

Crossroads Anglers

FLYFISHING CLUB SINCE 1994

Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 • 6:30 p.m.

From the President



I'm writing this letter early, because I want to say how happy I am about our February meeting. It was our 20th anniversary celebration and I have to commend everyone who helped make it a great meeting. I spoke to Armand this morning and he told me he thought it was the best meeting we have

ever had. It just might be.

Thanks to Steve Dewar, for getting overhead shots of tying; Joe Calcavecchia, for showing us some new tying techniques and graciously having everyone tie with him; Ben White's daughter for home-made cupcakes and a 20th anniversary cake; and lastly, to our founder Armand for starting the Club and giving last night's short speech (I have never heard him speak for such a short time). Most of all, I want to thank all of the members – both old and new – who came to support the Club.

Three more meetings for this half of the year and I hope everyone will attend. There are more speakers to come and don't forget that we are having an all day trip with Capt. Ray Stachelek for a raffle price of only \$15.00 a ticket. Capt. Ray fishes Block Island. It's great summer fishing and you can get a chance to catch your big fish with him.

We have some surprises to come so don't miss out.

We are looking for board members. Someone is needed to take over the newsletter as Sumner is moving on to the position of treasurer. Call me if you would like to help.

Spring is soon upon us and we will start to fish. I hope everyone uses the message board to let us know what is happening. See you at the March meeting.

—Joel

Book Review by Warren Winders

A TALE OF TWO RIVERS

My reason for reading "A Tale of Two Rivers" is pretty much the same as Mr. Lasko's answer to his question of why he wrote the book.

This book, unlike others, is about our home fishery, our native sea-run brook trout.



And it wasn't written 150 years ago. It is a contemporary saga of our salter brook trout told by a person who treasures coastal brook trout and their streams.

Ron Lasko's "A Tale of Two Rivers" is a result of Lasko having spent thirty years fly fishing two Cape Cod trout streams, the Quashnet River and the Mashpee River. A self-described Cape Cod "wash ashore", Lasko began fly fishing as a boy with his father, and his passion for both fly fishing and brook trout runs deep. And his book, three years in the writing, is an expression of love for the two small trout streams that make up his home waters.

"A Tale of Two Rivers" can be broken down into three parts, the first being the fishing, the second part details the history of the two streams and covers their degradation and subsequent restoration. The third and final section makes the case for future work on both the Quashnet and the Mashpee along with setting a goal of the eventual restoration of all of the Cape's salter streams.

I would be remiss in writing this review if I were to fail to mention some of the "problems" that I came across while reading "A Tale of Two Rivers". Joseph Bergin, the MDFW fisheries biologist who first approached the Southeastern

A Tale of Two Rivers continued on page 2 ►.

Lasko's book is a testimony to the fact that contrary to reports that the Cape Cod salter fishery is dead, it is still very much alive, in places thriving, and is positioned for a renaissance.

Mass. Chapter of TU with the proposal to restore the Quashnet isn't mentioned in this book, a significant lapse given that the Quashnet would still be a bog ditch had Bergin not intervened. The current MDFW district biologist, Steve Hurley, took over in 1990. Brendan Annett is absent from the narrative as well. I feel that Brendan Annett should have been in this book for two reasons. The first is his 2002 genetic study of five sea-run brook trout populations, a study that showed that the brook trout of the five streams had avoided genetic introgression from hatchery trout, and were genetically stream specific (Quashnet, Mashpee, and Santuit along with Red Brook and a Long Island stream were studied). This bit of insight forced fisheries professionals in Massachusetts and elsewhere to take the concept of salter brook trout restoration more seriously. Annett should also have been credited for originating the PIT tagging study on the Quashnet while he was heading the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Reserve. The study now encompasses three streams, Red Brook, the Quashnet and the recently repopulated Childs River. Other than these "problems", the book contains a wealth of information. My sense is that you may have to be an "insider" in the world of sea-run brook trout restoration to know all of the details, and Mr. Lasko admits that he has not been part of the restoration effort with its various partners for many years.

