THE BACKCAST

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Trout Unlimited, SE Mass Chapter 241 **November, 2010**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 9th at the Mitchell Memorial Club in Middleboro. We will welcome; Marla Isaac. Details are outlined below. Doors open at 6:00 for fly tying. General meeting begins at 7:30. As always, admission is free.

The November Meeting features guest speaker. Marla Isaac of Raptors & Reptiles.

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About our Speaker – Marla Isaac is a Falconer *Raptors and Reptiles*

She is one of our favorite speakers. Appealing to both kids and adults, Marla shows birds of prey, snakes and lizards. She is best known for her rescue skills for injured birds. This past summer she was featured in the paper for rescuing an Osprey in Mashpee. The patience that she has is incredible. On the first attempt at a local school, where the birds family nested; Marla attempted to release the male bird to its family. It was the father to a small family that nested at the school. The bird was deemed too weak and Marla did not want to risk rushing the bird back in to the wild. A few weeks later she was on TV. This time it was like watching an old Mutual of Omaha show. Marla carefully released the Bird as local onlookers clapped and cheered.

This lady is always an entertaining draw. Please stop by and enjoy the company of friends. Please note wives, children and grandchildren are encouraged to attend.

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Best Betts for Late Season Stripers George Costello

December 3, 2006

Everybody has one of those go to friends that you can count on to fish no matter what the tide or weather. My friend is Bobby Pizzi. He runs the kids program for a large fishing club that I belong to and for four years now, I have run the fishing trips for the club members. They are all shore trips. We'll grab a couple of frosty cold beverages, lay-out an Eldridge Book, a Farmer's Almanac and our previous trip data for the past few years. The biggest issue with getting the most out of your trip is looking back at what works.

The issue thing me and Bobby is we don't shut down when anybody else does. One winter we finished up on December 3rd. We took fish off the east end of Scussett Beach. We were fishing conventional gear off of the little lay down area where guys throw plugs. The choice of the day was Hopkins, Crippled Herring and Cast Masters. They roll down deep and that's where the fish hang that time of year on a slack tide.

We clobbered them that day. One week later it was a Ghost Town. You couldn't feel your hands. It was like when they pull the tarp over Fenway. Turn out the lights, the parties over. This past year, I continued to build my business. I didn't put in the time that I wanted to fishing. I can tell you that the only rods that I used this year were Fly Rods. I am going to fish a few more times this year. When I am done, I'll drive through different areas of the Cape at low tide. You should do it to. There is no better time than mapping out a beach at dead low tide.

Peter Motyka – *Outgoing President*

Well our President is going to move on to a whole lot more adventures and challenges. Peter went back to school as one of the Older students to work on an environmental degree. He really took the bull by the horns. Peter, Wayne, Charlie and Barry spent many a day moving the Eel River toward a true restoration project. They monitored the stream month after month. Their enthusiasm continued along. When the River began to take a run toward full restoration progress, they stepped back to let the State take over. In future levels of restoration, they may be called back again.

Peter hasn't slowed down. He's working with the Trustees of Reservations. He maintains and monitors Red Brook. He travels to neighboring towns and works on other parcels. Peter is hands on. He was as our President and will be as an Environmentalist. We should all thank him for his service and wish him well.

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Bears Den Fly Fishing **Scott Wessel**

Scott Wessel is always there when you need him. Last month's speaker was just a terrific presenter; talking of travelling to Pategonia and places abroad in search of trout. I have a few more weeks of fishing and Rhode Island is real busy fish wise this time of year.

When the winter comes, talk to Scott about his classes. He always has great teachers and enthusiastic pupils. Scott also runs the Bear's Den Show. Visit Scott's Show. He has one of the biggest Raffles that you'll ever see.

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CHAPTER ELECTIONS on December 14th

There are positions open for Directors and Council Delegates. There will be a ballot at the meeting. Anyone who is interested to helping us shape the future of this chapter, please contact any of the directors before the 12th, or even at the meeting itself.

We welcome new ideas, experiences and perspectives to our decision making process. We meet on the third Thursday of the month, from August through May at the Dube residence in East Bridgewater.

