remove smells from your hands and put your name and phone number on all of your fly boxes. Winter fishing on the Farmington is between 11am and 1 pm for caddis; to cope with the cold heat packs set on the outside of the ankle will keep his feet warmer. Jack also spoke of streamer fishing using size 8 or 10 hooks and a 12 feet leader with one dropper, 4 feet up from the point fly, 4-6 inches of 1-2x tippet; and his favorite fly line, the 130 grain Jim Teeny. He fishes down and across and keeps them in or close to any current seems. As the fly passes through the seam don't strip in the line; after the fly has passed through the seam a big strip is pulled in. After 3-5 casts if nothing has gotten an interest from the fish change color to white/ black then grey/ yellow. If one catches switch the other until both catch. His favorite is the olive woolly bugger. I will be looking for *Art Flick's "Streamside Guide"* which Jack said was the best beginner book. Last but not least he said: "If you own it, put it in the car."

Framed Prosek Prints

HCTU will include **Free Framing** and matting if you purchase one of the last 16x20 prints for \$200 before the March Meeting. Please support our chapter's conservation and education projects. Contact Hugh McCutchen at 349-3122 or hughmccut37@mac.com



**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

Jim Plante

Nymphing Techniques

And Tips To

Catch More Trout