

Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited



Volume xvii Issue 6

February 2009

President's Message

From tiny acorns, thus come mighty oak trees! Fifty years ago, in 1959, a group of 16 Michigan fishermen met in the Grayling area to discuss shortcomings that they perceived in how the state was managing the trout program. The then-current policy was to maximize the production of catchable hatchery fish. TU's view was to focus on managing the program for high quality habitat that would support healthy populations of wild fish. TU issued its first policy statement in 1962-63 to the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources promoting this position. From this humble start, TU has grown to become an organization of 140,000 members supporting 400 local chapters throughout the country. The scope, range and number of projects that have benefited from TU efforts through the years are very impressive. TU has invested in cold watery fisheries science, and has organized campaigns to ensure that public policies and regulations adhere to best practices. But the real engine behind TU is the magnitude of volunteer "sweat equity", without which many projects would have come up short. Read Trout magazine and go on the TU.org website to see the good things in which TU is involved.

TU has a range of special events and information planned to help commemorate the 50th. There is a new website (www.tu50.org) that gives details of the goings-on. One of the activities is a celebration in August in Traverse City, MI near the place where TU started. Burr Tupper, NH TU Council vice-chair and MRV TU Chapter board member, will be in attendance. As an aside, Burr is slated to take over the Council chair position this fall. Current Council chair is Dave Magnon, who also sits on our chapter board. Kudus to both for the mega-hours and effort that they have contributed to TU.

Gerry Crow forwarded good news recently- the Maxwell Pond Dam Removal/ Black Brook Restoration Project has cleared the final hurdles- in fact, the work should be completed by this spring. This represents the culmination of 7 years of effort by a wide range of groups- many of which also collaborated to have the Merrimack Village Dam removed. TU was a visible partner in both projects- further examples of TU's commitment to habitat and connectivity improvements. Interestingly, both of our speakers for the February meeting were directly involved in both of these projects. Deb Loiselle, NH DES and Eric Hutchins, NOAA will talk about the big picture re: the future dam removal agenda.

As a major point of emphasis: our grand raffle is an important fundraiser for the chapter. The success of the raffle obviously depends on ticket sales. We invest about \$1,000 to make the prizes very interesting, print tickets, postage, etc. We only have one request for all members: sell, sell, sell!

Lastly- keep your schedule clear to attend Fly Fish NH, March 7 and 8 at the Pelham Fish & Game Club. Great show- over 20 vendors signed up to date, most of them locals. Our chapter co-sponsors this show, which also contributes to the chapter's kitty. Please let Ron Peimer know if you are available to help at the show.

Thanks,
Jeff

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Speakers & Treasurer's Report
- 3 FFNH & Chapter Trip
- 4 Textbook Stipend & Annual Banquet
- 5 Jim Norton's Journal
- 6 Pink Fly Contest & Learn to Fly Fish Classes
- 7 Cote's Fly Rod Building & Going Green, Newsletter
- 8 Black Brook Restoration Project
- 9 Chapter Officers



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

Tuesday, February 10th, 2009 @ 7pm-Merrimack Village Dam Removal-Eric Hutchins, NOAA & Deb Louiselle, NH DES



Eric Hutchins, NOAA Restoration Center and Deb Louiselle, NH DES will give us a review of the Merrimack Village Dam Removal project and an overview of current and potential projects in our watershed.

Tuesday, March 10th, 2009 @ 7pm-Thomas Ames, Author & Commercial Photographer



Thomas Ames is a commercial photographer whose studio is located in an old woolen mill in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Mr. Ames makes photographs for a variety of advertising and editorial clients and he brings the same attention to clarity and detail to his widely acclaimed fly fishing insect photographs that he applies on behalf of his commercial clients. In addition to his book, Hatch Guide To New England Streams, Mr. Ames is a regular contributor to *Fly Fishing and Tying Journal*. His articles and photographs have also appeared in *Fly Rod & Reel* and *Fly Fisherman*. He gives numerous slide lectures throughout the year to fly fishing clubs in New England and New York State.

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



Extraordinary, award-winning underwater video footage follows the life cycles of mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, 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.

