



# Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited

## President's Message

November 2009  
Volume xviii, Issue 3

### **Meetings/Speakers**

**2nd Tuesday of the Month—Sept—May**

**Doors Open at 6:30pm**

**7:30pm Meeting Starts**

### **November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

#### **2009 Alaska Adventure**

Jerry Bernier/Ron Peimer/Randy Synder/Richard Ruh/Dick Peterson —Preparation/Planning and Trip to Alaska, July 2009

### **December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

#### **Chapter Social**

Food, Raffles and Fun

### **January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Jay High, President MFFA — Fishing the Restigouche/Matapedia Rivers for spring Atlantic Salmon

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I look forward to each new issue of TU's magazine TROUT. I don't go through many mags cover to cover, but TROUT is an exception. It gives me a strong sense that TU pays close attention to the issues that drive the quality (and availability) of coldwater fisheries (and fishing) opportunities. Charles Gauvin, TU president, summarizes very succinctly how this all comes together in his TROUT, Fall 2009 message: "If you've read this magazine at all ... , you probably know that we have the best science in the business, and we're using it both to determine our priorities and to measure the effectiveness of our work. I'm very proud of our scientific prowess, but as an angler, I still want to see science translated into a better angling experience." I'm sure almost everyone appreciates the challenges, as well as the distinct rewards, associated with TU's efforts. Many of the articles in this publication focus on areas of the country far from New England (the U.S. is a big place, after all). Having said this, they do a good job of trying to spread the coverage. The latest issue of TROUT is a must read for TUers from our neck of the woods—you'll find a nice news piece from Maine plus a couple of New Hampshire articles. "Healing the Scars" is an appropriate name for the article that describes the objectives and the work of the TU Upper Connecticut Home Rivers Initiative. Joe Norton, the TU coordinator for this project gave a very nice presentation on this subject at our chapter meeting last spring. He described the beating the upper Connecticut took over the last couple of centuries in terms of fisheries habitat. Everything that was done to enhance the flow of logs

down the river (as well as to increasing farming), including straightening, boulder removal, bank clearing and causing flow surges negatively affected suitability of the river to support healthy populations of wild trout. It won't be a quick process by any means to undo the damage, but TU (and others) are committed to investing the resources to promote the healing process. Joe and a couple others address the specific activities that make up the restoration strategy. Angus Boezeman, well known to many chapter members as a long time NH based fly fisher, guide and active TU member, also contributed an article in this issue promoting the quality and diversity of the trout and salmon fishing experience on the Connecticut.

The Maine news flash: the Penobscot River Restoration Trust (of which TU is a member) will be the recipient of more than \$6 million in stimulus money. Dam removal is high on the agenda. They say that the Penobscot sees 90% of all Atlantic salmon returning to U.S. rivers. As I said earlier- this issue of TROUT is very good reading for northern New England enthusiasts.

MRV TU continues to explore ways to help in the removal of 2 dams on the Souhegan. We are preparing an application for a TU Embrace-A-Stream grant to help fund this effort. Details to follow in next month's newsletter.

Finally, our next chapter meeting on November 10 will feature five of our chapter members describing their recent fly fishing adventure to Alaska. This will be an exciting and informative presentation--hope to see a big crowd!

Jeff

## **Fly Tying Materials For Sale at Chapter Meetings**

Gus Pratte recently donated fly tying materials to our chapter to be used as a fund raiser. We will have the donated fly tying materials for sale at chapter meetings, and the materials are discounted 50% to 80% off list price. There is chenille (4 sizes, all colors); yarn (wool, mohair, glo-bug, etc); hooks (over 5000, dry, wet, nymph, streamer, some humpshanks, keels); a dubbing wallet (40 colors and more than enough of each color to share with a friend or two); hair patches; fur patches; tails; dubbing. The hooks are \$7.50 per 100 hooks and packaged in 25 packs so you can mix and match. If you need to replenish your fly tying supplies, take a look at what the chapter has for sale!

## Chapter Camping Trip 2010 — Coleman State Park



Reservations have been made and confirmed for the Chapter Trip at Coleman State Park. We have 15 sites for June 24, 25, & 26. The cost is \$90 per site and includes the 3-night reservation. The Chapter Dinner will be held on Satur-

day, June 26<sup>th</sup> and the cost will be \$15 per person. The dinner is open to all members and guests whether you're staying at the campground or have other accommodations. Last year's trip sold out, and despite the rain we had a great time, so reserve your spot early.

Coleman State Park, in Stewartstown, NH, lies on the shore of Little Diamond Pond and is about twelve miles east of Colebrook. We moved to this new venue last year, and eve-

ryone was very pleased with the quality of the camping sites and amenities, including coin-operated showers and laundry facilities.

There is excellent trout fishing in Little Diamond 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 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. *We have petitioned MOTHER NATURE to provide a rain free weekend for the 2010 Chapter Trip!*

To reserve a spot for camping and/or dinner contact Ron Hamel @ [RMHamel@comcast.net](mailto: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.

## Let's Go Fishing Training — Help the Chapter with Educational Outreach! We Need More Instructors! [www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Fishing/lets\\_go\\_fishing\\_class\\_schedule.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Fishing/lets_go_fishing_class_schedule.htm)

Individuals being certified must attend two, free training sessions. The first training will cover the ins and outs of the N. H. Fish and Game Department and the Let's Go Fishing program's (LGF), policy and procedures and will also include CPR certification. The second session will focus specifically on the ice fishing program; this will be a hands-on experience where prospective instructors will be put through an abbreviated "real life" LGF course. Topics covered include ethics, winter pond ecology, rules and regulations, equipment and safety. Instructors will need to attend both training sessions to become certified.

