



**ROD BUILDERS WORK SHOP**

*“The Biggest Little Shop Around”*

**Hours:** Fri: 12:00-5 Sat: 10:00-5

**Closed:** Monday-Thursday

100 Main Street, Kingston, MA 02364  
Phone: **781-582-1015** Fax: **781-582-9701**  
Email: **asmitty@rodbuildersworkshop.com**

Directions: Route 3 South to exit 9; Left off exit and shop is on your right

The Rod Builder’s Workshop is having some great winter sales. If you get a chance, stop by and check out the huge inventory of Rods, Reels and Tying Gear. Conventional & spin fishing gear; Fly fishing; Hunting; Guides; Charters; Rod Building



**Ice Fishing Tips – Vermont Fish & Wildlife**

Each winter thousands of anglers venture out onto frozen lakes to fish through the ice. And, each winter there are ice-related accidents often caused by poor judgement or poor decisions based on inadequate information.

**Here are some safety tips every person venturing out onto frozen lakes should observe:**

- Leave information about your plans with someone -- where you intend to fish and when you expect to return. Wear a personal floatation device and don't fish alone.
- Ice varies in thickness and condition. Always carry an ice spud or chisel to check ice as you proceed.
- Be extremely cautious crossing ice near river mouths, points of land, bridges, islands, and over reefs and springs. Current causes ice to be thinner over these areas.
- Avoid going onto the ice if it has melted away from the shore. This indicates melting is underway, and ice can shift position as wind direction changes.
- Waves from open water can quickly break up large areas of ice. If you can see open water in the lake and the wind picks up, get off!
- Carry a set of hand spikes to help you work your way out onto the surface of the ice if you go through. Holding one in each hand, you can alternately punch them into the ice and pull yourself up and out. You can make these at home, using large nails, or you can purchase them at stores that sell fishing supplies.
- Carry a safety line that can be thrown to someone who has gone through the ice.
- Leave your car or truck on shore. Every year several motor vehicles go through the ice on Vermont lakes, and people have drowned as a result.
- Heated fishing shanties must have good ventilation to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning. Open a window or the door part way to allow in fresh air.



**Eastern Brook Trout**

Brook trout occupy less than half of their original range in Massachusetts. These results reflect the condition of brook trout across their entire eastern United States range, according to an assessment released by Trout Unlimited and a coalition of state and federal agencies. The report, "Eastern Brook Trout: Status and Threats," is the first comprehensive assessment of the status of brook trout in the Eastern United States. These beautiful fish historically thrived in rivers and stretching from Maine to Georgia, but land use pressures have relegated the remaining isolated populations to the headwaters of high elevation streams. "Brook trout are the canary in the coal mine when it comes to water quality," said Gary Berti, Trout Unlimited's Eastern Brook Trout Campaign Coordinator. "The presence of brook trout in a watershed indicates that water quality is excellent. Declining brook trout populations can provide an early warning that the health of an entire stream, lake or river is at risk."

The few remaining patches of quality brook trout habitat in the state are located in the Berkshire and Taconic mountains and within portions of the Hoosic, Deerfield and Westfield watersheds and several tributaries to the Connecticut River. Brook trout have been eliminated from 7% of their historical range in Massachusetts, and they are greatly reduced in another 28% of habitat that formerly supported brook trout. Population status is unknown across an additional 42% of the historical range.

**Eastern Brook Trout** *(cont.)*

"While these results are sobering, we are already pursuing many opportunities for conservation of remaining high-quality habitat as well as restoration of impaired streams," said Todd Richards, Aquatic Biologist, Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife. "Our collective challenge is to protect the best remaining habitat and restore the rest." "Brookies are quick to respond to habitat improvements," explained Warren Winders, the brook trout coordinator for Trout Unlimited's Massachusetts Council. "We have already seen the results of our work with state and federal partners on the Quashnet River and Red Brook in southeastern Massachusetts. By scaling up these programs throughout the state and region, we will see wild brook trout returning to our streams. And that's great news for all of us who love to fish locally with our families and friends."