February MRVTU Treasurer's Report-Burr Tupper

As we approach the halfway point of our fiscal year, I feel obligated to remind everyone that we are rapidly approaching that time of the year where we are putting together events that will raise money to support all of our outreach programs. Specifically, those programs are the Fly Fish New Hampshire Show held at the Pelham Fish and Gun Club, the Grand Raffle and of course the Spring Banquet. I urge you to support these events by buying and selling tickets for the Grand Raffle, attending the Pelham Show and making your reservations, now, for the banquet.

In the past we have supported many worthwhile programs and this year we would like to continue to give at the same level, plus support the national TU effort of coldwater restoration programs. Our local programs include Casting for Recovery, Let's Go Fly Fishing, the kids Trout Fishing Camp, Adopt a Salmon, text book stipend for two worthy college students, Conservation Donations and many more. Then of course there are normal operating expenses such as the newsletter, speaker fees, web site, printing fees, etc.

At this time we have \$13,254 in our checking account and our CD. We have already spent money to support our fund raising projects as well as outreach programs, and we will need to replenish our treasury. Your financial and volunteer help will be greatly appreciated.

Fly Fish New Hampshire Show-Pelham Fish & Game Club, March 7th and 8th, 2009



The chapter is sponsoring ***FLY FISH NEW HAMPSHIRE SHOW*** at the Pelham Fish & Game Club in Pelham NH. The show will be held this year on SAT/SUN 3/7 & 3/8. Along with our partner, the Pelham Fish & Game Club, we need volunteers to assist with the show. Volunteers get free admission, sell raffle tickets, speak with visitors concerning the chapter and fishing in New Hampshire, and assist with the general operation of the show. Workers have ample time to visit the show's vendors and peruse the exhibits

We have openings for help for the following shifts:

Fri 3/6 (set up) approx 1pm-4pm

Sat 3/7 12 noon- 4pm

Sun 3/8 8:30 a-12noon and 12noon-4p

If you can help the chapter, please respond by email to (mrtunews@comcast.net).

Circulating FFNH Flyers

We also need Chapter Members to circulate the FFNH Flyers. Jim Norton has plenty of extra FFNH Flyers to post on bulletin boards at work, clubs, stores, etc. If you can help circulate FFNH Flyers please contact Jim at barbsjims@comcast.net. Jim will have extra FFNH Flyers at the Chapter Meeting Tuesday, Feb. 10th.

Chapter Camping Trip – Coleman State Park.

<http://www.nhstateparks.com/coleman.html>

Our 2009 Chapter Camping Trip is scheduled for Friday, June 26th and Saturday, June 27th at the Coleman State Park and Campground in Stewartstown, NH. Coleman State Park lies on the shore of Little Diamond Pond and is about twelve 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 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. Sites are filling up fast so 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.

There has also been a request by some members to stay an extra night and we've made arrangements with the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation for anyone that wants to go up on Thursday, June 25th, but to be able to do that those names must be into Ron Hamel by Tuesday, February 24th so we can finalize those reservations. After that date you will have to make single night reservations on your own with the Division of Parks and Recreation, but they will not be accepting single night reservations until after May 15th and it will be subject to availability.



Merrimack River Valley Chapter-TU Textbook Stipend

The MRV-TU Textbook Stipend is \$500.00 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 25th, 2009

The Conservation Banquet will take place on Saturday, April 25 at the Derry field Country Club in Manchester (<http://www.derryfieldrestaurant.com/>) from 6:30pm to 10:30pm. 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. 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 \$30.00 = _____

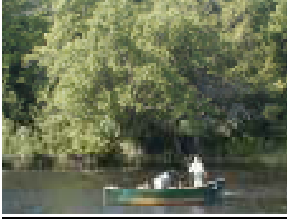
_____ Hold Tickets at Door _____ Please Mail



Make Checks Payable to: MRV-TU

Mail To: Burr Tupper/ Banquet Tickets
47 River Road
New Boston, NH 03070

Jim Norton's Journal



In January Jerry Bernier, Jim Baumgartner, Richard Ruh and I attended the Fly Fishing Show in Marlborough MA. We car-pooled, something that might not have occurred a few years ago in a stronger economy. Other signs of the times were the absence of major vendors that had participated at the show in previous years along with several nationally known speakers. Sports are being impacted by the effect of the downturn in the economy including participatory ones like hunting and fishing. Many anglers are deciding to make do rather than upgrade and repairing rods versus replacing them. The trickle down effect impacts everything from trinkets to trips.

