



CURRENTS

Newsletter published by Greater Boston Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Winter 2006/2007
Greater Boston
Chapter
Trout
Unlimited



Marla Blair's trip record fish - a 16 1/2 lb silver salmon caught on a Raspberry Island Remote Camp trip 2006.

The 2007 Alaska Fish Rush

The November GBTU meeting at Drumlin Farm opened with remarks from John Salemi reporting on the MA/RI Council Dinner. "The event was a great success", Salemi said, "but we need to boost attendance." Some improved marketing strategies were described.

"Speaking of attendance", John segued, "I'd like to suggest a 'bring a buddy' program for the PastaFest on April 1st at the Hibernian Hall in Watertown. If every member who comes invites just one guest, our hard work could make this annual fundraiser a huge success!" This year's speaker will be Mike Adams of WEEI Radio.

Keith Weinstein reported the GBTU Website (www.gbtu.org) is greatly enhanced, and urges everyone to check it out. If anyone has a calendar event to post, they should email skip@gbtu.org.

Peter Schilling suggests the "Angler's Guide" as a great holiday gift for \$20; call him at 617-244-5126 to order. The chapter also needs a volunteer responsible for coffee (and donuts?) to come early to meetings

and get it all set up. Interested parties should call Peter.

The Alaskan gold rush prospectors' odds of striking it rich would have been much improved had they booked a trip hosted by one of GBTU's favorite guides, Marla Blair. Ms. Blair's program, "Adventures at Raspberry Island Remote Camp" induced universal accelerated salivation. Anglers must arrange their own flight to Anchorage from Boston, Marla explains, where they might stay at the Lake Hood Inn, the world's largest seaplane base. From there \$3,850 buys everything included in her guided trip (the normal rate is \$4,200).

Raspberry Island is near the northern end of Kodiak, which itself is south of Anchorage. Raspberry Island Remote Camp, owned and operated by Lee and Cilla Robbins, is at the western tip, at the mouth of the Buskin River. It took the couple seven years to build the facility, which accommodates the usual 8 guests very comfortably. The food, says Blair, is "wonderful, usually using the bountiful fish from the area"; wine and beer are provided. If guests are fond of liquor or cigars, or example, they must provide them on their own.

Blair provides a "recommended equipment" list, but the Robbins can supply everything you need other than waders. There are two fishing vessels, one Zodiak and one flats boat, but anglers in Marla's slides were often seen wading shallow streams. For an extra fee "fly-in" plane trips can be arranged, but, according to the guide, "Believe me, you won't need to fly anywhere to catch a lot of fish!" One guest caught a pink salmon trying out his newly assembled gear right in front of the lodge. "Big, ugly, colorful flies work best", she reports, mentioning the

egg-sucking leach pattern often. There is little or no top-feeding.

Fish species in abundance include silvers and pinks, and halibut are fished with flies as well. Marla's record catch for the trip was a 16.5 lb silver. Both Blair and her slides depicted everyone catching lots of fish, all the time. Most of the fish are caught and released; you can keep four fish a day, and ship 50 lbs home, which the Inn will prepare, quick freeze and package for you.

The next Raspberry trip is scheduled for September 15 - 23 and there are six places left. Marla will also be hosting a Chile trout trip in March for \$2,850 plus airfare, and has two places left.

Marla S. Blair, 413-583-5141,
www.marlablair.com, marlablair@yahoo.com

Upstream ...

Coming GBTU Events:

January 22 2007 - Regular Meeting
Jeff McEvoy, proprietor of Weatherby's Fishing Lodge, Grand Lake Stream ME "Fishing Our Neck of the Woods"

February 26 2007 - Regular Meeting
Doug Lyons will report progress in river restoration with his program "There Are Too Fish in the Battenkill!"

There is no regular meeting in March 2007 due to PastaFest scheduling.

April 1 2007 - **PASTAFEST!!!**
Hibernian Hall, Watertown MA; silent and live auctions, bucket raffles, good food, bonding and fun. Get advance tickets for \$25 each from Peter Schilling, 617-244-5126.

Downstream ...

Speaking of Peter Schilling, John Salemi reports Peter has been elected Chairman of the MA/RI Council of Trout Unlimited, an organization he has served well as treasurer for some years. Congratulations!

2006 MA/RI Council Dinner a Huge Success!

If you missed it, that's "water over the dam", so to speak. But you know what TU thinks of dams! Here are some scenes from a terrific event. Innovations: Traditional third-party program was replaced by a slide show expertly crafted by Pat Higgins of Millers River using slides from each of the Chapters, accompanied by brief reports from those chapters describing their conservation efforts, hopes, frustrations and successes. The food was good, we had two bartenders and everyone went home very happy. If you missed it, don't let this happen next year!



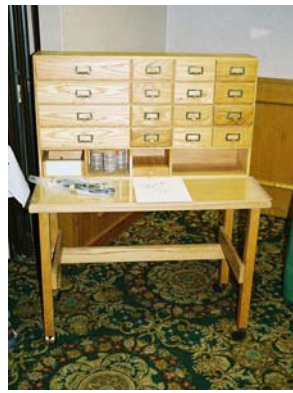
The Manzi's demonstrated the romantic possibilities afforded at the Council dinner.



Charlie moved the auction along and had everyone laughing between their bids. Here he is with Jim Miller, who is obviously "having a good time".



A popular auction item might be a rod or some outdoors art.



This magnificent fly-tying outfit was actually sold three times that night, raising a lot of money for the Council.



The notorious "Millers River" boys.



John Salemi ponders his next bid ... or has he nodded off?



Gene Chague always makes an august appearance for the Council.



For those who have been wondering, Brad Voight is alive and well and having fun at Council Dinners.



Pete Schilling and his friend Marla handled the money.



