



CURRENTS

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Fall 2006

**Greater Boston
Chapter
Trout
Unlimited**

Trout Fishing in the Faroe Islands:

“You Went Trout Fishing Where ... ?!”



Looking the part, Scandinavian Flemming Lund casts his spell over our 09/25/06 chapter meeting.

The clocks haven't been adjusted yet, so chapter members arrived in the dark for our "season opener" meeting, Monday, September 25th. Keith Weinstein presided ably, starting with a brief report from the Board of Directors Meeting the previous week, and making a plea for folks wanting to get more involved to 'step up'. There's lots of work to do this year, more than a handful of stalwarts can, or want to, do on their own", Weinstein said. Volunteers may contact Keith at theheadtrout100@aol.com. "Remember, TU is, first and foremost, a 'conservation organization', and protecting the environment we all enjoy as fishermen is a commitment we should be making as individuals."

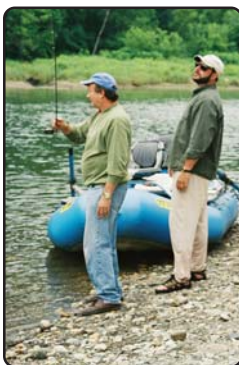
Meeting headliner Flemming Lund of Sudbury has been a chapter member for some time. He is a native of Ribe, a small Danish coastal town with unlimited history oozing between its cobblestones, scores of boats with "personality" and a "Flood Pole" on which the high-water marks from centuries of devastating sea-risings are clearly marked.

But the Faroe Islands, not Denmark, was our imaginary destination for the evening, as Lund displayed a professional-grade slide presentation describing his recent trip there. The Faroes lie half-way between Norway and Iceland and are comprised of eighteen small islands; at no time can one be more than three miles from the sea, and the highest elevation is approximately eight hundred feet. The terrain appears to resemble much of Iceland, with pronounced rolling hills covered with green grass, beautiful waterfalls and steep, rocky cliffs where ocean meets land mass. "There's not a tree in the country!" Flemming reports. The islands belong to, and are supported by, the Kingdom of Denmark, and were originally colonized by what we call Viking explorers from Western Norway and Denmark. The language spoken, called "Faroese", like Icelandic, is very close to the ancient Viking tongue.

Flemming and two of his brothers decided to reunite with their sister, who lives in the Faroes. For him, this meant flying from Boston to Reykjavik via IcelandAir, then on a smaller airline to his destination. The cost? "It was in late June and early July, the most expensive time to fly there", Flemming says. "It was close to \$1,100 in airfare." Faced with the challenge of threatened equipment decontamination documentation, he opted to buy brand new fishing gear instead. "When I got there they never even asked me about decontamination!"

Another Faroe Islands challenge is the weather. "It isn't unusual to be fogged-in for five days or more," he says. "My sister told me to add a week to my plans to compensate for fog." In fact, he and his brothers had to helicopter from their first tourist stop because fog prevented the small ferry from picking them up. "When heavy fog envelopes the islands, the residents won't go out of their houses. Too

Trout Unlimited is a Conservation Organization. Successful conservation projects require funding. Support TU efforts by attending the MA/Ri Council Dinner November 5th at the Holiday Inn in Marlboro - doors open at 4. Donation \$25 per person.



White River guide Brad Yoder gives neophyte angler Chris Huckstepp his first casting lesson. While practicing his new skill on this very spot, Chris landed a 13" rainbow minutes later. This, and other exciting fishing tales, can be read on our website, www.gbtu.org.



James Logan, manager of rod manufacturing at Orvis, explains "thermoplastic carbon fiber bonding" in Zero-Gravity rods.



Identified as the angler who has broken the most rods in his career, Frank Flowers demonstrated how it is done.



Steve Angiers, representative from the Southeast Chapter, gave a great update of progress at Red Brook.

TU is "about conservation". Show your support for Red Brook by participating in the MA/RI Council Dinner November 5th! Call John Salemi 508-481-3034.

What a Show!

Attendees at our October 23rd meeting were treated to another of the most interesting programs we've enjoyed to date.