Election of Officers **George Costello**

The end of the year is approaching. This is the season to regroup and build a crew of officers to steer the club in a course that benefits all of us. Taking part in a club is very enjoyable. Each officer brings something new to the club. Cal Lane had some great fishing excursions for the club. Roger Moore and his crew give a great presentation on their fishing tours of the United States. Tom Magee and Jim Clinton have crafted some of their best fly patterns in the back of the club.

I personally will be looking for a replacement Newsletter Editor. I'm embarrassed to say that a member of the club approached me just before the summer season to take over the newsletter and I lost his information when my computer temporarily gave out. The Geek squad later fixed it, but I lost my contacts. He's from Plymouth now, but had come here from California where he has written articles on Cutthroat Trout fishing.

Get involved, I did and really enjoy it.

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Project Healing Waters

Jim, Kenny and Tom got Operation Healing Waters going at the VA Medical Center. It's been running strong for three years now. Veterans learn to tie flies and cast a fly rod on the third Wednesday of each month. We meet at 6:00 pm. The atmosphere is great. It's got the atmosphere of coffee shop with various conversations going on at each table. There are some great stories exchanged.

Similar to Art Class as a kid, there are artists that create the perfect fly and ham and eggers that create a fly that only a mother could love. This coming month Tom Magee will select a fly pattern for the class. The class really enjoys the patterns. They will leave with them on their ball caps. It's a great time speaking with these guys, the places that they've been and what they have accomplished makes for great conversation through-out the room. Regardless of what we're doing each month, whether it's tying an ant pattern with Kenny or tying a streamer with Tom, it is a great time. So please, stop by and share a little time with friends

Project Healing Waters **Jim Clinton**

VA Medical Center – 940 Belmont Street, Brockton, MA **3rd Wednesday of the month**

We will be tying flies with the veterans Wed .5:30p.m. in building #4 at the Brockton V.A. Hospital. We would appreciate any help you can give to the Vets. You do not have to be an expert fly tyer. Your presence is the most important thing . I hope to see you Wed. thank You ! Jim Clinton

Crossroads – Waterway of Month

Bell Road, Bourne, MA **George Costello**

You know how people sometime choose a restaurant for its atmosphere. Fishing spots are the same way. When you pull into the parking lot on the end of Bell Road, you're going to want to fish it. On any given day during the migration, the Jetty Walls of the Canal are lined with some of the most veteran surfcasters. They stand almost shoulder to shoulder, throwing plugs older than I am. Their plugs have a foot long piece of monofilament with a mackerel tube or a fly for a teaser. In the heat of a blitz, these guys can cast a plug a country mile, and pull in the feistiest of fish without tangling a line. It's a show you have to see.

Where do you want to be? Just to the left of the parking lot (west) are tidal flats. On a low tide, the water is about 2 ½ feet deep. On a high tide, you have to walk on the grass to the other side of the tidal flats. When you come to the jetty on the other side, looking directly across you're in line with the surfcasters. There is a sand bar that you can wade out.

I have my best luck on a rising tide, because the rush of water coming in pushes bait into the flats. Depending upon the time of year, you can catch stripers, blues or albies. This is not a spot that you want to fish by yourself, at least for the first time.

Directions: Route 495 south to Route 25 south. Over the Bourn Bridge take your first right off the rotary. Follow straight Trowbridge Road straight to Shore Road. Take a right onto Bell Road to the end. Use the parking lot on the left.

Please send an article on a fishable spot that you know- Fresh or Salt- george@southeastmasstu.com

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Crossroads – Waterway of Month

Eel River, East Falmouth, MA **George Costello**

The Eel River in Falmouth is alive with Blues and Bass this time of year. It is best fished at night. This time of year; Bass hunt at night in and around the Jetty at the mouth of the river. The jetty is fairly wide, but like all structures of this kind it requires caution.

I don't know why but they seem to really hit on a olive and white clouser with copper tinsel; shorter profile two and a half inches long. I like a sinking line at night. They are down low. The River can accept a 38 to 40 foot vessel, so it's dredged deep. When fishing it late night; you don't get any kind of boat traffic.

What is nice about the locale is it has several jetties, a neighboring breach way and a salt pond. To the East along Menaunt Road there are three more breach ways to the east.

