

February 2011



THE HAMMONASSET CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

THE RISE

From the Bank of the Stream

President's Message



A bench at Hammonasset State Park, waiting for winter to leave.

With all this snow on the ground and ice on the streams, now is the perfect time to go to the fishing shows, expos and banquets to get the flies and gear and you need for the upcoming season. It may still seem like the middle of winter, but in just a few weeks the Trout Management Areas (TMA's) will be stocked with trout. The weather won't holdup the stocking very long because the DEP only has a short window in the spring to stock all the rivers. The DEP cannot delay this task because they need to get the fish in the water before Opening Day and to make room in the hatchery to produce next year's fish. The TMA's are open for fishing year round, but most are restricted to catch and release until opening day in April.

Each spring our chapter assists with the stocking of the Hammonasset River and the Scott C. Carey Trout Trail at Bittner Park on the West River in Guilford. It is a good opportunity for members to learn the best access points on the river. If you are available to help on a weekday in March or April, please contact Hugh McCutchen, we could always use some help carrying buckets of trout to the river.

Our chapter is running a Trout in the Classroom (TIC) exhibit at the Northeast Hunting and Fishing Expo on February 18, 19 and 20 at the Connecticut Convention Center. Volunteers are needed to staff our booth on Friday & Saturday. It's a good opportunity to help our chapter promote TIC and Trout Unlimited and see the fishing show at the same time.

Our February program this Thursday will be Walt Fell's slideshow on his trip to Labrador for enormous brook trout. Our meeting will also include announcements of upcoming activities and our monthly raffle with hand tied flies. Food and drinks will be available while it lasts for those who don't have time for dinner before the meeting. Please consider attending our meetings and getting more involved in our chapter activities. I hope to see some of you at the meeting this Thursday.

Kevin Fuller
President Hammonasset Chapter

THE HAMMONASSET CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President:	Kevin Fuller 860-632-2171 kevinfuller27@comcast.net
Vice President:	Jim Woodworth jawoodworth@snet.net
Treasurer	Hugh McCutchen hughmccut37@mac.com
Newsletter:	Richard Carter 203-457-0685 arthurcarter2006@comcast.net
Membership:	Ed Albrecht
Trout in the Classroom:	Bill Glueck Ed Albrecht Hugh McCutchen Bruce Tubby
Publicity:	Bruce Tubby
Youth Education:	Paul Gray (860)349-2109 Ron Graziani
Fish Passage Project Manager:	Ted Gardziel
Raffle:	Bill Glueck
CT Council Members:	Ted L. Gardziel Kevin Fuller Ed Albrecht
Webmaster:	John Buckley buckleyassoc@comcast.net

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1: President's Message
Page 2: Officers & Events
Page 3: Meeting Highlights

Page 4: Meeting Highlights
Page 5: HCTU Special events
Page 6: Directions to the
meeting & HAM of the month

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 17, Thursday 6:30 P.M. (5:30 fly tying)
Chapter Meeting Wallingford Rod and Gun Club
Labrador: Walt Fell

We are bringing back the "**fly swap**" so bring one to trade with someone else at the meeting.

March 17, Thursday 6:30 P.M. (5:30 fly tying)
Chapter Meeting Wallingford Rod and Gun Club
The Upper Connecticut River: Kevin Fuller - John Springer

April 21, Thursday 6:30 P.M. (5:30 fly tying)
Chapter Meeting Wallingford Rod and Gun Club
Two Trips to Alaska: Ted Gardziel and Ed Albrecht

May 19, Thursday 6:00 P.M.
Chapter Meeting Killingworth Route 80 Chatfield Hollow Park. A special kids meeting followed by everyone fishing.

March date TBD. Fish stocking

April date TBD. Spey Casting Class

April 8 Friday 6:00pm Brothers Restaurant
Chapter Awards Dinner
Volunteers will be recognized and rewarded, there will be a door prize and a Man of the Year will be announced. Send in your nominations to Hugh.

Durham Fair 2011 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 both in 2011. It is a great chance to share your talent, so keep the fair in mind and join us next year.

Additional ideas always wanted

MILL RIVER FLY RODS

Quality Fly Fishing Equipment
at Great Prices!

PO Box 6013
Wallingford, CT 06492

(203) 815-2414

WWW.MILLRIVERFLYRODS.NET





Meeting Highlights:

If you missed last month you missed something



January Meeting Highlights

Last month's guest speaker featured guide 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.

When asked: Split shot placement, he said 1 ½x 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.

How to maximize fish catching potential and maximize fly drift in the zone: To cover all of the water, start fishing close to shore before entering the water. By dissecting the water into grids a methodical cast into all areas reduces chances missed. A longer rod will make it possible to fish a longer drift. For Nymphing straight up stream, mending is pulling in line fast enough to keep pace with the current, casts of up to 10' are controllable. The indicator (bobber) should be ticking as the fly touches bottom along the drift. The ticking of the indicator means that the flies are directly below and in a drag free natural drift

Flies will be lost to bottom snags but that is where the fish are. To correct any mistakes first wait for the drift to complete or a quick down river cast and wait for the rod/line to load before a recast. 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.

