

# CURRENTS

Newsletter published by Greater Boston Chapter, Trout Unlimited

September, October 2009

Greater  
Boston  
Chapter



Jim Miller (left) and Brad Voight are the chief set-up elves for each PastaFest.



Jim Miller striking a familiar "got 'em" pose, this time with a big brown on the Beaverhead River in Montana.

## Postcard from The Edge ...

The following is a heart-felt letter from Jim Miller, past president and, arguably, the spirit of the annual Greater Boston Chapter, Trout Unlimited PastaFest

Dear Members-

This summer two things came up of which I know many of you are aware. First, and sadly, Bill Tapply passed away a couple of weeks ago. Bill was a good friend to TU and a prolific outdoor and mystery writer. I read one of his last books this summer, "Trout Eyes." In this book he visits so many places where many of us have fished, including Walden Pond, the Farmington, the Y pool, Fred's estuary on the North Shore, or the Big Horn further away from home. It was humbling to realize that two generations of Tapply's have left us. His father, the wonderful "Tap" Tapply lived to be nearly ninety. I remember his columns in Field and Stream as a kid growing up out west. Bill unfortunately left us at 69 years of age having fallen to leukemia. (Obituary in July 31st Globe).

Secondly, if you have not read the Fly Rod and Reel column by Ted Williams in the July/Sept. issue you should. Ted is one of the finest and most well-researching writers in the field. This article really got my hackles up. As all of us who have been avid striper fisherman for many years know from our catch results, the striper situation is grim. My own catches have been dramatically dwindling over the last 3 to 4 years. The go-to places are barren of fish with little bait. And that's the problem. The fish have been overfished, the bait has been fished out, and management policies such as we have in MA are devastating the population. We only harvest breeders and have a "commercial fishery" that is a disgraceful sham. I'm not a scientist but my experience on the water and many others to whom I have spoken, tell me we should have seen this coming.

Look forward to seeing some of you at the Sept. 8th Board of Directors meeting, many of you September 28th at Drumlin Farm. Good luck on your search for fish and may your lines always be tight.

-Jim Miller

Jim Miller (left), Peter Schilling.



President Obama's Ocean Policy Task Force has planned at least five sessions around the nation to gather public input, one on September 24, in Providence RI. **Speak up for a strong national policy to protect our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes!** Come to a hearing! — Send in a comment! — Post to your favorite blogs! We need a national policy ending overfishing, protecting key ocean habitat, cleaning waterways and reducing climate change impact.

Contact Sean Cosgrove ([scosgrove@clf.org](mailto:scosgrove@clf.org)) or Megan Mackey ([megan\\_mackey@speakeasy.net](mailto:megan_mackey@speakeasy.net)) for more information.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/>

**2009 GBTU Officers/Directors:**

Fred Boland - fred@gbtu.org  
Gary Crago - gary@gbtu.org  
Skip Galanes, Treas. - skip@gbtu.org  
David Glater, Pres. - david@gbtu.org  
Fred Jennings - peakdawn@yahoo.com  
Frank Lagambina - gambi07@comcast.net  
Jim Miller - troutbum351@yahoo.com  
Curt Peterson - cpetersonrealestate@gmail.com  
John Salemi, Secy. - john@gbtu.org  
Peter Schilling - pmacds@aol.com  
Keith Weinstein, VP - Keith@gbtu.org

**New Venue for  
In-Town Meeting**

Fall Intown Meeting Scheduled  
The GBTU Chapter's fall in-town meeting will be held on Monday, November 2d, one week after the Chapter's regular monthly meeting at Drumlin Farms in Lincoln. This meeting will take place at a new location - the historic Durgin Park Restaurant, located in the Quincy Market North Market Building. Parking in the vicinity of Quincy Market is plentiful, and the area is well served by the T's Government Center, Haymarket, and Aquarium transit stations.

The program at this meeting will repeat the presentation made at the Drumlin Farm meeting -- "Doing Yellowstone 'On The Cheap'." If the Drumlin Farm meeting site is not convenient for you, please try to attend the intown meeting. Social hour begins at 5:00 p.m. The meeting and program will start promptly at 5:30 p.m., and last approximately one hour.



Seth Dunn coddles a native brookie caught in Blood Brook, NH.

