

THE BACKCAST

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Trout Unlimited, SE Mass Chapter 241

November 2017

Next Meeting: : Nov. 14th 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

Greetings Everyone,

We are having an interesting fall, with Indian summer extending our fishing season for those wanting to take advantage of the fall stocked fish, large holdovers, and a late run of King Salmon on the lake Ontario tributaries for those willing to travel. If you think you need to drive to Pulaski for big browns, ask me at the meeting to show you pics, texted from friends fishing the Cape ponds!

Much is going on the conservation front, with John Kokoszka helping to facilitate genetic testing of salter brookies in Westport river tributaries, as well as a move by the Deerfield Chapter and the MA/RI council to study spawning areas on the Deerfield River. Quantifying natural reproduction goes a long way to influence policy, whether it is regarding dam relicensing or adjusting bag limits and regulations like catch and release areas. To have a voice, you need to back it up with data.

Our November speaker will be Rich Strolis, angler and author of "Catching Shadows". His topic - "Tying Flies for the Toughest Fish, and strategies for fishing them; dries and emergers". Rich is a great presenter, I know you will be enlightened and entertained. Light refreshments will be served, so please come early and enjoy a snack and some of the great stories our membership is famous for..

Looking ahead, next month brings elections and the Holiday Party. If you are interested in running for any position, Board or officers, please let a board member know. We are always looking for new ideas and everyone has something unique to bring to the table. None of us currently serving are going to be offended by anyone running, including myself. Our strength is our depth and varied experience, as chapter members.

If you are able to donate an item for the December holiday bucket raffle, please consider it. We are humbled by the generosity of our members. Speaking of which, a big thank you to Ed Souza and Paul Lefevre, both of which donated tying supplies and tackle which will be used for classes, Veterans and kids programs, as well as fundraising raffles, etc.

Looking forward to seeing you on November 14th,

Regards,
Jim Augenti

p.s. The November door prize is a \$50.00 Bears Den Fly Shop gift card

SPEAKERS WANTED

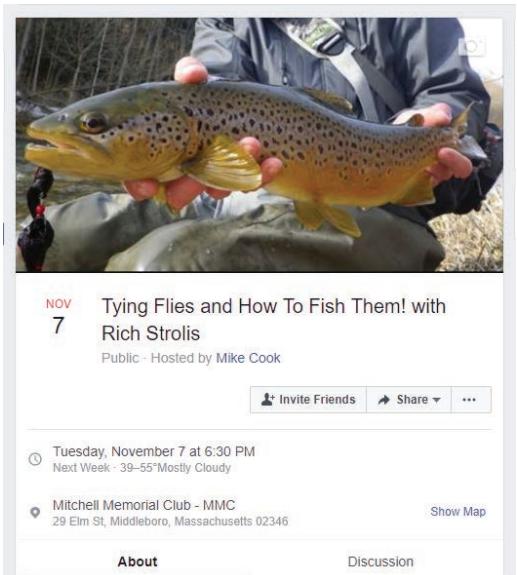
Each month the chapter invites a speaker to do a presentation at the monthly meeting. We are always looking for new speakers and new ideas. If you would like to recommend a speaker that would be appropriate for a chapter meeting, or if you as a member have something to present at a monthly meeting, please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

NOVEMBER MEETING

Rich Strolis will be our November speaker

Rich Strolis grew up in the foothills of the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts where he cut his teeth on the plethora of smaller and larger bodies of moving water. Post college and while juggling another demanding career, he became recognized as a guide on the ever popular Farmington and Housatonic Rivers in Connecticut for the better part of 10 years. He later transitioned his work to commercial tying, speaking engagements and teaching many facets of both fly fishing and fly tying across the Northeast and Eastern seaboard. His fly patterns although based out of the Northeast, have a strong following and relevancy across the globe and have been tied and fished by many as a result of his library of online videos. He is a signature fly designer for the Montana Fly Company, which currently produces over 25 of his patterns. His patterns have appeared in several national magazines and books, including Flyfisherman, Eastern Fly Fishing, Strip Set, Fusion