Directions: 495 south to Rte 28 south over the Bourne Bridge to the Otis Rotary; continue south on 28. At Kenyon's Market take a right Central Ave. The road bends to the right. Just after the bend, you will see the Menaunt Beach parking lot. Good Luck and Good Fishing

NOTE: This is my fourth or fifth fishable Spot. I could clam-up at any time. Send me your spots!!!

Please send in an article on a fishable spot that you know- Fresh or Salt- george@southeastmasstu.com

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"The Fishing Car" *(cont.)*

The fishing car in those days was the "ambler." It had actually once said Rambler in chrome letters on the hood, but a minor run in with a fence post had resulted in the abbreviated version. Of course, there was no thought of having it fixed.

It was a black station wagon with many thousands of miles on it that somehow always ran- after a little prodding – and that was always stocked with axes, minnow buckets, tackle boxes, rods, etc. The upholstery was ragged, the windshield was pitted, the dashboard was dusty, the tires were fair and it had an aroma about it of beer, Coke, cleaned fish, wet wool and a few other things that were hard to place. The smell was the exact opposite of that new car smell.

I don't know what ever happened to it, but, by all rights, it should have been bronzed and placed on a pedestal on the banks of a good bass pond somewhere in Indiana.

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The Palmer River – *Deschutes River Chapter*

Thomas R. Pero

"An Angler's Guide to Trout Fishing"

Rehoboth, MA

The Palmer River is a small stream, slow-moving and perhaps is quite unimpressive to those more familiar with the larger trout rivers of Maine or the Catskills. It receives life from cedar swamps near the boundaries of Attleboro and Taunton, then flows several miles through the Town of Rehoboth. --- a delightful community of farms, stone walls, crumbling mill remains, and 18th century homes. The area has somehow kept its rural charm despite the fact that it is a mere 15- Minute drive to Providence. The Palmer River becomes tidal and empties its waters into Narragansett Bay in Warren, Rhode Island, where Harold Gibbs first cast a bucktail in the salt for Striped Bass.

There are native brook trout in the Palmer's tributaries, particularly its west branch, locally known as Bliss Brook. One summer I took a 13-inch purple beauty here on a dry fly. Any fly will do, but use stealth in your approach. The east branch, or Cedar Brook, is also good for stocked rainbows early in the season.

Downstream, where the two branches come together, you should fish the large pool at Danforth Street on a late May or early June evening with a big, pale mayfly imitation. Behind the Boy Scout camp the river is a jungle, but some nice brown trout can be taken on night crawlers. I once took a fifteen-incher that had a whole crayfish in its throat. In the low water of Summer Street bridge, and below look for rising fish in the bends and under foam patches. Shad Factory Pond is good for largemouth bass and chain pickerel. For many years a twelve-pound largemouth from here held the state record. Below the dam, early May means American shad averaging 3-5 pounds, with an occasional sea-run trout. Unfortunately the shad runs have declined greatly in recent years

Probably the best time to fish the Palmer is in the spring 'when redwing blackbirds perch on last year's cattails, and marsh marigolds bloom in bright splashes of yellow and green on the stream's wet edges. It was just such a day when Paul Coggeshall and I crawled through a rusted barbed wire fence meant to keep a farmer's cows out of a marshy area. The fence hung suspended over a pool that looked very "trouty". From the upstream side Paul took a small brown nymph that I had given him and drifted it under the wire and into the pool. Nothing. After several tries the fly was hanging in the current not ten feet from his rod tip. Suddenly the rod was alive. I don't know who was more surprised—Coggeshall, me or the fish. It was a brown trout, a beautiful yellow-bellied, black-spotted holdover brown, which Paul held in his rough and soiled hands for a moment before letting it slip away into the current. We measured the brown against the mark on my rod; when I got home I found it to be a shade under 14- inches—a fine fish. The next time I saw Coggeshall's buddies, I started hearing about an 18-incher from the Palmer. "Well, ah," the P grinned when I caught up with him, "I figure the next time I get him he'll be about that size"

Casting Techniques

Rio Website

Fly casting works because we use the weight of the flyline to bend the rod, we then force the rod to unbend which casts the line for us. We bend the rod by moving it against the flyline's mass. We unbend it by stopping. The most important part to learn in fly casting is an effective stop.

