

Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited



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May 2009

President's Message May 2009

The last newsletter of this TU year. Time to reflect on our accomplishments and successes of this past year, and also to consider our agenda and challenges for the next year.

Successes: we have had a good year, much of which to be proud. We are fresh off of a second Conservation Banquet at Derryfield Country Club. Consensus is that this was a great social event for the chapter, turning into something to look forward to near the tag end of the TU year. On top of that, this was (once again) our leading fundraising event of the year. We have already summarized results of the Fly Fish NH show (Pelham) this past March. Another financial success and, probably more importantly, great exposure for the TU mission. The Rockingham Show also has worked well for us. Chapter members taught "Let's go fly fishing for trout" to 85 or more students- how better to promote enjoyment and betterment of our sport and cold-water fisheries issues? Other programs that members invested time, energy and/or funding included Adopt a Salmon; Back the Brookie; the NH TU Youth Trout Camp; Casting for Recovery (breast cancer survivor enrichment program); the TU Upper Connecticut Home Rivers Initiative project (Joe Norton, TU project coordinator, will speak to this at our May meeting, 5-13-09); Merrimack Village Dam removal/ clean-up and Black Brook restoration project; Atlantic salmon restoration (fry stocking); fly tying sessions, and a number of other outreach and conservation projects. This is a very impressive list in my view.

Challenges: many of our members feel that the NH Fish & Game Department is comprised of a bunch of trained and committed professionals who work hard to ensure quality cold water fisheries' opportunities, amongst a host of other responsibilities. Unfortunately, F & G probably should be put on the endangered species list. There have been focused efforts of late to wrest funding and decision-making control away from this department and to consolidate F & G with other groups under an expanded Department of Safety (read non professional fish and wildlife people). This would probably not bode well for NH outdoors people. Bills in both the NH House and Senate were proposed to make this happen- but defeated- this year. This is good news, but the threat will continue. A number of TU members testified and/or wrote statements with convincing arguments, proactively opposing these changes. The chapter will continue to keep its ear to the ground on this important issue and will report goings-on to the members.

This year was gratifying re: the number of members who turned up to support chapter events, including a good number of new members. As always, we welcome and encourage all members to become more involved. Let us know your thoughts about making the chapter stronger. What changes would you propose? Last order of business: on behalf of the chapter, I want to thank Bill Cabral and Randy Snyder for their contributions as members of the board of directors during this past year. The strength of our chapter is based on the number of people who have stepped forward and helped to advance the TU agenda. Randy and Bill are certainly members in good standing amongst this group. I'm pretty sure that we haven't heard the last from these guys. Have a great summer; see you in September or hopefully before-

Thanks,
Jeff

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

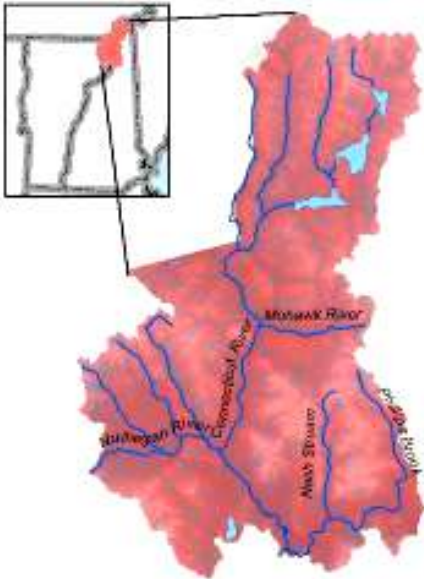
Tuesday May 12th, 2009 @ 7:00pm-Elections-Chapter Officer & Board of Directors

We are encouraging Chapter Members interested in being nominated to the Chapter Officer & Board of Directors to contact Jeff Lindberg or any of the Chapter Officers to discuss the open positions for the upcoming year. Election of Officers will take place at the May Chapter Meeting.



Tuesday, May 12, 2009 @ 7:30pm – Upper CT Project Recap

Joe Norton, TU's Project Director, Home Rivers Initiative, will recap TU's Upper Connecticut HRI project. The watershed project area covers roughly 700+ sq miles and includes the main stem Upper Connecticut from Lake Francis to the mouth of the Upper Ammonoosuc. Home Rivers Initiatives are intensive multi-year restoration projects on rivers of significant importance with degraded habitat. Joe is a NH native and went out west in the early 80's to guide fly fishermen around West Yellowstone for a few years while attending college at Montana State. He worked for Idaho Fish and Game for several years, in their anadromous fisheries program, working with Chinook salmon and steelhead. Joe was hit by the entrepreneurial bug, and operated a fly shop in Lewiston, Idaho for 15 years and moved back to NH in 06, working as Executive Director for the NH Wildlife Federation, before landing at TU in May of 08.



The Upper Connecticut project area encompasses over 465 square miles and 15 tributaries in Vermont and New Hampshire, including the main stem of the Connecticut River from Murphy Dam at Lake Francis in Pittsburg, NH to the Nulhegan River in Bloomfield, VT, across the river from North Stratford, NH.

