

THE BACKCAST

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Trout Unlimited, SE Mass Chapter 241

March 2018

Next Meeting: : : March 13th at the Mitchell Club (29 Elm St.) Middleborough MA, Doors open at 6:00PM for fly tying, General Meeting begins at 7:30 PM and, as always, admission is free.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jim Augenti

Hello Everyone,

It's Banquet time! Support your Chapter by attending and inviting some guests. Please don't leave it to "someone else" to bring in some new faces. We depend heavily on this one fun event to fund most of what we do; watershed protection and restoration, education, meetings – you get the idea! Contact Roger Moore at (781) 878-8620 for reservations and tickets. If you are able to donate, please bring any items to the March 13th meeting, or contact a director and we will make arrangements to pick it up. The earlier we know what we have the earlier we can advertise and organize the banquet. Donations for the whole family are very much appreciated; gift cards and themed gift baskets are always popular.

We have some great items already; a vintage Al Brewster duck decoy, original artwork by Cathy Carr, a Val Lamphere striped bass print, a float trip with guide Nate Hill on the Androscoggin, and a light tackle/ fly-fishing boat trip with Rick Robinson on Buzzards Bay. There are TFO and Orvis gear, rods reels, sling packs, net, etc; with more on the way!

We have a busy month with Fly tying classes starting the 7th and subsequent Wednesday nights. Please come by the East Bridgewater Center at Sachem Rock for a refresher or to help a novice. Our meeting on the 13th, we will again have pizzas prior to our local state entomologist Blake Dinius giving us a presentation on ticks; problems and prevention. Bring a friend!

Thanks for all that you do,
Jim Augenti



VETERAN'S FLY TYING

BROCKTON V.A. HOSPITAL

Members of our chapter and Project Healing Waters meet with the veterans the third Wed. of every month for fly tying at 5:30p.m. Building #4, Brockton V.A. Hospital. All are welcome. The address for the Brockton V.A. Hospital is 940 Belmont St. Brockton. That is route 123 just off route 24.

March 13th

MARCH MEETING

Tick Talk by Blake Dinius a State Entomologist

Synopsis:

With a reported Lyme disease incidence rate 14x the national average and climbing, Plymouth County is at the heart of the tick-borne disease epidemic. As anglers, we are at increased risk for encountering tick populations due to our time spent outside. Therefore, it is critical that we employ the correct methods to protect our bodies. In his talk, Blake will relay the facts on ticks, the diseases that they carry, and proven methods of protection. These methods will effectively reduce the risk of contracting ticks and tick-borne diseases to minimal levels. After all, we live in one of the most beautiful parts of the country. Why shouldn't we be able to safely enjoy the outdoors?

Bio:

Blake Dinius works as the entomologist educator for the Plymouth county extension program. He comes into this position with nearly 7 years of experience working with insects. Blake's current focus is on educating people on how to fight against ticks and tick-borne diseases. As a fisher, Blake understands the impact that ticks can have on our capacity to enjoy the outdoors. His goal is to get people outside safely enjoying the activities that they love.

Please bring any donations for the Banquet to the March Meeting

Note: There will be pizza for all at the March meeting

Upcoming Events

March March 24th -- Annual Banquet

Southeastern Mass. Chapter Trout Unlimited Banquet Mar. 24 Monponsett Inn, Halifax

Mass. Striped Bass Expo Mar. 24, 25 University Sports Complex, Hanover

ANNUAL BANQUET

*OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENT IS OUR ANNUAL BANQUET.
SAVE THE DATE NOW FOR OUR 2018 BANQUET ON MARCH 24TH.*

IF YOU PLAN ON GOING TO THE BANQUET, PLEASE CONTACT
ROGER MOORE IN ORDER TO RESERVE SEATS
AND/OR TABLES. HE CAN BE REACHED @ 781-878-8620 OR
CAPTROGERMOORE@VERIZON.NET

Fly Box

by John Kokoszka

BUCKEYE SHINER FLY PATTERN:

Hook – Mustad (Model 3665A/Size 6)

Thread – White UNI-Thread (6/0)

Body – UNI-French Embossed Silver Metal Tinsel (Size #12)

Rib (recommended) – Silver Oval Metal Tinsel

Wing 1 – Slate Gray Bucktail (Bottom layer)

