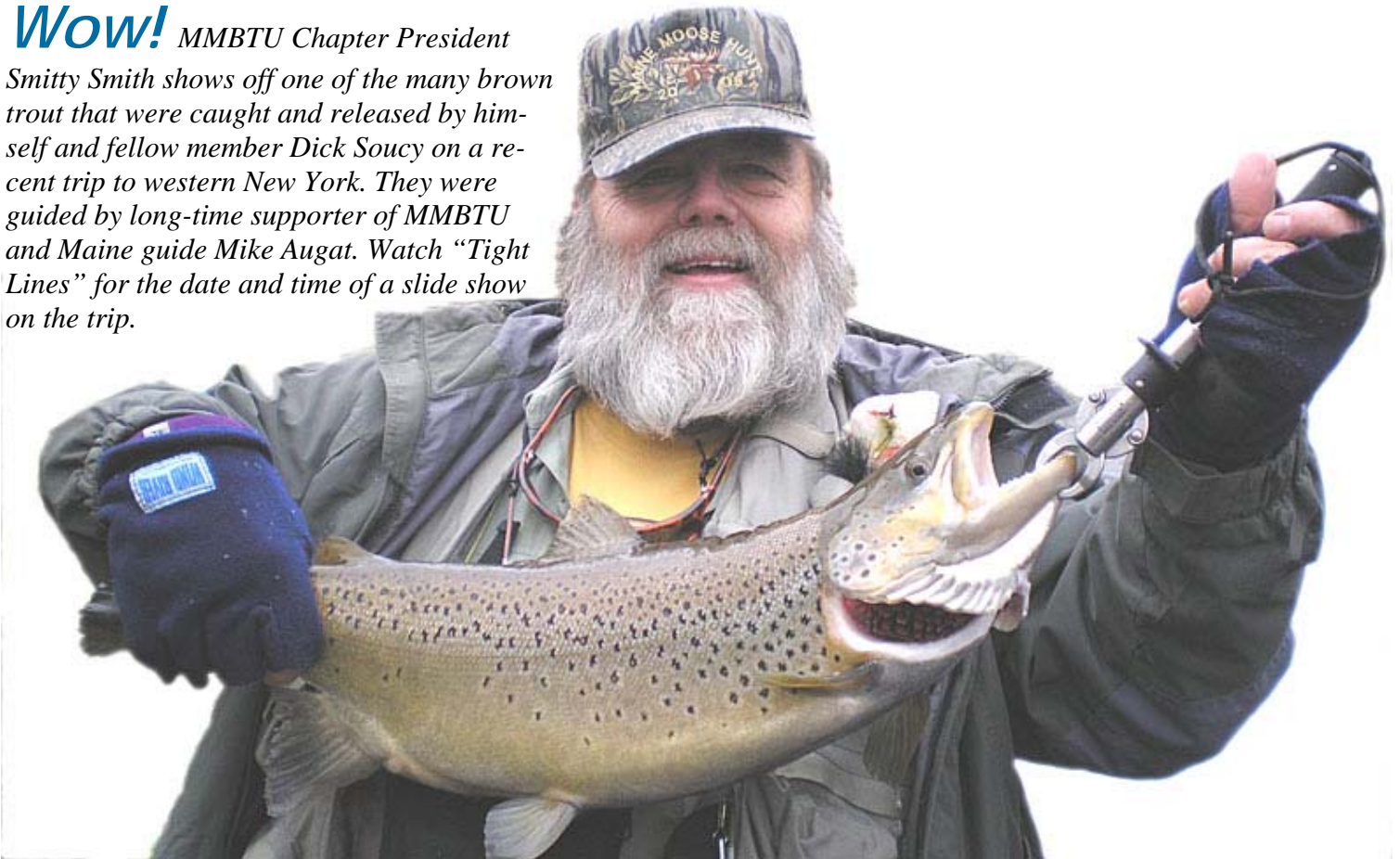


Tight Lines

Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited Newsletter

Volume 22 Issue 2 - November 2006

Wow! *MMBTU Chapter President Smitty Smith shows off one of the many brown trout that were caught and released by himself and fellow member Dick Soucy on a recent trip to western New York. They were guided by long-time supporter of MMBTU and Maine guide Mike Augat. Watch "Tight Lines" for the date and time of a slide show on the trip.*