The real significance of "A Tale of Two Rivers" is that it is about fishing for sea-run brook trout in the modern era – the here and now. Lasko's book is a testimony to the fact that contrary to reports that the Cape Cod salter fishery is dead, it is still very much alive, in places thriving, and is positioned for a renaissance. As Lasko shares his fishing methods, his rituals, his knowledge of hatches and his favorite fly patterns, we begin to realize that he is favorably comparing his two Cape Cod streams to the spring creeks and chalk streams of Britain.

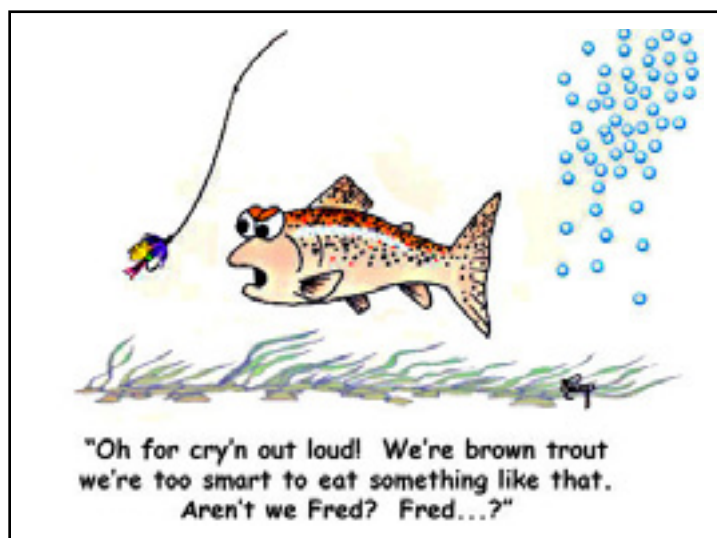
The book also tells the story of the return of much of the devastated Quashnet River to a beautiful, wild brook trout fishery thanks to the on the ground and in the river work of citizen volunteers serving under the banner of Cape Cod Trout Unlimited. Here Lasko makes it clear that the Mashpee, particularly at its upper reach, has not been spared the ravages

of development and cranberry cultivation, and needs the same citizen involvement that has worked to restore trout habitat to the Quashnet. Then he goes on to speak against the mindless greed and carelessness that has destroyed so many Cape Cod streams and their brook trout.

Writing of the manic development of the South Cape Mr. Lasko says, "Who would build the quickest and reap the fastest profits and taxes? It was an ugly, Wild West gold rush, devastating this fragile island peninsula while state and federal agencies stood by, ignoring the permanent long term damage to the environment that was going to cost us all eventually."

Now we know that the cost of the Cape's unchecked development will be well over 3 billion dollars for sewage and water treatment, not to mention the damage that can't be undone.

So if you're looking for solid information on how to fly fish for the Cape's salter brook trout in their remaining streams, presented in an entertaining fashion, this is a good book to own. But more importantly, in writing "A Tale of Two Rivers" Ronald Lasko has given us the rationale for pursuing "the even bigger vision" of restoring our coastal brook trout streams. Let's hope that "A Tale of Two Rivers" will be widely read, spreading the word about the joys of, and the brightening future of America's first sport fishery, the sea-run brook trout. ■



Swift River



Drawn from approximately 70 feet below the surface of the Quabbin Reservoir, the Swift River discharges through the base of Windsor Dam and boils up to what is known to locals as the "Bubbler." From this point downstream to Rte 9, the Swift is an outstanding fly fishing only, tailwater fishery. Cold water from the Quabbin, with seasonal temperatures ranging from 37 to 61 degrees, allow this river to be an excellent year-round trout fishery.

It is well stocked with rainbows with some nice brook and brown trout in the mix. You might also find a few landlocked salmon in the Swift, which may have been washed over the spillway. Trout in the 16-18 inch category are not uncommon. By mid summer all trout are very well educated and become more difficult to catch. The immediate area at the "Y" Pool, is one of a few spots where dry fly fishing can be had year 'round. You will find many fly fishers here, willing to share what fly, size and techniques they are using if you are having difficulties.

