

THE ROLLCAST

THE eNews LETTER of CAPE COD TU CHAPTER 460

November 2016



November Meeting
Wednesday 9th 6:00pm
Liberty Hall, Marston Mills

Speaker

Joe Swaluk

Joe will be speaking on trout fishing from his vast experience chasing trout, salmon and other fish all his life. Joe is also an exceptional artist who has been doing very beautiful and detailed fish carvings for more than 35 years. He will be using some examples of his carvings to describe some of the fascinating things he has learned fishing for this favorite family of fish, the salmonids'.

Presidents Message

Where does the time go. Fall is here and fishing techniques are changing with the weather. I hope you are still getting out to enjoy some good fishing as there are some fishing to be had this month.

I certainly don't need to remind you that it is election season again. But it is also that time at CCTU again too. I am already finishing my two year term as President of CCTU. It has been a pleasure to do this and I thank you all for your continued support these past two years.

You will find a slate of officers shown below. Our election takes place as part of the December 14th meeting. If you have an interest in getting involved please let us know. We are always looking for members who want to be more involved in the Chapter. It is not too late to add your name to this ballot.

Tight lines,

Dan Tobin
President Cape Cod Trout Unlimited

Cape Cod Trout Unlimited Proposed Slate of Officers

President:	Tim Lynch
Vice President:	Patrick Grenier
Treasurer:	Charles Orr
Secretary:	Bret Bokelkamp

Board Member:	David Palmer
Board Member:	Roberta Mazzoli
Board Member:	Steve Williamson
Board Member:	Alan Alai
Board Member:	Dan McGovern
Board Member:	Tom Planert
Board Member:	Jim Driscoll
Past President:	Dan Tobin



Random Casts for November 2016

Gossip, News, B.S. & Assorted Twaddle from Red Quill & the Staff of Random!

Both new and archived Rollcast's can be read at the CCTU website: Capecodtu.org
The Massachusetts Environmental Police Radio Room 1-800-632-8075—on alert 24/7

The **CCTU Flyfishing School** was held this year at the town of Sandwich Oakcrest recreation area on Peters pond in Sandwich—the old HP property on Quaker Meeting House Road. Peter & Robin provided the majority of the meals while Brett did breakfasts. We had about 12 students (not our best turnout) and the wind was about gale force at times but a good time was had by all. Perhaps some fine-tuning may be on the way for 2017...mix it up a little!

It seems that a man from the Berkshires wants to get state permission to rehab and fire up a private hydro power-plant on the Hoosick River (albeit a small one) that runs thru his property. One view here is we shud be doing away with these dams across the state not revitalizing them while the opposite view says we ought to be cutting back on atmospheric carbon releases by utilizing existing dams! Most of these small dams have been in place for 100+ years now. A few years ago a dam teardown at the old Baker Chocolate factory was nixed by neighbors as they liked the looks of the old stone dam. A real conundrum here. Does nostalgia trump science?

At the May CCTU BOD meeting Brett introduced us to the MA/RI Councils latest conservation project **Angeline Brook** up near the Westport River. The Council has pledged \$50,000 to the effort and has recommended that CCTU's contribution to this goal shud be \$7,500. Afta Brett's scintillating presentation the BOD did indeed vote to donate fully the requested \$7,500. **FYI:** SEMATU also pledged \$7,500 with Greater Boston TU donating \$10,000. These three above donations alone amount to a full half of the required Council pledge monies.

The **Deerfield Fly Shop** gave us sum nifty tackle for the Spring Banquet auction...many thanks, Mike. This shop is located in South Deerfield not far from Yankee Candle and the Red Roof is nearby too. If you need anything fly fishing related (flies, tippet material, rods, reels, lines, info, etc stop in on your next trip to the Swift, Deerfield or Millers rivers. Shop is @ 8A Elm Street, South Deerfield. (413) 397-3665 or deerfieldflyshop.com You might try calling ahead for matching-the-hatch info on these rivers. As always, mention CCTU please.

With the above said **the closest well stocked fly shop** to the Cape is without a doubt **The Bears Den in Taunton**...at least in Reds opinion. If ZZ Scott does not have it you don't need it. Think 400 rods and 400 reels in stock! Most of the shops on the Cape have drastically reduced their stock of fly fishing "stuff" the past few years. But try the **Black Eel in Dennis Village**—Route 6A near the Playhouse—stocks some nice fly fishing items...but is not really a fly shop as we think of them. The Black Eel has about half it's inventory in angling stuff—both light conventional tackle and fly tackle. Nifty, neat & clean store. More info? Use the internet.