First we were honored by a visit from James Logan, manager of fly rod manufacturing at Orvis, who introduced us to Zero-Gravity rods and the thermoplastic technology that makes them so break-resistant. "Faced with the problem of brittle aircraft blades, the U.S. Defense Department sought a solution that wouldn't add weight to helicopter and VTO airplane propellers," explained Logan. "We had the same problem, so, when they found bonding carbon fibers at ninety-degree angles using high-temperature thermoplastic solved it, we benefitted as well!"

Mr. Logan described the learning process presented by Orvis' "repair season", when they fulfill their guaranty to repair or replace fly rods at the factory. "Ninety percent of repairs are for broken tips," he reported. He recounted how one unfortunate lad suffered breaks in all of his fly rods when he stood up his fiance to go fishing. "We fixed 'em all!"

Although the new rod tips will break, it takes more than twice as much pressure as it does to break epoxy resin-bonded tips. Logan handed out twenty tips to members and asked them to try to break them, comparing how easy both types were.

Frank Flowers, GBTU's answer to Tennessee Ernie Ford and a master at rod-breaking, put on the best demonstration.

Red Brook, too!

Steve Angiers, member of Southeast Chapter, gave a slide show presentation updating us on progress at Red Brook. TU managed to qualify for two grants, one from American Rivers and another from Riverways, which were augmented by machinery and labor contributions from A. D. Makepeace, the major cranberry grower on the stream.

Banks were repaired, bottoms desilted, flotsam strategically placed, vernal pools reinstated, springs revived and erosion control planted. A lot of hard work.

Steve Hurley was shown electroshocking fish, which were subsequently fitted with electronic recording devices by a URI marine biologist. The devices measure water temperature, a clue to where the fish have spent time. Next year, Steve hopes, the same fish will be caught and the data collected.

Surprise! Surprise!

Jim Logan presented the Chapter with a \$600 Orvis 5-wt., 9' four-piece rod to be raffled off at \$5 per ticket. Jim Miller hustled that beauty into his car before he got "rolled" for it.

An unexpected and special guest, Russell Lyman, who is great-grand

son to Theodore Lyman, conceiver of the Red Brook Reservation, provided some personal history, complete with heartwarming anecdotes about his family's relationship with this wonderful fish habitat treasure. Charming and poised, Lyman made everyone present feel more personally connected with Red Brook, a cherished GBTU adoptee. Members are encouraged to participate in Red Brook Day, when TU does a lot of hard, physical work restoring and enhancing the stream environment. We are told it is a great place to fish, albeit challenging, and that it produces the widest range of salter brook trout sizes as well as the most large fish of several similar rivers.



Russell Lyman was a welcome representative of the family who made it possible for us to enjoy and nurture Red Brook.

many people have become disoriented and disappeared over the cliffs, not able to see where they were."

The fishing, of course, was the meat of Flemming's report. People who live on the islands generally eat haddock and cod, supplemented by lamb from the many sheep raised there. A thriving aquaculture industry produces farmed flounder, trout, haddock and salmon, although the latter has had disease problems. Most of the farmed fish is exported. Commercial fishing is a big enterprise, their catch already prepared, canned, labeled and barcoded when the vessels reach their Faroer port after three months of plying the sea with nets.

The tiny country is segmented into fishing regions, each with different rules, licenses and fishing types. "A nine-foot rod with floating line, a long leader and local flies is the recipe for most fishing", says Lund. He fished for trout in sea runs and in landlocked fresh water, catching risers even though there was little evidence of abundant insect life. Flemming's time and opportunity to fish was limited, but he managed to get some excellent personal shots. Several of the slides were "stolen" from the Faroer Islands website, he confesses, but they showed some admirable salmon and trout catches.

"Timing is very important", he points out. "If salmon is your interest, the best season is late August and September. I was too early for that, but I'll correct that on my next trip!"

Flemming's program got universal rave reviews from members, and he was surrounded by fans when it was over. The subject, of course, was popular, the setting unique and interesting, the slide show very well produced, and Flemming's guidance both expert and enjoyable. It was clear that his own enthusiasm for "fishing in the Faroer" had infected our members.

-For more information about the Faroer, or home inspections, call Flemming at 800-287-1262.

Upstream...

Things to come for GBTU Members:

Sunday, November 5th MA/RI TU COUNCIL DINNER

Major event and fundraiser for the Council; Holiday Inn, Rte. 20, Marlboro/\$25 per/Doors open at 4.

