

THE BACKCAST

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Trout Unlimited, SE Mass Chapter 241

March, 2008

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at the Mitchell Memorial Club in Middleboro. Doors open at 6:00 for fly tying. General meeting begins at 7:30. As always, admission is free.

The March Meeting features the entertaining and informative speaker Michael Tougias.

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A Narrated Slide Presentation by Michael Tougias

Fatal Forecast

An Incredible True Tale of Disaster and Survival at Sea

“A Breathtaking book, the story is both marvelous and terrifying.” – LA Times

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What happens when a 90-foot wave hits two 50-foot boats 200 miles out to sea in November? *Fatal Forecast* chronicles one of the most incredible survival stories ever told. Using slides from the actual storm and rescue, award-winning author Michael Tougias tells the story based on his new book, *Fatal Forecast: An Incredible True Tale of Disaster and Survival at Sea*.

Ambushed by the storm at Georges Bank off the New England coast, the crews of the *Sea Fever* and *Fair Wind* battled 80 and 90-foot waves and hurricane force winds. Captain Peter Brown on the *Sea Fever* (his father owned the *Andrea Gail* chronicled in *The Perfect Storm*) did his best to ride out the storm, but monstrous seas first blew out the pilothouse windows and later knocked the vessel completely on its side. The force of the blow was so powerful it sent a crewman crashing through the wooden wall of the pilothouse and into the churning sea. *Fatal Forecast* details the next several harrowing hours as the crew attempts to rescue the man overboard and keep the boat from capsizing.

On board the second boat, the *Fair Wind*, Captain Billy Garnos, first mate Ernie Hazard, and two crewmembers were also struggling to stay afloat in the rampaging seas. An enormous wave came at the boat, and Garnos gave the vessel full power to climb the 90-foot monster. The *Fair Wind*, however, was no match for the wall of water, and the vessel was spun around like a toy, careening bow first down the face of the wave. When it hit the trough below the bow buried itself in the water and the stern was lifted up and over the bow, “pitch-poling” the boat. The crewmen were upside down in the flooded wheelhouse struggling to find a way out. *Fatal Forecast* gives a riveting hour-by-hour account of how one crewman fought to stay alive in the freezing, rampaging ocean for the next two days.

Tougias also discusses how the accidents resulted in court action against the National Weather Service. A book signing will follow the presentation. Michael Tougias is the author of the national bestseller *Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do During the Blizzard of 78*.

www.michaeltougias.com

Bio- For Michael Tougias (pronounced “Toe-gis”)

Michael Tougias is a lecturer and award-winning author of 17 books. His latest book *Fatal Forecast: An Incredible Tale of Disaster and Survival at Sea* was praised by the Los Angeles Times as “a breathtaking book – Tougias spins a marvelous and terrifying yarn.” The author’s other true adventure book, *Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do in the Blizzard of 78*, was selected by the American Library Association as one of the “Top Books of the Year” and described as “a white-knuckle read, the best book of its kind”. Tougias has researched dozens of survival stories and includes them in his lecture for businesses titled, *Survival Lessons: Decision-making Under Pressure*. (www.michaeltougias.com)

On a lighter note, Tougias chronicled his misadventures at his remote cabin in Vermont in his award-winning book *There’s A Porcupine In My Outhouse: Misadventures of a Mountain Man Wanna-be*. This book won the Independent Publishers Association Award for the “The Best Nature Book of the Year.”

Southeastern, MA Chapter Banquet

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Saturday, March 29, 2008

Monponsett Inn
550 Monponsett Street, Halifax, MA 02338

Doors Open at 4:00 PM

Just to let you know, our March chapter banquet is always a huge success. There are lots of great donations, fishing and non-fishing alike. The food is delicious and when it's time for the raffle, Walter is at the top of his game. - BRING RAFFLE DONATIONS TO MARCH MEETING

For tickets call Roger Moore at 781-878-8620 or email Roger at RMoore@mit.edu". Tickets this year are \$25. Dinner choices are Fish, Chicken or Beef.

