

## **EBTJV** Habitat News Brief



Footage of curious brook trout in Pine Brook, Wayland MA, submitted by Scott Sweeney. An earlier email identified the incorrect state for this stream.

This email also corrects the time for Monday's Fish and Wildlife Service webinar on Fish Passage Program funding. The earlier email said 4pm, but the webinar is at 3pm.

To all of our program partners, agency biologists, conservation practitioners, research partners, donors, and brook trout enthusiasts, thank you for helping the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture conserve fishable, wild populations of brook trout for generations to come. Thank you - we couldn't do it without you! From everyone at EBTJV, we hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving.



## Fall in the Mountains of North Carolina

#### Photo by Kenneth Lingerfelt, NCWRC.

The spawning season for brook trout may be winding down, but we thought we'd take one more look at what fall means to brook trout. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission posted this descriptive piece on brook trout spawning and habitat in its October 21 e-newsletter.

There is also an unbelievable display taking place within many of our mountain streams, where brook trout are starting to spawn. Now equipped with vibrant ...



#### Interview with Brad Fink, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

Brook trout is Virginia's state fish, and its only native salmonid.

Virginia's wild brook trout streams stretch over 2,000 miles, mostly in the higher elevations of the mountains. It is hard to say exactly how much Virginia brook trout populations have declined; the extent of historic occupancy by brook trout in the state is uncertain. One thing is understood: the Appalachian mountains and foothills of Virginia are a resource gem. Many wild trout streams are in the protection of Shenandoah National Park and the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest.

Brad Fink, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) Coldwater Fisheries Biologist and EBTJV Steering Committee member, sat down with us to talk about his work with the VDWR and brook trout.

Brad joined the EBTJV steering committee member last year, replacing longtime EBTJV contributor Steve Reeser. A future edition of our news will feature Steve and some thoughts on the founding of EBTJV.

Read Brad's interview on our website



# Brook trout restoration: eligible under EBTJV's funding

We announced our <u>RFP</u> in October, and it is open through January 30, 2023. You must initiate coordination with an EBTJV state representative by December 12.

This week we would like to highlight the value of brook trout restoration projects Sometimes referred to as repatriation, this restores native brook trout to watersheds where it has been extirpated. Among other project types, restoration is eligible under EBTJV's funding, but we do require that this work is done in tandem with work to improve the habitat. A question we ask all applicants is, *how does this project address the root cause of decline in the watershed* In addition to considering the habitat first, restoration projects should be carefully designed, and ideally this includes using genetic information to ensure the project will be as successful as possible.

Want to know more about restoration, where it is happening, or the use of genetics to inform it? See our page on the topic, including a few videos, and data compiled by Matt Kulp, Supervisory Fishery Biologist with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Seeks Project Applications for \$38 Million in Fish Passage Funding | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking project applications for \$38 million in fish passage funding. Projects will be part of a five-year, \$200 million Bipartisan Infrastructure Law investment to restore aquatic ecosystems, through the National Fish Passage Program.

Please note that there is a required Letter of Intent due December 16. There will be a webinar Monday November 21, 3 pm. Register here.



#### Corporate partner spotlight: RepYourWater

It's getting cold, how about a brookie knit hat?

RepYourWater generously donates 3% of sales to conservation partners, including EBTJV (and we REALLY appreciate this partnership!). Check them out here. Your purchase will make you or someone you love smile, and support EBTJV and other great conservation organizations.

RepYourWater also has great corporate sustainability practices too!



Check out their creative designs



#### The Better Fishing with 2 Bald Biologists podcast: NC Brook Trout "The wildflower of the mountains"

On their recent podcast, Corey Oakley and Ben Ricks talk with the N.C. Wildlife Commission's trout biologist, Jake Rash, about conserving brook trout and their importance to North Carolina. Have a listen.

Jake is the current Vice Chair of EBTJV's steering committee and has lent a lot of time and talent to EBTJV for the last ten years, serving on both the Science and Data Committee and Project Review Team.



## News related to the National Fish Habitat

#### Partnership

The Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership is hiring a new Coordinator. This Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has posted this and another fisheries coordinator position. Closing dates 11/18 and 12/9. See ASMFC jobs page <u>here</u>.

The **Fall 2022 Southern Division AFS Newsletter** is now available at the following link: <u>https://sd.fisheries.org/newsletter/</u> President Jason Olive talks about the value of knowing 'giants' Jeff Boxrucker and Gene Gilliland, funding (including the ACE act), NFHAP and partnerships, and the importance of perspective, in his letter.



#### In case you missed it

Karli Rogers, biologist, on the draw of brook trout

We first made this story available on our Instagram and Facebook profiles in spring of 2022; it is still one of our most 'liked' posts. Photo by Dave Kazyak.

Chasing brook trout can transport you pretty far from daily life. If you're lucky, you might even end up like this, bathed in a metaphorical waterfall of misty sunlight, listening to the soft purl of an actual waterfall, in a cool forest with your boots in a cold stream, fly rod in your hand.

Karli Rogers, pictured here mid-cast on Seneca Creek WV, has this to offer:

"As someone who grew up in an urban setting without a wild brook trout stream in ...

Read More

#### past EBTJV e-news

<u>November 11. 2022</u>: RFP land support letters from state biologists; Veteran's Day; Brook Trout news segment; Webinars; TU jobs; News items.

<u>October 24, 2022</u>: RFP announced; Waters to Watch highlights a brook trout project; Narraguaggus River Restoration project (Maine); News links

<u>December 2021</u>: FY22 RFP information; Bowman Creek, PA and White River, VT project updates.

<u>June 2021</u> FY21 funded projects; EBTJV salmonid catchment (map) project; Partner news; NFHAP updates

#### **Upcoming editions**

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