This assessment represents the first stage of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture's collaborative efforts to restore brook trout habitat. The Joint Venture was initiated in 2002 as a pilot program of the National Fish Habitat Initiative. Participants include fish and wildlife agencies from 17 states, federal partners, conservation organizations and academic institutions. The results of this assessment will be used to develop state-by-state strategies for brook trout conservation and recovery. The full report, as well as state-specific data and maps, are available at [www.brookie.org](http://www.brookie.org). For more information, contact Warren Winders, Trout Unlimited-Mass. Chapter 781/878-1074



***Famous Fishing Quote***

"I look into... my fly box, and think about all the elements I should consider in choosing the perfect fly: water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, what the fish are eating right now. Then I remember what a guide told me: 'Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about five-eighths of an inch long.'"

– Allison Moir



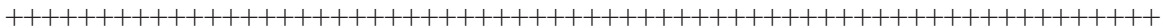
***Sale of Stock from our Library – \$10.00/each or 2 for \$15.00***

**Jim Augenti**

**Several of Our VHS Videos**

**PLEASE NOTE: VHS only no DVD's**

We need to sell these VHS recordings to finance the transition into DVD versions of the "Classics", as well as adding some new titles that have been suggested by our membership.



***Crossroads:*** *Double Header submitted as my last Newsletter*

**Nickerson State Park Cliff, Little Cliff, Flax and Higgins**

**Cape Cod Ponds**

***An Angler's Guide to Trout Fishing in MA***

Massachusetts/Rhode Island Council

*Trout Unlimited*

Nickerson State Park is located off Route 6A in Brewster. It can be reached either by exiting route 6 at exit 10 and proceeding North on Route 124 then turning right on route 6A, or taking exit 12 from Route 6 from route 6 and heading west on 6A. Nickerson State Park offers excellent camping, but call ahead for reservations.

There are four principal Ponds located in the park: Big Cliff, Little Cliff, Flax and Higgins. All of these ponds usually are stocked with trout both in the spring and the fall. Each receive Brook, Rainbow and Brown Trout, with a few Tiger Trout thrown in. Recently Big Cliff Pond has been stocked with broodstock Atlantic Salmon. All ponds offer good fly fishing from shore. However wading is difficult because of very limited back cast room and quick drop offs.

The Ponds in the summer become surface warm and the only surface action for Trout is in the evenings at dusk or later. Big Cliff in later June and part of July has a very large hexagenia hatch that usually appears at dusk until late in the evening. This hatch occurs midway along the west bank. Early spring, fall and midwinter, if there is no ice, there are midge hatches. Griffith gnats size 20 to 24 can be successful during the midge hatches.

*An Angler's Guide to Trout Fishing in MA (cont.)*

All of these ponds can be fished by float tubes, kayaks and other float craft. Only Big Cliff allows outboard motors, but these are limited to five horsepower. Flax and Higgins do not have launch ramps so that float craft are limited to those that can be carried by hand. Higgins Pond is designated as a catch and release fishery. Only artificial lures are permitted, and no bait is allowed in possession on this pond.

***Favorite Flies:***

**Trolling:** Black Ghost, Hornberg, Madam X, Woolly Bugger: Mills River Special

**Nymphs:** Damselfly, dragonfly, March Brown, Gold Ribbed Hares Ear, Tellico

**Dry Flies:** Midges to match size/coloration

**Wet Flies:** Leadwing Coachman or Dark Hendrickson for near surface or surface film rise forms

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**The Weir River**

Hingham, MA

*Submitted by: Stan Moak*

Cape Cod Chapter / 2006 edition

Weir River, in the days of my youth, was a decent stream. Unfortunately it was channelized many years ago, and it is certainly not an aesthetically pleasurable place to fish. The river is, however, convenient to Boston-area anglers and it is heavily stocked. The Weir wanders from South Hingham northward to the sea. It's easily accessible from Free Street (off route 228 at the "Wompatuck State Park" sign), Union Street (off Free Street), Leavitt Street (off route 228 at the Hingham Town Hall), and directly off Route 228 where it intersects with route 3A. The Weir River basically is a put and take stream, and if you get a Trout over 14" it's a holdover. Please put it back- any fish that tough deserves to live! Overall the Weir is a good place to hit on an evening in the early spring, when you do not have time to travel outside of the Boston area.

For early-season fishing, Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear or Hendrickson Nymphs worked upstream on a sinking tip line are effective. So are Dragonfly Nymphs and small streamers. Later in the spring you can use any caddis imitation fished dry, this is a big help because the stream is really brush-choked and floatability is a big factor. Still later as the weather warms up into summer the river weeds up heavily and darn near stagnates. A dry fly is nearly your only hope at this time.

