

Tight Lines

Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited Newsletter

Volume 22 Issue 6 – February 2006

Rigging Up

Submitted by Dave Martel

Instead of teaching I should work in a fly shop. Rigging up lines; leaders; etc. is a lot of fun for me. There's no better winter-time activity (it's 5 degrees above zero with the wind *howling* as I write this) than getting a nice fire in the wood stove and getting out your reels, and doing a little rigging up.

The first thing I do at the beginning of the season (usually January or February) is to cut off ALL leaders from all lines. Start over every season.....without fail. If you don't Murphey's Law will take over. You'll lose the best fish of the entire season when (not IF) something lets go. Don't take the chance.

Strip off the flyline from the reel. Cut it off from the backing and re-tie. Superglue the knot. I know I'm anally-retentive about my gear.....but 5 minutes now might save not only the fish of the year.....but your \$60 flyline.

Wind your line back onto your reel. Now get out your rigging tool. I like the Shimizake tool from Tiemco; but Orvis makes a good one also....and Hunters sells a pin vise that is good too.

Insert your leader butt into the end of the line.....(you probably will have to "shave" the butt of your leader.... .021 in all probability) and needle knot the butt on. You can now tie on the rest of the leader (fresh)..or wait until just before your first trip.

Do this on all your reels and you'll sleep better knowing your gear is in the best, tip-top shape that you can get it. Remember.....if your gear fails you have nobody to blame but YOU.



February Meeting Highlights Local Conservation Projects

Submitted by Lois Cunningham

The February general membership meeting, "Conservation Awareness Night," is a unique opportunity to look at significant Maine fisheries conservation projects, any of which could be the focus of future hands-on work by MMBTU.

The program consists of three presentations. *Road Map to Quality Landlocked Salmon Fisheries in Maine* is presented by Larry Fiori, Project Director, and Jeremy Trainor, Public Advocate for Region A of the Maine Classic Landlocked Salmon Program. *Streamside and In-stream Incubation of Atlantic Salmon in the Kennebec and Sandy Rivers* is presented by Fisheries Biologist Paul M. Christman of the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission. *The Embrace-A-Stream Initiative in Southern Maine* is presented by Sean McCormick, ME State Council of Trout Unlimited.



Road Map to Quality Landlocked Salmon Fisheries in Maine

Larry Fiori, Project Director, and Jeremy Trainor, Public Advocate for Region A, Maine Classic Landlocked Salmon Program

The Maine Classic Landlocked Salmon Program mission is to increase the size of salmon in selected waters. Already the state has seen tremendous results in the target waters, where now larger than average salmon are being caught. Program objectives will be discussed, including:

- ◆ Designating classic landlocked salmon waters
- ◆ Assisting in the development and implementation of regulations that enhance and protect landlocked salmon
- ◆ Supporting a research and management program for smelt
- ◆ Assisting in the development and implementation of plan to minimize the negative impact of competing species
- ◆ Working towards a volunteer recruitment program

The Classic Landlocked Salmon Program is a cooperative project between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine. Visit <http://www.classicsalmon.org/> for more information.

Streamside and In-stream Incubation of Atlantic Salmon in the Kennebec and Sandy Rivers

Paul M. Christman, Fisheries Biologist, Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission

Atlantic salmon once dominated Maine's coastal rivers, migrating far inland in search of their natal waters. Now less than 2000 fish return to an estimated 23 rivers. One project of the Maine Atlantic

MMBTU Web Site Adds Conservation Link

Submitted by Steve Heinz

Additional information on ongoing conservation projects is now available, starting with a slide show of last summer's Martin Stream Project. Visit www.mmbtu.org and click on the "Conservation" tab.



Welcome New Members to Merrymeeting Bay TU

James C. Allard, Brunswick Charles Birlum, Boothbay
Dr. Frederick Baker, Freeport Aaron Lockwood, Freeport

February Fly of the Month: Bass Bugs

Submitted by Dave Martel

Hook: Tiemco 8089

Size: 6 or 10

Thread: Uni 3/0 color to match

Colors: Black; White; Chartreuse; Yellow

Tails: Feather Tips; Marabou; Rubber-legs Body; Cork; Foam; Deer Body Hair (trimmed to shape)

Tips: Tie up a couple dozen of these in the various colors for those "Dog Days" when the rivers are too hot to safely trout fish...but the Bass Ponds are primo. Turn the heads around for the famous "Sneaky Pete" slider. The size 10's are great panfish poppers too. Add rubber legs either behind the head or put a needle through the body and superglue the legs in.

