



The Long Cast



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
NARRAGANSETT CHAPTER/TROUT UNLIMITED

JANUARY 2009 VOL. 28 # 5

President's Message

Greetings:

Let me begin by wishing everyone a happy new year.

My thanks to Jim Rubovitz for his New Zealand presentation at last month's meeting.

As we begin our time in our new hall at the Regan building of the state hospital in Cranston, I would ask everyone to consider inviting a friend to a meeting. Also just a reminder that from 6:00 – 7:00 there is a period of fly tying and socializing, which I encourage all who can to attend.

On the conservation front the chapter had a highway clean-up on Dec 13th which was very well attended. The Northern RI chapter meeting on Jan 14th will feature a discussion of putting brood-stock salmon in the Blackstone river. For those interested in attending, the location is Depot Square in Woonsocket.

Finally if there are any changes you would like to see at the meetings please contact either me or one of the other officers.

John

Wood River Blahs

(An Editorial)

What would change if the Wood River (say above the Barberville Dam) was made into a special regulations stream?

Special regulations generally means 'catch and release' only and use of single barbless hooks.

We have already seen, from an elaborate survey done in Pennsylvania, that this change would be desirable to a majority of trout fishermen. It is silly to argue that Rhode Islanders would not concur.

While we may guess that a few vociferous protests would emerge from non CR fishermen we have shown that they would be much less numerous than the voices of enthusiastic supporters.

In addition experience has shown that similar changeover (e.g. on Connecticut's upper Housatonic and elsewhere) has improved trout fishing significantly and attracted more and happier anglers.

So is there a basis to the fear at

RI Fish and Wildlife that the number of fishing licenses would decline? The Pennsylvania study says a resounding "no."

We can also weigh the possibility of a temporary loss of a small number of licenses against the savings that would accrue if the Wood needed only supplementary stocking. The loss of a few licenses (surely a temporary result if it occurs at all) is a poor argument against enlightened management of the Wood River.

The evidence is that fishing would improve and with it the desirability of the Wood as a fishing destination. Ultimately the sale of licenses would increase (notably visitor licenses.)

With the changeover the river would generate a population of spawning (and wilder and more attractive) brown trout and greater numbers and size of the native brook trout.

Will DEM buy this reasoning? A better question would be "why won't they try it?" The Wood will never become a first class fishery until it receives first class management.

Burt Strom

NOTE OUR NEW MEETING HALL. DIRECTIONS AND MAP ON COVER.

The Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Our friends at WPWA have participated in and helped guide a couple of interesting projects:

The Switch Road Public Access Area” (a partnership between the WPWA, DEM, and the DOT) will provide safe public access to the Wood River and to create a natural buffer zone between the river and nearby Switch Rd. The design will allow the native plantings to overtake and permanently stabilize the site. There is some great fishing downstream from our usual haunts, especially for you paddlers.

The Bradford Fish Ladder Repair Project will allow more fish on the Pawcatuck River to move upstream past the Bradford Dying Association Dam and provides the public with a safer path around the dam and fish ladder. The ladder had been a real mess. This restoration project was a team effort between federal, state, local, non-profit, and private industry.

Our watershed has ever increasing potential, from top to bottom. Whether you approach it as a saltwater guy from Little Narragansett Bay or from the skinny headwaters above Beach Pond at the Connecticut border, you are in a jewel of a watershed. It's one that needs constant watching and work. Please consider supporting the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association. Reach in and send what you can to WPWA, 203B Arcadia Rd., Hope Valley, RI 02832.

Their headquarters are just up the road from the Blitzkrieg Trail park entrance, across the road from Barberville Dam. Stop by and join the association and catch a fish off of their casting deck above the dam (or put in and paddle from there: you'll find some holdover browns rising in Frying Pan Pond just upstream after opening day.)

Fly of the Month The Avon Special Tied by Roy Christie

Hook: emerger type

Thread: olive

Tail: yellow Hare's face guard hair

Abdomen: gray muskrat underfur ribbed with mono

Thorax: seal fur mix to match insect (amber/olive)

Wing: Mallard/teal tried in round bend at 90 degrees to hookshank

Hackle: 1 golden olive/1 grizzle wound to cover whole hook bend, thorax wound onto hackle roots

This is an “upside down” fly that some swear by for its superior silhouette on the water (hidden hook) but others curse because of hooking frustration. It looks like it might be fun to try, especially for those who think splashes are as much fun as hookups!