**Thank you
Renewing
Members of
Merrymeeting
Bay TU**

James Cieslak, Jay

Roland Douglass, Auburn

Thomas & Deborah Finkle, Lisbon Falls

Donald Grondin, Lewiston

John Knapp, Nobleboro

Ronald Rothenberger, Jefferson

Dave Sherwood, Bowdoinham

Timothy Tefft, Lisbon Falls

American Fisheries Society Meeting Includes Brook Trout Symposium

The annual American Fisheries Society meeting in Lake Placid, NY, featured a very successful symposium on September 14 titled, "*Brook Trout: Conservation Challenges at Multiple Scales.*" Organized by Nat Gillespie with help from US Forest Service, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and Maine Department of Inland Fish & Game, the symposium featured 16 speakers from across North America working with brook trout. The attendance of the symposium topped out at around 120 people.

The symposium featured several broad categories of presentations: assessment and modeling, habitat mapping, genetics issues, and restoration of brook trout waters. Speakers included Forrest Bonney, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries, Casey Jackson, University of Maine, and Jeff Reardon, Trout Unlimited.

The level of interest and excitement in brook trout issues and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture is extremely high. Scientists are making much progress across many fields, particularly with brook trout movement patterns, genetic makeup of different brook trout populations and life forms (salter, coasters), and on-the-ground restoration projects in different parts of the range. Watch for powerpoint presentations on the www.brookie.org website.



November Fly of the Month:

Yellow Humpy

Submitted by Dave Martel

Hook: 1 XL dry fly hook

Size: 10 to 16

Thread: Yellow 6/0 uni

Tail: Moose Body hair (stacked)

Body: Yellow tying thread or yellow uni-stretch

Overbody: Light deer hair

Wings: Calf Tail (white)

Hackle(s): 8 wraps of grizzly and brown. 5 in rear of wings, three in front.

For once I'm giving you a fly that I don't fish (well - very much, at least). For those of you that fish fast, big water (East Outlet; West Branch Penobscot; upper Kennebec; etc) this is an excellently floating; easy-to-spot fly.

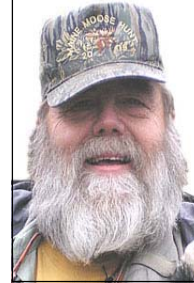
Why am I giving you this pattern now? Great question. It's actually an introduction to what just may be the *best* fly-tying book I've ever seen, for both beginners (tyro's) and experienced tiers. It's called "*The Benchside Introduction to Fly Tying*" by Ted Leeson and Jim Schollmeyer. The book is spiral bound and the pages are cut horizontally - very "user friendly". It's a bit pricey at \$45, but a wealth of information at your fingertips. Available (autographed, no less) at Mike & Linda's Fly Fishing Only in Fairfield (and other places, I'm quite certain).

The Yellow Humpy is the cover fly; and excellently done. As this is the November Newsletter you might want to leave this column highlighted for "Santa"...as I'm sure "Santa" might need gift ideas that aren't spelled Simms; Orvis; or Thomas & Thomas. Enjoy.

From Alaska to Maine . . .

I've just returned from a 3 1/2 month trip to Alaska, where the fishing more than lived up to its reputation. I'm looking forward to sharing the many memorable events at the January chapter meeting.

But before we get to that, it's time to turn our attention to some really important and exciting things that happened right here in mid-coast Maine over the summer. Please mark November 14 on your calendar and plan to attend the November meeting at Graziano's. You'll find out what kind of fish are in the local streams that were surveyed as part of the Brook Trout Stream Surveys completed during the summer of 2006.



