

CURRENTS

Newsletter published by Greater Boston Chapter, Trout Unlimited

September, 2008
Greater Boston
Chapter
Trout
Unlimited



A “Lyons” Among Men Chapter Champion Accepts Battenkill Award

Doug Lyons, an active participant in our GBTU Chapter, traveled to Manchester, Vermont, on a too-hot Saturday in mid-June to represent the Southwestern Vermont Chapter of TU at an awards ceremony held as part of Vermont's third annual “Clean Water Day.” The Chapter selected Doug as their representative to receive the award in recognition of his long-term volunteer efforts to restore trout-friendly habitat to the Battenkill River. Vermont Governor Jim Douglas spoke at the event, which was held on the Town Green in Manchester. The Southwestern Vermont TU Chapter has been working with other local conservation organizations to add large tree trunks, whole trees, large boulders, and other bulky materials at strategic locations in the River. These structures help to protect trout from their natural predators, as well as from flooding conditions, icing and other water conditions, and so promote their survival in this historic flyfishing river. They will also gradually alter the river's channel by disrupting its present straight-line configuration. The addition of these obstacles also reduces the river's flow rate as well as creating under-bank hollows and deep “scour holes”, all of which are necessary to provide the habitat and refuge that trout need. For more than ten years Doug has been an active volunteer in planning and carrying out this work.

Doug is an active participant in GBTU programs, and regularly contributes a guided flyfishing trip to the Battenkill as a fundraising auction prize - including accommodations in his camper, - at our annual PastaFest fundraiser. Doug is perhaps the most knowledgeable and experienced angler on the river, and his guided trips have been very popular auction items. He has arranged to be temporarily assigned to the Southwestern Vermont Chapter to facilitate his volunteer participation on the Battenkill. For the past several years GBTU has contributed a portion of proceeds from PastaFest to support the Battenkill River restoration effort.

Friend, benefactor, representative and all-round bon vivant, Doug Lyons deserves the award and our thanks.

REGULAR
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.



A Battenkill prize fish.



Doug Lyons surveying Battenkill restoration.

UPSTREAM ...

September 22, 2008

Drumlin Farm, Rte. 117, Lincoln.
Regular Meeting:

Jim Rusher will speak about salmon fishing in the Gaspé Peninsula with a discussion about Spey Rod fishing. Doors open at 7, program starts at 7:30 sharp.

September 29, 2008

SPECIAL In-Town Boston Meeting, McFadden's Restaurant, 148 State Street, Boston. Jim Rusher will speak about salmon fishing in the Gaspé Peninsula with a discussion about Spey Rod fishing. Cash bar, refreshments at 5, dinner from menu, program starts 5:45. See Streamside Chat for more details.

October 27, 2008

Drumlin Farm, Rte. 117, Lincoln.
Regular Meeting:

A MA Fish & Game Riverways expert will describe why volunteers are needed to conduct stream surveys, how they work and why they are important. Program on successful dam removal from the Penobscot River in ME. Doors open at 7, program starts at 7:30 sharp.



A fine trout in MT, held by John Salemi.



It is said that Brad Voight catches more fish than anyone: Proof in MT, 2008.

Time to volunteer!

Following our successful PastaFest fundraising event several Board members suggested our funds might be used to aid projects within our territory in addition to other Chapters' projects (e.g., Red Brook, Battenkill restoration).

The Board established a committee to explore proposed projects in which Chapter members could also actively participate. This summer the committee met with MA Fish and Game Department's Riverways Program folks. They work in three areas: River restoration (including dam removal), river protection surveys for action programs to address pollution, culverts or other structures that impede fish passage, and runoff issues, and maintaining sustainable streamflow (identify low water level and low waterflow conditions, propose responses). All of Riverways' activities depend heavily on volunteer participation.

At our October 27th meeting a Riverways expert will describe why volunteers are needed to conduct stream surveys that develop specific information from a stream or river that is necessary to prepare appropriate waterway restoration. The surveys can also be used to document the presence of native brook trout. At this meeting we will also hear about the successful removal of three dams on Maine's Penobscot River. Early next year the US Fish and Wildlife Service will tell us about volunteer needs that agency has.

The committee also received informal requests for assistance from two nonprofit river protection organizations: Shawsheen River Watershed Association and the Merrimack River Watershed Council.

The Shawsheen headwaters in Lexington underneath Hanscom Field. It meanders northeast through Andover to Lawrence and the Merrimack (There are no dams on the Merrimack below the Shawsheen). The Town of Andover is considering removing three dams on the Shawsheen which, according to Riverways, presents a rare opportunity to restore the entire 25-mile river and watershed.

Stream surveys are needed to document any trout-friendly, spring-fed cold water holding pools, any native brook trout in the River or its tributaries, and whether the River can be salmon spawning grounds. (Salmon are evident below the dams.) Re-establishment of an Atlantic salmon fishery in MA is an exciting prospect.

The Merrimack River Watershed Council covers a major New England watershed flowing south from NH into MA, then turning east to Lowell and the Lowell Dam, to Lawrence and the Essex Dam, Haverhill, then Newburyport and the Atlantic. The only MA dams on the Merrimack are the Lowell and Essex dams, both used to generate power. Prior to constructing these dams Atlantic salmon, shad, and herring spawned in the Merrimack. The dams are major barriers to fish passage; only .3% of salmon fry stocked in Merrimack tributaries in NH manage to get by both dams to their spawning grounds.

Sat., October 4, 2008, will be a clean-up for the entire CT River watershed. Various groups will participate from the mouth to the headwaters in NH. TU Chapters and State Councils will be among the volunteers. GBTU will assist on the Westfield River, a major tributary. Clean up will last between 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. along the river in Westfield, approximately 1 1/2 hours from metro Boston.