Directions:

From the North: Rte 24 south to exit 16 A route 106 east. When you get to Route 58 turn left (Monponsett Street is Route 58) – end at 550 Monponsett

From the South: Rte 495 north to exit 2 toward Plymouth Carver. Follow Route 58 North the whole way. (Monponsett Street is Route 58) – end at 550 Monponsett

***** School is back in session: Abington High School *****

Cliff Briggs Memorial Introduction to Fly Tying – Free Introductory Course March 5,12,19 & 26

Come on by and learn how to tie flies in a relaxed atmosphere. This course is designed for the beginner fly tier. You will learn everything that you need to know to get started in fly tying. All tools and materials will be provided for each class. If you have your own tools, feel free to bring them. You will learn to tie several patterns; both fresh and saltwater. There is no better way to spend your evenings than learning to tie flies

Bob Veracka Memorial Fly Casting & Fishing – Free Introductory Course April 2, 9, 16 & 23

Free fly casting and fishing classes. Learn the basics of fly casting. Learn fish habitats, what they eat and how to fish for them. All of the equipment that you need is provided, along with; handouts and instructions for fly casting and fishing. If you have your own rod, bring it along. This is a perfect time to hone upon your skills and prepare for one of the most exciting spring fishing seasons. Nothing beats catching a fish on a fly.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO TEACHING YOU !!!!

Directions to Abington High School _____

From Route 3 - South

Traveling south on Route 3 (towards Plymouth/Cape Cod), take Exit 16B to Rte. 18 south (the Weymouth Exit). At end of ramp, bear right onto Rte. 18 south. Stay on Rte. 18 thru South Weymouth and into Abington. At the set of lights with Old Town Real Estate (on right) and Seoane Landscape Contractors (on left) take a right onto Gliniewicz Way. Abington High School is on your right.

From Route 3 - North

Traveling north on Route 3 (towards Boston), take Exit 16B to Rte. 18 south (the Weymouth Exit). At end of ramp, turn left onto Rte. 18 south. Stay on Rte. 18 thru South Weymouth and into Abington. At the set of lights with Old Town Real Estate (on right) and Seoane Landscape Contractors (on left) take a) take a right onto Gliniewicz Way. Abington High School is on your right.

From Route 18

Traveling north on Rte. 18, at the set of lights with Miracle East Restaurant (on right) take a left onto Gliniewicz Way. Abington High School is on your right.

Eel River dates and other news

Peter Motyka

We are close to a full year of data gathering at the Eel River headwaters. This information is being forwarded to the Town of Plymouth and Inter-Fluve. As the months get warmer and with nature’s cycles, we anticipate stopovers from various species of migrating waterfowl and the observation of fingerlings and some small brookies in the headwaters. Last spring, the upper bogs (6 & 7) had partially inundated floodplains to further accommodate our winged travelers. Hopefully, we’ll have more of the same this year.

On our given third Saturday of each month, Barry Guaraldi, Wayne Perry and Charlie Fortier lend their expertise to the observations. They are a fine bunch of guys indeed.

We welcome you to stop by and see what we do. For any of you who have not been to the upper bogs, just doing so will give you an idea of how much land is going to be restored. We hope to see you there. Bring your waders if you’d like and dress accordingly.

The date is as follows: – March 15th at 8:30 A.M.

We will keep the 8:30 start time throughout the summer and fall months



Trout Unlimited

George Costello

“Enthusiasm for the Sport and the Preservation of the fish the Club was built around.”

I belong to a small fishing club in Falmouth. Several members of the club were very intrigued with the work that Trout Unlimited does; with regard to both restoration and the fly fishing programs. I exchange ideas on the news letter on occasion with Howie Strathie of Trout Unlimited Cape Cod. Within one week of asking Howie if he could round up a member of TUCC, I was contacted by Mark Hattmann.