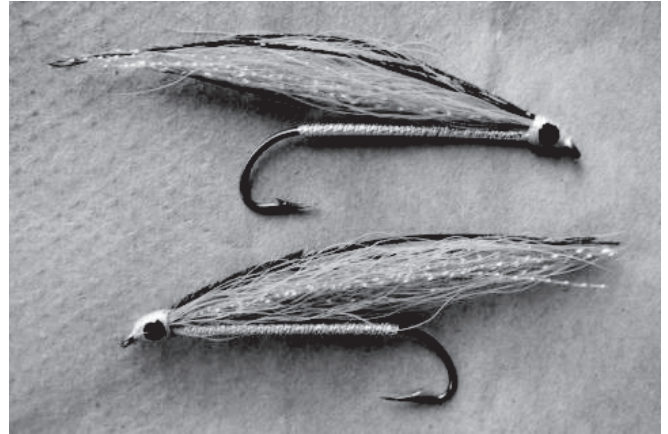
Wing 2 – Two Strands of Bright Yellow Krystal Flash (folded over the tying thread to form four strands)

Wing 3 – Five Strands of UV Tan Krystal Flash (folded over the tying thread)

Wing 4 – Lavender Bucktail

Wing 5 – Four strands of Peacock Herl (Top layer)

Head – White tying thread painted with silver Testors model paint.



Pupils are formed with black acrylic craft paint. I painted the head with two coats of Sally Hansen's Hard-As-Nails high gloss nail polish after the eyes had dried. The eyes kind of follow you around because the bulge out from the sides a bit. The thread head should be fairly big to make the eyes more prominent. The silver paint is Testors (the stuff that comes in the small square glass bottles and is used for painting plastic models) and the black eyes are painted with an acrylic craft paint (Apple Barrel Gloss 20662/Black). I think you can get them both at Walmart or at JoAnne Fabrics.

To shape the flies, I recommend running them under water to wet them after all of the tying steps are done, then let them air dry. That is why the shape of the bucktail wing is tapered. The wetting and drying process helps train the hair to keep a more tapered profile.

Tying Instructions: Materials are listed in the order they are attached to the hook.

Note – I recommend applying a coat of superglue to the body of the fly before wrapping the tinsel forward to make the body more durable. Another option is to shorten up the tinsel body somewhat (roughly 1/4 shorter) to keep the fishes teeth from cutting the tinsel body. A third option is to add an oval tinsel rib to reinforce the body to make the fly a tough.

Sign up to help South East Massachusetts Chapter of Trout Unlimited acquire a Bamboo Fly Rod for Chapter Fundraising

And you'll get a coupon to save 30% on any Headwaters Bamboo Product!

If you click on the link below and enter your name & email address - This will sign you up.

If we get 250 people to sign up the Headwaters Bamboo Rod Company

Will donate a Deluxe Series Bamboo Rod to our chapter.

<https://headwatersbamboo.com/tu-se-ma/>

A TROUT STREAM FOR CHRISTMAS *Part 2*

It turned out that I knew of the stream that Nik wanted me to see. MassWildlife's Southeast District regional fisheries biologist, Steve Hurley, had found numerous brook trout when he had sampled the lower part of Nik's unnamed creek a few years prior. Steve hadn't been to the stream's upper reach however, so I was curious to see what Nik was excited about.

We parked on the shoulder of a narrow road where the now tiny headwater stream flowed from dense woods to pass through a culvert. It had been a hot, dry summer, but the little creek was cold to the touch. And we'd only walked a few yards when we saw fish streaking upstream ahead of us. I knew instantly that they were brook trout.

There aren't many freshwater fish that can match the speed of a brook trout bent on finding cover, and I doubt that there are any fish as wary as a wild brook trout in skinny water, and this was skinny water. And that was the other thing that gave them away. Brook trout are the only fish that can occupy such a desolate looking little rill in numbers, their only requirement being that the water - whatever there is of it - be cold.

While we never got close enough to clearly see the numerous blue streaks wading through the stream ahead of us, I told Nik that I was confident that they were brook trout. A year later I'd accompany a MassWildlife survey crew as they confirmed my identification. Just as it had been when Nik led me to it, the little spring seep was full of brook trout that ranged from young of the year to fully mature fish.

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Not long after we had explored the unnamed brook trout stream, Nik paid a visit to Red Brook where we discussed the changes that were taking place at that salter brook trout stream. The removal of four dams obstructing Red Brook had been completed the year prior to Nik's visit, and I was able to show him pictures of the dams and their impoundments to give him an idea of the changes that were taking place at Red Brook as a result of the removal of the dams. Nik would use Red Brook in his report to illustrate what changes one might expect to see in Third Herring Brook if its dams were to be removed.

Meanwhile, my curiosity about the history of Third Herring Brook had been piqued. Reading Samuel Deane's "History of Scituate", published in 1829, I learned that colonists had described smelt as running the length of the stream to its headwater where a large spring bubbled up in Valley Swamp. During August of the summer following my meeting with Nik, with the smelt in mind, I put my canoe in at Jacobs Pond and paddled across the pond and as far as I could into Valley Swamp by following the old stream channel that was now a weed choked, slack water creek backed up by the millpond that it flows into.