Peter Schilling will be coordinating the efforts for GBTU. If you are interested in participating, and learning about the Westfield River, a great fishery, call Peter at 617-244-5126, or e-mail him at PMACDS@aol.com.

VOLUNTEERS NOTE:

From time to time our website will list volunteer opportunities to assist the Merrimack River Watershed Council, which needs our volunteer support at all levels, from gathering water samples for quality testing to preparing grant applications. Other TU-relevant projects in our neighborhood will bubble up and will be announced at www.gbtu.org. Getting your hands dirty and your feet wet is often what conservation is about.

“Dam Cam” Captures Merrimack Village Dam Removal

For 270+ years, Merrimack Village Dam powered sawmills, gristmills, a shoe factory and provided water for a chemical plant. Scheduled for demolition, removal of the dam will open the Souhegan River 14 miles from Milford to Merrimack, providing herring, Atlantic salmon, American shad and American eel habitat. NOAA partnering with CLF* will record the event live on camera.

Read the CLF press release <http://action.clf.org/site/R?i=h76gZ8Jm-mLs2Xgjxb4nuw..> visit this website to see the dam removal:

<http://action.clf.org/site/R?i=ZnARub965wubk-8fcTxofA..>

*Conservation Law Foundation;
www.clf.org

Editor's Note: The following article was contributed by Ron Rhodes of the White River Watershed Chapter in Vermont, where Didymo has become a major problem. It could be a problem in MA soon!

Bad News Everyone! Didymo bloom on White and trib's

I am 99% sure that we have a huge Didymo (“rock snot”) nuisance bloom in the special regulation section on the White River from Locust Creek down to Cleveland Brook. Granted, I am not a scientist, but I have a sample and damn near every rock in that section is covered (in layman terms I would say that qualifies as a nuisance bloom).

And to make matters worse, my sample came out of Locust Creek (below the Rte. 107 bridge next to Locust Creek Outfitters). As far as I know this is the first indication of Didymo in a White River tributary!

The Two Rivers Conservation Partnership just got our new Didymo brochures and will be distributing to businesses etc. ASAP. We will also put out a press release. More signs will be posted, especially Stockbridge to Bethel.

Didymo will hit Royalton soon if it hasn't already. Hopefully we can keep it from going upstream into the trib's! If you can help (i.e.. confirm my sitings if you are a biologist, or just help spread the word with signs if you are a layman like me) please let me know. **If you fish the White River and/or its trib's, clean and dry all your gear!**
rhodes@sover.net

Read Currents on-line and/or receive it via email: Send your email address to fred@gbtu.com today!



Volunteering is what TU is about. Brad Voight releasing fish school children have grown in Trout in the Classroom program.



Tom Fay sports a feisty fish purloined from the Millers River on a trip with John Salemi.



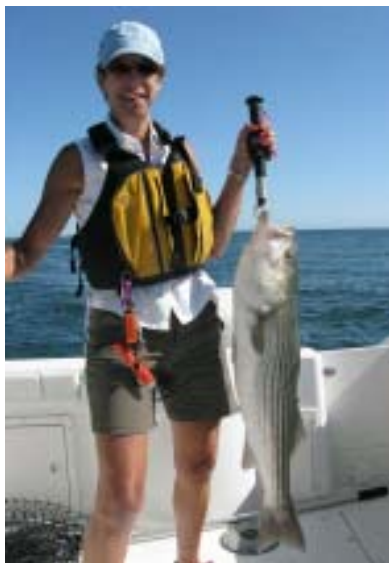
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Fred Boland provided this photo of an angler's first striped bass, from Monomoy Rips.

SPECIAL BOSTON MEETING!

***Additional Meeting for In-Town Members
September 29th - See Streamside Chat for Details!***

The President's Streamside Chat ...

Why, in a Chapter of 900+ members, is turnout so low at our monthly meetings? One of our Board members researched the basic demographic of our membership — where our members live. Each member's ZIPCODE became a dot on a map of greater Boston. The result: a substantial cluster of dots in Boston and significant concentration within Route 128. Maybe these members find it inconvenient to get to Drumlin Farm for meetings; I thought, **how about an in-town Chapter meeting?!**

Announcing GBTU's first in-town Chapter meeting, Monday, September 29th at McFadden's Restaurant, 148 State Street in Boston. We've been given McFadden's function room at no charge. This date is exactly one week after our regular meeting the 22nd at Drumlin Farm. Mark your calendars.

McFadden's Restaurant is diagonally across

State St. from the Customs House. Closest T stops: Aquarium, Government Center. Parking: Quincy Market parking garages, or on-street.)

Doors open at 5 for social hour, refreshments, cash bar. Opening remarks at 5:45, followed by speaker Jim Rusher, discussion and a drawing for the door prizes. The meeting is scheduled to end by 6:45. Jim Rusher is an experienced salmon fisherman and accomplished spey caster. He will share insights on Gaspé Peninsula Salmon fishing, places to fish, the past season, and why spey casting is useful in salmon fishing. Jim will have made this presentation at Drumlin Farm the previous week.

Important: If there is a possibility you can attend, even for part of the meeting, please let me know (david@gbtu.org) so that we accommodate everyone. Please bring any friends who may be

interested.

Please see the article in this *Currents* discussing volunteering opportunities for Chapter members.

I have covered a lot of ground in this letter, and I welcome your views. My e-mail address is david@gbtu.org. Thanks.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. I'll see you at our next Chapter meeting — on September 22 at Drumlin Farm, and/or September 29 at McFadden's Restaurant in Boston!

David Glater, Chapter President



President David Glater (right) with Frank LaGambina at PastaFest 2007