

**PROTECT, RESTORE, RECONNECT, SUSTAIN**

**The Eastern Brook Trout  
Newsletter:  
North Eastern Division**



*A partnership between  
Trout Unlimited And the  
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture,  
Together with all who value  
Brook Trout And its Habitat*

This Issue's Contents

MA/RI: Stream Continuity  
Study.....1  
Maine: Rapid River,  
Grants, and Surveys.....2  
New Hampshire: Newest  
Home Rivers Project..... 3  
New York: Regional part-  
nerships, grant status, and  
restoration success.....3

**Important:**

***Your Response Needed!***

**In response to grassroots feedback, future issues of this newsletter will be directly emailed to TU members and agency leaders.**

**This method puts this information to the hands of brook trout leaders and volunteers directly .**

**You must respond to an upcoming email request to sign up for direct distribution.**

**Due to spamming ethics, only one request will be sent.**

**New England Regional Reports**

(CT, MA/RI, ME, NH, VT)

**MASS/RHODE ISLAND**

report from Lawson Carry

This summer the Narragansett Chapter continued their stream continuity project by completing surveys on two more watersheds the Queens River and the Beaver River. So far they have logged in almost 400 crossings. The NRCS is going to map out two more watersheds, and the chapter will be starting on them shortly.

There are several projects lined up that have been held up by the R.I. DEM and the NRCS as they have applied for grant money that they have not received at this time. One of the projects is to remove a small dam from a stream that feeds a pond that brook trout migrate to in the winter but they can't return to the river when the pond starts to warm up in the spring. The second project is to install fences to stop people from riding their horses in the Wood River. This practice is not only causing damage to the stream bed and destroys wild brook trout spawning areas, but adds to the pollution the streams. Third, there will be a tree replanting project in at least two areas to stabilize the stream banks that were cleared by someone a few years ago.

# PROTECT, RESTORE, RECONNECT, SUSTAIN

## Maine

report from Bill Oleszczuk

**Rapid River:** On Maine's world-class brook trout river the threat from past illegal introduction of bass continue to concern state trout biologists. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife have tried some new water flow fluctuations with the cooperation of dam owners Florida Power & Light. These included a number of "burst flows" during June when bass were spawning and young-of-the-year brook trout are most susceptible to predation by hungry bass. Hoping to stress the bass which are not that comfortable with heavier flows, IF&W will continue to monitor the results of these special flows. The good news is Mother Nature even helped this year by providing unusually heavy spring rains which insured ample water supply in the Rangeley Lakes above the Rapid. This enabled more natural flushing and hopefully added additional stress to the bass.

**Grants:** Maine was awarded two grants from TU's Embrace-a-Stream program in 2007. A significant \$10,000 award was made to the Maine TU Council that will go toward an intern to assist the state IF&W Department to quickly capture the large amount of electro-shocking data they are getting from increased in-stream monitoring of trout populations. It is worth noting that all state regional IF&W offices continue making solid strides toward gathering good data on the 60+% of Maine streams that was missing when the EBTJV report was published. Establishing the all-important "benchmark conditions" for Maine's brook trout streams continues to be the primary focus in the Pine-tree state.

A second grant was made to the Georges River Chapter to assist in meeting the challenge of Eastern Maine road culverts that are preventing in-stream migration of trout that has been proven vital to healthy trout populations. Initially the money will help assess the most significant threats and lead to a solid plan for how best to help alleviate the problems identified.

From Merry Gallagher and Chip Wick of MDIF&W

Maine's 2007 stream brook trout survey effort has been going extremely well. The combined efforts of ten seasonal crewmembers and three biologists have ensured we will meet the ambitious goals set for this season. By the time the leaves fall, we will have collected enough data to classify approximately 260 HUC-12 watersheds. Additionally, at each of the roughly 1,800 sites surveyed for brook trout, additional surveys and taxa were gathered. Crews collected information on road/stream crossings and basic habitat data, and collected macroinvertebrates and crayfish (when encountered), as well as adding some records of rare amphibians to our database. This winter will be spent wading through the mountains of data we've accumulated over the summer, in addition to planning for next year's survey work.

