

Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited



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March 2009

President's Message March 2009

Many interesting things happening with the chapter of late - most of them nothing but good, but also a few challenges thrown in. Starting with some of the good news: The Fly Fish NH show finished strong with consensus that it was a solid success. Total attendance was almost 500 including admission, vendors and volunteers. A good number of chapter members worked the show - a prerequisite for making it happen. Kudos to Jim Norton - our conductor for the show - and thanks to everyone else who contributed. The TU flag was waved prominently, building good will with a receptive audience. We reached out to some potential new members, selling a bunch of grand raffle tickets plus some banquet tickets along the way.

The "Let's go Fly Fishing" program is a NHF&G initiative to get more people interested in fly fishing. This is another area that absolutely depends on volunteers - and another great example of our chapter stepping up to the plate. Gerry Crow and Stan Jodziewicz invested much time and energy getting the program rolling, and they have recruited a core group of chapter members (several who are certified by F&G) to keep the momentum going. Our members have organized classes this year at four venues, to the tune of 80 or more students. F&G receives federal funds proportional to number of volunteer hours expended. One piece of this program that could still use some help is fly-casting instruction at Lake Massabesic on April 25. Any member who is available/interested in participating in casting instruction or in becoming a certified instructor should contact Gerry or Stan.

Challenges: Burr Tupper advises that the financial side of the house is under a bit of pressure. The chapter has a fairly aggressive list of projects and organizations that we support. Maintaining adequate revenue flow is obviously key to our ability to continue doing these things. The banquet last April was a huge contributor to our till. We have about another month to make hay before the next banquet. We still have banquet seats available, plus we need to sell significantly more grand raffle tickets to put this over the top. All members are also encouraged to solicit donated prizes for special raffles. Our strategy has focused on offering a wide range of prizes (not just fishing stuff). Jewelry, restaurant and other gift certificates, etc - these will be interesting prizes for a lot of folks. Please let Stan J. know of any successes so he can include them in the program. Be creative - and thanks in advance for the push. Osprey Fishing Adventures has again donated a float trip for the banquet - good raffle addition.

Last, just a quick word of thanks to Mary Weiss - I want to make sure that everyone recognizes Mary's efforts to get this newsletter organized - not to mention produced and sent. She gets great inputs from many people, who are critical to getting the message out - but Mary is the glue. As an aside, any members who would be willing to help in the newsletter effort - Mary would like to hear from you.

Thanks,
Jeff

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EDITORS NOTE: IF YOU
HAVE ANY
SUGGESTIONS OR
COMMENTS ON THE
NEWSLETTER SEND
THEM TO:
weissmarym@hotmail.com

Tuesday, April 14, 2009 @ 7pm – Video-Bugs of the Underworld



Extraordinary, award-winning underwater video footage follows the life cycles of mayflies, stoneflies, caddis flies, and other amazing bugs. Expertly narrated and original sound track.. Fly-fishers will gain valuable insights as they see how aquatic insects behave and what they *really* look like to trout!

2008 International Wildlife Film Festival: Honorable Mention, Scientific presentation

"I was enthralled!" - Sir David Attenborough

2008 Telly Awards: Silver -cinematography, Bronze -education, Bronze -wildlife

Ralph & Lisa Cutter's documentary work has appeared on National Geographic, PBS, BBC, TROUT, and at the California Academy of Sciences.

Saturday, April 25, 2009, 6:30pm to 10:30pm-Annual Conservation Banquet

Derryfield Country Club, Manchester, NH

There is a full buffet menu with five courses, from soup to nuts and a cash bar. The tickets are \$30.00 a person and will be sold up to one week prior to the event. The prizes list is over \$3,500 in value.

Tuesday, May 12, 2009 @ 7pm – Upper CT Project Recap

As you know from the articles in the newsletter and the discussions at our regular monthly meeting we have taken on a number of new out reach programs including the Textbook Stipend, Project Healing Waters, Kids Trout Camp and Casting for Recovery programs. Our major fund raising efforts come from three areas; the FFNH show, the Grand Raffle and the Annual Conservation Banquet. As we are into the key part of the year for our fund raising efforts, I thought it would be interesting to compare where we are to date with what we did last year in 2008. We just completed the FFNH show and due to the great effort of all the volunteers we will have realized about \$1800 profit after our split with Pelham F&G and this is much better than last year. In 2008, we sold \$1861 in Grand Raffle tickets and to-date we have sold \$1150. The cost of some of our prizes has gone up and we will need to sell more between now and the banquet in order to gross as much as we did last year. Lastly, we sold over 150 tickets to our spring banquet and to-date we have sold less than 50. Last year, thanks to Stan and his committee, our banquet was a smashing success as social and funding raising event. So if you are planning to go this year please get your tickets in as soon as possible.