**Monday, November 27th
REGULAR MEETING**, Drumlin Farm, Rte. 117, Lincoln, Doors open at 7 - Chapter Favorite Marla Blair, Western MA and CT guide deluxe, will present a program called "Silver Salmon in Kodiak". Come and bring your Grizzly. \$5 Donation.

NO DECEMBER MEETING
**Monday, January 22nd (2007)
REGULAR MEETING**, Drumlin Farm, Rte. 117, Lincoln, Doors open at 7 - Jeff McEvoy, proprietor of Weatherby's Fishing Lodge, Grand Lake Stream ME with a program about angling in his exotic area. \$5 Donation.

Downstream ...

Behind the scenes:

At a Board of Directors meeting held in Waltham on October 19th, the treasurer reported the Chapter has \$36,400 in two accounts, and that sales of the *Angler's Guide* are doing very well. Fred Boland was given the title "Vice President of List Mgt.", enabling him to utilize the constituency list for communications purposes. Skip Galanes is creating an annual GBTU calendar referencing all events and dates of interest to members; if anyone has input, contact Skip or the GBTU website. Future Board of Directors meetings were scheduled: 11/16/06, 01/11/07, 02/25/07, 03/08/07, 04/19/07 at Coleman/GMAC RE in Waltham unless otherwise notified. It was voted to form a partnership with Southeast Chapter to benefit Red Brook project. Members also voted to respond to TU National's suggestion that MA/RI Council process a "rechartering qualification" of member chapters by explaining our by-laws do not give the Council any such oversight authority. *Folks interested in participating in chapter management should contact Peter Schilling, 617-617-244-5126*



Peter Schilling is an animated and engaging meeting leader, a pillar of the GBTU community.

More Downstream ...

From Peter Schilling:
GBTU's 2006 PastaFest was a success, raising over \$5,000. Most of the money has been donated to conservation projects. We gave \$2,000 to an Orvis fund for restoration of the Battenkill River in Vermont. Orvis matched our money 2-for-1, increasing to a total of \$6,000 our initial GBTU gift. The Battenkill has seen a decline in the numbers of large, wild brown trout for which it was known over the years. Biologists determined this was because of habitat loss. A key project funded by our chapter was reinstalling woody debris in the river. Another \$1,500 went to Casting for Recovery, providing support to women recovering from Breast Cancer. We gave \$250 for restoration at Red Brook, a sea run brook trout stream in Wareham. Red Brook, open to the fishing public, can be tough initially. Wild sea run brook trout up to 16 inches have often been taken in recent years.

The 2007 PastaFest will be at Hibernian Hall in Watertown, April 1st. Mark your calendars.

**READ ANY GOOD BOOKS
LATELY?**

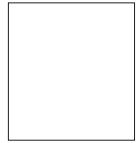
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51 Hawthorne Street
Arlington MA 02476



The only thing larger than the rainbow trout in this picture is the happy angler's smile! White River VT, July 2006.

Back to the Penobscot ...

Between September 15 and October 15 anglers began fishing for Atlantic salmon in the United States for the first time in seven years. The state of Maine opened an experimental season this fall. The first fish caught and released was hooked during the second week of the season.

Anglers demonstrated considerable support for the program. During opening weekend more than a dozen fishermen were on the Penobscot river. Over the course of the following Friday a dozen anglers were seen fishing each of various pools. As of September 23, 2006, the trap count for returning fish was 1,031. The Penobscot is not known as a fall river, and the count over this first week of the season demonstrates that fact. Only five fish were in the trap, all of them dark, indicating that they had probably been in the river all summer. Biologists will be studying the results of this season, angler response and impact on the fish to determine when, and if, a more traditional spring season might open. - Peter Schilling



Brad Yoder with his raft in Royalton VT; rafting allows the angler to reach unfished territory.



Winter is near; Capt. Pete Greenan in Boca Grande FL, waiting for another snowbird's call.

"This is serious. Let's get started." These are words I learned at a sales seminar last year, and they are very appropriate regarding the 2007 PastaFest. PastaFest is our one, big opportunity to raise funds for GBTU's conservation projects such as Red Brook, on which we will be focusing this year. The event is scheduled for April 1st, which is some time from now. But we need to start gathering Auction Items and signing up volunteers to help with this enormous project. Please call Peter Schilling at 617-244-5126 to help PastaFest '07 "get started".

-C. Peterson, Editor

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