Frank Flowers, George Holmes and Frank Lagambina, the "three amigos". Somehow they kept Mr. Flowers out of trouble all evening.

**"TO DO LIST":
ORDER PASTAFEST TICKETS.
NOW!
617-244-5126**

"HOT LIP(S)" - HABITAT MANAGEMENT FUNDING

Individual landowners, land trusts, sportsmen's clubs, farmland owners and conservation organizations may apply for wildlife habitat management funding through MassWildlife's Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). The application period opened Monday, October 30th and will close at 5 pm Friday, December 22, 2006.

Projects focusing on maintaining grasslands and areas of young tree and shrub growth (early woodlands) for wildlife habitat will receive priority. Important criteria for applications include; type of habitat, number of at-risk species affected; proximity to BioMap Core Habitat; and percentage of "match" by the landowner. Private landowners such as land trusts, non-profit groups and individuals are eligible to apply. Federal, State and municipal lands are not LIP eligible, but may qualify for other MassWildlife habitat management programs.

In 2004 MassWildlife initiated LIP to engage private landowners in wildlife habitat management funded by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. LIP is a cost-sharing (up to 75%) partnership providing financial and technical assistance to those interested in developing and maintaining wildlife habitat on their property. Sixty-eight projects by conservation organizations, sportsmen's clubs and individual landowners have received funding.

Restoring and maintaining habitat is essential to many creatures. Over 80% of land in the Commonwealth is privately owned; many types of rare aquatic and terrestrial wildlife are found there and on waterways. MassWildlife recognizes that conservation goals cannot be met solely through management efforts on public lands. Through LIP and other Biodiversity Initiative programs, MassWildlife, with other state and federal agencies, organizations, clubs, land trusts and other nature resource entities, restores and en-

hances wildlife habitat for the benefit and enjoyment of wildlife in the Bay State. — Fred Boland

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

**Tell us about it. Send your review
to:
cpeterson@colemanandsons.com**

PASTA FEST AND THE RED BROOK PARTNERSHIP

This year's Pasta Fest, April 1st at the Hibernian Hall in Watertown, will include new features. We will have our first speaker who is not well known for his fishing exploits. WEEL radio talk show host Mike Adams will give us his own perspective on the Red Sox, whose season opener follows the dinner by just a few days.

The second change, which is related directly to our GBTU core mission, is our collaboration with the Southeast Chapter on Red Brook restoration efforts. For those who don't know, Red Brook is a stream in Wareham donated to TU by the Lyman family. The river and land adjacent to the river are now managed by the Trustees of Reservations with TU as an equal partner. TU is responsible for management of the stream's fisheries, including wild sea run brook trout.

The Southeast Chapter has been restoring Red Brook since the early 1990's. Through their efforts, there



Catching a big, angry snook on a fly can be a magnificent experience. But, then, snook are always angry! Boca Grande, FL.

is a viable population of wild, sea run brook trout; special regulations on the stream allow management of this as a completely wild trout fishery.

Over several years there will be major efforts for restoration. A design study for the entire river was recently completed, a plan for removal of upstream cement dikes once used by cranberry growers. There are three dikes remaining which should come out this spring. Without the dikes the river will have an unimpeded flow, able to flush silt accumulated in the upper sections more naturally.

The Lyman family was willing to hand their prized family possession over to TU because of excellent restoration work on the Quashnet River in Falmouth during the 1980s. That project continues today on the Quashnet, another river with wild, sea run brook trout. Members of the Boston Chapter spent untold hours working on the Quashnet project in the 80s.

For five years, maybe longer, a low murmur grew among Chapter members that GBTU has been drifting away from stream conservation. Given our geography and urban member base it has been a challenge to find a hands-on project. The Board hopes working as partners with the Southeast Chapter will give GBTU members an opportunity to get their hands dirty whole possibly learning how to care for and fish such an exquisite resource.

To initiate our new partnership we have invited the Southeast Chapter to participate in the PastaFest. Their chapter plan to take one or two entire tables at the dinner. We have, in turn, promised to actively support their fundraising efforts as well.

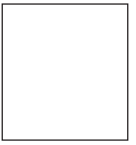
The Board has also agreed to donate a significant portion of PastaFest profits for Red Brook restoration work. Our Chapter purchased \$250 worth of raffle tickets for the cedar stripped canoe and kayak to be drawn at next September's Red Brook Day. Tickets, \$5 each or 5 for \$20, can be purchased by contacting Peter



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51 Hawthorne Street
Arlington MA 02476



Captain Pete Greenan of Boca Grande FL with a trophy redfish!



Not exactly a rainbow on light fly tackle, but John Doherty isn't complaining. He caught this 250 lb. Tuna about 35 miles off Monomoy on February 15th 2006 using squid rigs.

PastaFest, cont. from p. 3 ...

Schilling at 617-244-5126 or PMACDS@aol.com. Reservation tickets for the PastaFest can be purchased for \$25 each from Peter as well.

An enthusiastic GBTU work crew will work together at Red Brook on March 3rd, April 7th, and May 5th. Let Peter Schilling know you are interested in this worthwhile personal fisheries conservation investment.

Finally, it's important to know the Chapter's and Southeast Chapter's efforts are part of the TU goal to develop a wild trout policy in Massachusetts. This is a work-in-progress, but the Council has been developing it over the past two years. There will be more reports in the coming months. Keep tuned to Currents and the GBTU web site at www.GBTU.org for late developments and how they relate to fishing in Massachusetts.



The world of fishing is full of "doubters"; perhaps they are projecting their own lack of success on various rivers. "There's no fish in the White River", they say. This sentiment is also heard about the Millers River. Photos don't lie. A wonderful day under the guidance of Ken Elmer.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE. OR ELSE!
www.gbtu.org