“Where are they now?” When Red wrote this squib in mid June, **Chris**, formerly of FTC, was slaving away behind the counter filling Penn Internationals with line down at the Goose’s Dennis shop on route 134. His one-time side-kick at FTC, **Dave**, was also working for the Goose but down in Orleans behind the scenes (read office work).

This past June a few CCTU members went, once again, to the Roscoe area of the Catskills. The group stayed mainly at the Riverside Cafe & Lodge. The first week of June is called “Bug Week” in Roscoe and for good reason; the hatches proliferate from early May thru most of June. Weather plays a big part tho so keep abreast of the action by using the **Dette/Fox Hotline** April 1st thru October 15th. www.dettetroutflies.com or 607-498-5350. Refreshed at 8am daily. *TIP:* Fall fishing in Roscoe means fewer anglers afoot. A burnt-orange stimulator is a grand searching fly (on the larger side) and an EHC is called for, for smaller risers. Raining? Try fishing along the banks with a streamer or fish the tailwater rivers. Ask. Tight lines!

RED BROOK workdays are held on the 1st Saturday of the month meet @ the Lyman Reserve parking lot, Head of the Bay Road in Wareham 9am-ish. Those of you who cannot make the Quashnet Workday due to it being held on Sunday can get your conservation “fix” on a Saturday! This project is an ongoing MA/RI Council conservation project staffed mainly by Southeastern MA TUer’s. Red Brook info? Warren “Windknot” Winders @ 781-878-1074. CCTU-ers! It is highly recommended that you call the “Windknot” before trekking all the way to Red Brook. Cutting edge **QUASHNET** info ? Capecodtu.org

Bob & Ann Nickerson (the printers of the Rollcast for years before we went digital) have shuttered the doors of their shop, Quality Instant Print, retired, and have moved on. To just where Red does not know but if, perchance, they shud happen to read this...MANY THANKS! It was a great relationship. Tight lines Bob & Ann...and you too, **Paul!**

The following info from the CC Times fishing guru, Rob Conery, revealed in the June 16 paper. It seems Cape Cod Flyrodders (a local flyfishing club) member **Steve Unsworth** has assembled a scruffy yet highly fish-luring bucktail (the Buttwacker) and he and **Vin Foti**, along with other CC Flyrodders, have started a **Jimmy Fund fundraiser**. Last year was their first go at it. This past summer was their second tourney and a total of \$3,200 was raised for the Jimmy fund. **Tim Lynch** got the award for biggest boat striper. Two Bushwhacker flies are picked by anglers at random and fished till they fall apart...sorta like the “One-Fly” (which is now a registered name).

Ted Patlen & Red Quill attended the annual “**Ralph Graves Memorial Golf Tourney and B-B-Q**” in Livingston Manor late this summer. This is a funky, haphazard, fund-raising event for the benefit of the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum also in Livingston Manor. It puts the fun back in fundraiser! Even before Ralph passed away last year this event was known around town as the Ralph Graves Memorial Golf Tourney & B-B-Q...and it will continue to be—we hope.

Partridge Days and the Dette Fly Shop! The famed English hook maker and Dette’s manager, Joe Fox, have teamed up to bring you Partridge Days This is a free event and Joe wants you to stop by. The date is in mid-September but you can get further info at www.dettetroutflies.com Why not tie this into a fall fishing trip?...fewer anglers! still lotts fish!

Memories of Kuttner's Fly Shop by "*Catskill John*" Bonasera

Reprinted here with permission of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild e-newsletter—"THE GAZETTE"

I knew this day would come, though I wished it wouldn't. Frank would tell me how expensive it was to keep the door open, the cost to heat the space in winter and not really moving much product. Simply stated, today's angler doesn't seek out a fly shop like Frank's place. You didn't find the newest in graphite technology on his rod rack or beadhead nymphs piled in the small compartments where he stored his flies. There were no chest packs hanging from the walls, no fancy sunglasses case with mirror lenses in every conceivable color. The latest and greatest in fly fishing gear never went through Frank's door.