There were a lot of good deals, which will probably continue until the economy improves. The downside is many local shops may have a difficult time surviving.

At lunch we were at a table with two other anglers. One of the guys turned out to be a freelance writer who had written an article about Ted Williams fishing camp on the Miramichi. He offered us a bag of chips. While trout can be very selective feeders I'm not, chips being one of many weaknesses. If I were a trout a chip fly would be fatal. We talked about fishing and I offered him my card to check out our WEB site. A few days later he called and asked if there were any guiding trips that would make for interesting stories. Fortunately I've never had the "client from hell" or other misadventures. I've read articles and books packed with stories. There's seldom a day on the water that's not enjoyable and if there is it's usually weather related. There are surprises, here's one from last summer.

We have a lot of trips with novice anglers. In early July, I took someone out who had never fished; on the way to the river he said he watched fly fishing shows and wanted to try it. He liked the outdoors and hiking and had completed a military winter wilderness survival-training program. He planned to hike into remote areas and fish. It's easy to spend an hour or so working on the basics of casting but in three or four casts he seemed to have it down pat so we started fishing. July is not the best time to fish rivers in the southern part of the state. He fished with dries, nymphs and streamers, and anyone watching him would have thought he had been born fishing. He landed six trout and looked like an expert. On the ride back he said that in the military he had watched a lot of shows and always mimicked the exact motions of casting, setting the hook and playing fish.

Thank YOU !



In January the chapter successfully completed fly tying classes at the Nashua and Manchester libraries. The classes are sponsored by the New Hampshire Fish and Game department, the libraries and Merrimack River Valley chapter. The program is part of the "Let's Go Fishing " program.

Fish and Game provides the fly tying kits, the libraries provide space and registration and the chapter provides material, hooks, handouts, and instructors. There were 14 students in the Nashua class and 15 in Manchester. There is no charge for the class. This year Stan Jodziewicz, Dick Peterson and Jim Norton were instructors.

Pink Fly Contest



The third annual “Pink Fly Contest” is being held to raise funds for Casting For Recovery www.castingforrecovery.org a national non-profit organization devoted to supporting breast cancer survivors through fly fishing. CFR provides no cost fly-fishing retreats specifically designed for women who have or have had breast cancer.

Over 3500 women have attended the 224 retreats with the help of over 1000 volunteers. There are five retreats held in New England each year.

The contest was started by Janet and Bill Thompson of the North Country Angler in North Conway, New Hampshire. The rules are simple. You tie a fly. The fly has lots of pink materials; the criteria for winning is the best use of pink. The fly is submitted to one of four fly shops participating in this year’s event along with a five-dollar entry fee for each fly submitted. You may also donate flies of any color to be used by CFR.

All money raised is donated through the Orvis Company. Orvis has matched the donations for a total of about \$3000 to CFR.

All flies must be received by February 28, 2009. All flies entered will be displayed at the “Fly Fish New Hampshire Show” in Pelham March 7th and 8th winners will be chosen at the show. There will be a first and second prize. All of the flies will be donated to Casting for Recovery. Tiers who wish to have their flies returned may do so; however a self-addressed envelope with appropriate postage must be included.

Flies may be sent or dropped off at the following shops.

North Country Angler
P. O. Box 1901
2888 White Mountain Hwy.
North Conway, NH 03860
603-356-6000

Eldredge Brothers Fly Shop
1480 US RT One
Cape Neddick, ME 03902
207-363-9269

W. S. Hunter & Co.
113 Storrs Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-288-0880
603-643-1263

Hanover Outdoors
17 ½ Lebanon Street
Hanover, NH 03755

Learn To Fly Fish

Once again our chapter is co-sponsoring with the NH Fish and Game department free "Learn to Fly Fish" classes. The classes are for beginners and intermediate fly anglers that want to improve their skills. A wide variety of fly fishing topics are covered including: equipment, safety, ethics, conservation, insects and other fish food, strategies, and where to fish, as well as an on-the-water casting lesson. The classes consist of four evening classes and an on-the-water casting lesson. Classes will be held at the Nashua Public Library and Amoskeag Fishways on Monday evenings and Manchester Public Library on Thursday evenings beginning in late March. For more information and to register go to:

Manchester: www.manchester.lib.nh.us

Nashua: www.nashualibrary.org

Click on Events, go to March and select the Learn to Fly Fish class.

