

Central MA Trout Unlimited May September 2009 Newsletter

Next Chapter Meeting: **Thursday, September 17th.**
**(PLEASE NOTE: Due to a prior event scheduled for Sept 10 at the
Audubon Center, our meeting will be held on the 3rd Thursday)**

Welcome Back!

Our September speaker will be Frank Plona, Connecticut resident and member of the Farmington Valley chapter of TU. Frank will share his knowledge and some secrets about fishing the Farmington River.

Where: Mass Audubon, located at Broad Meadow Brook Preserve 414 Massasoit Rd. Worcester. For more info re: location/directions, see www.massaudubon.org or www.mapquest.com Doors open at 6:30 PM. Speaker @ 7:15. Nonmembers are welcome. Admission is free. Raffles and door prizes each month.

Upcoming Speakers:

October 8th: Beth Lambert: “The Role of Dam Removal in Maintaining & Improving Flow Continuity and River Habitat”

November 12th: Paul Bakstran & Jim Portesi: “Rivers of Montana – Their Similarities, Differences and How to Fish Them.”

TU News & Events.

Hamant Brook/Sturbridge MA. Those of you who attended the January 2009 chapter meeting will recall that our speaker was Todd Richards, of the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW). Todd presented the case for removal of three dams on the Hamant Brook, a tributary of Quineboag River, near Old Sturbridge Village. The upper reaches of Hamant Brook hold wild brook trout. Several town meetings later (including a walking tour of the Hamant Brook in April) the Conservation Committee of Sturbridge in June voted by a slim margin to support this initiative. Their vote enabled Todd Richards to make application to Millennium Power for financial support for dam removal. Several people and parties were involved in this effort, including Peter Schilling, Chairman of MA/RI TU, Beth Lambert, River Restoration Scientist with the MA Dept of Fish & Game, Brian Graber, Associate Director, River Restoration Program of American Rivers, and several concerned residents of Sturbridge. Beth Lambert will be our October speaker.

Our first Annual CMTU family outing and barbeques was a success, thanks, in part to great weather and certainly thanks to several chapter members, who rolled up their sleeves to ensure that things ran smoothly. They include Jim & Gena Portesi, Paul and Jack Bakstran, Terry Chapman, Armand Courchaine, Peter Sterndale, and Bob

McMenemy. Special thanks go to Phil Horowitz, for shepherding this event for the chapter. We hope to continue this event in the future.

Russell Biomass Project.

You win some; you lose some. At our April chapter meeting, Peter Schilling made a presentation on the Russell BioMass (RB) project, a proposed power generating plant on the banks of the Westfield River. This facility would burn wood chips to generate steam to drive turbines for electricity generation. Below is a recent email from Peter, who has worked tirelessly to thwart the RB on environmental (air and water) grounds. In the words of Ted Kennedy, “the work continues...”

To everyone:

The decision on the water withdrawal permit by the DEP Presiding Officer handling the case was released on August 19, 2009. The brief note below is from Meg Sheehan, attorney handling the appeal, about what the next steps are. A copy of the decision is attached.

Earlier this month, EPA and MA/DEP issued a draft NPDES permit, which allows the discharge of hot, chemical-laced water into the river. The sought comments responding to the draft permit, and now those comments will be reviewed before the final permit is issued. We responded in detail to that draft NPDES permit, focusing on the failure of EPA to do a thorough analysis of the impact of the discharge on Atlantic salmon.

If anyone wants to see a copy of that commentary, let me know. I'll forward you a copy.

Peter Schilling
Chairman, Mass-RI Council of TU

Stream Musings: It was a strange summer for local fishing, due in large part to plentiful rainfall in June and July. The Quinapoxet fished well into early June, despite falling river flows. Several nice rainbows could be enticed with a well-presented Hendrickson or Griffith's Gnat.

The Swift River went from around 40 to 300 cfs in one day in late July, following what seemed to be interminable repairs on a valve in the bubbler system. Lately, flow has been in the 200-250 cfs range and has been fishing nicely, with surprisingly little or no crowds on the Y Pool. San Juan Worm and Bighorn style soft hackle emerger patterns have been working well there.

Four fishermen from CMTU headed out to southwest Montana in late July and fished the Bighole, Jefferson, and Ruby Rivers (see Photo Gallery, below).

The Farmington River certainly had its ups & downs, in terms of flows over the past summer. After several heavy rains, flow in the Farmington near New Hartford reached 1,000 cfs! Lately, fishing has been good. This author has had success with a CDC dun pattern of the Isonychia, available at UpCountry Sportfishing, near New Hartford. Here's the latest skinny from UpCountry on what patterns to use for the Farmington:

Friday 9/4/09 - The Farmington is currently at 480cfs* and in fine shape for the weekend. Tricos (sz 22-26), Blue Wing Olives (sz 18-26), Winter/Summer Caddis (sz 18-22), Isonychia (sz 12-14), White Flies (sz 12-14), and Rusty Spinners (sz 14-24) have all been working. There have been some random Flying Ant hatches (sz 18-26) mixed in.

* ever wondered how UpCountry gets their flow rates for the Farmington? They simply add the flows for the Still River and Farmington River at Riverton, just downstream from Hogback Dam.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, September 13. Family Day at Redbrook. Lyman Reservation in Wareham. The event starts at approximately 10 a.m., and runs through 4 p.m. There will be a barbecue at noon, including sausages, hot dogs and hamburgers, and the renowned barbecue chicken. Cost per person is still at the bargain prices of \$5. There will also be a raffle and auction following lunch. There will be tours of the property and the stream. For more information & directions, see www.ma-ri-tu-council.org/Red-Brook-Family-Day.html or contact Steve Aingers at Truiteman@aol.com.

