

Tight Lines

Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited Newsletter

Volume 24 Issue 3 - November 2008

Purinton Brook survey completed despite challenging conditions

Submitted by Lois Cunningham

Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited assisted the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife with a stream survey of Purinton Brook, located off Bowdoinham Rd. in Bowdoin, ME on a very wet Saturday, September 14. Fisheries Research Biologist Merry Gallagher had first guided the volunteers through a training session on September 6 at the Town Office building in Bowdoinham.

Volunteers were divided into two groups – the upstream and downstream crews. The upstream access was by way of an ATV trail that got the crew to about a 1/4 mile from the stream. They walked the rest of the way. The upstream section is about 1.5 miles in length to a point by a gravel pit. The downstream crew started at the gravel pit and headed to the bottom deadwater at the confluence with Bow



From left to right: Jeni Menendez, Ryan Patrie, Biologist Chip Wick, David Capuano, Biologist Merry Gallagher, Orman Hines and Dick Soucy. Participants not shown are Christine Egan, Thomas Egan, Lois Cunningham and Smitty Smith.



Biologist Chip Wick records data gathered by MMBTU volunteers, including stream depth and stream bank width.

doinham Rd, about another 1.5 mile stream section.

Upstream crew members were Merry, Dick Soucy, Orman Hines, Dave Capuano, and Trout in the Classroom teacher Ryan Patrie from Bowdoinham School. The downstream crew consisted of biologist Chip Wick, Lois Cunningham, Jeni Menendez, Trout in the Classroom teacher Christine Egan from Bowdoin School, and her son, Thomas Egan. Each crew encountered plenty of beaver bogs and accompanying mud in addition to a constant soaking rain.

Chip returned to Purinton Brook the following week, and using data gathered from the stream survey, conducted a fish study using electrofishing. A preliminary report indicates that there are 'good-size' brook trout populating the the length of the brook. Purinton Brook was last stocked in 1987. Results of the stream survey will be presented at the MMBTU general membership meeting on March 12, 2009.

The stream survey is part of a state-wide project, which is part of the national Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture project. MMBTU supports the EBTJV with volunteer hours and funding. For more information on the EBTJV visit <http://www.easternbrooktrout.org> .

Members say "Yes" to e-mail, send donations to cover printing cost

Submitted by Smitty Smith

We understand that not all members have the ability or the interest to receive the newsletter by e-mail, but the savings are significant enough to consider it. If you would like to receive your newsletter and other MMBTU notices by e-mail, contact newsletter editor Lois Cunningham at info@mmbtu.org. Alternatively, the chapter accepts cash donations to offset newsletter mailing expenses. Checks should be mailed to MMBTU, PO Box 191, Richmond, ME 04357.

Thanks to these MMBTU'ers who recently sent a donation to cover the costs of the printed newsletter or agreed to opt for e-mail delivery of "Tight Lines," for a total savings to the Chapter of \$130 each year.

John Allan
Robert Andersen
Dick Brouillette
Jeremy Colpitts

Todd Garth
Andrew Goode
Stephen Mcmanus
Mark Sleeper

Karin Tilberg
Stephen Rubicam
George Viscarelli

Columbus Day Weekend GLS Club Trip Report

Submitted by Dave Martel

Six of MMBTU's members took a trip Downeast to visit John & Mary Arcaro at Canal Side Cabins over Columbus Day weekend. Terry Estey, Dale Buxton, Orman Hines, and Dave Martel stayed in Elm, the large cabin near the road. Smitty Smith and Lois Cunningham stayed in Fir, up on the corner.

The camaraderie was great, the food was exceptional, and the fishing for Landlocked Salmon in Grand Lake Stream was pretty good too. Everyone that fished caught them...and, interestingly; most were of really good size. There were a couple of landlocks that nudged the 20" mark; but truth be told, most were of the 17" to 18" variety. Darn nice fish...and nothing to sneeze at.

The males were all darkened up....sporting the hooked kype so common in pre-spawn male salmon. The females were dime-bright. All fought very well. I took most of my landlocks nymphing in several of my "spots" (which will, of course, remain nameless <G>). All of my fish came on nymphs, not one, surprisingly, came to

streamers. My "go to" patterns were Red Copper Johns; Bead-Head PT's; Flashback Hares Ears; and Olive or Pearl Caddis larvae. (#16's). Others did have luck with streamers. Dale Buxton, for example, landed a full-bodied male in the Dam Pool on a black Woolly Bugger.