The deepest and often best holes are usually just below bridges. Working either way from the Leavitt Street bridge, the weir is a decent-looking little stream, but that's sand you're wading in, not gravel! You're basically alone once you get fifty yards from a bridge, and fishing the stream is a pleasant enough way to spend an April evening. You have to wade because of the heavy shoreline brush. Use caution in the section from Union Street upstream as the stream bed is heavily silted. Leave the canoe home, you can spit across the Weir against the wind in most places. Good Luck!

**Bob Mosher**

Southeast Mass Chapter

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**Please send in an article on a fishable spot that you know – Fresh or Salt –**

**Michael Rudman: [mrudman850@aol.com](mailto:mrudman850@aol.com)**

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"They say you forget your troubles on a trout stream, but that's not quite it. What happens is that you begin to see where your troubles fit into the grand scheme of things, and suddenly they're just not such a big deal anymore."

– John Gierach

### Newsletter Update

Larry Cook

Would you like to receive the Chapter newsletter each month by email instead of by regular mail? If so, send me an email at: [Larry@southeastmasstu.com](mailto:Larry@southeastmasstu.com)

Each month when the Editor sends me the current newsletter to upload to our website I will forward it to anyone that has requested an email version. This will be a '.pdf' Version.

By requesting an email version you will:

- Get it sooner (the same time that the printer gets it)
- Be able to share it with others by forwarding the email
- Get less paper mail in your home.
- Allow the Chapter to save on printing & mailing costs

(i.e. If just 20 opt for receiving the newsletter by email the Chapter will save about \$100. per year and that savings can be spent on other projects.)

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### THE FLY BOX: *Black Rabbit Streamer*

by Tom Magee

**Hook:** Mustad 9672 size 2 to 10  
**Thread:** Black

**Body:** Black mylar braid  
**Wing:** Black rabbit strip

This type of fly is very effective for brown trout at night and it should work well on large mouth bass.

**Editor's note:** Please feel free to send me one of your favorite recipes for this column. Your participation is greatly appreciated. Stop by and tie a fly with Tom Magee. He is one of the instructors at the annual fly tying classes. He'll show you some easy steps to tying flies that work!

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"To him, all good things – trout as well as eternal salvation – come by grace and grace comes by art and art does not come easy." – Norman Maclean (*A River Runs Through It*)

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### Improving Your Fly Casting

[Ezinearticles.com](http://Ezinearticles.com)

- Eyes forward - Quarterbacks, pitchers and golfers don't watch their backswing. You shouldn't be watching your backcast. Keep your eyes forward and watch the spot where you want your fly to land.
- Limp wrist = limp cast - Nothing takes the power out of your cast like bending your wrist. Keep it stiff to get longer more accurate casts.
- Fools rush in - Hesitate at the top of your cast. You have to wait for the line to load.
- Be the fly danny - Different weights and sizes of flies call for different casting methods. Casting big, heavy flies requires a longer hesitation at the top of your cast. Very heavy flies like weighted streamers, requires a pause that is felt by the jerk of the fly, then go forward. Lightweight flies can be cast with less hesitation. Cast the fly you have on.
- Whose line is it anyway - Line management is key. Keep some extra line off your reel at your feet. When lifting your line off the water, hold the line firmly in your non-casting hand. Casting a short distance with long line is poor practice in most instances. If you want to shorten your cast, strip the line in before casting. Lets say on one cast you land on the bank. Strip line in before casting again. Casting the same length line again will just catch the bank again. When trying to lengthen your cast, strip line off your reel before you begin casting. Stripping line off your reel a foot at a time while false casting, wastes time and energy.
- Two lovers in the moonlight cast one shadow - You should limit your false casts to one too. One false cast is plenty to get your fly the distance needed. It also means your fly is in the water more, and that is where the fish live.
- Snap to it - Start slowly lifting your line off the water, then speed up with a snap to the top of your cast. Make the stop at 10 to 12 o'clock very firm. After a hesitation, bring the rod forward.



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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:

- Hats ..... \$20.00
- Shirts up to XL ..... \$30.00
- Shirts over XL..... \$35.00

*See Nancy Dube at the General Meeting.*

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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.

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