



Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited

May 2010
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President's Message

Hi all-

I continue to be nothing but proud of MRV TU! Another TU year is winding down, hard to believe that it's gone so quickly. Merrimack River Valley Chapter has had another great year. We have invested significant effort and resources into activities that are focused directly on the core of what TU is all about. As they say, it's a journey, not a destination. We have helped TU make good progress re: objectives that promote improvements in cold water fisheries and ensure that our generation and (more importantly) future generations can benefit from what we have enjoyed.

It has been my pleasure to serve as president of our chapter for the last 2 years, plus being on the BOD for 3 years prior. Elections were held this week at our May meeting. I am pleased that Ron Hamel has agreed to accept the baton as our new president. Ron has worked hard over the last couple of years to contribute to the success of the chapter. There is no question in my mind that we are in good hands with Ron at our helm. I am looking forward to continuing my involvement with TU (in the role as chapter Vice President).

It is fitting for all of us to thank our entire BOD for their dedication and efforts towards keeping MRV TU vital and solvent. I am grateful for their support-we frequently had 100% attendance at BOD meetings (i.e. all 13 of us!). Gerry and Stan spent the winter in Florida, but we received their inputs every month. Special recognition goes to Stan Jodziewicz and Randy Mithoefer, both of whom are ending their terms on the BOD. My expectation is that Stan and Randy will be active members as the chapter goes forward.

Our recent Conservation Banquet was another success. Kudos to Mike Croteau and his team for coordinating an evening at Derryfield Country Club that was enjoyed by all who were there. This has turned into a great tradition for the chapter.

Hope to see many of you at the chapter trip-

Thx, Jeff

Meetings/Speakers

2nd Tuesday of the Month-Sept—May

**Next Meeting
Tues., Sept. 14th.
Speaker TBA**

*Trout Unlimited
National Meeting
Waterville Valley,
Sept. 15th—19th,
www.tu.org/annual-meeting-2010 !!!!!!!!*

Chapter Camping Trip

Coleman State Park,
Coleman, NH
June 24, 25, & 26

Chapter Dinner

Coleman State Park
June 26th

Have a Great Summer

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Newly Elected Chapter Officers and BOD 2010-2011

President	Ron Hamel
Past President	Gerry Crow
Vice-President	Jeff Lindbergh
Secretary	Mary Weiss
Treasurer	Burr Tupper
BOD	Pat Tormey
	Bob Morrison
	David Merry
	David Magnon
	Mike Croteau
	Dick Peterson

Chapter Camping Trip 2010 — Coleman State Park



June 1st will be the last day to sign up to reserve a campsite for our Annual Chapter Trip to Coleman State Park on Little Diamond Pond. This is a great

trip so sign up before it's too late 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 as June 14th will be the last day to sign up for the dinner. 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 campsites 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 don't be left out.

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.

GRAND RAFFLE DRAWING 2010

Thanks to all for the support received for our 2010 Grand Raffle. We sold almost \$3000 worth of tickets this year and even though we fell short of our goal we still exceeded last years tickets sales by more than \$1000. The proceeds from the raffle will be put to good use as we move forward with our projects.

Winners drawn at our Conservation Banquet are listed below:

TICKET #1 – Tall Timber Lodging & Meal Package

**Mike Croteau
Litchfield, NH**

TICKET #2 – Winston Custom Rod with Abel Reel

**Dick Peterson
Londonderry, NH**

TICKET #3 – Stone River Gift Certificate

**Mike Atkinson
Nashua, NH**

We thank you again for your help and support.

The Deer Hair Alder Fly by Jim Norton

With the spring trip in June, a great fly is an Alder Fly pattern that's been around the chapter longer than I have. It was one of two flies Rick Hedrick has as North Country favorites; it may have been used as part of the chapter tying classes. I still have the original sheet of paper from the late 80's or early 90's.



I tied the fly for years using the original pattern. I dropped the tail and cementing the peacock herl but it's the same basic pattern. This is a great fly for all season; I use it more than any other caddis pattern. I seldom tie less than six-dozen and have to replenish the supply several times a year. I like size #14's but 12's and 10's will work for the Alder Fly hatch. Size #16 is good for small caddis hatches. In the April newsletter I wrote about the Carey Special; that would be a good fly tied in size 12 or 14 to fish as a nymph or wet for Alder Flies.

Here's the pattern as I tie it: **DEER HAIR ALDER FLY**

Hook: Dry fly hook size 10-14

BODY: Peacock herl, 3-4 herls depending on size.