Amoskeag fishways, Manchester: <http://www.amoskeagfishways.org/public.html#programs>

Cote's Fly Shop Rod Building Class

Saturday March 7th 9am Fly Fish New Hampshire show Pelham NH

Learn how to build your own IM6 custom high-modulus graphite rod at the Fly Fish New Hampshire Show March 7th in Pelham NH. The class is 4 to 5 hours and includes the following: Explain procedure and fit rod grip. Assemble and glue on reel seat. Discuss guide placement and spline blanks. Do several practice wraps on provided blanks pieces. Learn how to place guides and instruction on inscriptions. Lecture on finishing of the blanks, the finer points of using flex coat epoxy, and the use of color preserver. At the end of the class the student would still have to take the blank home and do the wraps. A rod-wrapping bench is included in the cost of the course.

Blank Choices: For this class the prospective rod builders could choose from the following size rods to build:

6' 3wt, 6' 6" 2/3wt, 7' 4wt, 7' 6" 4 or 5wt, 8' 4, 5, or 6wt, 8' 6" 5 or 6 wt, 9' 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10wt

These would all be Cote's Custom IM6 graphite rod blanks. High modulus blanks finished in translucent brown. These blanks build up to smooth powerful rods with excellent dampening ability. The cost of the class is \$140.00 per student which includes: the rod bench, the blank, grade A cork, A-16SRB reel seat, Guide set, guide placement chart, and brown thread. Also included in the cost of the course is a single use package of rod finish. Up grades on the blanks or components (limited to store stock) are available, but arrangements must be made in advance directly with the Cote's Fly Shop Please specify rod choice upon registering for this class.

For information e-mail gizmocpns@aol.com

Maryann Cote
Cote's Fly Shop
508-892-3765



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 only be accomplished 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 the 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 & 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.



1



2

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

I am very pleased to report that RH White and National Grid have initiated construction activities at the project site this week. Jeff Marcoux and I were down at the project site Thursday collecting pre-removal photos and saw the initial stages of gas main relocation work underway! This was a very welcome sight after seven years of planning for dam removal and river restoration at Maxwell Pond and Black Brook. We extend our sincere gratitude to National Grid for getting this work underway only a week after our pre-construction meeting on the 28th of January.

I hope to pass along additional progress reports next week. I've attached a few images from Thursday that may be of interest to you. Descriptions of the attached photos are presented below.

1. Black Brook viewed upstream from X-section L (reference reach)
2. MPD viewed from X-section E (Front Street Bridge)
3. gas main work – view of trench-work over gas main and service line to gas station
4. gas main work – view of trench-work in MPD parking lot (please note NHDES Wetland Permit posted on utility pole!!)

Steve Landry, Merrimack Watershed Supervisor
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/



3



4



CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Jeff Lindberg	Jlindb595@gmail.com	603-595-7544
Past-President	Gerry Crow	gerrycrow@charter.net	603-889-5611
Vice-President	Randy Snyder	randysnyder@npc.com	603-472-2603
Secretary	Mary Weiss	weissmarym@hotmail.com	603-487-5498
Treasurer	Burr Tupper	burr@hotmai.com	603-487-5498
Directors	Randy Mithoefer	rmithoefer@hotmail.com	603-493-3930
	David Magnon	davemagnon@yahoo.com	603-661-9862
	Stan Jodziewicz	sdjodz@myfairpoint.net	603-624-1073
	David Merry	david_merry@comcast.net	603-264-5132
	Bill Cabral	larbac@comcast.net	603-887-3751
	Ron Hamel	RMHamel@comcast.net	978-835-8857
Newsletter Editor	Mary Weiss	weissmarym@hotmail.com	603-487-5498

~ 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

NOTE: Due to a scheduling conflict, the March Newsletter will be printed and mailed the week of March 16th. Please remember Thomas Ames is our March 10th Speaker and it should be a great presentation, so mark your calendar!!!!

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)