The Let's Go Fishing program will hold the first half of the two-part certification training for new fishing instructors on the following dates (it is only necessary to attend one of these two training classes; lunch will be provided):

**\*Saturday, December 12**, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Fish and Game Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive in Concord; or

**\*Saturday, January 9, 2010** from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Fish and Game Twin Mountain Fish Hatchery. **\*\*\*\*Location subject to change.\*\*\*\***

There is only one date and location for the second half of the certification training that all instructors must attend (lunch will be provided):

**\*Saturday, January 16, 2010** from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center, 387 Perch Pond Road in Holderness.

## NH TU Council Report — Burr Tupper

As hosts for the 2010 TU National meeting in September, we have already begun planning for that event. Dave Magnon has agreed to be the point person for TU national as it begins to plan for next year's program taking place in Waterville Valley. We will be responsible for putting on the fishing program, the conservation tour and the hospitality suites. Anyone interested in helping can contact me or Dave Magnon.

We will also be putting up a NH TU Council website this year. The goal of the website is to promote intra-chapter communications, general public awareness of the conservation efforts going on across the state, and as a fundraiser site for state-wide TU programs. Anyone interested in helping with the development and maintenance of this website please let me know.

## Grand Raffle 2010 — Ron Hamel

We're off and running with our Grand Raffle for 2010 as prizes have been finalized and tickets are being printed for distribution with our December Newsletter. We've undertaken a couple of new projects this year on the Souhegan and Piscataquog Rivers, and this raffle is one of our critical fundraisers that will help us move forward on these projects. Our goal is to raise \$6,000 and our early start and your support, coupled with some great prizes will help us meet this challenge.

This year's prizes consist of the following: Two Nights Lodging for Two People with Meals at Tall Timber Lodge, in Pittsborough, NH. This is a great venue to enjoy the Great North Woods as you'll see if you visit their website at [www.talltimber.com](http://www.talltimber.com). Another one of the prizes is a Custom Built Winston Boron IIT, 3 weight, 7'6" Fly Rod with an Abel reel and fly line. This is a fantastic "ready to fish" package. Lastly is a \$200 Gift Certificate for Stone River Outfitters, in Bedford, NH. You can go to their website at [www.stoneriveroutfitters.com](http://www.stoneriveroutfitters.com) and make out your shopping list!

Ticket donations are \$2 each or 3 for \$5; each member will receive 3 books (9 tickets) to sell along with a self-addressed return envelope. The winners will be drawn at the Annual Conservation Banquet on April 24, 2010, and winners need not be present to claim a prize.

If you can't get your friends, coworkers, relatives, neighbors, and fishing buddies to make a small donation for a great cause and a chance at some nice prizes there are a few other opportunities where you can help.

We will be recruiting volunteers to work at the Rockingham Hunting and Fishing Expo in January, and the Fly Fish New Hampshire show in March to promote our TU Chapter mission and fundraising. We can also use your help selling raffle tickets at our monthly Chapter Meetings. We thank you in advance for your help and support and are looking forward to another successful event as we continue our mission of working to preserve and improve our coldwater fisheries.

## Treasurer's Report — Burr Tupper

October starts the beginning of the fiscal year for Trout Unlimited. As such, I have completed and filed all the necessary financial information with TU National and the required 990N with the US Government. I have also completed the Chapter Efficiency Index (CEI) and filed that with TU National. The CEI is required by TU National and its filing triggers rebates.

We start the fiscal year in good shape. We have \$7,921.63 in our checking account and \$5,557.33 in the CD with St. Mary's Bank. We have already generated \$1,000.00 from the booth rentals for Fly Fish New Hampshire Show and \$65 from our monthly raffle and merchandise sales (donated fly tying materials).

## Casting For Recovery-Oct. 17th-Mary Weiss



Burr Tupper, Mary Weiss and Tom Jutras from MRVCTU assisted as Fly Fishing instructors, along with several other volunteer instructors, at the Great Bay Trout Unlimited 6th Annual Casting for Recovery event on Saturday, October 17. The CFR event took place on the banks of the Cocheco River, Dover, NH. Wendy Nixon, Secretary, Great Bay Trout Unlimited, coordinates the annual event and she did an outstanding job recruiting volunteers and organizing all the logistics needed for a very successful day of Fly Fishing instruction.

Six women were able to attend and enjoyed learning to tie knots, had casting instruction, learned entomology, and waded into the river with one-on-one guidance, had a fish on and had a lot of fun. More photos will be posted on Great Bay TU's website [www.greatbaytu.org](http://www.greatbaytu.org).

Casting for Recovery Program is a national organization, which was founded to help enhance the lives of breast cancer survivors by offering activities tailored to promote and support mental and physical healing, shared experi-

ences, and the hope that comes from learning new skills.

You can view more information about the National Casting for Recovery Program at [Castingforrecovery.org](http://Castingforrecovery.org), or contact Wendy Nixon at [fishinnixon2@comcast.net](mailto:fishinnixon2@comcast.net) for further information on how you can help out at this event next year.

TROUT UNLIMITED  
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**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)**



### Chapter Officers

[www.merrimacktu.org](http://www.merrimacktu.org)

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