Mark took a few hours of his Monday night to explain the Quashnet Restoration Project; the work that Steve Hurley does with the TU team and the success of bringing back Native Salter Brook Trout. He explained the fly fishing school to those interested in taking up the sport. The members of the club had a great night, learning about a club that not only enjoys the sport of fishing, but preserves the fish that the sport was built around.

It was refreshing to see that other members of TU do try to spread the knowledge and mission of the club, much like the Standish Show crew had done a day earlier.

Restoration

George Costello

It’s not often enough that I go by Red Brook or Eel River. When you do make it by the projects you get a great appreciation for what the regular crews have done. Where there were once weirs, bridges and sand; there are rolling bends, structure and gravel.

The most amazing part of it is that all of the work was done in a “McIver” type of technique, using tennis balls, zip ties and the craftsmanship of a carpenter and a machinist. It’s funny nowadays we over complicate everything. Twenty-four foot fishing boats need GPS, two way radios, fish finders and a trailer with an electric winch. Our fathers had maps that they logged their catches on, not hearing from anybody was a good thing, birds located the fish, or you followed the smell of freshly eaten pogies and you cranked the boat onto the trailer.

Well do to the work of these guys, other fishermen will learn about restoration projects, another river will be redeveloped and eventually we’ll have more fishing spots to put into TU’s Angler’s Guide to Fishing in Massachusetts.

Brook Trout *Salvelinus fontinalis* (Mitchill) 1815

SEA TROUT: SALTER

[*Jordan and Evermann, 1896-1900, p. 506.*]

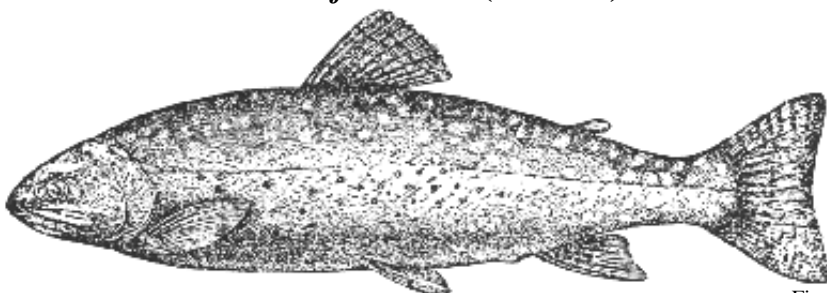


Figure 53.—Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), about 15? inches long.

Salter, continued

Description—

Although brook trout vary widely in general form in different streams, they are usually salmon-like in shape when taken in salt water, that is, about one-fourth as deep as long, tapering gracefully to a small head. The nose of a trout, however, is blunter than that of a salmon, and its head is longer in proportion, the total length of the fish (not counting the caudal fin) being about four and one-half times that of the head, while its mouth (gaping back of the eye) is relatively larger. The general arrangement of the fins, including the “adipose,” parallels that of the salmon, but the ventral fins stand under the middle of the dorsal, thus farther forward in relation to the latter than in its larger relative. All the fins, too, are relatively larger, particularly the ventrals; as a rule the anal has one less ray in the trout (usually 8) than the salmon, but the number of dorsal rays (about 11) is the same. The tail of the sea trout is less forked than that of a young salmon of equal size.

Examination of the scales and of the teeth is the most positive means of distinguishing brook trout (in European terminology this is a “charr”) from young salmon, for the teeth on the roof of the mouth of the trout are confined to a cluster near the front, instead of extending backward in a row along its midline as in the salmon; and the scales of the trout are so tiny as hardly to be visible whereas those of the salmon are large and easily seen.

Color—

Trout living in salt water almost wholly lack the yellow and red tints so conspicuous on their freshwater relatives. They are steel blue or bottle green on the back, with cheeks and sides silvery like a salmon and with a white belly. The sides above the lateral line are more or less dotted with pale yellow spots, but the dark vermiculate markings so characteristic of the fresh-water brook trout are rarely seen on the trunk of sea run fish, though evident as wavy crossbars on the dorsal fin and on the corners of the caudal fin. The sides and flanks below the level of the lateral line usually are strewn with small pale vermilion dots, but the ventral fins are often plain white; at most, the pink edging so conspicuous in trout caught in fresh water is faint on fish in salt water.

