

CURRENTS

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January 2008
Greater Boston
Chapter
Trout
Unlimited

Members were in store for lots of treats at our November meeting at Drumlin Farm. Board Chairman Peter Schilling introduced the slate of 2008 officers which achieved general membership approval. David Glater is our new president, Keith Weinstein vice president, Skip Galanes treasurer and John Salemi "won" another term as chapter secretary.

Charming Debby Kaye set up a table displaying gift items available from Longaberg, for whom she is a representative. A handsome basket creel made entirely in the USA and from American components was featured. A limited edition creation, each creel is numbered and registered.*

A good-sized crowd listened to Jim Kaye, who is well-known to members, as he described their introduction to Ardillas Lodge, a fantastic, remote fishing outpost in Chilean Patagonia. Jim described the overnight flight from JFK (New York) to Santiago aboard LAN, the Chilean national airline, then a two-hour jet hop to Balmaceda where the traveler is met by their hosts and driven to the lodge at Ardillas Lake. He showed a thirty-three minute video of their ten-day adventure, produced by the couple, that will be used by the Lodge as a promotional tool. "This is the first time the Ardillas folks have marketed their destination in the US", says Kaye. He later explained that most prior guests have been Chilean.

Ardillas Lodge can accommo-date six "rods" comfortably. There are three guides including Rodolfo, the Lodge owner. Each guide supports two fishermen; they each head to a separate destination that might include a stream, a spring creek, Ardillas Lake itself or an unmapped "secret lake".

"In any case, you and your fishing partner will not see another angler all day." In ten days of fishing Jim and Debby did not encounter one other fisherman.

The Kaye's visited Ardillas in late April. As the seasons in Chile are "upside down" from our own, this translates into a late fall fishing venture; folks in the video were all

CHILE ...

It Doesn't Come in a Can!



Engaging, articulate, experienced and interesting Jim Kaye.



Sales of Debby Kaye's limited edition creels will benefit the chapter.

garbed in jackets, gloves and hats. "It was the tail-end of the season there", he remarked. "The best trout fishing is in November-December then February-March, the lighter ends of their summer." Temperatures in April reached sixty degrees on warmer days; in January, the warmest month, they might reach eighty on an unusually hot day, staying for the most part in the seventies.

Fishermen bring their own gear. Jim was video-ed using eight-weight and five-weight rods and large #4 and #6 flies. The Lodge has some gear to lend, but he warns "There are no fly shops anywhere near Ardillas - what you have is what you've got." When anglers book through Jim he will provide a list of equipment to bring along.

The fishing itself, of course, was the highlight of the program. Traveling by pontoon drift boats or rowboat or wading, the conditions include a light, gravelly bottom that is an easy and safe wading experience, deep but very clear water and spectacular mountainous scenery.

"The Lodge is nestled in the second highest mountain range in the world", Jim reports. The fish are as spectacular as the scenery; the brown trout are totally naïve about fishermen and have none of the tentativeness of our local fish.

"They have developed into what is called 'predator trout'", Jim says. "They hit a fly so aggressively that you rarely miss one. And there are so many fish your arms are very tired by the end of a typical day." Fish in the film measured 18" to 27"; the average fish weighs between five and seven pounds, with some of the secret lake fish reaching twenty! In several sequences these huge browns were seen leaping clear of

"Ardillas, cont. p. 2"

GBTU Board of Directors:

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Peter Schilling
Brad Voight
Keith Weinstein, VP - Keith@gbtu.org

"Ardillas, cont. from p. 1"

the water as they tried to shake the unbarbed flies out of their mouths. Members were treated to several minutes each of very productive stream fishing, lake fishing, float fishing and boat fishing. Debby was shown on two mornings right in front of their quarters, standing several feet off shore, netting good-sized brown trout before breakfast.

The trip itself is a great value. The Lodge charges \$3,000 per week per fisherman, and the fee includes picking you up in Balmaceda, food, guide service, wine, accommodations; In fact, your only other costs will be your air fare (Jim estimates between \$700 and \$1200 from JFK depending on the timing and available specials) and guide tips. Depending on flight times it is possible to bet in 6 1/2 days of fishing. There are no fishing licenses to buy, but there is a one-time lifetime entrance fee of \$100 the first time you arrive in Chile.

As for the accommodations, Debby says "There are two beds in each room. Heat is provided by



Members enjoyed the large still photos depicting Ardillas adventures.



Ardillas guides take fisherman to catch whoppers in unnamed lakes.

woodstove, and there is a modern bathroom. It is 'sparse', but in excellent condition (the Lodge was built in 2001), there's plenty of room and there is a sit-down foyer for removing and hanging your fishing gear." Jim hastened to add that there is a healthy Coho and king salmon run near Ardillas during the first and second weeks of March.