I met Frank ten or so years ago. I had read of his legendary roosters and how he operated a fly shop on Beaverkill Road toward Lew Beach, just outside Livingston Manor. I didn't know anyone who went there regularly, and thinking back, that's probably the reason I never bothered to seek it out. When you're a "destination angler," even if your destination is the Catskills, you tend to be drawn to the flash and buzz of the popular shops. One spring during Bug Week, while talking in town to a guide friend I casually knew, he suggested I stop at Frank's place, because Frank ties "the most beautiful dry flies, every one like a little jewel."

I did stop at Kuttner's Fly Shop, but it was later in that year. He was in his house, which is next to the shop, and with a smile, he asked if I needed anything. I explained how I was here on a recommendation, and he led me into the shop to talk. At first I was a little taken aback by the interior of the place, lacking as it did all the standard gear and flashy posters and signs. It looked more like a lifetime of collected relics dating way back, the kind of things museums put behind glass cases to be seen and not touched.

Right on the counter were two Hardy Featherweights and a fly-fishing club button from the Beaverkill-Willowemoc Rod and Gun Club dated 1952. Various trinkets of years well before I was even born were scattered everywhere, almost in a haphazard way, as if they were nothing at all. There was a small rod rack off to the side, and among the six or seven rods, there was a long tube, obviously for a two-piecer, that he showed me held a mint Fenwick, 8-foot 6-weight that he figured was never fished. He carefully assembled it and let me wave it while he educated me on its action, why it would be used for a certain kind of fishing.

I asked him about the flies—did he have any that he tied for sale? He showed me his tying area, and on the green paper next to the vise were a dozen or so Kattermans that he said were for a club on the upper Beaverkill. There they were . . . little jewels, just as my friend told me: each one exactly like the other, perfect as human hands could make them. He showed me a net, not a new net, but something a meat fisherman would use to ensure that when a trout was in there, it was never coming out. He picked up stuff I had never seen before, gut leaders in wax paper, snelled wet flies, never used and in perfect condition. There was a mounted brown trout on the wall, around twenty inches and lean as a bean pole. A "river trout," Frank stated, lean because it lived its life in fast water. It was skin mount done the old way—Frank's way, I assumed, because he didn't seem to adhere to any new way.

As time went by, I would visit Frank more often. Sometimes he wouldn't be at the shop, and I would just ask his lovely wife to tell him I stopped by. But when I was really lucky he would be in, and I would get a whole new fix of how things were in the old days. I never noticed much traffic coming and going. It seemed like most of the folks that stopped there were like me, just come to visit and say hello.

Things really got interesting when I got up the nerve to bring some flies to him for his opinion. He warned me early on that he would be honest, so I wrapped up six of the most painstakingly tied Catskill dry flies I had ever done and walked them through that door for a hard lesson on proportions and sparseness.

I will always remember how he picked each one up by the eye so he wouldn't disturb the hackle or wings. He lifted it above his head, turning it in the light, not saying a word, and after he felt certain that he had given every one a good look, he let me have it. The wings are too long, the tail should be splayed out a little. "Did you cheat on that Red Quill body by building the taper with thread, or is that the natural taper of the quill?" I told him it was the quill that had the taper, then I thought he would tell me he was going to take it apart and check! Instead he said this: "You tie a nice fly boy . . . just work on the proportions and bring some back again."

I don't ever tie a Catskill dry fly without thinking about Frank. I can hear his voice in my head when I set wings or clip hackle fibers for the tail. It's the kind of thing that makes me try harder with each new fly.

Kuttner's is closed—it was in the cards. Fortunately, Frank is in good health, and I am sure he will still be as he always was, happy to have a friend over to talk about the way things were. I will be sure to visit every trip up to the Catskills, as I have been doing for years. And I will continue to bring half a dozen dries for him to critique.

Position, position, position, an opinion by *Red Quill*

"Some act and talk as though casting were the entire art of fly-fishing, and grade an angler solely by the distance he can cover with his flies. This is a great mistake and pernicious in its influence. Casting is but a method of placing a fly before the trout without alarming it, and within its reach. It is merely placing food before a guest. The selection of such food as will suit, and so serving it as to please a fastidious and fickle taste, still remain indispensably necessary to induce its acceptance."

