

MERRIMACK RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED



President's Message

April 2010

MRV is pitching in again to help advance cold water fisheries science. We have committed to contribute to the next phase of an on-going project to track the movement of wild brook trout in the Upper Androscoggin Watershed. The process involves surgically inserting an electronic tag in captured fish. Via the magic of telemetry, the movement of these fish can be monitored for up to 2 years. This is one of the top wild brook trout fisheries in the northeast. Protecting/preserving this fishery needs to be a top priority; these studies by professional biologists provide the knowledge base to guide the management of this resource. Issues related to spawning and nursery areas, and summer or winter holding areas, will be better understood by collection of this data.

This project is a combined effort of NH F&G, Dartmouth College, TU and other groups and will be the third related study. The first 2 phases (2005 & 2008) tagged and studied fish in the Rapid River, the Magalloway and the Dead Diamond. Dianne Timmins, NH F&G, has presented study results to the chapter in the past. The range of trout movement has been incredible: the record holder traveled 72 miles during the study period, while other fish were tracked as far as 28 miles in a few weeks.

The Sebago (ME) TU chapter is coordinating the effort to purchase (hopefully) 40 tags, many donated by ME and NH TU chapters; this is definitely a good example of TU banding together to support core TU objectives. MRV is buying 2 tags. These tags will be implanted into "our" trout, and we will have the opportunity to get updates during the study period of where "our"

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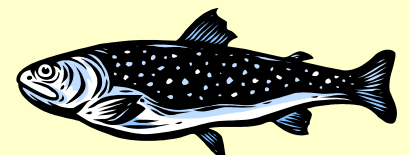
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trout have been and other details of their activities (spawning, for example).

The Conservation Banquet is less than a month away. The Derryfield Country Club has done a great job for us in the past. The food, décor and service have been top notch. We're looking forward to a three peat this year. Additionally, the list of prizes is exciting with special raffles, bucket raffles and silent auctions. If you haven't bought your banquet tickets yet, please do so at your earliest opportunity (details inside this newsletter). We need to give Derryfield a final head count soon. It will be a great night out-- good company, good food and a really good cause.

Just a quick note re: TU's "Trout" magazine. It is now available to view online (tu.org). It's starting to look like the internet is here to stay. TU is still mailing hard copies of Trout, which is expensive. Electronic mailings represent opportunities to reduce costs. MRV has been debating how to best communicate with members in the most cost effective way. Any inputs/comments from all are solicited.

Thx,
Jeff





Extreme Fly Fishing - The Good Life: Tall Tails from the East

(NR) 2010, 70 min.

Thursday, April 22 7pm Tickets \$10 Tickets
Red River Theater Capital Commons, at 11 South
Main Street Concord. www.redrivertheatres.org

All along the Atlantic seaboard from north to south, lies some of the most mind-blowing sections of fish-able water. This project takes a long hard look at the sport of fly fishing along the eastern side of the Mississippi. Each fisherman in this film, from Pro's to the unknown, legends to fresh recruits, all share a common bond. From Peacock Bass to Landlock Salmon, from urban pools teaming with silver Shad to remote runs with glorious trout and a dash of the occasional Stonefly Hatch, this film is proof that the good life is never too far away.

Sponsored by the New Hampshire Guides Association

Fly of the month – The Carey Special



HOOK: sizes 4-14

THREAD: Black

TAIL: Pheasant tail 2/3 hook length (optional)

RIB: Copper wire

BODY: Peacock herl or Olive chenille

HACKLE: Pheasant tail or flank tied wet style

Origination: A traditional northwest lake pattern of British Columbia. This pattern was developed in the 1920's and later popularized by Col. Thomas Cary

Variations: Brown is another good body color.

How to Fish

Use the **count-down-and-retrieve** or **slow retrieve** presentations.

NOTE: This is an easy to tie pattern and very applicable to New England. The tail is optional. Peacock herl is a great material. Green is a good color for caddis lava like the Alderfly, size 12-14. There are a lot of flies with peacock bodies, Prince nymph. Zug Bug, etc. and the body for dry flies like the deer hair caddis. I tie the pattern in a few different varieties and substitute brown hen or Hungarian Partridge for the hackle. It can also be tied with a bead head.

Chapter Camping Trip – Coleman State Park

We still have some sites remaining for anyone interested in signing up for our Annual Chapter Trip to Coleman State Park on Little Diamond Pond. This is a great trip so sign up soon and don't miss out on a great weekend of fishing, food, and fun. If you've made other arrangements for lodging make sure you get on the list for the BBQ dinner on Saturday night. This is the highlight of the weekend when Dave Merry and his crew put out a meal that can't be missed. We've reserved 15 sites for June 24, 25, & 26 and the cost is \$90 per site for 3 nights of camping. The Chapter Dinner will be held on Saturday, June 26th and the cost will be \$15 per person. Remember the dinner is open to all members and guests whether you're staying at the campground or have other accommodations. Based on the positive responses from last years event we're expecting another good size group so reserve your spot soon.

To reserve a spot for camping and/or dinner contact Ron Hamel at 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.