Fly Casting Instruction Day

Attendees from the Lets Go Fishing, Fly Fishing Instruction classes met at Lake Massabesic, Manchester for a morning of Fly Casting Instruction. There were about 50 students who joined us on Saturday April 25th. The 'Let's Go Fishing program provided the Rods, Reels and Line so that each student could practice casting. Stan Jodziewicz and Gerry Crow led the class and several chapter members volunteered their time to help with the casting instruction.



Stan Jodziewicz playing the part of the hooked fish!



These 2 students were from Germany



Mary Weiss demonstrates a cast

April 25th Conservation Banquet

The April Banquet was another huge success with 105 people attending. Attendance was down from last year, but everyone was very generous and the Chapter made a net profit of \$3,400. The Derryfield did a fantastic job with the venue and the food was delicious. A Big Thank YOU to Stan Jodziewicz and everyone who worked on the April Conservation Banquet and also Dave Merry for building the Winston Custom Fly Rod. A big Thank YOU to everyone who contributed raffle prizes.

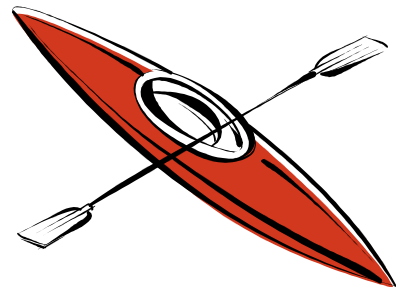


Grand Raffle Winners were drawn at the April Conservation Banquet on April 25th.



**Ticket #1 – Winston Custom Fly Rod –
Gary Andrew
Concord, NH 03301**

**Ticket #2 – Walden Scout 12' Kayak –
Jeff Kipperman
Bow, NH 03304**



**Ticket #3 – \$200 Stone River Certificate –
Joanne Head
Peterborough, NH 03458**

Chapter Camping Trip – Coleman State Park by Ron Hamel

We are in the final planning stages for our 2009 Chapter Camping Trip scheduled for Friday, June 26th and Saturday, June 27th at the Coleman State Park and Campground in Stewartstown, NH. If you haven't paid for your site or dinner, the payment deadline has been set for May 15th. After that date any one on the waiting list will be eligible to be assigned to a site. The cost for the campsite is \$55 for the weekend and \$15 per person for the BBQ dinner on Saturday. Checks should be made out to MRV-TU and should be sent to Burr Tupper, 47 River Road, New Boston, NH 03070.



Dinner is planned for 5:30 PM on Saturday and in our efforts to be green we're asking campers that will be staying at the campground to bring their plates and utensils to the dinner. We'll have these available for anyone who needs them but anything we can do to minimize the amount of trash we have to handle would be a big help.

We will also have dis-infection stations set up at the campground so that you can treat your gear to make sure we do our part in preventing the spread 'didymo' or any other aquatic nuisance species. If you plan on fishing in the Connecticut River or the Mohawk River, it is important that you treat you gear AFTER fishing in those bodies of water and BEFORE fishing anywhere else.

We're all looking forward to a weekend of fun, great fishing, good food, and plenty of laughs. Anyone with any questions can contact Ron Hamel @ RMHamel@comcast.net or (978) 835-8857.



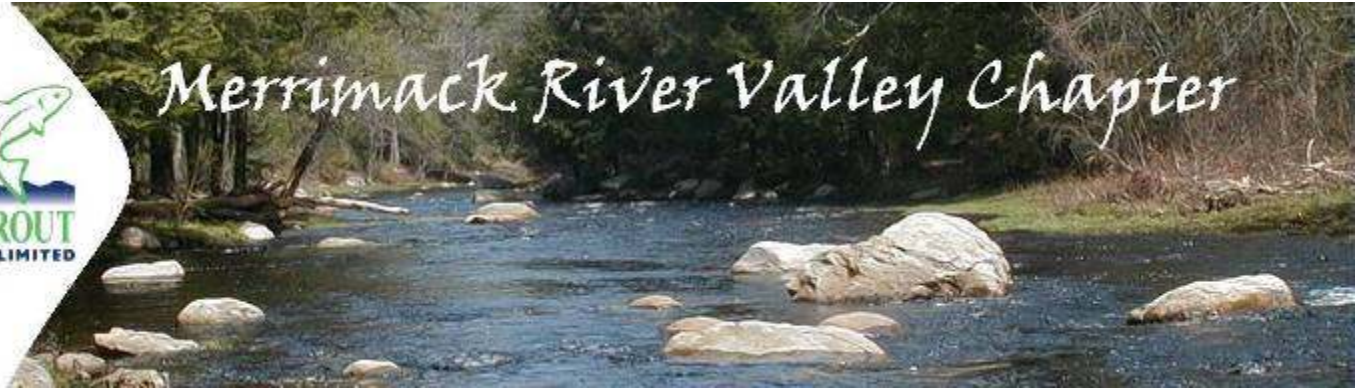
Speaker & Newsletter Schedule – Mary Weiss

Just a reminder that our next Chapter Meeting is on September 8th, 2009 at 7:00pm at the Sweeney Post.

Our Next Newsletter will be mailed to you the week of September 1st, 2009 and we will include information on the September Meeting Agenda and Speaker. Have a great summer.



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

!!!Next Chapter Meeting is September 8th, 2009!!!

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)