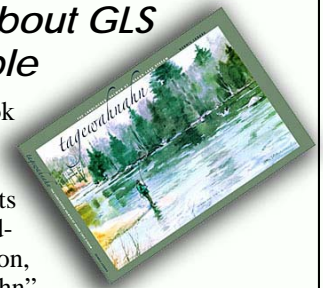
As always on Columbus Day weekend there were plenty of people scattered around. You either had to crawl out of bed at "0-dark-thirty" (in the early a.m. chill & fog) or hope for the best. I opted for the early a.m. routine.

If you weren't there you missed a fine time with fun folks. The shared evening meal consisted of a variety of culinary delights, including hamburgers & hot dogs, Wendy Hines' Outrageous Stuffed Shells, and Smitty's Canada-trip staple Chicken Parisienne. Brownies, cookies and hot coffee were ever-present.

If you've never been on an MMBTU Club Trip you owe it to yourself to try it sometime. Folks have told me that they "didn't think they were a good enough fisherman". Balderdash. All the folks on these trips are more than helpful with either

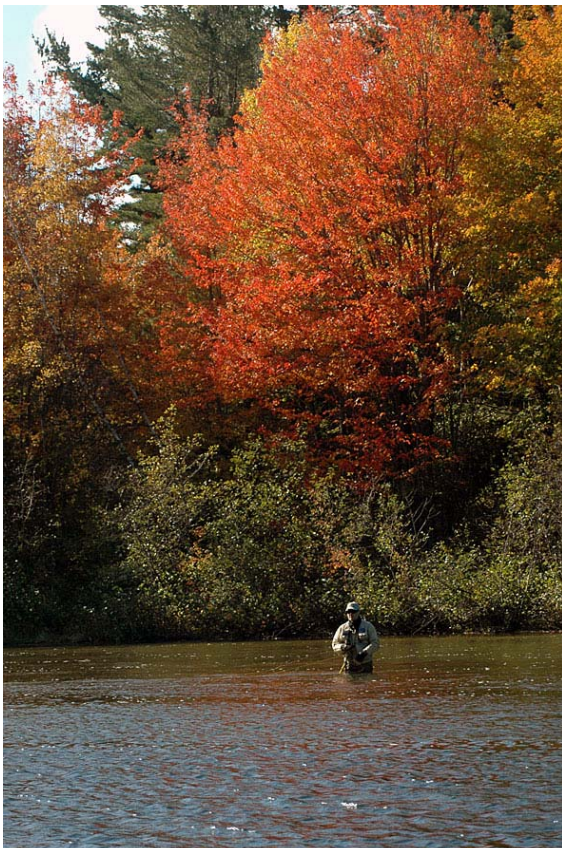
advice or flies to help others along. Never not go (how's THAT for a double negative??) because you feel intimidated. We're actually pretty nice people. Try it sometime...you'll have fun.

Book About GLS Available



The first book ever about Grand Lake Stream and its famous Landlocked Salmon, "Tagewahnahn" made an excellent 'cabin-time' read at GLS.

A comprehensive treatment of the history, angling, ecology, and noted personalities that made and keep Grand Lake Stream a classic destination are brought to life in easy to read text that includes more than two-hundred color and more than forty B&W photos. For more information on the book, visit <http://www.glssalmon.com>.



Dale Buxton fishes the Dam Pool at Grand Lake Stream against a dramatic backdrop of Downeast's autumn colors.

About Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited

Merrymeeting Bay TU Chapter 329 serves a membership of 220+ 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.

Board of Directors

Officers

Orman Hines, President

PH: 389-2419

E-Mail: hineso@suscom-maine.net

Ron Jack, Vice President

PH: 207-666-3464

E-Mail: axidentrecon@aol.com

Dick Soucy, Secretary

PH: 627-7399

E-Mail: rsoucy@maine.rr.com

Gordon "Smitty" Smith

Treasurer, Past President

PH: 737-4447

E-Mail: hrnrbg@verizon.net

At-Large Members

Brian Cody

PH: 721-0881; E-Mail: bcody@gwi.net

Lois Cunningham

PH: 737-4447

E-Mail: loisc@upcountrymaine.com

Terry Estey

PH: 829-9127

E-Mail: songbird@maine.rr.com

Jim Smith

PH: 846-9377

E-Mail: smlmth@maine.rr.com

FLY OF THE MONTH: Gartside Soft-Hackle Streamer

Submitted by Dave Martel



Hook: Tiemco #300; Mustad 79580; or any long-shank Streamer Hook

Size: 2 to 8

Thread: Uni 6/0---color to suit

Head: Large Gold cone head

Underweight: .025 lead-free wire

Flash: 10 strands krystal flash (color to suit)

Body: Marabou blood feathers palmered up hook (usually 2 or 3)

Behind Head: Large Mallard flank feather (one or two turns)

Hint: Easiest streamer you'll ever tie. Leave the krystal flash at least 1" longer than the marabou feathers. Use yellow marabou, or white marabou; or olive marabou; or black marabou. Tie up a half dozen of every color. You can't go wrong...and can't fish it wrong. Just a wonderful fly.

