

Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited

Volume xiv Issue 9

MAY 2006

President's Message

Those who attended our annual dinner and auction were treated to a great meal, fun socializing and lots of excellent prizes. Once again auctioneer George Foster did a great job, keeping things fun, lively and moving along at a fast pace. Dave Magnon and Stan Jodziewicz did an outstanding job with the prizes. Marie and David Merry organized the food, which once again was plentiful and delicious. Our sympathy to the Merrys on the loss of Marie's mother, which precluded them from attending the event. Also, our thanks to Jamie Magnon and her able assistants for following through with the food preparation and serving. Overall the dinner, auction and Grand Raffle were a big success, raising over \$3,000 for our treasury.

The chapter just finished a Beginner/Intermediate Learn to Fly Fish program. We solicited attendees from the shows and library presentations the chapter participated in this winter. We had about 45 people sign up and about 30 attended one or more sessions. We held one class in Merrimack and another in Salem, to keep it convenient for attendees. Stan and I developed and delivered the course with input from Mark Beauschenes of the NH Fish and Game Let's Go Fishing Program. We educated a number of people on cold water conservation, ethics and strategies, and hopefully recruited additional stewards of the environment.

At the May meeting we will hold election of officers. If anybody wants to run for Director or an office, let me know. Also at the May meeting we will vote on a proposed new By-law, the text of which follows in the newsletter. By state law, we are required to have a conflict of interest policy. The attached policy was selected from samples from the NH Attorney General's office and voted by the Board of Directors as most appropriate for our organization.

Please plan to attend the May 9 meeting. In addition to the activities mentioned above, we have a couple important topics delivered by guest speakers. Paul Doscher will report on initiatives under way by the National TU organization. We also will have Dianne Emerson, NH Fish and Game fishery biologist. Dianne has been conducting a study partly funded by TU on the movement of wild brook trout in the tributaries to Lake Umbagog. Dianne captured brook trout and inserted radio transmitters into their body. She then tracked their movement for almost one year. Dianne will share her findings with us including pictures and data. Below you will see a picture of two of the subjects of the study. Hopefully, Dianne's study, coupled with habitat improvement and relevant regulations will result in more wild, native trout in NH that are measured in pounds, rather than inches!

Don't forget to register for the chapter trip. The Alder Fly hatch should be of epic proportions again this year!

Tight Lines,

Gerry

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EDITORS NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THE NEWSLETTER SEND THEM TO: MRTUNEWS@COMCAST.NET

THANKS



Brook Trout captured in the Dead Diamond/Magalloway River system

Proposed new By-law – Conflict of Interest Policy – To be voted at May 9 meeting

“Any possible conflict of interest on the part of any member of the Board or officer of the organization shall be disclosed in writing to the Board and made a matter of record through an annual procedure and also when the interest involves a specific issue before the Board. Where the transaction involving a board member or officer exceeds five hundred dollars (\$500) but is less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in a fiscal year, a two-thirds vote of the disinterested directors is required. Where the transaction involved exceeds five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in a fiscal year, then a two-thirds vote of the disinterested directors and publication in the required newspaper is required. The minutes of the meeting shall reflect that a disclosure was made, the abstention from voting, and the actual vote itself. The Board will comply with all requirements of New Hampshire law in this area and the New Hampshire requirements are incorporated into and made a part of this policy.”

Adopt-a-Biologist Volunteers needed

There are still opportunities to assist with salmon fry stocking on May 8 and 9. There is also an urgent need for volunteers to help capture returning Atlantic salmon, shad and river herring at the fish lift at Essex dam in Lawrence on Saturdays and Sundays beginning May 14 and continuing through July. These activities are critical to restoration of salmon and other anadromous fish to the Merrimack River and tributaries, so please check your schedule and see if you can spare a day to help the biologists. Please contact Don McGinley at 603-487-5075 or donmcg44@aol.com.

CHAPTER TRIP TO THE ANDROSCOGGIN
Merrimack River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Camping/Fishing Trip-Mollidgewock State Park
June 23-25, 2006

The TU fee per adult is \$30, which includes the Saturday evening barbecue. **Checks should be made out to: MRVTU** and should be mailed to:

Stan Jodziewicz
33 Beverly Dr.
Manchester, NH 03104

Below you will find more information regarding fees, site restrictions, etc. For additional information on Mollidgewock (including directions, regulations, and a map of the site locations) please go to their web site: www.nhstateparks.org/ParksPages/Mollidgewock/Mollidgewock.html

And please be certain to include the following sign-up information:

<u>Names of Attendees</u>	<u>Tel #/ Email</u>	<u># of Adults/ # of minors</u>	<u>Tent or Camper</u>	<u>Chicken or Steak</u>	<u>Special Requirements</u>
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Notes:

*Camp reservations include the nights of Friday, 6/23, and Saturday, 6/24.

