

CURRENTS

Newsletter published by Greater Boston Chapter, Trout Unlimited

SPECIAL
PASTAFEST 2009
ISSUE!

Greater
Boston
Chapter



Assabet "Stock" in Good Shape

Member Andy Bonzagni's face is familiar at GBTU. Owner of Concord Outfitters, he has generously supported our projects and made several presentations at Drumlin Farm meetings. When Miles McCloy came with a project to stock the lower Assabet River with brown trout, Andy came as mentor/sponsor. Board member Garry Crago is leading our Assabet Project committee and looking for volunteers to help. On January 26th we got a full update on this very successful project.

"Our mission", Bonzagni began, "is to show trout can survive one season to the next in the Assabet." He and McCloy, whose Project is part of course work at Goddard College, hope two or three successful years will convince the state to stock the lower Assabet as well as the upper. The Project focuses on the river below Damon Mills and upstream of Pine Street in West Concord. "It's is an area easily accessed and a natural buffer between houses and the river makes fishing pristine and peaceful", Bonzagni added.



Andy, Miles and a handful of volunteers did the first April stocking from canoes. Lower water levels later required wade-stocking. Brown trout purchased from Blue Stream Hatchery in West Barnstable include fish from 6" to 18" in length.

"A number of kids have seen us working on the river and become interested", Andy said. "Later they were joined by parents and other kids. Around this room I see a lot of gray hair and some heads, like mine, with no hair. These kids are the future of Trout Unlimited."

Area fishermen are supportive. They adhere to a voluntary, non-posted catch-and-release rule and have reported tagged fish as far as a mile up or downstream from the stocking. Volunteers take frequent temperature and water quality readings. "A couple of deep, cold springs cool the river", Andy reports. "Fish stack up when the water gets warm, making them easy prey for herons." He and Miles are designing a post-and-net system to protect the cooling fish.

The Assabet River Project needs funding to stock fish for at least two years. Folks who wish to support this project may make donations through Concord Outfitters, 84 Commonwealth Avenue, West Concord MA 01742. Make checks payable to "GBTU - Assabet River Project". Donations are tax deductible.

FORAY TO THE FALKLANDS

In 1982 a handful of Argentine troops with light armament landed on the Falkland Islands, an archipelago near the southern tip of Argentina and Chile. British prime minister Margaret Thatcher sent British soldiers on the Queen Elizabeth to expel them from this British territory, one of the last vestiges of their once-significant empire.

Last November Hugo Williams led a tiny party of Brits on another Falklands foray, this time armed with fly rods and in pursuit of sea-run trout.

Williams's interest was piqued when he saw in a photo a British officer boarding the QEII carrying a fly rod. He's made two thirty-six hour flights of his own since, fishing on Port Howard island. A two-season fishery is very windy, making for hard casting but hiding the angler from the fish. Everyone in their party caught fish over ten lbs., the largest fourteen.

Conditions require a #8 or #10 rod, not for distance but to counteract the wind, the flies small, #10, #12, #14 darts. All equipment has to be brought in. "There's no L. L. Bean in Pt. Howard". Hugo brings Irish and Scottish flies, fishes them a few inches to a foot below the surface. On this trip he fished mostly tidal pools, but rivers also provide good sport. The cost? Williams says the flights are about \$2,000 and he spent another \$1,500 for accommodations and expenses.

2009 GBTU Officers/Directors:

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Hugo Williams with a prize brown, Falklands, 2008.



Anglers beware! Brits decided it was cheaper to mark minefields than clear them.



PastaFest: Becky Salemi and Carolyn MacDonald manage the kitchen crew; the food is fabulous!

PASTAFEST 2009

Partial Prize and Auction List

GRAND RAFFLE PRIZE:

Orvis Zero Gravity 9' 5wt Flyrod donated by *Concord Outfitters*
Orvis Mid Arbor Reel-Line and Backing

RODS:

LL Bean Streamlight 9' 4pc 8wt Flyrod
Sage 590SLT 9' 4pc 5wt Flyrod
Elkhorn 9' 4pc 5wt Flyrod donated by *Elkhorn Company*

REELS:

Ross CLA 2 (4-6wt) TU LOGO donated by *Bill Hendrickson*
Okuma Sierra S8/9 (8-9wt) donated by *David Glater*
Prism C3/4 (2-4wt) w/spool and 3 wt. line
Ross Rhythm 3 Reel (6-8wt) donated by *Firefly Outfitters*

TRIPS:

Peak Dawn Anglers-Lt. Tackle Stripers/N. Shore
Harrison Brothers-Miller's/Deerfield Float Trip
Art Sawyer-Stripers/Blues, Lt. Tackle-Cape Cod (wade or boat) 1/2 day
Doug Lyons-Battenkill Wade Trip
Orvis/Boston/Ed Fowler-Wade choice stream w/casting instr. w/Helios rod
Southeast Chapter TU-Red Brook Wade Trip
Bill Cottle-Wade trip stripers/Cape Cod Canal
Weatherby's-Grand Lake Stream Weekend
Peter Schilling-Falmouth House Weekend
Tom Largy-Trip for two on the Quabbin

MISCELLANEOUS:

Fred Jennings-2wt rod/reel combo, w/line and backing
Jim Miller-Denton Landlocked Salmon Prints (David Glater frames)
David Glater-LL Bean Fishing Shirt Lg., Dirt Devil Ultra, fishing net
Cabela's-Three Forks Vest XL, Guideware Pro Wading Boot size 10,
Three Forks Wader Bag, Guideware Dry-Plus Wader Reg. Lg., Leader
Wallet/Mini Tool
Peter Schilling-Caddis Float Tube/Fins, Oven mitts, towel, napkins, Radio
Gordon Hammersley/Hammersley's Bistro-\$150 gift certificate
Firefly Outfitters-Simms wet wading shoe size 9, Collapsible Stripping
Basket
Skip Galanes-"Rainbow Strike" Sculpture, Simms Fishing Shirt, Keith
Weinstein-Golf Assortment, balls, Lanyard
On the Water-On The Water (Subscriptions/hats)
Sportsman Channel-Gift Assort.
Fly Shack-Fly box, flies
Bob Driscoll Estate-Vise, tackle, fly-tying materials, lures,
GBTU-Orvis Vest, Columbia Pheasant Motif Shirt, Croquet Set, Bait Shop
Bird House, tying vise/book, tool set, Wildlife Fed. Backpack, Cross Pen
Set, Racket game, horseshoe set, golfer's set, flag, dip and spreader set,
grille brush, Brainteaser games, cap w/light, fishing t-shirts, rain gauge,
thermometer, cd holders, fly lines
Books-John Goddard, Doug Swisher/Carl Richards, Tom Gilmore, Ed Mitchell, Dick Russell, Wayne Fields, Robert Hughes, Datus Proper, Steven Sautner, Mark Kingwell, James Barilla, Patrick McManus, Robert Finch, Peter Kaminsky, John Merwin, Nick Lyons, Charles Kuralt
Flies-Dozens of fresh- and salt-water flies in very popular Morell Fly Boxes donated by Brad Voight.

This is but a partial list - there will be many more at PastaFest 2009!

Save the Date!

Sunday
April 5th

PASTAFEST
2009

Hibernian Hall
Watertown

Greater Boston Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Complete Orvis 9'0", 2 pc., 5 Wt., Zero Gravity Flyrod
including an Orvis Mid Arbor Reel, line and backing

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Drawing to be held at the PastaFest, Hibernian Hall, 151 Watertown St., Watertown MA 4PM April 5, 2009

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2009 GBTU GRAND RAFFLE - Don't Miss Out!

Grand prize in this year's annual raffle is a complete high-end angling outfit. Concord Outfitters of West Concord has generously donated an Orvis 9'0", five-weight, Zero Gravity fly rod, to which we have attached an Orvis mid-arbor reel, appropriate fly line and backing. This is a *valuable* prize indeed!

Raffle tickets are **\$3 for one, two for \$5, five for \$10**. If you wish to use the tickets above to enter, complete each and mail them to **Skip Galanes, 41 Kilgore Avenue, Medford MA 02155** with your **check payable to "GBTU"**. Want more than five? Good choice! Merely copy the above as many times as you want, fill them in, cut them apart and mail them to Skip!

The winner will be drawn at **PastaFest 2009** April 5th. You do not have to be present to win, but you will have to be present to have, as Peter Schilling says, "the most fun you can have with your feet out of water!"

Funds raised in this raffle are used to support GBTU and our valued partners' work in the restoration, preservation and conservation of cold-water fishery habitat in Massachusetts and the rest of New England. Come to PastaFest this year and hear about all GBTU is doing to fulfill our mission with your support. Call **Jim Miller, 781-641-1028** to reserve your seat(s).

UPSTREAM:

Sunday, April 5th:

PastaFest 2009, Hibernian Hall, 151 Watertown St., Watertown - Doors open at 4PM/\$25 per person. (Replaces our March meeting).

Monday, April 27th:

7PM, Regular meeting at Drumlin Farm, Rte. 117, Lincoln, MA: Peter Hill program about fly fishing in New Zealand.

May 15 - 17th:

Indian Hollow gathering, Greenfield, MA. (Replaces our May meeting). Call for details: 508-481-3034/J. Salemi



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A fine sea-run brown caught on the Falkland Islands, November 2008. See Falklands story, page 1.

"Address correction requested"

PRESIDENT'S STREAMSIDE CHAT - David Glater

This is turning out to be a very long, cold, snowy winter, reminiscent of winters as a kid in upstate New York. Even fly fishing magazines cannot wait for it to end - both *Fly Rod & Reel* and *Fly Fisherman* arrived in January optimistically dated March. Publishers may magically make February disappear; the rest of us have to tough it out.

What keeps GBTU volunteers going during these winter months is that PastaFest will soon be here - the true launch of the spring fly fishing season in New England. PastaFest means it's time to start planning local outings and longer fly fishing trips for the spring and summer months. If you are in doubt about where to go, bid for a guided trip at PastaFest and open a whole new fly fishing direction.

As a PastaFest volunteer for the past few years, I've thought about why the event motivates us to pitch

in on this project year after year, with consistently high levels of enthusiasm. I think it has to do with helping to create the surprised and pleased faces of bucket raffle winners, especially the happy faces of kids who win. There are also the self-satisfied yet sometimes slightly embarrassed expressions of anglers who have just acquired a prize they only just realized they won with a ridiculously lowball bid in a silent auction.

It's also about reconnecting. It brings people together who have not seen each other since last fall, or even longer. What connects us - our shared interest in fly fishing and our appreciation of the pristine environment that our spirited co-participants in the sport (the fish!) need to keep up their side of the action. We also get the chance to meet newcomers to the area, or to fly fishing, or to PastaFest, and to welcome them. No one tracks how many friendships are formed or

renewed through PastaFest, but I suspect there are quite a few.

PastaFest is also about fund raising, enabling GBTU to support stream restoration projects, some that depend on our annual support. It's nice to be depended upon; both PastaFest volunteers and guests can share the feeling, for we all make our habitat support possible.

So, mark the date, invite your friends, and buy your tickets for PastaFest 2009, which includes a delicious family-cooked dinner!. Want to help? Email me: David@gbtu.org. See you there!