FYI: Gartside does NOT use the cone-head in his streamers...but I really like the cone. You can easily cast this fly with a 4 or 5 weight...you can leave the 7 wt. cannons in the vehicle. Enjoy.

Briefly . . .

Jack Gartside

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jack Gartside, born 1946 in Revere, Massachusetts, is an acclaimed American fly tyer and fly fishing author.

Considered one of the most talented and innovative fly tyers of the modern era, Gartside was taught how to tie flies at the age of 10 by Ted Williams, the Boston Red Sox outfielder. Among his best-known original patterns are the Sparrow, the Soft Hackle Streamer, the Pheasant Hopper, the Gartside Leech, the Fish-Head, and the Gurgler. His designs have been featured in Eric Leiser's "Book of Fly Patterns," Judith Dunham's "The Art of the Trout Fly," Lefty Kreh's "Salt Water Fly Patterns," Dick Stewart's "Salt Water Flies," and Dick Brown's "Flyfishing for Bonefish."

Gartside is a proponent of natural materials and the impressionist style of tying. A common theme in his patterns is blood marabou wound as hackle, as seen in his Soft Hackle Streamer and Soft Hackle Deceiver pat-



terns. Although limited in his use of synthetic materials, he is credited with popularizing the use of corsair tubing (as seen in his FishHead and Floating Minnow patterns), and closed-cell foam (as used in his Gurgler pattern).

Selected works:

Fly Patterns for the Adventurous Tyer

Scratching the Surface

Secret Flies

Striper Flies

Striper Strategies

Gartside currently resides in Winthrop, MA. For more information, visit Gartside's web site: <http://www.jackgartside.com/>

WOOL HEAD BUNNY SCULPINS

Demonstrated by Dick Soucy

Or tie yourself with help from Dick. This is a great trout and salmon pattern -- wool works better than deer hair.

All materials and vice supplied

November General Meeting

6 PM, Thursday, November 13, Graziano's Restaurant, Lisbon

MMBTU board needs help

Several vacancies on the Board of Directors are anticipated in the 2009-10 year, and MMBTU is looking for people who can help in any capacity. Many of these board members have been selflessly giving their time and talents for years, and will welcome the assistance of fellow enthusiasts. If you think you can spare a few hours for cold-water fisheries conservation and are interested in serving as Secretary, Treasurer, fundraising, special event coordination, newsletter development or web site maintenance, contact any of the board members listed below, or e-mail info@mmbtu.org.

2008-09 officers to be elected at November meeting

President: Orman Hines
Treasurer: Smitty Smith

Vice President: Ron Jack

Secretary: Dick Soucy

At Large:

Terry Estey

Lois Cunningham

Brian Cody

Jim Smith

Events: 2008-09 MMBTU Year

The general membership and the general public are welcome at all meetings including Directors' Meetings. General Membership Meetings are held on the second Thursday, and Board Meetings are held the 4th Thursday at Graziano's Restaurant, Lisbon, Maine, 6-9 pm, unless noted. Phone: 353-4335.

November 13: Fly Tying & Knots. Wool Head Bunny Sculpins Also: Elect Officers

December 11: Holiday Party & Gift Exchange

January 8: Fishing Out West with Dick Soucy.

January 22: Board Meeting Come, get involved, help out, support the cause, have fun!

February 12: Fishing for King Salmon in Alaska with Ron Jack.

February 26: Board Meeting. Slate of Officers for 2009-10. Come, get involved, help out, support the cause, have fun!

Fly Tying & Knots

And Election of Officers

6-9 PM, Thursday, Nov. 13

Graziano's Restaurant, Lisbon, ME

March 12: Purinton Brook Survey Report

March 26: Board Meeting. Come, get involved, help out, support the cause, have fun!

May 2: Annual Banquet & Fundraiser Auction.
Also: Elect Officers

May 14: Spring Fly Fishing: Using the Right Fly.

May 28: Board Meeting. Come, get involved, help out, support the cause, have fun!