WING: Small clump of deer hair.

HACKLE: Brown, I use Whiting 100's for the size of the hook.

THREAD: Black

The Alder Fly hatch occurs on many of our rivers and streams beginning in June and continuing into July. For photos and video clips of the Alder Fly hatch on the Androscoggin check our web site www.nhriversguide.com and click on Androscoggin Special. The Alder Fly hatch on the Androscoggin is the most prolific hatch in New Hampshire and maybe in New England. It equals western hatches.

Why We Fish: My trip to the Androscoggin by Pat Tormey

There are some people who find the art of fly fishing almost Zen-like. Contemplating the way water can distort what we think we see, feeling the tug of currents sometimes gentle and sometimes so strong they can sweep us off our feet-- all reflect a spiritual awareness of life's patterns. I love the feeling of being on the water, and witnessing the refracting light water captures so beautifully. Taking up a sport that gives one an excuse to be part of nature seems like a good idea. The presence of insects, the sounds and movement of them around me also took on a new meaning—less of an annoyance and more of a study in matching the hatch.

But then, last September I had my epiphany. A wiggle or tug I'm not sure—but there it was; the first true connection to something else living in that beautiful wet world. I went to the river for the solace, until I caught my first trout.

Last fall I took advantage of a fantastic opportunity to experience guided fishing on the Androscoggin River with New Hampshire River Guides Gerry Crow and Jim

Norton; my summer of wading with the mere pretense of catching trout at the end of the line came to a dramatic end. Gerry and Jim made sure I was not going home without understanding the transforming nature of what it means to fish and actually catch one.

As soon as I arrived in Errol, Gerry told me to get into my waders; we were heading across the street for some early evening fishing while Jim prepared our dinner. Who could argue with that plan? (I recalled how I missed an opportunity to fish the Beaverkill that first evening at Wulff School earlier in the year—a weekend that turned to cold rain and high water.) Within minutes Gerry had my gear ready for me and I was casting into some nearby pools. The first trout I caught was a respectable-sized Brookie on a Royal Wulff (poetic!) We continued to fish until the light was gone.

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Waiting for us back at the house was a great dinner of steak on the grill, salad, potatoes and a delicious slice of pie for dessert. The house had recently been renovated as a quaint little bed and breakfast; although that enterprise failed, many unexpected amenities remained including deluxe mattresses and charming décor (not what I expected of a fishing camp!) After a restful night's sleep, the next day would prove even more exciting. A good hot breakfast got us started followed by more wading on the Androscoggin with Gerry while Jim packed up the house. The weather was cool and gray, but the fishing was fantastic! I continued to catch fish after fish. Gerry had to remind me to look around at the amazing fall colors of the season. It seemed almost disappointing that we had to leave to meet up with Jim who would be taking me out on the drift boat.

Little did I know what an exciting trip that would be! With Jim's help I caught a nice rainbow (the biggest fish I ever caught) on a stimulator, more brookies than I could keep count, and a respectable brown (which I was surprised to see was a beautiful trout more colorful than I expected from its name). Jim gave me excellent advice on how to fish with droppers, how to mend the line for drift, how to read the water for holds, and more expertise than I could absorb in one day. The fish were extremely active responding to a hatch that looked to me like little gray sailboats in between raindrops. At one point I saw a huge

mouth trying to swallow my strike indicator!

When we reached the take out point where my car was parked, Gerry and Jim and I said our goodbyes. Gerry gave me my wading staff that he had repaired for me when it split apart earlier in the day and a tee shirt with the NH River Guide logo. There were lots of pictures that Gerry took and turned into a sweet little slideshow that he emailed to me later. I don't think I can recall every single moment of excitement to do this trip justice. It was my first trout, my first guided fishing trip, and an amazing experience that transformed why I go to the river.

Gerry said being a guide lets him experience the excitement of catching a first fish again and again. For me, there is nothing quite like fishing trips with friends who are generous with helpful tips and who also take the time to appreciate the beauty of our prettiest places. I'll be on the Androscoggin with Jim and Gerry again for the Alder Fly Hatch the last weekend in June; there are still some openings available if you would like to join us. You too could come to the river for the tranquility, but don't miss out on the excitement of catching some very nice trout! To learn more about the New Hampshire River Guides and information on the Alder Fly Hatch in June, visit their website at <http://www.nhriverguide.com/>

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



Chapter Officers

www.merrimacktu.org

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