Conservation minded?  
Join the  
Greater Boston Chapter  
Trout Unlimited  
Today!  
david@gbtu.org



John Salemi prepares for battle in the White River, Sharon VT

**WEBSITE: FULL CIRCLE**

Several years ago Adam Buchwald, a computer genius and GBTU member, offered to build a website for GBTU. He did exactly what he promised. He became webmaster, ran the show and did a fantastic job. Then his life became a traffic jam of personal activity and he reluctantly handed off the responsibility to fellow GBTU member Tony Vinciguerra. Tony managed and further developed our website – innovating, refining and generally overseeing all aspects of our electronic communications. Like Adam, Tony's imprint is deep and last spring, at PastaFest '09 we acknowledged Tony's contributions. As with all great webmasters, their volunteer commitments often compete with their business and home life. Sadly, this summer Tony asked to take a step back as professional responsibilities and family needs had to be addressed. So, here we are – the fall of 2009 – but, where are we? To tell the truth, say hello, to an old friend, Adam Buchwald, our new / old webmaster. Adam has stepped up to the plate and we are all glad to have him back! My friends, we have come full circle and I hope everyone will take the opportunity to visit *our new and even more improved website*, [www.gbtu.org](http://www.gbtu.org). Thanks to Tony and thanks to Adam for this great update as we move ahead.

-Keith Weinstein

**UPSTREAM -**

**September 28th -**

On this 50th anniversary of the founding of Trout Unlimited, our first program this fall will be a tribute to the home river of TU's founding fathers, the Au Sable River in the northern portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. After a fishing trip to this famous river last year, Chapter member Doug Lyons and a few of his traveling companions put together a very professional video (music, fades, etc.) showing off this "Blue Ribbon" trout river. Doug will update the presentation with more recent views from a trip he, his son, and Chapter Board member Garry Crago took earlier this summer.

**October 26th -**

Ever thought about traveling to Wyoming for a week or two to fish the awesome Yellowstone River and the other fabled trout waters of Yellowstone National Park, but dismissed the dream because it would be too costly? Chapter member John Bolognese has been making this trip every summer for years, and will tell us he how he does it "on the cheap." His photos will convince you that it is a trip well worth taking.

**November 2nd, In-Town -**

John will make this presentation twice — first at our regular October meeting (October 26th - 4th Monday - at Drumlin Farm, Lincoln) and again the following week - Monday, Nov. 2d - at our in-town meeting in downtown Boston. (See "New Venue", p. 2, for details).



Garry Crago with a nice rainbow at Meccawe Club, Bridgewater VT.

The following is the text of GBTU President David Glater's August 24th letter to Senators Edward M. Kennedy and John F. Kerry regarding EPA classification of biomass combustion as a "green" source for electrical power:  
RE: Clean Energy and Climate Change Legislation (H.R. 2454)

Dear Senators Kennedy and Kerry,

I am writing on behalf of the 900 members of the Greater Boston Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a national environmental organization, to express our concern over portions of the American Clean Energy and Security Act ("ACES") bill (H.R. 2454) passed by the House of Representatives on June 26, 2009. The Senate will be considering this bill when it returns from its summer recess.

The House-passed bill treats the burning of plant material (including wood), municipal waste, and construction debris as green, "renewable" energy sources, on a par with solar energy and wind energy. The effect of this erroneous classification is to ignore the harmful climatic effects of carbon dioxide generated by biomass/trash combustion. According to David G. Hawkins, Director of Climate Programs, Natural Resources Defense Council ("NRDC"), in testimony before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on July 7, 2009, the ACES bill contains "a large biomass loophole that ignores the global warming emissions related to biomass production and combustion." In fact, this loophole extends beyond biomass burning, to the incineration of municipal solid waste, construction and demolition debris and other materials. The bill wrongly treats all of these as fuels that produce "renewable electricity."

This loophole for biomass/trash combustion allows power plants burning these fuels to generate unlimited and uncontrolled amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). According to U.S. Department of Energy figures, by 2020 biomass burning alone will generate 700,000,000 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. The bottom line is that classifying combustion of these fuels as a "renewable energy source" means that their use is promoted and subsidized by the House bill, even though their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions accelerate climate change.

When compared to coal, per megawatt, biomass/trash burning emits 1.5 times the CO<sub>2</sub>, 1.5 times the carbon monoxide (CO, a toxic air pollutant), and as much particulate matter. Particulate emissions cause cancer, asthma and respiratory ailments. Treating the combustion of these fuels as a "renewable energy resource," simply replaces coal with a different carbon-based fuel source that is even more harmful to the environment.

The power plants that burn biomass to generate electricity also drain rivers through the evaporation of large volumes of water for plant cooling, and then discharge heated and polluted effluent and back into these rivers. The water drawdowns and the discharge of heated, polluted water produce disastrous consequences for the fisheries and marine life in these rivers.

The harvesting of large wooded tracts disrupts the streams and rivers that flow through these forests, and the subsequent erosion of denuded forest land washes silt and debris into these rivers and streams. Instead of removing mountaintops to get at buried coal and dumping the resultant soil and debris into adjacent rivers and streams, forest harvesting provides another means to contaminate, disrupt, and pollute our waters. Under either scenario, fish and wildlife suffer.

Because large forested tracts must be cut down and harvested to achieve scale economies, the capacity of the ecosystem to sequester carbon is reduced. The quantity of woody biomass needed to fuel these power plants threatens our Nation's forests, which are regarded by other parts of the ACES bill as critical "carbon sinks" for their carbon sequestration value.