Early Season Tips ~ Gerry Crow

1. River flows are critical to success and safety. Check the USGS gauges for local rivers to see if they are fishable:
<http://www.flyfishnewengland.com/resources.htm>
2. Water temperature is important. Ideal temp for trout metabolism is 55-60F. Get a thermometer and use it. As water temp rises towards 50F, trout will begin to feed more actively. In summer smaller tribs might be cooler, but now they might be warmer than main stem. In springtime find warmer water and find trout.
3. Always fish a dropper - it doubles your chance for success. I ALWAYS fish a dropper and my dropper is usually a soft hackle.
In springtime I fish a streamer/woolly bugger with a dropper soft hackle with flash or color, such as a grouse-and-flash.

Meetings/ Speakers

April 13, 2010 ~ Bill Thompson – North Country Angler North Conway, NH will present a program on trout fishing the eastern slope of the White Mountains. Focus is on home waters of the Saco and Ellis Rivers in the North Conway area. Other rivers of the “east side” are covered as well as several trout ponds. Bill and his wife Janet own and operate the North Country Angler Fly Shop. They are both licensed New Hampshire fishing guides. Bill was born in Maine and has, by choice, lived in New Hampshire for the past 30 years. While focusing on the Saco and Ellis Rivers from a guiding standpoint, the Thompsons have been known to venture north to the Androscoggin.

May 11, 2010 ~ Charlie Shadan, owner of the Evening Sun Fly Shop in Pepperell, Massachusetts presents a video perspective on the Nissitissit and Squamacook Rivers of Northeastern, MA. The video, “You Don’t Need a Tee Time to Fish” features Charlie’s descriptions of these two rivers using both above and below the surface video photography. These rivers offer the earliest spring fishing for those of us in the Nashua and Manchester Area.

2010 Merrimack River Valley Chapter-Trout Unlimited Annual Spring Conservation Banquet

Don’t miss out on an evening of Great Food, Great Prizes, and Just Great Fun! The **2010 MRVC-TU Annual Conservation Banquet** is fast approaching and scheduled for **Saturday, April 24, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Derryfield Country Club Restaurant, 625 Mammoth Rd., Manchester, NH 03104. For directions, visit www.derryfieldrestaurant.com. Tickets are still available at \$30 a person.

Make Checks Payable to:
MERRIMACK RIVER VALLEY TU
Mail To: Burr Tupper
47 River Road
New Boston, NH 03070

This is a great opportunity to meet and get to know other Chapter members, enjoy great food and drink, share memories, and win some fantastic raffle prizes. This year’s donations include a New Hampshire Fisher Cat’s four box-seat game of your choosing In May 2010 at Merchant’s Auto.com Stadium in Manchester, TFO rod/reel/line with TU/Sierra Club Logo (valued at \$250), Albright 7’6” #4 5 piece Fly Rod with carrying case (valued at \$350), \$100 Gift Certificate to Kiki’s Restaurant in New Boston, a beautiful hand-made quilt, Women’s jewelry and much, much more. Our Grand Raffle will also be taking place that same night. This is a great opportunity to support a great cause and make new memories. Please join us! The Conservation Banquet is the MRVC-TU’s biggest yearly fund-raiser and social event, and we want you to be a part of it.

We look forward to seeing you all at The Derryfield on the 24th of April!



2010 Fly Fish New Hampshire Show

It doesn't seem like it's been eight years since the first show but we've been doing it long enough to become a tradition for many anglers. Shows have a way of being referred to by location. When anglers talked about going to Wilmington or Marlborough the fly fishing show was assumed. So it was probably inevitable that our show would become known as the Pelham show. The Wilmington show became a casualty of economics.

The chapter has always participated in shows and related community activities; it's good public relations and helps to recruit members, which are essential. Although the chapter has several hundred active members, the people participating in meetings, activities, volunteer projects etc. represent a small percentage of the actual membership. That's not unusual for national conservation organizations. Many people don't become actively involved but want to support conservation. Chapter projects and conservation initiatives are supported by a small nucleus of members. One of the major challenges chapters have is to attract new members that hopefully will become active. In the 90s the chapter hosted a one-day fly fishing show for a few years, so we had an idea of the number of people we could attract. Unfortunately cost, primarily hall rental was a major expense. We thought that a weekend show would be a good venue for the chapter to attract a large number of people and provide the benefit of generating publicity and recruiting membership. We looked for a partner with a facility to help defray expenses; fortunately, Pelham Fish and Game was willing to partner with us.

From the outset the show has been a success both in attendance and profitability for both clubs. The first two years paid attendance was over 370. Snow in 2005 and 2008 dropped attendance to the 330's. In the Northeast weather conditions can have a major impact on weekend shows. With the exception of 2008 we've averaged 430 paid

attendance since 2006. An additional 60-70 people are at the show including vendors and TU Pelham F&G staff.

The show has not had a lot of vendor turnover; this year we had two new vendors. Several vendors said this was their best year at the show. With five fly shops there's always a good selection of equipment and show specials available. Additionally, there are three vendors who primarily sell flies. Along with guides, outfitters and other conservation organizations there's always something new to see. Presentations at the show are on a three to four year rotation so there are different speakers each year. Over the years curtains have been added, and we continue to expand publicity to promote the show.

The show is just one of the activities the chapter promotes along with the Let's Go Fishing "Learn to Fly Fish" and "Fly Tying" programs and on stream conservation activities. If you're a chapter member who can't attend meetings due to work or family commitments, please consider volunteering. It's a good way to support the chapter.



Charlie Shadan, Owner of Evening Sun Fly Shop will be our speaker at the May 11 meeting



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