OK now I've told you this, let me also tell you that it isn't true. What this is, however, is a nice way to visualise flycasting. It gives you 'feel'. If this was actually all there was to flycasting then we would be able to stick the rod in the ground so that it was standing upright, and by pulling the line against the top of the rod until the rod bent to it's maximum, then releasing it, we would be able to make a long cast. Truth is that the tip of the line won't even reach the rod. Try it.

So leverage is also important. Indeed it is an interesting combination, for it is possible to cast with rods which don't bend (broomsticks, short pieces of timber and one or two brands of flyrods), but if you have tried this you will rapidly come to the conclusion that a rod which actually bends is a far better tool.

In flycasting we are using both leverage and the spring of the flyrod. Your average caster gets the leverage bit just fine, but loses it when it comes to unbending the rod.

Anyway the more abruptly we stop the rod, the faster the rod throws the line. Working on this stop is the first secret to good fly casting. This part of the fly cast goes by many names: 'positive stop', 'forced stop', 'tip-snap', 'wrist flick', 'flick of the tip', 'flippetty flip', 'tip-top', and many others - but I'm sure you get the idea.

You know when its right purely by feel: you can actually feel the flyrod unloading at the end of the stop. You should be getting this feeling on both backcasts and forward casts, and every single time you stop the rod. This is the fly casting feeling. Some casters (possibly the majority) go through their whole lives never experiencing this feeling. Isn't that sad? Working on the stop is the quickest way to achieve results: especially a firm stop in the backcast. Often a great way to learn distance casting is to concentrate on a hard stop on the backcast. Just one of many strange paradoxes in life.

I teach this flycasting feeling by false casting a short length of line (perhaps 8 yrds) using the minimum of hand movement. The movement should be slow, gentle and relaxed.

right0Casting loops are formed when the line travels over the tip of the rod, after the positive stop. Good casting requires a narrow loop shape. The shape of the loop is directly dependent on the path the rod tip travels: narrow loops are caused by straight paths of the rod tip, open loops are caused by convex paths of the rod tip, and tailing loops (where the line crosses over itself) are caused by concave paths of the tip; ie the tip of the rod dips under the straight line path.

Do not fall into the trap of forgetting that the fly rod bends when we cast; therefore forget that rule that the line goes where the thumb goes - this is broomstick logic. When you bend the rod the tip comes closer to your thumb. This is not a matter of semantics, but is a basic principal behind flycasting.

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Red Brook Work Day is on the first Saturday of every month, rain or shine. We meet in the Lyman Reserve parking lot. Stream readings usually start at 9:00 A.M. Arrive early and wet a line. Check the railroad bridge tide chart too. The dates are:

Nov 6 – 11:12 AM

Dec 4 – 8:34 AM

Call Warren Winders for more news and directions.

In order to relieve angling pressure on the salters in Red Brook during their fall spawning season, we request that you give them a break starting in mid October throughout the winter. Thank you for your cooperation.

GENERAL MEETING DATES AND SPEAKERS: The meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 6:00 PM for fly tying. Bring your mattarelli, deer hair, thread and hackle and tie a few.

Up Coming Events:

Red Brook Work Days – November 6, December 4

General Meeting – November 10

Quashnet Work Days – November 21, December 19

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Your Officers are ...

*Are also Council Delegates

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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

Poaching of striped bass and other saltwater species is an ongoing problem in the northeast. Punishment is severe and your eyes and ears are the best weapon. If you should witness any environmental infractions, call the Environmental Police at 1-800-632-8075.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE REPS AND SENATORS

Go to **www.mass.gov**. On the left side of the homepage, you will see *State Government* (4th section down). Click on *Legislative* and choose either State Representatives or State Senators. Click on any name on the left and that person's bio will come up. You will then see a link on the left that says "Legislative districts by city and town". Click on that and the next screen will have an alphabet bar on top. Click on the first letter of your city or town name and you will find your Reps and Senators with all vital contact information. You can then exercise your freedom of speech and have your voice heard.

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Directions to our monthly meetings:

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're 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've passed it.

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