While industry argues that biomass/trash incineration is "carbon neutral," this is a myth, particularly with regard to cutting and burning our forests. In fact, burning trees to generate "renewable electricity" will add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere in the critical near-term period. This CO<sub>2</sub> will not be reabsorbed before the planet reaches its thermal temperature "tipping point." According to the U.S. EPA, the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by burning biomass and other materials to generate electricity will not be reabsorbed for hundreds of years. The U.S. EPA's April 2009 proposed endangerment finding puts the matter starkly:

*Indeed, for a given amount of CO<sub>2</sub> released today, about half will be taken up by the oceans and terrestrial vegetation over the next 30 years, a further 30 percent will be removed over a few centuries, and the remaining 20 percent will only slowly decay over time such that it will take many thousands of years to remove from the atmosphere.*

*EPA NPRM, Proposed Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act, 74 FR 18899 (Apr. 24, 2009).*

The large volumes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by burning trees to produce electricity will not be reabsorbed in time to "neutralize" the impacts of the CO<sub>2</sub> on global warming. This is true regardless of the number of trees planted to replace the trees that are burned. There is a recognized difference in CO<sub>2</sub> absorption capacity between mature forests and new growth trees.

*It turns out forests hundreds of years old can continue to actively absorb carbon, holding great quantities in storage. Re-sprouting clear-cuts, on the other hand, often emit carbon for years, despite the rapid growth rate of young trees.*

*Levy, S., "The Giving Trees," OnEarth Magazine (Feb. 29, 2008).*

It is our position that the Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) of any climate change bill should not treat the combustion of biomass, wood, municipal solid waste, construction and demolition debris, or other materials as sources of "renewable energy."

Any electric power facility that relies on burning generates carbon dioxide that furthers global warming. Electric power facilities that rely on biomass/trash combustion should therefore be treated no differently from facilities that burn fossil fuels.

The Nation needs energy/climate change legislation that will accomplish real reductions in the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that cause global warming. As the EPA has recognized, the science shows that burning biomass/trash is no different from burning coal as far as the generation of carbon dioxide is concerned. Classifying biomass/trash burning as sources of "renewable energy" reflects politics, not sound science. We urge you to consider and apply the EPA science on this matter and revise pertinent provisions of the House-passed

ACES bill (H.R. 2454). Whatever else a climate change bill does, it ought not harm the environment and human health, and ought not promote global warming.

FIRST CLASS  
US Postage  
PAID  
Framingham, MA 01701  
Permit No. 19



Doug Lyons's son Clayton, their guide Josh, and one huge brown trout, Au Sable River, Michigan. One doesn't often see a smile or a fish this big!

*"Address correction requested"*

## PRESIDENT'S STREAMSIDE CHAT - David Glater

This has been quite a summer! I never expected as GBTU's president to become involved with an environmental challenge to my beloved Westfield River. A local developer/woodlot owner is well along on his proposal to build a wood-burning power plant in Russell, MA. The plant would "adversely impact" the Westfield lying along US Route 20 just south of town. Ted Lewis taught me to roll-cast on this stretch, and introduced me to many of his favorite nymphing spots. Operating, the plant will make water withdrawals (885,000 gallons per day) and warm-water discharges (85°F), jeopardizing native brookies and juvenile salmon, and holdover rainbows may find survival difficult under these conditions.

Effective opposition has required more than GBTU presidential bluster. Government agencies reviewing permit applications need facts and

credible, technically sound arguments in order to disagree with the conclusions the developer and its engineering consultant put forth. Hiring experts costs money, so organizations such as GBTU use volunteers to gather facts, express the science of cold water fish survival in warmer water, get Atlantic salmon areas designated "essential fish habitat", and trace bureaucratic actions that appear to unfairly favor the developer. Last week I testified at an EPA hearing of public comments on the draft wastewater discharge permit for the Russell project. Over 100 people attended; local residents told me of their appreciation for GBTU's support. There will be more opportunities like this one, with opportunities for GBTU-ers who want to get involved. The issues in Russell exemplify problems nationwide if Federal energy policy favors wood burning as "green energy". Burning coal adds carbon dioxide to the atmosphere; how can wood burning be better? It

generates 1.5 times as much CO2 emissions to produce the same amount of power as coal. Yet energy legislation passed in late June puts wood-burning on an environmental par with wind and solar power as "green" energy sources. How can we justify cutting carbon-absorbing MA forests to fuel a wood-burning power plant? What about the impact on fish habitat of logging operations? Fish can't lobby or make campaign contributions. We need to speak on their behalf. (See our letter to Senators Kennedy and Kerry - p.3 - and send an e-mail ([david@gbtu.org](mailto:david@gbtu.org)) if you want to speak for the fish..