*We have reserved 14 sites based on an assumption of 2 adults per site. These will be allocated to interested members on a 1st come/1st serve basis.

*Minors are those under 18.

Fees:

Cancellation refund by deadline of June 1	50%
Day use fee (for those not camping on site)	\$3/person
TU price per adult (for both nights, incl Sat. barbecue)	\$30
Barbecue only price (per person)	\$10

Restrictions:

Minimum 2 night stay

Max per site: 5 adults, 2 tents or 1 tent/ 1 camper combo, 2 vehicles

DEMO DAYS AT MOUNTAIN RIVER TRADING POST/FLYSHOP

SAT 5/20 10AM-5PM MOUNTAIN ROAD TRADING POST:
CANOE/KAYAK DEMOS-PADDLING & SAFETY SKILLS

SUN 5/21 10AM-5PM MOUNTAIN ROAD FLY SHOP
FLY FISHING & TYING & EQUIPMENT DEMOS
FLOAT TUBE AND PONTOON BOAT USE AND SAFETY
FOR INFO CONTACT TOM JUTRAS @ 603-895-3501

INTERESTING LINKS:

There are some people who are power bait users and proud of it !

<http://www.cabinet.com/headlines/2006-2/fishingwithdaymond.html>

NY TIMES OPED ON BASS FISHING & LIFE IN GENERAL

March 28, 2006

Op-Ed Contributor

The Whopper That Wasn't

By MONTE BURKE

Last week, an angler from Carlsbad, Calif., named Mac Weakley was fishing on Dixon Lake, a reservoir near San Diego, when he landed a largemouth bass that weighed 25 pounds 1 ounce. The fish, if certified by the International Game Fish Association, would topple the current world record: a 22-pound, 4-ounce bass caught by George Washington Perry in 1932.

Perry's record, the most hallowed in the world of fishing, is the angling equivalent of Hank Aaron's 755 career home runs: a revered mark once thought to be unbeatable that now seems suddenly vulnerable. And like the quest to break Aaron's record by Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants, who has been dogged by widespread allegations that he used steroids, Weakley's shot at Perry's record was controversial because of how he caught and documented his monster fish.

Weakley, a 34-year-old casino industry worker, has been pursuing the world record bass for five years, waking on most days at dawn to be the first at the lake, where he would fish all day before going to work at night.

This type of behavior is not unusual among bass chasers. A Los Angeles police officer spent decades going after a record fish. But when he finally caught the bass he thought would top them all, he ended up four ounces short and bitterly quit fishing altogether. Another man in Mississippi lost his wife and child in a divorce over his obsession with catching the record (he's now trying to grow it in his private pond). Not to be outdone, Texas has sunk millions of dollars into a program to breed the next world record bass in a state laboratory in the small town of Athens.

Over the years, people have also tried to cheat their way to the world record, altering photographs they've sent into the game fish association (the keeper of all fishing records) and weighing fish on suspicious bathroom scales. A woman in California even got caught stuffing lead diving weights down the mouth of a bass.

Even Perry's standing record has its share of doubters. Perry, a poor farmer from McRae, Ga., neither took a photograph of his fish nor had it mounted. He simply caught the fish, had it weighed at a country store, took it home and ate it.

In Weakley's case, he accidentally foul-hooked the fish behind the dorsal fin (instead of hooking it in the mouth), which, even if unintentional, is illegal in California. He brought it into the dock at Dixon Lake, weighed the fish on a handheld scale, took photos and shot video. But he neglected to use an association-certified scale for the weigh-in, and he didn't get measurements of the fish's length and girth, two things the association requires for world record applications. Then he released the bass, a female whose belly was full of eggs, back into the lake alive.

Weakley says he thought about sending in an application to the game fish association for world record consideration. But when he realized that his fish might never seem legitimate, he decided against it. "I admit it was foul-hooked, so I said let's just weigh it and let it go," Weakley said.

Perhaps there's a lesson here for Barry Bonds.

Monte Burke, a staff writer at Forbes, is the author of "Sowbelly: The Obsessive Quest for the World Record Largemouth Bass."

NEXT MEETING:

TUES MAY 9TH AT THE SWEENEY AMERICAN LEGION POST

SPEAKERS:

Dianne Emerson – NH Fish and Game biologist: Results of wild brook trout study in tributaries of Lake Umbagog

Paul Doscher – TU National initiatives

In addition to the regular meeting, we will be voting on chapter officers-please try to attend!

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Gerry Crow	gerrycrow@charter.net	603-889-5611
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SWEENEY AMERICAN LEGION POST

251 MAPLE STREET MANCHESTER NH DIRECTIONS: ELM STREET TO VALLEY STREET TO MAPLE STREET (1ST LEFT AFTER STADIUM)

~ 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

THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE FOR THE SEASON. HAVE A GREAT SUMMER, CATCH A LOT OF FISH AND STAY SAFE.

NEXT ISSUE: 9/06