Several Events at JT's Fly Shop in Union, CT. (for more info see www.jtsflyshop.com)

Sept 12th: kids tying class.

September 15th: Lady's night casting clinic.

October 3rd: 2nd annual fall flea market and demo day.

Quotation of the month:

"There is no greater fan of fly fishing than the worm. "

Patrick F. McManus, Never Sniff a Gift Fish, 1979

Featured Pattern: Isonychia

Order Ephemeroptera (**Mayflies**)

Family Isonychiidae (Slate Drakes)

Genus ***Isonychia*** (**Slate Drakes**)

Species: *bicolor* (mahogany dun), *campestris* (Slate Drake), *sicca* (Slate Drake), *velma* (slate Drake)



Of greater interest to fly fishers, this pattern has been effective on the Farmington River (in sizes 12-14) from late July to the present, especially in the evening. Unlike many other effective flies on the Farmington, you can actually see this one! Apologies for the brownish shadow in the background. Components: three split tail fibers (Microfibbets), mahogany-brown quill body; wing: mixture of CDC & either Hungarian partridge or wood duck feather, depending on whom you ask. Available at UpCountry Sportfishing, in Pine Meadow, CT. PS – don't treat the wings with water-repelling agents – CDC is naturally water-repelling.

Photo Gallery



CMTU member, Paul Bakstran (l) with Tom Harrison, of Harrison Anglers, on a float trip down the Deerfield River, in western Mass, last May. The Harrison brothers guided several CMTU members on the Deerfield in May or June. The feedback was unanimous: "these guys are excellent."



Several attendees pose for a picture near Bob McMenemy's (far right) stream entomology presentation at Central Mass TU's First Annual Family Outing & Barbeque, held last June, at Trout Brook Park, in Holden.

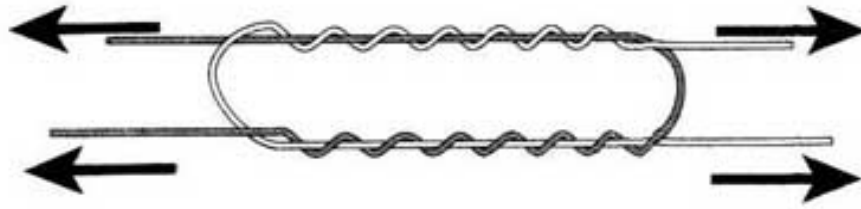


Steve Smith's guide holds a 23" brown that Steve caught on the Jefferson River, in southwestern MT, in July.



Terry Chapman plays one of Ovation Pool's brown trout while fishing the Farmington River, this past August.

Simplified Blood Knot



Have you ever found that the surgeon's knot puts a little kink in fine tippets, but attempts to tie a blood knot in diminishing light (with trout rising all around you) are unsuccessful? Try this one (tip: use lots of saliva!). From Mark Sosin and Lefty Kreh.

Useful links:

Trout Unlimited (National): www.tu.org

Mass-RI TU Council: www.ma-ri-tu-council.org/default.html

Central Mass Trout Unlimited: www.centralmasstu.org

Greater Boston Chapter of TU: www.gbtu.org/

National Resources Defense Council (NRDC): www.nrdc.org/

Blackstone River Watershed Council: www.blackstoneriver.org

Nashua River Watershed Association www.NashuaRiverWatershed.org

Riverways: www.mass.gov/dfwele/river/programs/index.htm

River Continuity Program: www.mass.gov/dfwele/river/programs/rivercontinuity/index.htm

Atlantic Salmon Federation: www.asf.ca/index.php

Harrison Anglers www.harrisonanglers.com

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association www.ctflyfish.org

Stripers Forever: www.stripersforever.org/Info/index

Real time Stream Flows in MA: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ma/nwis/rt>

Massachusetts Dept of Wildlife – trout stocking info:

www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfw_trout_waters.htm

Greater Worcester Land Trust: www.gwlt.org

Mass Audubon Society www.massaudubon.org

Lower Forty Outfitters/New England Surf & Stream Report (updated bimonthly):

www.thelowerforty.com

Cote's Fly Shop (rod building service & supplies):

www.cotesflyshop.biz/pb/wp_6bb85b5f/wp_6bb85b5f.html

Concord Outfitters www.concordoutfitters.com

Bear's Den Fly Fishing Co. www.bearsden.com

Upcountry Sportfishing (Farmington River): www.farmingtonriver.com/news.htm

JT's Fly Shop (a new fly shop located near the Willimantic River, in Union, CT). www.jtsflyshop.com

Ultimate Fly Fishing: www.ultimateflytying.com/

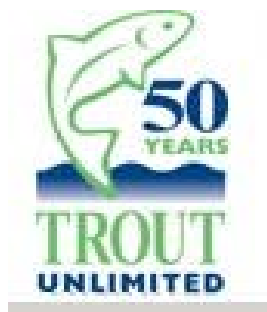
Blue Ribbon Flies: <http://blueribbonflies.com/index.shtml>

100 Top Fly Fishing Sites: www.hitsunlimited.com/fish/100topflyfish/100top.html

Fly Fishing Connection: www.flyfishingconnection.com/phorum/

YouTube (useful source of videos on fishing, fly-tying: www.youtube.com)

Westfly: Informative, useful website for entomology and matching patterns: www.westfly.com/cgi-bin/home



TROUT UNLIMITED'S MISSION:

To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.