(Henry P. Wells, "Fly-Rods and Fly-Tackle" –1885)

I think that H. P. Wells was on to somethin' big here—and so, so long ago at that! Why, about 130 years have passed by and I dare say if you were to ask any of your fly-fishing buds today just who they considered the best caster they know they would probably reply, the one who can cast the farthest! With absolutely NO mention made of accuracy—or style, drift or finesse either, for that matter. However, distance is not the end-all or be-all of fly-fishing; it wasn't in 1885, it isn't now—and it never will be!

Actually, I think **stream position** is the key factor in any fly-fishing success story. So, if you find that you are often “having” to cast 50 to 60 feet, more now, than ever before, then you are in the wrong place and are too damn lazy to move. There really is a legit reason why fly lines are delineated (in weight) for the first 30 feet, as twenty to forty feet is a nice comfortable casting range. I know that sometimes you simply must cast further than 40 feet or so but most of the time, especially in fresh water, you are simply not in the **correct position**. I see altogether too many 60-foot casts (and way too much double hauling) on rivers, ponds and streams when a **repositioning** is what is actually called for. This is, well, to be polite, just “show-boating” most of the time—anglers that are fly-casting, not fly-fishing!

And once you get over that magic 40 foot mark you open up—dare I say it here—a can of worms; what with all the drag forces and physics that often affects your line, leader and fly on the waters surface. To say nothing of the sloppy landing of the leader, the hang-ups in the trees and those so-called “takes” that are really just casual “look-sees”. Indeed, the old timers would be constantly wading the streams, walking along, stopping, making a cast here, a cast there, then moving a few feet along and, if they got no action, doing it all over again. They were actually **repositioning** themselves in the stream to take advantage of new targets and not trying to reach out 60, 70 feet or more inappropriately. They did not simply flail the water to a froth, while stuck in one spot while refusing to move, come hell or high water, simply because they saw a rise or two nearby and considered them “their” fish—within “their” angling boundaries, so to speak. They just moved on, read...**repositioned!**

Now I realize this concept is not in fashion now, this constant moving while on the stream, but it works. (*Hmmmmmm*, although perhaps you are simply afraid of losing your previously hard-won claim to that “sweet spot” on the river, eh?) I think this “territory protection” thingy is really behind a lot of this **angler position stagnation**. Why, just look at Cairns Pool (Roscoe area) in the first week of June, anglers, like fence posts, lined up, unmoving, hypnotically casting over and over and over. It has really become the modern style of fly-fishing, at least at some places. Somehow you manage to maneuver to the “best” possible **position** and then? Why, you simply take root there! In the old days if a cast was made to a rising trout, and the trout did not take, you would make perhaps one or two more casts at this fish, or three, tops. You would then simply wade onward a few feet and look for new rising trout in “virgin” waters. Ya know, this was a lot like hunting in that you actively sought out the fish; however you did not just cast away blindly and mindlessly—as a duck hunter might “sky-bust” sometimes, even though he really knows “his” prey is well out of range.

So next time you are streamside try this; pick your target, get in the **proper position**, try laying down a few casts in the 25 to 40 foot range and then, if you have no luck, try moving along, as you have probably put down both your fish and any nearby fish. It’s a simple thing, is it not, to just **reposition** yourself. Do not stand like the Statue of Liberty in one spot and reach out with incrementally longer and longer casts—yes, some times even double hauling—until you reach the point where you finally come to the realization that you have totally lost control of the whole damn cast—the line, the leader, the fly and, most importantly, the drift. Well, you have blown it my friend you have scarred off the fish, now move along...and quietly please!

*Hmmmmmm...so, any suggestions, Mister Quill? Well, you just might try rereading the Henry P. Wells quote above, especially the part where he says, “Casting is but a method of placing a fly before the trout without alarming it, and **within its reach**.” To which I might humbly add...and **within your reach also**...no “sky-busting allowed!”* (a reprint)

Bozeman, Montana is known as the “fly fishing for trout capitol of the world.” Within a 50 mile radius of Bozeman flow literally 100’s of miles of Blue Ribbon trout streams including the Gallatin, the Madison, and the Yellowstone. **The 2016 TU Annual Meeting is being held in Bozeman from September 28th through October 1st**, and if we had to choose 10 days to go fly fishing in southwest Montana, we would choose the 10 days surrounding the Annual Meeting. Brown trout will be chasing streamers and getting ready to spawn, Blue Wing Olive mayflies will be hatching, and some ‘hoppers and Midnight Stoneflies could still be providing some good dry fly fishing! It’s a great time to fish around Bozeman! (*Use Google for more info*)

Back in mid-July a man who was “recreating” on the **Deerfield River** was caught in a strong eddy (read **whirlpool**) and was drowned. Never have heard of this happening before around these parts. We do not think this accident happened near the “Catch & Release” areas, but please practice diligence when angling! —Perhaps a buddy system should be utilized.