General Range—

Eastern North America, north to the outer coast of Labrador, west to Minnesota, and southward to Georgia along the Allegheny Mountains.

Occurrence in the Gulf of Maine—

Brook trout are plentiful in many of the river systems and smaller streams that empty into the Gulf of Maine. Some of the trout in some of these seek salt water after the breeding season, to remain there over the winter. This applies particularly to the brooks that flow through the sands of Cape Cod, several of those on its southern slope being famous for their sea-trout fishing. These, however, lie outside our present province, and only a couple of small streams on the Massachusetts Bay side of the Cape still support a race of trout that run down to the sea regularly. One or two small brooks tributary to Ipswich Bay, and the Merriland River, emptying between Wells and Kennebunkport, Maine, are the only places between Cape Ann and Cape Elizabeth where we have heard of sea run trout.

We cannot say how generally sea trout may now exist in the streams of eastern Maine, but according to Evermann trout once inhabited the tidal portions of many of the brooks that empty into Casco Bay, and they still may. Some of good size are caught also in the Belfast River waters, tributary to upper Penobscot Bay. Huntsman found no definite evidence of trout in salt or brackish water on the New Brunswick side of the Bay of Fundy, but local inquiry has elicited the information that there are fish of this habit in a few streams (notably in Salmon River) on the north and west coasts of Nova Scotia, where many streams formerly held sea run trout that have been fished out long since.

The “sea trout” are indistinguishable from the ordinary brook trout anatomically. They are simply fish that have the habit of running down to salt water, and most of the trout never leave fresh water, even in streams offering free

access to the sea, cold enough throughout their lengths, and harboring these “salters” (as they are called on Cape Cod). All who have given special attention to our sea trout are agreed on this. It is still an open question whether the habit is hereditary or whether it is acquired independently by each individual fish. We incline to the first view, chiefly because sea trout are slow in reestablishing themselves in any stream where they have been brought to a low ebb by hard fishing. The trout that follow this habit grow much more rapidly on the abundant rations the salt estuaries provide than do most of their relatives that remain in the brook. Sea fish weigh from 1 to 3 pounds in streams where few of the fresh-water trout exceed half a pound.

On Cape Cod the sea trout go down to salt water in November immediately after spawning, to winter there. They begin to run again in April, and all of them are in brackish or fresh water by mid-May. But it is said that they do not appear until later in the Nova Scotia streams tributary to the Bay of Fundy (we cannot vouch for this).

Salter, continued

While in salt water (at least along Cape Cod) the trout feed chiefly on shrimps or on gammarid Crustacea, on mummichogs (*Fundulus*), and on other small fish. Trout never stray far from the stream mouths; hence they have no place in the fish fauna of the open Gulf.

Jordan & Evermann studied several trout in the late 1800's and early 1900's. I was amazed that these guys looked at "salters" with the same enthusiasm that several Trout Unlimited members do today

Fly Fishing in the Off-season - Preparing for the Fishing Season

Brian Milne

About.com Fly Fishing

The off-season is here and our days on the water are numbered end. It's time to pack away the fly rod and count down the days until spring, right? Think again. The off-season is the time to head out to your favorite river or stream and scout out runs for the following year. It's a time when you don't even have to tie on a fly to have one of your most productive "fishing" days of the year. Follow these tips today and you'll set yourself up for a successful season tomorrow:

1. Scout It Out

Adept anglers take advantage of the time of year when rivers are still at their lowest, clearest flows - perfect for taking note of submerged logs, ledges, boulders or other underwater features that are more visible than they are for much of the year. The key is to pay attention and take note of all the fine details of the river. Bring along a small notepad to help map out what you see.