This area and beyond the Rte. 9 Bridge, gin-clear water is the norm with shallow flat pools, joined by riffles, and runs that lead into a few deeper pools. The first large pool below the dam is led by a shallow gravely riffle flowing into it. This pool is known to locals as the "Y" pool, as you can see by its shape. Along with many fly fishers, some accompanied by local guides, you can find many large fish cruising the pool and the bouldery and backwaters of the spillway section. Fishing here can surprisingly produce a picture perfect trout, found feeding on the edges of the far banks.

Downstream from the pool's end, the Swift continues and wanders through the cover of the forest with the bottom turning siltier. With limited gravely runs to be seen, trout are found here in abundance throughout the year and are very noticeable in the heat of the summer. If you walk up from the Rte 9 Bridge during this time, it is a great way to get out of the heat and to enjoy the solitude of the area. This tranquil setting is usually broken up by the slurping sounds of trout devouring caddis, deer crossing your path, or fly fishers enjoying making their "perfect" cast. During the heat of the

summer, you can get away with a short-sleeved shirt during the day, but make sure you pack a sweat shirt for the evenings when the sun sets over the horizon, it can get pretty cool here.

Hatch Chart

From the Rte. 9 Bridge to Cady Lane, the catch and release fly fishing only regulations change from July 1 to December 31. Catch and release, artificial flies and lures only, open the Swift up to conventional tackle during this time. The characteristics of the river remain much the same as the areas above the bridge, with the inclusion of deeper and slower pools which will eventually turn into "jungle style" fishing. Few flyfishers can be found in this area because of the lack of casting room. This area is popular for the spin fisher and with the available boat launch, you will see canoes and small rowboats well below the Rte 9 Bridge. Holdover, a few wild, and annually-stocked trout abound in this area as well as regularly stocked fish from the state hatchery that is located downstream.

For the most part, the Swift River is lined with trees that provide shade. The section below the bridge is accessible from Route 9 and the roads bordering the river. To enter the area known as the "Bubbler", you can walk up from Rte 9, with a shorter way through the Quabbin Reservoir main gate. This will take you by the visitor's center, where many of your questions can be answered. As you cross the dam and take an immediate right, you will end at a parking lot and picnic area. Once there, you can see the small power plant with the "Bubbler" just below it.

This is a great area to cure cabin fever during the winter months, practice new techniques and maybe even meet some nice people who are doing the same.

If you decide to spend a day or two on the Swift River, there is beautiful sightseeing in the watershed and picnicking areas for the family. Just 10 minutes west from the main gate on Rte 9 is the Town of Belchertown. Here you can find snacks, sandwiches, and fast foods as well as tackle shops to answer any questions you may have. ■

CROSSROADS ANGLERS *20th* ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Ron Lasko, whose book "A Tale of Two Rivers" is reviewed on page 1, was our September 2013 guest speaker. He is shown here speaking and with Joel for a photo op at that September meeting.

CROSSROADS ANGLERS **20th** ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



April Annual Salt Water Raffle

A full day of fishing with Capt. Stachelek as the prize!

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DATE AND TIMES MUST BE ARRANGED
ADVANCE WITH RAY, TIP NOT INCLUDED

Special *Savings* for Crossroads Members

Discounts will be offered to members of the Crossroads Anglers who show their Club membership card to the following businesses when they reserve their date out on the water:

Captain David Porecca, River & Riptide Anglers
 Fly & Light Tackle Charter and Guide Service
10 percent discount for Crossroads Anglers Members
 401-392-1919, www.riverandriptide.com

Captain Gary Swanson, Striper-Charters
 13 Harbour Hill Run, South Yarmouth, MA 02664
 508-353-4009, CaptSwanson@Striper-Charters.com

Captain Vern (Rob) Robinson & Son, Rock N Reel 24
 85 Seymour Street, Berkley, MA 02779, 508-822-6756

Capt. Tom W.
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~ March 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Regular Meeting at Foxboro Community Center 6:30-9pm Click for directions	26	27	28	29
30	31	Notes:				

~ April 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Board Meeting 6:30pm	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 	16	17	18 GOOD FRIDAY	19
20 Easter	21 SCHOOL VACATION WEEK	22 Regular Meeting at Foxboro Community Center 6:30-9pm Click for directions	23 SCHOOL VACATION WEEK	24 SCHOOL VACATION WEEK	25 SCHOOL VACATION WEEK	26
27	28 	29	30	Notes:		