



Central MA Trout Unlimited (CMTU) April 2008 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 10

Where: Mass Audubon, located at Broad Meadow Brook Preserve 414 Massasoit Rd. Worcester. Doors open at 6:15; Speaker @ 7:15 PM.

Speaker: Neil Denny: Fly fishing the Madison River (MT).
Chapter member, Neil Denny, will share pictures taken during several visits to Montana's famed Madison River and nearby streams.

Nonmembers are welcome. Admission is free. Bring your fly tying tools, watch out fly-tying mavens, and learn to tie. Raffles and door prizes each month. **This is the last meeting at Mass Audubon until next fall!**

Upcoming Events: (Monthly meetings 2nd Thursday of each month)

Lang's Auction - Antique Fishing Tackle Show- Boxborough, MA	Apr. 25-26
(Fri 10- 6; Sat 8- 1) Stop by the CMTU booth, enter the raffle for a fishing kayak!	
Fish the Quinnie Night (we meet at the river)	May 8
Ma/RI Council camping & fishing weekend-Westfield River	May 16-19



Rich Oviaan looks on and Jim Portesi waits patiently as Paul Bakstran applies PowerBait to his flies before heading out to conquer the Mighty 'Quinnie' last June. I believe I heard Paul claim "fish tremble when they hear my name" as we set out.

News, Notices:

- *All members of CMTU are welcomed to get involved in various chapter activities.*
- **HELP WANTED:** *we STILL need someone to assist CMTU in getting our website back online. If you or a family member are HTML- or web-literate please send me an email 001@hotmail.com). See Greater Boston TU's website (below). We could – and should – have a chapter website. Help make it happen!*
- *If anyone is interested in organizing and/or participating in a small group fishing trip to either the Swift or Miller's River please contact me (Larry Bush; same email as above).*
- *As mentioned by Armand Courchaine at our last chapter meeting, if you would like to contribute your time or make a monetary donation to the "Help Make the Assabet(ter)" stream stocking project, please contact the following: Peter Schilling @ GBTU; phone: 617-244-5126; e-mail: PMACDS@aol.com or Miles McCloy or Andy Bonzagni at Concord Outfitters phone: 978-318-0330; www.concordoutfitters.com.*

From the Size "Matters" Dept. Have you ever caught a nice trout and, although you could measure its length and girth, were unable to weigh it? In the May issue of *Fly Fisherman Magazine*, contributor Tom Keelin came up with a slightly revised formula* (highly correlative) for calculating a fish's weight. His formula, which was based on actual measurements of length, girth, and weights of over 100 salmon & trout, is as follows:

$$\text{Wt (lb)} = \text{length (in)} \times \text{girth}^2 \text{ (in)} / 690^* \quad \text{*previously, this value was 800}$$

Example: Jim Portesi caught this nice bow last year on the Bighorn River. Luckily, his guide had a ruler on his net, but nothing to record the weight. Length = 18.5 inches (nose to fork of tail); girth = 9.7 inches.



$$\text{Calculated weight} = 18.5 \times 9.7 \times 9.7 / 690 = 2.5\text{lb}$$

Another famous trout watershed in trouble: The same issue of *Fly Fisherman* also had an article about the Delaware River watershed and its continuing woes. As is true of many watersheds (e.g., Bighorn River vs. Wyoming's Bighorn Reservoir), it comes down to competing demands for the same water. In this case the 'combatants' are fishermen, local TU chapters and councils plus the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and

Delaware vs. NYC. This is a watershed not very far from Massachusetts. See <http://www.njtu.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/01/tu-delaware-river-flows-statement.pdf> for TU's position on this issue. Will a similar conflict develop someday between the city of Boston and fisherman (specifically Swift River devotees) over Quabbin's water?

Of potential interest:

Trout Unlimited (National): www.tu.org

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

Blackstone River Watershed Council: www.blackstoneriver.org

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

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

Give a man a fish and he has food for a day; teach him how to fish and you can get rid of him for the entire weekend.
Zenna Schaffer

TROUT UNLIMITED'S MISSION:
To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.