2. Study, Study, Study

Look for anything that strikes you as different, providing habitat for the rainbow trout. Study everything from endless eddies and side channels of your favorite runs, to the foamy edges of the main currents you rarely consider. Look for rising trout. If there's a hatch coming off, but you don't notice any fish, you might not be looking close enough. In the fall and winter, rises are so lazy they barely make a ring. So sit back, and let your eyes do the fishing. Scan for those telltale boils that will only appear today, and will surely hint to good fishing below when the water levels soar in coming months.

3. Search the Shallows

Be sure to search the shallow stretches for any place a trout is likely to feel safe. Some ideal holding spots include undercut banks, beneath and beside logs and below overhanging brush or tree branches. These are prime holding when rivers swell with snowmelt and leave the water stained and fast-moving, forcing trout to hug the banks in search of protection from the strong currents.

4. Find Feeding Zones

Keep an eye out for all the areas that will provide fish with food. Find pockets (behind boulders or at the bottom of pools) where trout can camp out eat without expending a ton of energy. Trout can start getting sluggish in the off-season and aren't willing to go out of their way for food. Find a concentration of these winter whoppers holding in a food-carrying current and you've probably stumbled across that "secret spot" for the rest of the year.

Deep pools are obvious big-fish magnets, but also see plenty of pressure throughout the year. Look past the bottomless holes and seek out other key strike zones that won't catch your eye later in the year. Note seams where strong currents flow into slower, shallow-water riffles.

5. Watch the Surface

Don't limit yourself to reading the river below the surface. The surface is probably the most telling aspect of the river. Dancing pyramids (where slow water meets faster water) can hold nice fish even if cover isn't present. Standing waves mean there are big boulders ahead and big fish hiding out beside them. Eddies are easy giveaways for fish.

Don't forget the importance of boulders and other structure that break that surface given they'll be completely submerged once the runoff begins. Large rocks provide pockets downstream and will continue to provide tail-end cavities all year long. The same goes for large logs, or concrete slabs and other man-made structure that ends up in the river.

6. Ready Your Gear

Another key during the off-season is to keep your gear in check. If you're in need of a replacement rod, reel or other key fly fishing accessory, the end of the year is always a good time to find bargains on year-end closeouts of the previous year's models. The off-season is also a good time to repair and clean your gear to make sure it'll hold up for another season.

7. Reward Yourself

Once you've got those stretches scouted, be sure to reward yourself with some time on the water, testing your new spots with your favorite late-season fly. Find a couple holding trout now and you'll be on the inside track for a stellar season next year.

Up Coming Events:

Red Brook work days, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7

Eel River work days, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21

Quashnet work days, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 22

March Meeting: March 11, 2008; Michael Tougias- Fatal Forecast

The Massachusetts Striped Bass Show: March 1 10am-7pm, March 2 9am-5pm Stonehill College Casting for Recovery Fundraiser Casting /Tying Instructions March 15 Gus Canty Arena, Falmouth 10am

RISA The Rhode Island Salt Water Anglers Show is 4,5 & 6 Rhode Island Convention Center

Fly Tying Classes- March 5, 12, 19, 26

Fly Casting Classes- April 2, 9, 16, 23

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Chapter Shirts, T-Shirts and Hats Available

We have button down shirts with our embroidered logo, t-shirts with Jay Mulcahy's sketch of a brook trout and hats for sale in various sizes. *Prices are as follows:*

Button down shirts.....\$40.00

T-shirts\$10.00

Hats\$10.00

See Nancy Dube at the general meeting.

Thanks go out to Printing Unlimited in Holbrook for the fine job they do on our newsletter. Thank you.

Thanks to the following businesses for distributing the Backcast to the general public.

Red Top Sporting Goods, Buzzards Bay 508-759-3371

Rod Builders Workshop, Kingston 781-582-1015

Bear's Den Fly Fishing Company, Taunton 508-977-0700

Fisherman's Outfitter on Union St., Plymouth 508-747-7440

