

Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited

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President's Message

The Souhegan River Merrimack Village dam removal process continues. Chapter members have spoken at public information sessions and written letters of support to help assure grants to fund removal costs. Over the winter we expect funding to be obtained, engineering plans and permits to be issued and then removal to occur next summer during low water periods, probably in August. We will continue to track progress and keep you informed.

Adopt-a-Salmon Family training for volunteers was conducted in early October at Amoskeag Fishways in Manchester and attended by chapter members Stan Jodziewicz, Real Fallu and myself. We will each support classroom teachers by setting up and helping to maintain aquariums, filters and chiller setups in the classroom. We'll also support the classes by delivering curriculum activities in the classroom on coldwater conservation and ecology. The training provided curriculum materials and training in their delivery. We are excited about building on the effort started by Tom Jutras and Alan Lutz last year in Raymond. During November we will be participating in tours of the USFWS Fish Hatchery in Nashua. Participating schools bring their students and teachers to the hatchery to see the spawning of the Atlantic salmon that will produce the fertilized eggs that will be placed in the aquariums in the classrooms in January or February, which are the focal point of the program. Anybody interested in learning more about the program can contact Alan, Stan or me. See the Board of Directors list below for contact information.

The high water we had in May and June and again in late summer certainly paid dividends for the fish. In September and until the season closed on most trout waters October 15 the local fishing was outstanding. The Pemigewasset and Sugar Rivers in particular had good hatches and lots of healthy, active fish. I am sure other local waters also fared well. With further improvements in habitat, removal of dams that block fish movement and warm up streams and regulations that give fish a chance to survive, grow and reproduce, our local waters have the potential to be a world-class fishery. If you share the dream that this could be a reality, contact me, or other chapter officers too learn how you can get involved. Investing even a small amount of time can make a difference. In the process you will learn a lot, meet other people with the same goals and have some fun. This winter is the ideal time to take the first step and learn how you can make a difference. 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

REMINDER: All meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Sweeny American Legion Post on Maple Street in Manchester. Meeting Timeline:

6:30 pm Fly Tying

7:30 pm Chapter Business

7:45pm Speaker

NEXT MEETING November 14TH

SPEAKER: FRED KETCHMAN

Fred is the owner/builder of FDK bamboo fly rods (www.finebamboorods.com) in Wilton NH. Fred is an active member in The American Museum of Fly Fishing, The Catskill Center for Fly Fishing and Museum (and demonstrates at both places regularly), He is the Appraiser of Rods for Lang's Antique Tackle Auctions, lectures and demonstrates at many fishing clubs, etc. He was even chosen in 1999 by the Smithsonian Institution to demonstrate rod making skills and represent New Hampshire for 2 weeks in Wash. DC. He made his first bamboo rods in 1993. Today, he makes 5-6 rods per year.

For the TU presentation, Fred will start off with a brief discussion about the history of bamboo fly rods and their development in the 1800's, the Golden Era in the 1900's, and their place in fly fishing circles today. That will lead into his presentation about how they are constructed. He will bring his Morgan Hand mill to demonstrate how the strips of bamboo are 'planed' and tapered to within .001" tolerances, then glued into blanks and finished off. It takes about 45 hours to complete each rod. *"I hope to give your members an appreciation for all the time-consuming hand crafting that goes into each rod They'll never look at a bamboo rod the same way again"*.

Members are encouraged to bring in old rods for evaluation after the presentation.

DECEMBER MEETING IS ON 12/12

The December meeting is our famous "Platters and Prizes" dinner. This festive occasion includes platters of food, book sale and many raffles of fishing items. The cost for the dinner is \$5 per person. Last year we had many many members come to the meeting, be sure to attend!! More about this function in the next newsletter.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

2006 Adopt-A-Biologist Program by Don McGinley

On September 18th, we completed the season for our AAB Program supporting NH Fish & Game, Mass Dept of Fish & Wildlife and the Nashua office of the US Fish & Wildlife Service. For the season, 33 of 66 listed volunteers contributed time to improve our NH coldwater fisheries for trout and Atlantic salmon. Although this was a pretty good year, **only 14 of us MRV-TUers contributed time** to these important fisheries and habitat conservation efforts.