Tying, Caddisflies and 50 Best Places, Fly Fishing The Northeast to name a few. His first book was released in January 2016, *Catching Shadows Tying Flies For The Toughest Fish And Strategies For Fishing Them* which details a wide cross section of his patterns and was a top 10 seller in its first year on the shelves. Rich is currently a Pro Staff member and advisor for a wide array fly tying and Flyfishing companies including Regal Vise, Partridge hooks, Solarez UV resins, Enrico Puglisi materials, Hatch premium fly reels, and Flycraft. Rich is a very well rounded trout fisherman, but his passion lies in chasing trophy trout and various other apex predators on streamers with a pretty impressive list of locations he's fished outside of New England. He lives in Simsbury, Connecticut, with his wife, Megan, and two daughters, Tessa and Nora. You can see more of his work at his website: www.catchingshadows.com.



Upcoming Events

December 12th -- Christmas Party & Annual Elections

Please give some thought to whether or not you have anything to donate At the December Bucket Raffles

January Speaker – Nate Hill

Nate is a professional licensed fishing guide owner of Hill Country Guides in New Hampshire, more on Nate in the January Newsletter.

March 13th -- Tick Talk Blake Dinius a State Entomologist

This will be a talk about Ticks and the problems and sickness they can cause.

March 24th -- Annual Banquet

Speaking of our annual elections.

If you are interested in running for any position, Board of Directors or any officer position, please let a board member know.



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.

OVERDUE DVDs

If you have had a DVD from our library for a while, please return it so that others can view it. Contact Jim Augenti (SEMASS TU Team Roster) to make arrangements to return if you can't make a meeting. Thanks.

A NEW CLASS – ROD REPAIR

If you have a broken fishing rod, bring it with you to the next meeting. See Larry Cook. I will take a look at it and tell you what will be needed to repair it. I am hoping that, we can start meeting @ 6 PM and show everyone how to repair their rods.

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.

Environmental News

Westport River Stream Team Update and Work Party Schedule

Work party are scheduled for:

December 2

January 6

February 3

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.

November Fly Box

Tom Magee

Ring Neck Soft Hackle

Hook: Mustad 3906 or equal sizes 12 - 18

Thread: Black 6/0

Body: Peacock herl thin body

Hackle: Black Ringneck Pheasant feather



This is a Jack Gartside Fly I will have full instruction sheets at the meeting and all the materials required to tie this fly.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Board of Directors and the members of the Chapter would like to thank Mr. Ed Souza for his generous gift of fly tying materials, Fly reel and fly boxes. This Donation will be a great help in the Chapters programs with kid's fly tying our fly tying classes and our programs with the veterans. Thanks again Ed.

Please follow us on Facebook : southeast mass tu

Please share your copy of the Back Cast with your fishing friends.

We are looking for Delegates to the MA/RI Council of TU.

From: Warren Winders

This is just a story about what happens when like minded people come together.

As some of you may know, SE MA TU will receive recognition for their part in the Iron Mine culvert removal from the NSRWA at their annual meeting on Fri. night (7 PM) at the Jacobs Pond Nature Center in Norwell. I may not be able to make the meeting. I'm wondering if perhaps Joe or Jim, or better, all who froze their butts off building the bridge could attend.

I'm thinking that something along the lines of how TU and NSRWA share a common mission.... that is to protect, reconnect, and restore our watersheds and their fisheries, might be appropriate to say.

Some more thoughts connecting TU to NSRWA's mission:

Protect - healthy water quality (clean) and adequate flows for fish and wildlife.

Reconnect - Main stems, tributaries and habitats to restore fish and wildlife passage throughout the watershed.

Restore - natural watershed functions like cooler temperatures, sediment transport and natural fish habitat, clean water.