Great flies.....and relatively easy to make. Try it.....and leave the 4 weights in the truck.....get out your 7 or 8 weights with a Bug Taper floating line.

Enjoy.



L L Bean Presents Fishing Events at Freeport Store

Submitted by Lois Cunningham

L.L.Bean has offered local TU Chapters the opportunity to participate in any or all of three fishing events this spring. Chapters are encouraged to present demonstrations on activities like fly tying and casting. Dates are during the school vacation weeks of February 20-24 and April 17-21 and during the Spring Fishing Expo on March 18 and 19. Volunteers are asked to commit 1 or 2 hours per day.

Mark Your Calendars:
Bean's Fly Fishing Expo is March 18 & 19

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This is a great chance to share MMBTU's programs with the general public. Any chapter members who would be interested in doing a kids fly-tying or other demo of your choice should contact Dick Soucy at rsoucy@maine.rr.com.

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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Message from the Chapter President

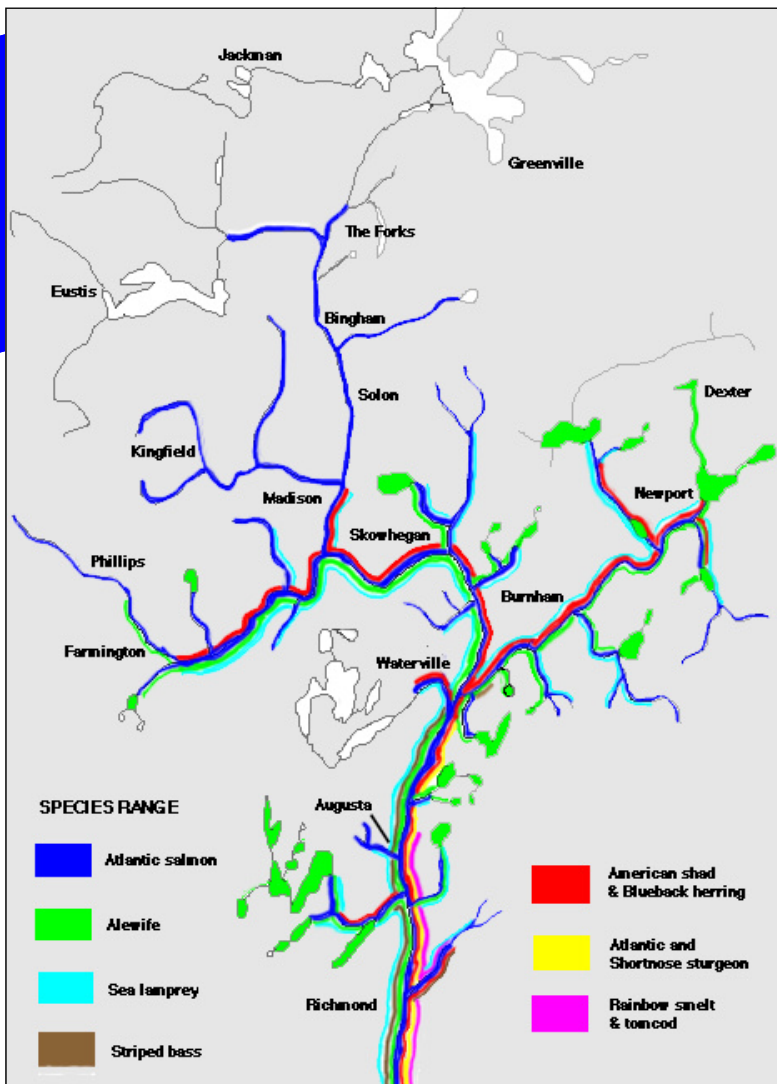
2006 Fundraising Underway

Submitted by Gordon "Smitty" Smith

I was glad to see some new faces at the January board meeting, especially since the date had to be postponed due to weather. Extra hands and heads are most appreciated at this time of year, as the 2006 fundraising effort kicks into high gear. Banquet preparations began at the first board meeting of the new season and after the January general membership meeting volunteers stayed and stuffed and stamped 150 fundraising letters and envelopes.

