



EBTJV Newsletter - Summer Edition

Welcome to the summer edition of the EBTJV Newsletter. A lot has been going on within our Fish Habitat Partnership since our initial newsletter was distributed in April.

First and foremost was the EBTJV “all partners” meeting that was held June 11-12 in Frostburg, MD. More than 40 people attended during this two-day event and folks were provided with an overview of a wide range of EBTJV-related activities. Topics covered included the current status of the catchment-level assessment, progress on the web portal development process, as well as various decision support tools (e.g., riparian vegetation planting tool). The attendees also heard about other regional conservation efforts such as the Appalachian LCC, Chesapeake

Bay Program, and North Atlantic LCC. Each of the EBTJV Committees also had time to meet individually and set their course for the year.

At the conclusion of the All Partners Meeting, the EBTJV Steering Committee met during the afternoon of June 12th. During this session, the Steering Committee voted to: absorb the Northern and Southern Work Groups into the Conservation Strategy Committee; convert the Grants and Development Committee into the Business Planning Committee; and, adopt an operations budget for 2013.

Alan Heft and Matt Sell did a phenomenal job with the local arrangements and we were fortunate to be able to hold the meeting at the University of Maryland Center for

Environmental Science Appalachian Laboratory, which is a great facility.

The Whitewater to Bluewater Project, which is a collaborative effort among the EBTJV, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, and the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, continues to make good progress, particularly with the development of a joint communications strategy and a long awaited organizational assessment of the three FHPs. The outcomes of this assessment will assist in strengthening the sustainability of each of our partnerships.



Steve Perry
ebtjv.coordinator@gmail.com

EBTJV Business Plan

The EBTJV is a partnership that was created in 2004 to facilitate an integrated approach to ensuring there are healthy aquatic systems that support fishable wild brook trout populations throughout the eastern region of the United States. We

advance this mission by establishing collaborative ventures that address priority conservation needs of wild brook trout, delivering valuable decision-support tools to resource managers, and enriching the stewardship of these cherished natural

resources. We are sustainable as a highly effective partnership because we establish science-based priorities, implement mission-focused projects, and achieve successful conservation outcomes.

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EBTJV Business Plan (continued)

While the EBTJV has been successful in generating support for brook trout conservation actions at the project level, to accelerate the pace of achieving its mission, the partnership must expand the magnitude and diversity of the financial support it receives by specifically targeting new sources. The new sources to be initially targeted by the partnership are grants from foundations and donations from individuals and businesses.

However, in order to pursue these new sources of support, the EBTJV must establish itself as a 501(c)(3) organization so that it has tax exempt status as a nonprofit. In order to obtain this status, the EBTJV will be working with the National Fish Habitat Board, which has embarked on a process that will provide all recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships with an opportunity to become a 501 (c)(3) under an umbrella organization it's targeting to have in place by

January 2015.

During the interim, the EBTJV Business Planning Committee will be focused on laying the groundwork for the successful launch of the partnership's new funding support strategies.

For more information about this initiative please contact the EBTJV Business Planning Committee Chair Nat Gillespie (ngillespie@fs.fed.us).

2014 EBTJV Project Funding Opportunity

The EBTJV is requesting project proposals to restore and conserve habitat necessary to support healthy and productive populations of brook trout. Federal funding available through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) National Fish Habitat Action Plan allocation will be used to fund top ranked proposals. The maximum award amount for an individual project is \$50,000. All proposed projects must be developed

in coordination with the nearest Service Sponsoring Office. A list of these offices can be found with the application materials on the EBTJV website under the Funding tab (<http://easternbrooktrout.org/funding-opportunities/apply-2014-funding-opportunities-here>).

The deadline for submitting applications is September 30, 2013.