March 09 MRVTU Treasurer's Report-Burr Tupper

As you know from the articles in the newsletter and the discussions at our regular monthly meeting, we have taken on a number of new outreach programs including the Textbook Stipend, Project Healing Waters, Kids Trout Camp and Casting for Recovery programs. Our major fund-raising efforts come from three areas: the FFNH show, the Grand Raffle and the Annual Conservation Banquet. As we are into the key part of the year for our fund-raising efforts, I thought it would be interesting to compare where we are to-date with what we did last year. We just completed the FFNH show and due to the great effort of all the volunteers we will have realized about \$1,800 profit after our split with Pelham F&G, and this is much better than last year. In 2008, we sold \$1,861 in Grand Raffle tickets, and to-date we have sold \$1150. The cost of some of our prizes has gone up and we will need to sell more between now and the banquet in order to gross as much as we did last year. Last, we sold more than 150 tickets to our spring banquet and to-date we have sold less than 50. Last year, thanks to Stan and his committee, our banquet was a smashing success as a social and funding-raising event. So, if you are planning to go this year please get your tickets in as soon as possible.

Fly Fish New Hampshire Show-Pelham Fish & Game Recap

By Jim Norton



The weather for the 2009 show was perfect, two sunny days in the 50's. There was enough snow on the ground so people weren't doing yard work and a little too early for fishing. More than 250 people attended the show Saturday with 200 more on Sunday. Combined with almost 100 vendors and staff working the show it was busy both days. This year we had six new vendors at the show, K&S Outdoor Adventures, New England Saltwater Flyrodders, Paul's Bait Rigs & Tackle, Shad Creek Flies, Stoneflies Guides and United Fly Tyers. The new vendors thought the show was great. One did better than at the Marlborough show and another who attends several shows reported it was their best show.

Saturday was full, and they ran another class Sunday. There were great turnouts for the seminars and casting sessions with excellent comments from those attending. More than 25 people attended the Fly Fish 101 session highlighting the interest in fly fishing and a lead-in to the four "Learn to Fly Fish" classes the chapter runs in April. One of the advantages of a small show is that people get a chance to spend more time visiting booths and talking to vendors, outfitters and guides. Many attendees spent several hours at the show while some made a day of it. When the announcement was made, "Food is being served," lines formed for hot dogs, hamburgers and especially the sausage. In addition to great food, the Pelham Fish and Game crew hosted a Saturday night dinner and Sunday morning breakfast for the show staff and vendors. If you haven't attended the show before, make a note on the calendar for March 6 and 7 for the 2010 show.

Chapter Camping Trip – Coleman State Park by Ron Hamel

We have a few sites left and plenty of openings for dinner for our 2009 Chapter Camping Trip scheduled for Friday, June 26, and Saturday, June 27, at Coleman State Park and Campground in Stewartstown, NH. Coleman State Park lies on the shore of Little Diamond Pond and is about 12 miles east of Colebrook. There is excellent trout fishing in this pond and other ponds in the area, and you're less than an hour drive from the Connecticut and Androscoggin Rivers. Saturday evening is the steak and chicken BBQ, which is always the highlight of the weekend as Dave Merry and his crew put on a meal that can't be beat. If it rains (which it never does) there is a pavilion in the campground that is available to us to provide some cover for the event. This trip is always a lot of fun with great fishing, spending time with old friends, meeting new friends, good food, and plenty of laughs.



The cost for a campsite is \$55 for the weekend and the dinner on Saturday is \$15 per person. The dinner is open to all members and guests whether you're staying at the campground or have other accommodations, but reservations and payment must be made ahead of time so we can plan for the food. If you want to reserve a spot for camping and/or dinner, contact Ron Hamel @ RMHamel@comcast.net or (978) 835-8857. Checks should be made out to MRV-TU and sent to Burr Tupper, 47 River Road, New Boston, NH 03070.

If you are interested in other accommodations besides the campground, you can go to New Hampshire Visitors website @ www.visitnh.com and look for accommodation in the Great North Woods Region. Anything in the Colebrook area around Route 26 or Route 3 would be relatively close to all of the activities as the campground is about 12 miles east of Colebrook.



Merrimack River Valley Chapter-TU Textbook Stipend

The MRV-TU Textbook Stipend is \$500 and is available to current seniors in high schools within the Chapter’s designated area. Students applying must be attending a college or university in the 2009 – 2010 academic year. The student must also successfully complete the first semester of their freshman year. Merrimack River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited does not discriminate based on race or gender.

Eligibility

1. The student must be enrolled full-time as a high school senior.
2. The student must plan to enter college in the fall of 2008.
3. The student should be planning to study in the environmental sciences.
4. Must have a minimum high school GPA of 2.5.
5. Must live in the area covered by the MRV-TU.
6. Must demonstrate successful completion of their first semester of

college by sending transcript to address given.