And regarding brook trout:

Wild brook trout remain in the North South Rivers watershed as fragmented populations found in a surprising number of small tributary streams, Iron Mine Brook among them. The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture has likened brook trout to the "canary in the coal mine" when it comes to water quality - and for a long time this canary has been just hanging on in our watershed and elsewhere in southern New England. SE MA TU looks forward to working with NSRWA to reconnect these headwater and tributary streams and their isolated brook trout populations with a healthy and clean main stem North and South Rivers. The hope is that brook trout may one day reclaim their position as a keystone species within the watershed. Should that day come, we will all be able to say with confidence, and pride, that we've done our job.

Just a few thoughts. But the theme is that NSRWA and TU share a common mission and work as members of our communities to accomplish that mission.

RECONNECTING THE SATUCKET

Warren Winders



Not far upstream from where Route 106 crosses the Satucket River, an ancient stone weir partially spans the river's bottom. Archeologists tell us that the weir was placed there by Native Americans before the first English settlers landed in Plymouth. Its purpose was to trap some of the fish that migrated up the Satucket each spring.

The most abundant species of fish would have been the alewife herring that entered the Taunton River from the ocean, turning to then swim up into the Satucket River on their way to spawn in the river's headwater at Robbins Pond. Other fish species captured in the weir would have been

blueback herring, American eels, lamprey eels, and brook trout. These are all migratory fish that are still found in the Taunton River system during the early spring.

The weir was no longer in use when a dam was built just down stream from it for the purpose of operating a cotton gin. That dam blocked fish passage, and continued to do so until recently, when the dam was removed.

As with so many of the aging dams that no longer have a purpose, the Cotton Gin Dam's removal didn't happen overnight. In fact, according to East Bridgewater resident, John Fabroski, it took 18 years.

The Cotton Gin Dam became controversial when the Mass. Office of Dam Safety declared it to be a hazard, and told its owner that it had to be repaired. In response, the dam's owner pulled the dam's flashboards, draining the impounded reach of river behind the dam. While this removed the hazard, it did nothing to restore fish passage, because the dam's spillway remained too elevated for fish to swim past it. Meanwhile, local residents, who had grown up swimming, boating, and fishing in the section of the Satucket impounded by the dam, were outraged and concerned by the diminishment of "their river." Their Satucket River had now been reduced to the dimension of a large brook. At town meetings, people



demanded that the dam be rebuilt. One life long resident opined that Robbins Pond would disappear without the dam to hold back the water.

But the cost of repairing the dam was too much, both for the owner and for the townspeople. Over time, folks got used to a "smaller" Satucket River. Many even became advocates for the removal of the dam; feeling that it would be good to, once again, see alewife herring swim to their old spawning waters in Robbins Pond.

On an Indian summer day in late October, a backhoe equipped with a pneumatic hammer, pounded the last remnants of the Cotton Gin Dam to rubble, and soon after the Satucket River was flowing free past an old mill that, long ago, had stopped using the river's power.

Thanks for the Cotton Gin Dam's removal goes to The Nature Conservancy, the Mass. Div. of Ecological Restoration, and the people of East Bridgewater, who have always been advocates for their river.

MASS TU TEAM

Send all mail to Trout Unlimited SE MA Chapter
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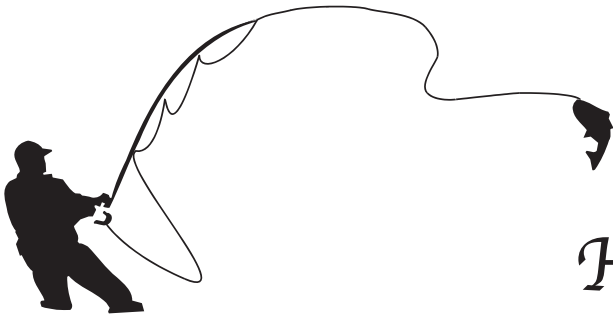
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Thanks to the following businesses for distributing the Backcast to the general public:

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| 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 |

South East Massachusetts
PO Box 121
Bridgewater, MA 02324



Happy Thanksgiving!

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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.