Remember the Date!
**Deadline for Submitting 2014
EBTJV Project Proposals**
September 30, 2013

2013 Brook Trout Conservation Projects

The following brook trout conservation projects are receiving funding through the EBTJV's FWS-NFHAP allocation in 2013:

- ◇ Upper White River, VT
- ◇ Sunday River and Martin Stream Watersheds, ME
- ◇ Scott Brook, ME
- ◇ Machias River, ME
- ◇ Cross Fork Subwatershed, PA
- ◇ Frankstown Branch, PA
- ◇ St. Mary's River, VA
- ◇ Meduxnekeag Watershed, ME

For more detailed information about these projects go to the EBTJV website (<http://easternbrooktrout.org/projects/2013-projects>).

Mark Hudy Recognized by the EBTJV

On behalf of the EBTJV, Steering Committee Chair Doug Besler recognized Mark Hudy for the vital work he has completed for our partnership. We are in our current position of strength to address priority brook trout conservation needs because of Mark's remarkable efforts to conduct critical scientific research, develop effective management strategies, and provide essential educational outreach.

Mark spearheaded an unprecedented brook trout status and threats assessment across a seventeen state area in the eastern portion of the U.S. Once completed, Mark led the development of GIS tools that translated the assessment results into a series of maps that displayed the

current state of brook trout in a visual way that was easily understandable to both resource professionals and the public at large. This landscape scale assessment served as the foundation of the EBTJV's Conservation Strategy and has been used by multiple conservation organizations to assist them in focusing their efforts as well. Mark then went on to create a model that was highly accurate at predicting brook trout status for sub-watersheds where quantitative data were lacking, which is another important decision support tool used by resource managers. Mark took the lead in developing a sub-watershed prioritization process that allows the EBTJV to assist in delivering brook trout conservation actions to places

where they will have the greatest impact. Additionally, Mark directed research into major threats to brook trout including climate change vulnerability, habitat fragmentation, and genetic diversity. He also initiated a finer-scale status assessment of brook trout at the catchment level, which will sharpen the EBTJV's focus on achieving its conservation priorities.

As a small token of the EBTJV's appreciation for all the work he has done for our partnership, Mark was presented with a framed artwork of a brook trout that was generously provided by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Project Spotlight: Nash Stream, NH

Historically, Nash Stream was known as a high quality native brook trout stream that provided exceptional angling opportunities in northern New Hampshire. Unfortunately, in 1969, the dam used to release water from Nash Bog Pond for log drives failed, sending a torrent of water akin to a 500-year flood event down Nash Stream. Immediately thereafter and in response to the dam failure, stretches of Nash Stream were straightened and its banks made higher by bulldozers. Consequently, much of the instream and riparian habitat was altered to the detriment of wild brook trout and other fish species. Additionally, many essential spawning tributaries were culverted with undersized pipes that impede fish passage and/or have led to

geomorphic instability.

The restoration of Nash Stream began in 2005 as a joint effort of the NH Fish and Game Department (NHFGD), NH Division of Forests and Lands (NHDFL), and Trout Unlimited (TU). The objective of the Nash Stream Restoration Project is to restore habitat for native fish species in the watershed using well-established geomorphic restoration principles. More than 90% of the watershed is owned by the NHDFL and much of Nash Stream is easily accessible to the public. All of the work conducted to date and planned for the future directly implements one or more of the EBTJV priorities and habitat objectives. The work also helps to implement the NH Wildlife

Action Plan, NHFGD Inland Fisheries Operational Plans, and TU's Strategic Plan. Ongoing research at Nash Stream funded by the U.S. Fish and Wild Service (USFWS) Science Excellence Initiative Program and Management Assistance Grant is providing valuable data to inform the overall restoration project and similar work elsewhere.

The Nash Stream State Forest is one of the few remaining large-scale strongholds for brook trout in New Hampshire. The completion of this restoration project will provide the healthy, connected habitat needed by all life stages of brook trout and will support highly accessible fishing opportunities.

“Conserving the health of your waters”



Eastern Brook Trout

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