My intention had been to see if there were any of Third Herring's indigenous brook trout clinging to existence in the wilds of Valley Swamp. But after pushing the canoe up the flooded channel as far as I could, I gave up on finding brook trout. At that point I put my thermometer in the water and was surprised to see that it read a cold 58 degrees on a sultry 85-degree August day. After paddling back to Jacobs Pond, I dropped the thermometer in at the north end of the pond. The water was 80-degrees. These findings further confirmed what the temperature data in Nik's study illustrated – until the dams, and later the well fields had been placed along Third Herring Brook, it had been a coldwater stream. Brook trout had retreated to the stream's tributaries as dams had fragmented their habitat and heated the water beyond their tolerance during summer.

And unfortunately, the uppermost millpond on the system inundates the cold springs that give birth to Third Herring Brook.

To Be Continued

Environmental News

Westport River Stream Team Update and Work Party Schedule

Work party are scheduled for:

April 7

May 5

June 2

All of these dates are Saturdays.

Call John Kokoszka to confirm.

We meet at the Brookside Conservation Area on Rt. 177 in Westport at 9 AM. Everyone is welcome. For the up to date information of Westport visit the Chapter website www.southeastmasstu.com.

Spring Classes

Free Introduction Fly Tying Classes SE MA TU will have 4 evenings of the basics of fly tying. Learn to tie flies in a relaxed atmosphere, this course is designed for the beginner fly tier although experienced tiers will benefit from the class as well. Instructors will teach everything to get you started in fly tying, all tools and materials are provided for each class. If you have your own tools and would like to bring them feel free to do so. You will be taught the basics of fly tying as well as instruction in tying several patterns of both fresh and saltwater flies. What better way to spend a few evenings learning fly tying. Previous students welcome.

Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings 7 to 9 P.M. March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018 at East Bridgewater Council on Aging 355 Plymouth St, East Bridgewater, MA 02333

To sign up or for information call Tom Magee at 1-781-767-1543

Free Introduction to Fly Casting and Fishing Classes SE MA TU will have 4 evenings of the basics of fly casting and Fishing. Learn the basics of Fly Casting, learn the habitat of fish what they eat when and how to fish for them, learn the proper gear to use and how to use it. All the required Fly Casting equipment will be provided along with handouts and instruction in Fly Casting and Fishing. If you have your own Fly Rod outfit and would like to bring it feel free to do so. This is a great time of year to get your casting into shape for some Spring Fishing. This TU Chapter will have some Spring Fishing trips and class members are welcome to join us on the trips.

Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2018 at East Bridgewater Council on Aging 355 Plymouth St, East Bridgewater, MA 02333.

To sign up or for information call Tom Magee at 1- 781-767-1543

SPEAKERS WANTED

Each month the chapter invites a speaker to do a presentation at the monthly meeting. We are always looking for new speakers and new ideas. If you would like to recommend a speaker that would be appropriate for a chapter meeting, or if you as a member have something to present at a monthly meeting, please contact Rick Robinson at 508-992-7024 or extractor27@aol.com

PHOTOS WANTED

We are looking for photos or videos of any and all TU gatherings over the past year or so. We would like to create a presentation of "A Year in Review" of all of our events. If you have any photos that you would be willing to share please email them to me at: larry.cook205@gmail.com

The Board of Directors have discussed this as a good idea for a May meeting in the future.

MASS TU TEAM

Send all mail to Trout Unlimited SE MA Chapter
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Bridgewater, MA 02324

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Rick Robinson	508-992- 7024	extractor27@aol.com
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Thanks to the following businesses for distributing the Backcast to the general public:

North Country Angler, North Conway, NH	603-356-6000
Red Top Sporting Goods in Buzzards Bay	508-759-3371
Bear's Den Fly Fishing Company in Taunton	508-977-0700
Fisherman's Outfitter on Union St in Plymouth	508-747-7440

TROUT UNLIMITED
South East Massachusetts
PO Box 121
Bridgewater, MA 02324



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Directions to our monthly meetings:

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month September to May; 6 PM Fly Tying 7:30 PM Meeting Admission is free and visitors are always welcome. We meet at the Mitchell Memorial Club is near the intersection of routes 28 and 105 in Middleboro. It is also near exit 4 on route 495. From Route 495, head toward Middleboro. Take a left at the lights. If you are coming from Middleboro center, take a right at the lights. The Mitchell Club is a white building that is 1/8 of a mile on the right (29 Elm Street) from that intersection. If you cross the RR tracks, you have passed it.