The icing on our cake was Jim's offer to donate one free trip to benefit TU; if GBTU produces five paid anglers for a week-long jaunt to Ardillas, we will get one free from Jim to auction off for the benefit of the chapter. Interested in assembling a trip? Contact Jim Kaye via email (jimkaye@ardillaslodge.net) or call him at (508-529-1800). Jim and Debby will have Ardillas Lodge information at their booths at both the Marlboro and Somerset (NJ) Fishing Shows and hope everyone will stop by and say hello.

** Debby has offered to donate 20% of her profits from creel sales to members to the Chapter. Contact her at baskets@aol.com, www.longaberger.com/deborahkaye, or 508-529-1800.*

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?
Tell us about it. Send your review:
cpetersonrealestate@gmail.com



Jim Kaye didn't see his wife Debby in half, but she added a lot to the show.

UPSTREAM ...

Saturday, January 19th (5:00) MA/RITU COUNCIL DINNER

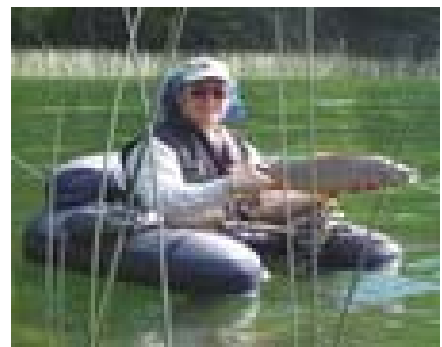
Support the regional alliance and cold water fishery conservation: Holiday Inn, Rte. 20 just East of junction with I-495. Call John Salemi (508-481-3034) for information or tickets, \$25/person.

Monday, January 28TH (7:00) KRISTIN FERRY

Federal Fish and Wildlife Service is involved in a Charles River **shad-stocking** project conducted jointly with MA Department of Marine Fisheries. State marine biologist in charge of this project Kristin Ferry will make a presentation. She is also involved in projects dealing with **anadromous fish** which she will describe. This meeting will also include an update on **Red Brook**. Certainly not a meeting to be missed!

Monday, February 25TH (7:00) TOM HARRISON

Some of our members will know the Harrison Brothers as an energetic and professional guide team on the rivers of Western Massachusetts. Others will remember their generous participation as donating supporters at our last PastaFest. In either case we will have a chance to get to know the colorful duo "up close and personal" as they make a slide show presentation about float trips on the Millers and Deerfield Rivers. Bonus time: The Harrison's also guide in Chile and will share some of those experiences with us as the snow gathers around the Drumlin Farm lodge.



One might not see another fisherman on an Ardillas stream trip.

PastaFest Peek ...

If you don't know, you should: This year's PastaFest dinner and auction is gearing up for its April 1st advent. Tickets are \$25/person and may be purchased from John Salemi (508-481-3034) or David Glater (617-853-0628); Prepaying for a table of ten will earn you a hefty discount. Here is a sneak peek at some of the wonders in store for those who wade into the PastaFest:

David Glater: "PastaFestnote is going 'upscale' at no cost to members. Background music (no electrics) by *The Wildlife Refugees*. They specialize in songs about fishing and will play from 4:00 to 6:00. Their latest album is called "*Fish Tunes*."

Tony Vinciguerra: "I've heard the album; their songs are good, catchy (no pun intended), and humorous. They're professional musicians who perform their music on an upright bass, a guitar, and a hand drum. They mentioned they're playing at several events between now and PastaFest at which they will cross-promote it. The band also has a website:

<http://www.fishtunes.net>."

We are lucky enough to have the Salemi Family cheffing for us again this year, always excellent, each year they seem to outdo the last.

Jim Miller (781-641-1028) is gathering the most incredible array of bucket raffle, silent and live auction items we've seen in years. "Want to equip yourself for the season? PastaFest is the place to do it!", he says. If you have anything you can add to this treasure please call Jim and make arrangements. That would include trips, fishing camp use, equipment, clothing, gear, etc.

Keith Weinstein, often referred to by insiders as "the brains of the outfit" at GBTU, has arranged an exciting program: Jack Gartside, well-known angler, fly-tyer, author, speaker and bon vivant of the fishing world will serve as PastaFest entertainment this year. "This guy is goo-ood!", Keith proclaims.

Seats are limited; get tickets now.



Board members preview Assabet River project supported by the Chapter.

Legal

Field and Stream ...

Our new government affairs director Sarah Tucker updated us briefly on some of the major end-of-year legislative events affecting fishery conservation. Some are benchmark events in which TU has invested considerable time and energy. As ever in Washington, DC some have turned out well and some have not. Three items are covered in this report: the Energy Bill, the Farm Bill, and the 1872 Mining Law Reform bill.