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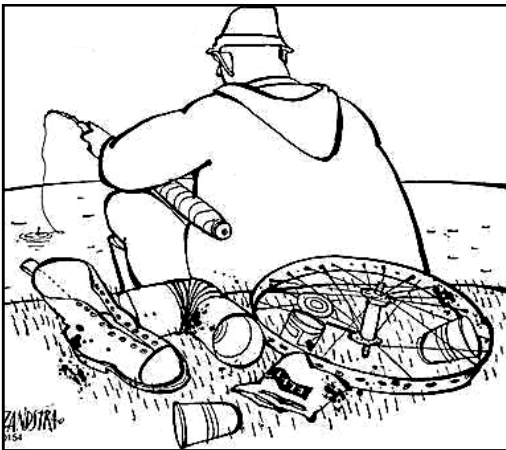
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January Presentation

Jim Turecek

We have a very interesting presentation lined up for our next meeting.

Jim Turecek is a fly fisherman and tier with over forty years of experience. He has been an instructor, guide, lecturer and fly fishing theoretician for thirty years. Besides his intimate knowledge of the rivers and coast of New England he has extensive experience throughout the Caribbean and has traveled widely in pursuit of angling experiences. Jim is on the water a couple of hundred times a year.

Since 1979 Jim has been crafting handmade knives. His one-of-a-kind knives are some of the finest examples of the art of cutlery found in the world today. An internationally known artisan, his award winning knives and flies can be found in some of the leading collections in the United States, Europe and the Orient. His work is actively sought by collectors who wait years for an example of his craftsmanship.

This lecture and slide presentation brings you close up to some of the major nymphs and larvae, and the flies that imitate them. Since ninety percent of a trout's diet is made up of subsurface aquatic insects, it's very important to know what is going on underwater to be a successful fisherman. "Years ago I spent many hours underwater studying nymphs and watching fish feed on them. I looked very closely at stoneflies and developed a pattern that has been extremely effective over the years. I will share the tying steps in a series of slides so you can tie it yourself. I will also teach you how to fish nymphs with a rig that my clients have been using very successfully for thirty years.

There will be a display of insects and the flies to imitate them along with some live specimens to examine!"

Ed Lombardo



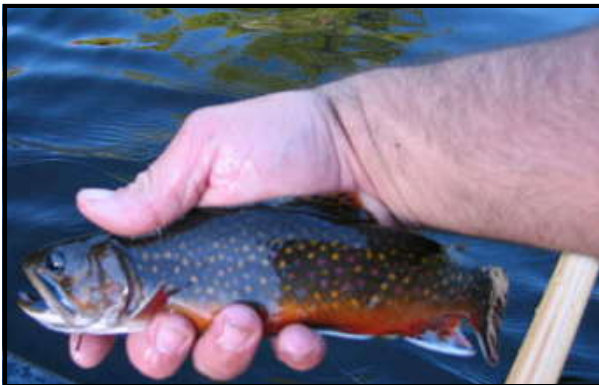
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Narragansett Chapter meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month- September through May- at the Regan Building of the Eleanor Slater Hospital in Cranston, RI.

*Formal meeting starts at 7:00 PM.
Tying, Socializing etc. starts at 6:00 PM*

**OUR NEXT MEETING
WILL BE ON
WEDNESDAY NIGHT JANUARY 28**



**Our Meeting Hall
is the Regan Building
of the Eleanor Slater Hospital
Cranston, RI**

From north

Take I-95 S toward Warwick.
Merge onto RI-37 W via EXIT 14B toward RT-2 / CRANSTON.
Take the PONTIAC AVE. exit- EXIT 3- toward JOHN O. PASTORE CENTER.
Turn SLIGHT LEFT to take the ramp toward MEDICAL CENTER.
Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto PONTIAC AVE.
Turn RIGHT onto HOWARD AVE at the light.

From south

Take I-95 N toward Providence.
Merge onto I-295 N via EXIT 11 on the LEFT toward WOONSOCKET.
Take EXIT 2 toward WARWICK MALL.
Merge onto RI-2 N.
Turn RIGHT onto HOWARD AVE at the light.
Look for sign on the right for Eleanor Slater Hospital.
Take a right into the parking lot.
The main entrance to the Slater Hospital directly faces you.
The entrance is marked Regan building.
The Arnold Conference Center is on the right side of the building.