Another part of staying in control and focused on the drift is: keeping rod and line in one hand at the start of the drift. The line is tucked under the index finger and pulled through with figure eight retrieve of the free hand. 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.

Jim feels 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.



His leader designed by Gary Borger starts with 2' Amnesia 25lb...3' maxima chameleon 12lb 4' fluorocarbon 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.



Meeting Highlights



January Meeting Cont.

Flies are arranged with weighted polish woven caddis larvae on the point and a smaller fly up the tippet on a dropper. The caddis is locally the most prolific insect, hooks range from size 10-18, style 2487 curved hooks. Indicators should be light and aero dynamic but of most importance is the sensitivity. Jim likes the "thingamabobber" and synthetic yarn (widow's web). The problem with fish pimp is the hard foam is not as sensitive and it sinks.

The rods Jim uses now are 11' 4-5 weights for the better (longer) line control and easier line mending. Rods should have fast action with a sensitive tip or a medium/fast action. Grey's stream flex, Hardy and Echo shadow all are good rods and the Echo rod is around \$300. If you want to fish with Jim call the Housatonic Meadows Fly shop and book a date.



Framed Prosek Prints

HCTU will include **Free Framing** and on the next four 16x20 prints, sold 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



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 too many meetings because he is so busy making fishing trips to great places.

Walt Fell's slideshow will concentrate on fishing the Woods River area of Labrador for Brook Trout at Three Rivers Lodge. The presentation will also include a brief video on McKenzie River Lodge which is west of Three Rivers.

Walt started fishing when he was a teenager in high school back long ago when fly lines were designated with letters, remember an HDH line? Walt got away from it while living in Pittsburgh PA where nothing but polluted rivers could be found. He started fishing again around 1998 and he has been able to travel to many great fishing destinations in various countries since then.

CAPTAIN MORGAN'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Connecticut Shoreline's Full Service Fishing Outfitter
203-245-8665

We've Expanded, Come See Our Larger Selections
Marine Center, Route 1 Madison Guilford Line

TOWNE LINE BARBER SHOPPE

415 Boston Post Road
Guilford, CT 06437

Call Tracy at 203-453-0610

No Appointment Necessary

**Specializing in Men's
and Children's Hair Cutting**



HCTU Special Events



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. We still need volunteers to run the TIC booth for several shifts on Friday 6pm until 8pm and Saturday from 2pm until 8pm. If you could help at the fishing show please see Kevin Fuller at the meeting or email him at kevinfuller27@comcast.net.



The display will highlight *Trout In the Classroom* as this photo taken from the Durham fair.

Fly tying before the Meeting

The doors are open at 6:00PM to bring in your tying equipment. The meeting begins at 7:00 sharp, followed by our sporting goods raffle and our monthly program.

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



CONNECTICUT'S FLY FISHING LEADER

FEATURING: ALBRIGHT, SAGE, MARCH BROWN, FISH POND, T & T, ST. CROIX, SA MASTERY DEALER, TIBOR, REGAL, RENZETTI, SIMMS, ROSS, HODGMAN, BAUER, AIR FLO, VAN STAAL, WULFF, WATERWORKS, PATAGONIA, EX OFFICIO, COLUMBIA & MORE!

OPEN DAILY:
M-F 10-8 SAT 9-6
SUN 12-5

Fly Rod Rentals • Tying Materials • Tying Classes • Fly Fishing Schools • Local Information • FFF Certified Instruction

75 Main St. • Old Saybrook, CT • (860) 388-6585

www.northcove.com



Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited Banquet

Friday, March 26, 2010

The USS Chowder Pot IV Restaurant
165 Brainard Rd. Hartford, CT

6 pm Reception (cash bar) 7 pm Buffet Dinner

Fantastic Live Auction Great Bucket Raffles

Sporting equipment, Guided fishing trips, Artwork, Items for your home and much more!

Tickets \$40 per person

No tickets will be sold at the door

YOU MUST RESERVE YOUR SEATS NO LATER THAN MARCH 20th

or contact Al Chase at 860-289-2553

Thank you for your support!

New England Stream & Field

NEW ENGLANDS COMPLETE
OUTFITTERS

Formerly Cubeta's Field & Stream



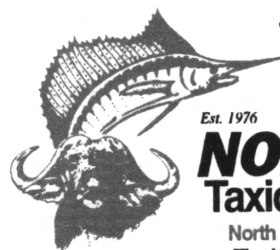
"Fly Fishing Spoken Here"
A Full Line Orvis Dealer

157 Meriden Road, Route 66, Middlefield, CT
Hours: M-F 9-8, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4

(860) 347-4353

ORVIS

(800) 282-3827



JOE & LOWREY PITRUZZELLO

Est. 1976

"You Can See The Difference"

**NORTHEAST
Taxidermy Studios**

North American • African • Exotic
The Ultimate in Wildlife Artistry

PHONE (860) 613-2067

FAX (860) 613-2073

770 Newfield St., Suite 3c
Middletown, CT 06457 USA

Hammonasset Angler of the Month - This month's (HAM) is



John Springer with another broodstock Atlantic Salmon on the Shetucket River

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