Message from the President
Gordon "Smitty" Smith

The evening's program features Regional Fisheries Biologist Bobby Van Riper and Sean McCormick presenting on the successful results of this first set of

surveys of waterways including the West Branch of the Sheepscot, Purington Brook, the Abagadasset and others that lie within MMBTU's area. These surveys were part of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture project that is being supported by TU chapters like ours all along the Eastern seaboard.

They will also provide information on plans that are in the works for the coming months. Maine DIF&W has received grant money that allows continued study of our streams. Add your input about streams that you would

About Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited

Merrymeeting Bay TU Chapter 329 serves a membership of 200+ in the mid-coast area of Maine. For more information e-mail: info@mmbtu.org, visit the web site, <http://www.mmbtu.org>, or mail PO Box 191, Richmond, ME 04357.

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Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Mid-Coast Maine's Streams Survey Report

State TU's
Sean McCormick
and
DIF&W Regional Fisheries Biologist
Bobby Van Riper

Hear details of streams surveys that were done during the summer of 2006 as part of the TU national Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. Learn more about upcoming EBT projects.

Tuesday, November 14, 2006—6-9 PM
Graziano's Restaurant, Lisbon, ME



New England Region Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Happenings

Maine—The Maine brook trout stream survey, evaluation and profiling project is off to a good start with a number of field exercises both in the upper 10 million acres of the state and in central Maine. In addition, a secondary effort has begun to evaluate the sea-run (salter) brook trout populations in coastal Maine. Maine fisheries biologist Bobby Van Riper and his TU volunteer crew found an impressive number of salters in mid-coast Maine streams.

Unfortunately, the plan to stress Rapid River smallmouth bass fingerlings this past spring by manipulating water volumes through Middle Dam at the top of the river was derailed by the enormous rainfall which necessitated constant and heavier than normal flows through the dam

New Hampshire – The NH Council has completed a 15 minute power point presentation on the status of Brook Trout in NH and the threats to its continued survival. The education of

TU members as well as other conservation organizations, service groups and legislators will be included in this outreach.

NH is also planning a brochure titled, “*The Brook Trout: Our State Fish*” will be illustrated with pictures and graphs from “*The New England Brook Trout*” published by TU in 2004

Kirk Mayland, TU staff, has acquired, in conjunction with the NH council a fair number of beautiful brook trout prints. If you are interested in purchasing some at cost (\$2) from the NHTU please contact kmayland@tu.org. They can be used for any number of things but mostly to get information out to the public about the importance and beauty of our native fish.

Mass/ Rhode Island—The Valley Chapter has completed restoration of the Swift River below Quabin Reservoir. The swift is home to a population of naturally reproducing brook trout. Electro-fishing/brook trout population studies are being conducted in brook trout streams in the southwestern part of the state. The town of Plymouth MA, with help from Riverways, is restoring brook trout habitat to a section of the historic Eel River where native brook trout were discovered living in an abandoned cranberry bog.

Events: 2006-07 MMBTU Year

The general membership and the general public are welcome at all meetings including Directors' Meetings. Meetings are held at Graziano's Restaurant, Lisbon, Maine unless otherwise noted. Phone: 353-4335, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.



Next
Meeting

November 14: Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture: Local Stream Survey Report Bobby Van Riper and Sean McCormick

December 15: Christmas Party

January 9: Alaska, Canada & Montana Fishing Trip Reports Gordon "Smitty" Smith & Dick Soucy

February 13: Building a Drift Boat Dick Soucy

March 13: Bug Night

April 28: Annual Banquet & Fundraising Auction

Knights of Columbus Hall; Brunswick

May 8: Casting Clinic

June 20-22: Chapter Trip

Grand Lake Stream

November General Meeting
Eastern Brook Trout
Initiative:

Local Stream
Survey Report

Sean McCormick & Bobbie Van Riper

November 14, 6-9 PM
Graziano's Restaurant, Lisbon, ME

Directors' Meetings: November 28, December 19, January 23, February 27, March 27, April 10, May 22.

Come, get involved, help out, support the cause, have fun!