Initial impressions of the results from this season are positive overall. The predominance of forest cover and cool water in Maine has allowed brook trout populations to remain largely intact in the northern sections of the state. Notable exceptions occurred in the urbanized watersheds around Bangor, where only one brook trout was encountered within 14 sites surveyed. Another positive note was the low numbers of invasive species being encountered in the samples collected.

Surveys of several, previously unsampled, small headwater ponds in western Maine have documented some robust populations of brook trout. These small waters, 1 to 3.5 acres in size, had maximum depths of 4 feet, and water temperatures from 12 to 17 degrees Celsius due to the presence of numerous springs. Hundreds of brook trout ranging in size from (continued next page).

# PROTECT, RESTORE, RECONNECT, SUSTAIN

## Maine (cont'd)

3 inch young of year to 8 inch adults were observed and collected during the surveys. The largest pond also has a population of longnose suckers, which is quite a surprise as populations of the species in Maine are typically found in large oligotrophic lakes. Though access to these waters is not difficult, they do not receive much angling pressure

## New Hampshire

Submitted by Paul Doscher

**The Upper CT River has been selected by TU to be our next "Home River".** We will receive significant financial support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to hire staff and get the project off the ground. In a similar vein, TU will be working cooperatively with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests to raise the funds to acquire a 2100 acre parcel with 5 miles of frontage on prime brook trout habitat of the upper CT River. The project will create new public angler access to this important stretch of the river, and provide opportunities for joint projects with the state to improve fish habitat.

The Nash Stream project where ongoing scientific studies continue, has been an ongoing, long term project. Work progresses on the status of wild/native trout in the watershed and habitat improvement needs. Some culvert work is being done this summer to remove barriers to brook trout passage.

TU volunteers continue to work on culvert inventories in many parts of the state. Culvert barriers have been identified as being a serious impediment to brook trout passage for spawning in many otherwise healthy watersheds. This work is done in cooperation with NH Fish and Game and the Nature Conservancy (which has provided the assessment training to our volunteers).

## New York

report from John Braico, BTB Chair

At the June NYS Council TU meeting I requested that chapters meet with their regional DEC fisheries personnel to jointly plan how their region will implement the NY Strategy. While I believe that Region 4 has also met, I do not have any follow-up to offer.

I was desperately hoping to have some info to share by this point on the status of the SWG (Small Watershed Grant) grant Application I filed to "inventory unsurveyed lotic populations of Brook Trout in DEC Regions of 5&6 at the 5th hydrologic level". This grant proposal for \$208,419 is on a 60/40 cost share basis with an actual SWG grant request of \$82,380. The proposal was prepared & submitted by myself following discussions with lead DEC Fisheries managers. It's objectives are to:

- 1) provide quantitative data regarding distribution & abundance of indigenous BT in all specific watersheds in regions 5 & 6 where such data is lacking (Covers over 10,000 sq mi of unsurveyed & typically remote watersheds)
- 2) provide inventory of habitat & fluvial conditions, temperature data, acidification, competing species.

These tasks would satisfy the highest priority objectives of the NYS Brook Trout Restoration Strategy in the regions having the greatest probability of having indigenous BT in intact watersheds. Data will be collected in accordance with DEC protocols & relayed via DEC to the EBTJV. (NYSCTU would simulta-

## PROTECT, RESTORE, RECONNECT, SUSTAIN

neously track substantial portions of this data by entering information into NYSCTU's Resource Information System.)

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### New York (continued)

Work is proposed to be done by three fully trained & equipped 3 man teams over a 3.5 year period using standard electro-fishing, habitat assessment via CROTS method, and geomorphic assessment via SVAP. Adipose fin clip material will be obtained for genetic analysis at locations determined by DEC. Unfortunately, delays in SWG processing have kept this proposal in limbo while we await a response....

On another note, I should mention that a natural channel stream restoration project we did with USF&W on a bulldozed segment of White Creek a year ago, just had its follow-up post construction biologic inventory completed by USGS. ***The preliminary results are excellent*** -- marked increases in brook & brown trout over both the pre construction project & control surveys. ***The crews were particularly impressed by the health & vigor of the wild brook trout!*** The success of this project, done to correct ill advised post flood remediation work, holds great promise to shift work on this key Battenkill tributary away from flood routing to trout friendly & geomorphi-