Energy Bill: The result of our efforts to restore reason to the now overheated pace of oil and gas development on federal lands was a disappointment. Good provisions were dropped and thus there is nothing in the Energy Bill that will help improve regulation of oil and gas development on public lands. We will try again next year. Many thanks to all who came to Congress to lobby on this issue.

Farm Bill: The Senate broke a stalemate, passing their version of a Farm Bill. The bill includes key items we were seeking, though not all as strong as in the House version, which has more conservation funding. The House/Senate will conference to reconcile the bills and, if all goes well, a new Farm Bill will be passed in February.

1872 Mining Law Reform: This law gives hardrock mining preference in uses of federal land; after strong review the House passed a good reform bill and the Senate will draft its own bill after hearings. If all goes well the House and Senate reconcile their bills, the first significant overhaul of the legislation in 130 years.

Letters ...

Dear Editor:

I am confident that most of your readers are as tired as I am of seeing the same angler and his friends portrayed catching the same fish over and over in the photos in *Currents*. Every time I see that overweight rainbow on the White River it makes me say "Gag me with a spoon!" Please find a way to get your readers to email new, different photos of other fishermen catching other fish to:

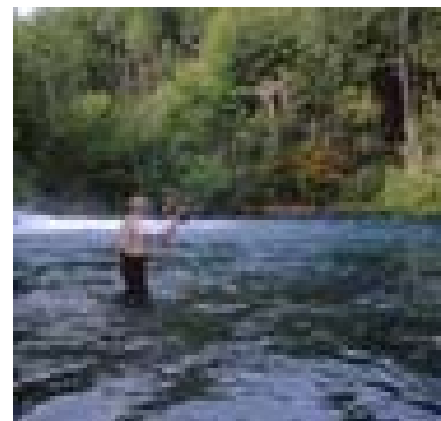
cpetersonrealestate@gmail.com. Please!

Bunky Bokikio
Upper Spencer

GBTU Meetings convene the 4th Monday of each month at Drumlin Farm, Rte. 117, Lincoln. Doors open at 7, Programs begin at 7:30 Sharp. Coffee, and sometimes sandwiches, provided. All are welcome.



Ardillas still water fishing promises BIG returns like this brown trout.



An Ardillas Lodge adventure produces large brown trout and sore arms for sure!

From Fred Boland:

We can increase the funds available to support GBTU projects if we can reduce postage expenses; you can help by obtaining and reading your *Currents* issue on-line at our www.gbtu.org website. Email me with your request to stop snail-mailing *Currents* to you today!

- Fred Boland
fred@gbtu.org

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Come, support conservation and joint fellow outdoorsmen at the MA/RI Council Dinner (01/19) and the GBTU PastaFest (04/06).

PRESIDENT'S STREAMSIDE CHAT - David Glater

Allow me to introduce myself. I am David Glater, the new president of Greater Boston Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

If all goes well you won't notice the transition! My predecessors, Peter Schilling and Brad Voight, *and* their teams, have done a fine job of steering this ship for the past several years, and I see no reason to change course. That said, I welcome any suggestions as to how we can make this TU Chapter even better - programs you would like presented at our monthly meetings, projects you think we might undertake as a Chapter, or anything else on your mind. Our Chapter has about a thousand members, and I want to encourage more of you to participate in Chapter meetings and activities. After promising to "stay the course", there is one change that will take place early on my new watch. As most of you probably know our

annual PastaFest traditionally takes the place of our March meeting. This year the PastaFest will be held on Sunday, April 6th. Why? March Madness! Members have had to choose between basketball playoffs and PastaFest in past years and GBTU hasn't always prevailed. In an effort to facilitate your attendance, we checked the playoffs schedule and selected the April 6th date. PastaFest will be the March meeting, *and* we will have a regular April meeting on April 28th, fourth Monday of the month. Our April program will feature GBTU member Roger Wiegand with slides from a fishing trip he took with his high school-aged son last summer in Alaska. GBTU meetings convene at MA Audubon Society's Drumlin Farm, in Lincoln. Please let us know if you need driving directions.

I have been the Program Committee chair for a few years now. While I am willing to continue until replaced, with my new presidential responsibilities I do need someone to take this assignment as soon as possible. Any

volunteers?

Before I close, I want to thank those who responded to Peter Schilling's "invitation to serve" as chapter officers with me this term: Keith Weinstein - VP; Curt Peterson, VP - *Currents* Editor; Fred Boland, VP - Membership; David Glater - Program Chair pro tem; John Salemi - Secretary; Skip Galanes - Treasurer. I hope my term as president will be enjoyable and rewarding for all of us. I look forward to working with everyone to make this happen, and I look forward to meeting you in person at regular meetings and/or at



GBTU president David Glater.