



"Currents"

News about activities and cold water fishery conservation published by the Greater Boston Chapter of Trout Unlimited

December 2004 - January 2005

Greater Boston Chapter of Trout Unlimited
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RED BROOK!

Members present October 25th were treated to a history and status report on the Red Brook Project, a Trout Unlimited conservation project of which GBTU can be very proud, as Warren Winders, MA/RI Council Red Brook Chairman and Project Director wound his knowledgeable way through a colorful and informative slide show. Brook trout are an indicator species, Mr. Winder said. That means the condition of the brook trout stock indicates the overall condition of the stream. Construction of the Cape Cod Canal was begun in 1914 and by the 1930s, Winder explained, the project had altered the trout population in the entire waterway system in the area. Red Brook Project was started in 1988, an effort to restore the sea run brook trout population. The Lyman family had accumulated over 600 acres of land through with the stream flows, and wanted someone interested in the fishery to take it over. The Red Brook Trust was set up, with three Lyman brothers as trustees. As each one passed away, 1/3 control of the trust would accrue to Trout Unlimited. A great idea, but TU felt it did not want to get into the land ownership business in such a major way; a deal was negotiated whereby Massachusetts and the Trustees for Preservation took over ownership, and TU became responsible only for the restoration project. Major challenges for Red Brook brook trout include salt and other contaminants washing into the watershed from Route 25, various dams built by cranberry bidders to provide control of water levels in their bogs, and sand washing into the stream after its use by bidders

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Tom Largy and Bluefin Tuna, August 2004 off Martha's Vineyard

.RED BROOK! continued from p. 1

in their harvesting of berries. The sand fills in the natural gravel bottom where the trout would otherwise spawn, and spreads out the streambed, causing increased temperatures unhealthy for the fish.

Temperature problems, Winder says, are mitigated in part because there are numerous cold springs which feed into Red Brook, helping keep the water at a comfortable level in spite of introduced factors otherwise.

TU to the rescue; workdays are held at Red Brook the first Saturday of every month; trash and refuse are cleaned up, dams have been dismantled and water breaks have been constructed to concentrate water flow. These measures have enabled the stream to clean itself, and have helped provide increased spawning grounds for the amorous brookies.

Tests are also performed to determine the water temperature, flow and quality; fish are caught and examined to discover any environmental or genetic hardship.

Most GBTU members are aware of the MA/RI annual Red Brook Day fund raiser. As John Salemi says, "This is great fun for members and their families! We have a big picnic, we do some work, we fish a little, we raise some money ... what could be better than that?" Everyone is invited to Red Brook Day; the cost is minimal, the enjoyment unbounded and the cause worthwhile. Advance ticketing is a must, for planning the right amount of food. Members can contact Tom Fay, Jim Miller, or John Salemi for more information. Or, Keith Weinstein reminds us, check the website: www.gbtu.org.

MEMBER INVESTMENTS HELP WEBSITE GROW

Keith Weinstein

GBTU.org is on the Grow! Content is still expanding, and contributions from members are increasing, says Spiderman Keith Weinstein, describing the thriving Greater Boston Chapter website.

Weinstein gave special thanks to Tom Largy, Peter Schilling and Fred Jennings for their efforts and contributions.

The day when Currents is distributed on-line is fast approaching, the accomplished fly fisherman reports. Anyone who wants to register to receive their copy over the internet should follow these easy steps:

- 1) Send an email to: info@gbtu.org;
 - 2) Include his/her name exactly as printed on their Currents mailing label;
 - 3) Note whether the email address used, or another email, is preferred.
- Mr. Weinstein anticipates Currents-on-line will be ready for operation by the end of 2004. If readers have any questions or comments, they should contact Spidermen Tony, Adam or Keith at info@gbtu.org.

(Anyone who has not seen the marvelous job our Spidermen are doing should take a relaxed cruise through all of the options at www.gbtu.org. Doctor Weinstein and his crew have done us proud. -ed.)



The verdict is in ... Redfish!

SHOW BUSINESS! Schedule Announced

January 21, 22, 23 2005

Marlboro Show

Friday 10:30-6, Saturday/Sunday 9-6. Royal Crown Convention Center.

February 10, 11, 12, 13 2005

Worcester Show

Thursday/Friday 12:30-9:30, Saturday/Sunday 10-7. Centrum.

March 12, 13 2005

Wilmington Show

Saturday 9-6, Sunday 9-4

*Editor's note: GBTU often operates a booth at these sporting, outdoors and fishing events, at which we tell the TU story, enlist new members and sell raffle tickets to raise funds for our Conservation projects and programs. It is a worthwhile investment of members' time, and, speaking from experience, it is a lot of fun. Volunteers willing to help work a booth should call **John Salemi at 508-481-3034 or Peter Schilling at 617-484-9903**. You will be glad you did!*



Ray Capobianco, The Artist at Work!

**DON'T MISS THE NEXT MEETING!
BRAD YODER
VERMONT GUIDE
DRUMLIN FARM
NOVEMBER 22ND!**

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We support TU!

COUNCIL DINNER A BIG SUCCES\$

Peter Schilling

What would we ever do without John Salemi's pasta? asks Gene Chague, Chairman of MA/RI Council, after the dinner Sunday, November 7th at the Marlboro Fish and Game Club.

In spite of the beautiful weather, the late leaf problem and football, 50 stalwart TU-ers found their way and had a very enjoyable time, taking home more than 90 prizes. Ziti with tomato sauce, meatballs and sausage, Italian bread, salad and a cash bar put everyone in a great mood for the Bucket Raffles, Silent and Live Auctions. The Back the Brookie Program was well accepted, and the event raised over \$2,600 for the Council.