More about the Deerfield; **life above the Deerfield C & R sections!** Those of you who have explored above the sections of the river up around Munroe may have noticed a decrepit, abandoned old building near the bridge to Rowe. It is in danger of falling into the river and the Deerfield may be damaged if this is not corrected soon. The last *glassine* envelope manufacturer in the country ran a paper/glassine mill there for years but plastics nudged glassine aside many years ago. It is now making news as a potential environmental problem (falling into the river). (FYI) If you collected stamps as a kid then you are probably well aware of what glassine was.

In July a saltwater **ray** was reported lounging about in the waters off Martha’s Vineyard. A sting ray?! A manta ray?! Well, who knows, but remember we did have Dennis the manatee causing quite a scene a cupula years ago in Sesuit Harbor so it shud be no surprise that we perhaps are attracting more and more tropical type fish to these once cool (to them) waters...for whatever reason. *Hmmmm...* TU cud stand for Tarpon Unlimited in the near future. One last oddity...an **Alligator Gar** was found in a lake in Schenectady New York in August. This is not all that rare but it is well north of the animals natural “turf”. Careful they may be protected by law.

Quashnet River Workday: There will be **NO** workday in November. Look for the next workday to be held in December and it will be posted here in the Rollcast.

Spring Fishing Trip: Our CCTU spring fishing trip will be going back to Grand Lake Stream in Maine. The dates will be the first week in June 2017 from roughly June 3rd to 6th. Look for more information on this in the newsletter and at upcoming meeting.

December Meeting: A reminder that our December Holiday meeting will be held on Wednesday December 14th. This will be the CCTU Election and will also have plenty of free food. Also we will be looking for member to contribute and unwrapped gift for the “Toys for Tots”.

www.capecodtu.org



TROUT UNLIMITED

CONSERVING, PROTECTING AND RESTORING NORTH AMERICA'S COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS

This is a Trout Unlimited Regional Council Event.

All Trout Unlimited members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

It's Here! Cold Water-Cold Beer 2: November 15

Dear Council Members and Cold Water-Cold Beer Enthusiasts,

The Fall Session of Cold Water-Cold Beer Event "Trout in a Time of Drought" will be held on November 15 at 7:30 pm. Register here (<https://www.gofundme.com/trout-in-drought>). If you can't come, you can still support the cause!

This hot summer was the driest in the region since 1956: Massachusetts has been in a drought emergency. Experts in policy, watershed management, and fisheries biology will join with us at the Boston Patagonia Store on Newbury Street to network and to present on drought impacts on our rivers and fisheries.

Patagonia has graciously offered their store after hours. Ipswich Brewing will provide complimentary refreshments, including a beer specially developed to support the Ipswich Watershed Association. Proceeds will go to conservation efforts supported by the event's sponsors.

Our panelists:

Julia Blatt, Executive Director of Massachusetts River Alliance

Wayne Castonguay, Executive Director of the Ipswich Watershed Association

Adam Kautza, Coldwater Fisheries Project Leader, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Our last meeting sold out quickly, and we expect brisk activity this time. We hope you will join us for cold beer, lively networking, trout stories, and expert information on the drought.

Sincerely,

The Cold Water Cold Beer Planning Team

Message from John Troiano, Chairman of the MA-RI Council of Trout Unlimited:

Last week, Paul Beaulieu, Vice Chair of the MA-RI Council, was interviewed by New England Public Radio. The text, photos, and a podcast of the interview may be found at: <http://nepr.net/news/2016/10/10/some-anglers-fish-less-to-protect-fish-stressed-by-drought/> or at <http://ma-ri-tu-council.org/>

Sent on behalf of John by
Mark Burton
Board Member, Greater Boston Chapter
Ashfield, Mass.
Contact: 202-459-1139

Rollcast Newsletter:

Look for changes to the Rollcast as Dave Palmer will be taking over as the new Editor of our monthly newsletter. If you have information you would like to share with the members of CCTU please continue to send it to: rollcast@gmail.com until further notice.

Thanks,

Dan Tobin

Editor