This task is completed every year at this time and many of the items auctioned at the banquet are donated as a result of this mailing. The letters are sent to companies and individuals all over the country. We have a wonderful group of loyal supporters, but even so, this is always an anxious time for the Chapter, as we wait to hear the outcome of our efforts. Toward the end of February we will make personal visits and phone calls to local supporters.

I ask each of you to consider making just one phone call or visit to help ensure that our auction is a success. Other ways to help, include making a donation of fishing and non-fishing goods and services. We also accept used items in good condition. If you would like to donate, or to make a phone call, call or e-mail Dick Soucy at: 207-627-7399 or e-mail: rsoucy@maine.rr.com



Conservation Awareness Night

- ◆ **Maine Classic Landlocked Salmon Program**
- ◆ **Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission**
- ◆ **TU's Embrace-A-Stream Initiative**

See story on Page One of this Newsletter for more information

Wednesday
February 8, 2005
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Graziano's Restaurant
Lisbon, Maine

Can the Salmon Come Back?

The historic range of the Atlantic Salmon on the Kennebec River is one of the topics to be discussed at February Conservation Night on Wednesday, February 8, at Graziano's in Lisbon.

Conservation Night

Continued from Page One

Salmon Commission is to research habitat and locate areas that might support salmon in the Kennebec and other southern Maine rivers. Streamside and in-stream incubators are used to introduce small numbers of salmon to evaluate survival and to explore their use as potential restoration tools. Paul will discuss recent findings and restoration plans.

The Atlantic Salmon Commission is a natural resource agency that oversees the management of Atlantic salmon. The Commission's mission is to protect, preserve, enhance, restore and manage Atlantic salmon and their habitat; to secure a sustainable recreational fishery in the State; and to conduct and coordinate all projects involving research, plan-

ning, management, restoration or propagation of the Atlantic salmon. For more information, visit the MASC web site at: <http://www.maine.gov/asc/index.shtml>

Embrace-A-Stream Initiative in Southern Maine

Sean McCormick, ME State TU Council

The Maine State Council of Trout Unlimited has submitted an application for an Embrace-A-Stream grant to Trout Unlimited. The application requests a \$10,000 grant to be awarded for a two-year study of Brook Trout populations in southern Maine streams, specifically IF&W fisheries regions' A and B. Plans include Level I surveys of streams never before studied. The State Council worked in conjunction with the ME Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Fisheries Biologist Bobbie Van Riper and local TU Chapters to write the grant application. "This

Embrace-A-Stream project fully supports TU's Eastern Brook Trout Initiative, and takes great steps toward developing leadership at the local chapter level and education of the general public," according to Sean McCormick, of the ME State TU Council.

Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) is the flagship grant program for funding Trout Unlimited grassroots conservation efforts that advance TU's mission of conserving, protecting, and restoring coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Successful projects are based on sound science, benefit the resource, strengthen the local TU chapter and council, and help build the constituency for protecting trout and salmon. TU volunteers are actively involved in project work.

For more information, visit <http://www.tu.org/site/pp.asp?>

Events: 2005-2006 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.

February 8: Conservation Awareness Night

- ◆ Maine Classic Salmon Waters - Larry Fiore
- ◆ Maine Atlantic Salmon Streamside Incubation - Paul Chrisman
- ◆ Embrace-A-Stream in Southern Maine - Sean McCormick, TU State Council

March 8: Casting Clinic I

Brunswick High School

April 29: Annual Banquet & Fundraising Auction

Knights of Columbus Hall; Brunswick

May 13: CTTF Field Day


Durham Rod and Gun Club, Durham

May 13: Casting Clinic II

Durham Rod and Gun Club, Durham

June 21-23: Chapter Trip

Grand Lake Stream



February General Meeting
**Conservation
Awareness Night**
Details Inside

Wednesday, February 8, 2006
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Graziano's Restaurant, Lisbon, Maine

Directors' Meetings

February 22 April 12
March 22 May 13

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