Predictions for the Future

BRAD YODER
Troutonthefly

November 22 2004

*Adventures on the rivers and
tributaries of Central Vermont!*
Always a favorite program!

NOTE:

There is no December Meeting

SANDY MCGREGOR

Mountain Ranger Guide Service

January 24 2005

Registered ME/NH Master Guide
*iFly Fishing Fabled Waters:
Rapid, Kennebago, Androscoggin
In Western Maine!*

An area near and dear to GBTU

MARCH MADNESS

Start thinking of items you might donate to the PastaFest Silent and Live Auctions!

**Submit your ideas, articles and
letters for publication:
cpeterson@colemanandsons.com**

YOU Can Be a TU Centerfold!
Send your fishing photos, with complete information, to:
Curt Peterson, Editor
P. O. Box 696 Weston MA 02493
cpeterson@colemanandsons.com
Safe Return Guaranteed



Turneffe Flats, Belize; Ray Walther with a 2 1/2 pound bonefish, 09/04. Looks pretty dam dapper, eh?

TACKLE BOX:

**Bits and Pieces of Interest to Fish
and Fishermen ...**

*This issue's Tackle Box contributions come from our Salmon King,
Peter Schilling- EDITOR*

HOUSATONIC REPORT ...

Good news last month for those who know and love the Housatonic River. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a new license for the Housey dam that eliminates peak demand flows. Instead, flows will be in runs of the river; there will be no holding back water, then running it all at once in large surges. This steadier regime will help stabilize aquatic insect habitat, which should lead to bigger and more consistent hatches. Summer water temperatures will also improve, as warm water flooding from ponds above the dam, which are heated unnaturally, will be eliminated. The Housatonic has been plagued over the years by hot water and fish kills. Summer temperatures and rainfall have driven the catch-and-release fishery from fantastic to poor; for now, the conflict between peak-flow kayakers and trout fishermen has been resolved in our favor.

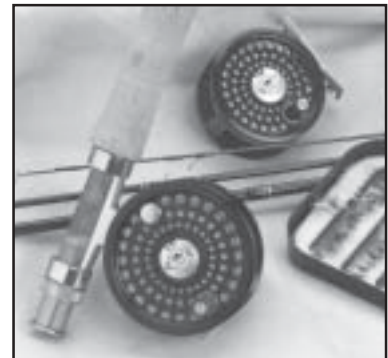
Tackle Box continued-

MERRIMACK WATERSHED ...

Merrimack River watershed water quality sampling and analysis and computer simulations of pollution levels, an Army Corps of Engineers study, will be completed by the end of this year. Manchester, Nashua, Lowell and Lawrence contributed to the study, which may result in \$500 million in sewer overflow control projects. Water quality in the Merrimack River watershed has been improving over the last few decades; this project is part of the ongoing effort to continue this valuable improvement.

PENOBSCOT SALMON ...

As of October 4, 2004 1,322 Atlantic salmon had gone through the trap at the Veazie Dam on the Penobscot River just above Bangor ME. A catch/release fishing season may be in the future for the Penny, although 2005 may not be the year.



Many happy prize winners enjoyed the 2004 MA/RI Council Dinner



1999 Salmon triumph. East Ranga River, Iceland

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**51 Hawthorne Avenue
Arlington MA 02476**



August 2004-Ray Walther and guide Josh, San Juan River NM

Captain Hook's Streamside Chat

As I walked to my neighborhood apothecary to get my sleeping pill prescription refilled, I was stopped by the beauty of a giant, old maple tree on the town green. In full autumn foliage, it was a shimmering collage of green, red, orange and yellow. It began to sway and transform amazingly; the greens migrated to one side of the tree, and were overlaid with yellow vermiculations. The reds converged into perfect circles surrounded by blue halos. The orange leaves turned vermilion as they rearranged into giant fins with black and white leading edges. I realized I was looking at a ninety-foot brook trout standing on its tail!

Recalling events of the last few weeks, I realized the source of my insomnia: I must have *salvelinus fontinalis* on the brain. It began the weekend of October 15th, an intense TU National/Orvis workshop in Arlington VT, *iBack the Brookies*, a comprehensive campaign waged at the local level and drawing on TU National resources and in-

fluence. Each Council will be asked to identify area wild trout waters threatened by urban sprawl, invasive species, pollution, etc. *iBack the Brookies* strategy uses publicity, grants and political lobbying to protect the remaining environs of wild brookies, develop public interest, and ultimately boost membership in TU. More on this later.

Soon after I returned from VT I was at Drumlin Farm for Warren Windersí program, *iSea Run Brookies of Red Brooki*. A TU success story, einstream laborí and lobbying have protected these resilient but endangered fish in an ongoing project in which any GBTU member can participate.

Reeling from nearly 12 hours of brook trout talk, I went to the Swift River. I was astonished to see, from the path to the iY-Poolí, thousands of brookies in the gravel runs. Groups of males, 6í-11í, surrounded larger females on dozens of redds covering 300 linear yards. Larger males cruised the periphery, chasing off smaller fish. Downstream, Rainbows

waited for dislodged eggs ... all of this in clear water less than a foot deep! Our next two programs feature guides from the Great North Woods: Brad Yoder of *Troutonthefly* will speak about fishing Central Vermont streams 11/22 (several GBTU members will attest to his knowledge and enthusiasm; Sandy McGregor, registered master ME and NH guide will show us the Rapid, Kennebago and Androscoggin Rivers in Western Maine, an area near and dear to GBTU.

- Brad Voight, President



Fearless leader Brad iCaptain Hooki Voight, leading fearlessly.