Requirements

- The student must submit a 300-500 word essay on the given topic
- Complete the application form
- Submit two letters of recommendation from high school instructors, one should be from a science instructor
- Submit a high school transcript
- Submit first semester college transcript to address given

Annual Conservation Banquet - Saturday, April 25, 2009

The Conservation Banquet will take place on Saturday, April 25, at the Derryfield Country Club in Manchester (<http://www.derryfieldrestaurant.com/>) from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm. There is a full buffet menu with five courses from soup to nuts and a cash bar. The tickets are \$30 a person and will be sold up to one week prior to the event. The prizes list is more than \$3,500 in value. Bring your family, friends, bring your neighbors. Get your tickets today or buy them at the next Chapter meeting.

2009 ANNUAL CONSERVATION BANQUET ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

_____ Number of Tickets X \$30 = _____

_____ Hold Tickets at Door _____ Please Mail



Make Checks Payable to: MRV-TU
Mail To: Burr Tupper/ Banquet Tickets
47 River Road
New Boston, NH 03070



Going Green with our Monthly Chapter Newsletter

As part of a Chapter 'Going Green' Effort, we would like to provide the monthly Chapter newsletters via email for most months. This can be accomplished only if your TU profile is up-to-date with your current contact information and accurate email address. Reducing the number of printed newsletters each month will save a few trees and also reduce newsletter costs for our chapter. The transition to primarily email monthly newsletters will not start until October 2009. This should give everyone a chance to update their TU Profile and also let me know which delivery method, print or email, is preferred. Chapter members who do not have access to regular email can notify me that they would always like to receive the Chapter newsletter in print.

To update your TU profile, go to www.tu.org, Membership Services, Welcome to my TU, Edit Profile, Login Name & Password, and then edit your email address and other contact information as needed. Your login name is your member ID number with TU in front of it and the password is your membership ID number. There are instructions if you have forgotten your login ID and password.

Mary Weiss, Newsletter Editor

Remember if you had a Verizon email account, you will need to update your TU Profile with your new myfairpoint email account information.

Black Brook Restoration Project Update by Steve Landry, Merrimack Watershed Supervisor.

By Steve Landry, NH Department of Environmental Services, Watershed Assistance Section, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095, Tel (603) 271-2969 * Fax (603) 271-7894, www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/was/ **March 9, 2009!**



Well, it appears that someone else should call project-related meetings from now on since I have scheduled the pre-construction, media event, and the on-site meeting this morning to coincide with blizzards each and every time this winter. I would like to extend my appreciation to Matt and Dan from Dubois & King, Eric Derleth from U.S. Fish & Wildlife, John Magee from NH Fish & Game, Jessica Fleming from the City of Manchester, and Dale Guinn from the DES Dam Maintenance Section who all braved the elements once again to meet with our operators on site this morning relative to the vertical wall removal on river left and right.

Brian Graber from American Rivers phoned in from MA this morning and provided valuable input and passed along comments sent to us from Jim MacBroom as well. We also received input from Eric Hutchins of NOAA prior to the meeting this morning.



Based upon all of the comments received from the project partners and the findings of the on-site team this morning, it was decided to take the vertical masonry and mortar walls down to the last practical tier on both river left and right. This decision will provide excellent toe of slope stability, ensure that the approach to the Front Street Bridge remains stable during high flows, eliminate the opportunity of high waters getting behind the remaining concrete wing-walls, and provide safe access to the edge of Black Brook for recreation. This approach will also allow for better integration of the targeted 3:1 slopes that must taper and get steeper on the approach to the Front Street Bridge. It is anticipated that the finished product on both sides of Black Brook will allow for aggressive riparian plantings to take hold and establish themselves over the next few growing seasons. This will be a vast improvement over the tall, vertical walls that have bordered Black Brook for the last hundred years. Although the finished product may not be considered to be fully ecologically sensitive along the toes of slopes, we have to keep in mind the tight site constrictions and downstream liability we are dealing with in this urban setting. Although the site looks pretty raw today, I am confident that the finished product will reflect our restoration goals for the project.

Many thanks to Chris Locke (DES Construction Supervisor & Equipment Operator) and Dan Lank (Contractor & Equipment Operator) for their willingness to work with the restoration team during the decision-making process to date. Their expertise and input has been invaluable.

I have attached some photos from that show the progress on river right for your review.

Thanks again to those that made it to the site today. I hope that others will have a chance to swing by this week and see the great work being done on Black Brook. The channel evolution process is pretty incredible too! Come and join the geek-fest with me anytime.





Merrimack River Valley Chapter

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Visit our Web site! ~

<http://www.merrimacktu.org>

Meeting Schedules, Pictures and Articles about Adopt-a-biologist program, Stream Restoration Projects, Chapter Outings, Fly Patterns, and a "Links Page" with links to interesting web sites

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (SEPT-MAY) AT THE SWEENEY AMERICAN LEGION POST, 251 MAPLE STREET MANCHESTER NH. DIRECTIONS: ELM STREET TO VALLEY STREET TO MAPLE STREET (1ST LEFT AFTER STADIUM)

Tuesday, April 14th, 2009 @ 7pm – Video-Bugs of the Underworld

Extraordinary, award-winning underwater video footage follows the life cycles of mayflies, stoneflies, caddis flies, and other amazing bugs.

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