The activities we supported this year with **409 volunteer hours** included:

- Atlantic salmon fry stocking from the Souhegan to the Smith to the Pemi East Branch
- Wild Atlantic salmon and American shad counting/trapping at the Essex Dam (Lawrence)
- Wild brook trout capture on the Dead Diamond River in support of Biologist Dianne Emerson
- Atlantic salmon parr surveys throughout the Merrimack watershed.

This year was certainly a challenge, especially given the Spring floods that effectively closed the Essex dam fish lift on the Merrimack River for much of the season. Several family efforts had to be cancelled due to closure of the Lift from mid-May until the end of the season, including the McDaniels and Heberts; we need more of such family volunteer efforts going forward. On a very positive note, Mike Miller and Tom Weller of Keene traveled the width of the state to count salmon, shad and herring during early May. These guys from our sister Monadnock TU Chapter deserve a big round of applause for their extended efforts.

Two new and exciting efforts during the summer supported Dianne Emerson's brook trout study on the Dead Diamond Stream and TU's Nash Stream restoration work. Both were reviewed at Chapter meetings, received national attention and deserve our strong support. Regretfully, we provided little support to both causes. I hope that we, as the key NH TU Chapter, can do better in 2007.

In 2007, we will have an opportunity to do much good work in support of coldwater conservation. My old friend Archie Noyes of Danforth, ME often pointed out that the world has many "Setters" but few "Doers". I sincerely ask each of you to consider being a "Doer" in 2007 and provide just 1 day of your time (mostly during the week) to help your TU Chapter improve our coldwater fisheries and its habitat (while having fun and learning much from our Biologists during each day's activities). If you'd like to help, please contact Don McGinley at donmcg44@aol.com.

Atlantic salmon parr sampling crew on the Piscataquog River



FISHING PROGRAM AT NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Once again in January, the Nashua Public Library will present a month-long series of Thursday-night fishing seminars featuring expert New England anglers.

All the lectures begin at 7 p.m., but if you arrive at 6 p.m. you can enjoy the "pregame show," which will include videos, free fishing publications, giveaways, and fly-tying demonstrations, organized by Alan E. Lutz, MRVTU Director.

The program lineup is as follows:

Fishing Where *You* Are

Russ Vitallo

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Kayak Fishing

Adam Bolonsky

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Secrets of Fishing in Boston Harbor

Jack Gartside

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Angling in the Smile of the Great Spirit

Hal Lyon

Sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council

Thursday, January 25, 2007

All programs are free and open to the public. For more information call (603) 589-4610 or visit www.nashualibrary.org and click on "Events and Newsletters." The Nashua Public Library is located at 2 Court Street; directions are available at www.nashua.lib.nh.us/directions.asp.

AUTUMN OUTDOOR SAFETY TIPS (from Mass Wildlife Newsletter)

Fall is a wonderful time to be outdoors with dazzling colors, crisp air and wildlife activity galore. Whether your passion is hiking, hunting, fishing, birding or just taking in the scenery, a few common sense safety reminders will add to your enjoyment during a day a field.

- **Know your limits.** Don't take off on a long hike, hunt or bike ride if you're not physically ready. Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return.
- **Watch the weather.** New England weather is notorious for quick changes. Be ready with an extra layer of clothing, warm hat and gloves.
- **Expect the unexpected.** No one expects problems while spending a day outdoors, but having a fanny pack with a few first aid items, matches, water, Swiss army knife, cell phone, map, compass, whistle, extra food and flashlight can help prevent small problems from becoming big ones.
- **Wear blaze orange for visibility.** Whether you're a hunter, hiker or walking the dog in rural areas, it's a good idea to wear a cap or vest of highly visible blaze orange clothing when you're out enjoying the great outdoors.
- **Respect the water.** Canoeists and kayakers are required to wear life jackets from September 15 to May 15, but all water enthusiasts, especially anglers who wade our larger rivers, would be wise to wear floatation devices now that water temperatures are cool.
- **Respect other outdoor users.** Mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife watching, hunting and hiking are not mutually exclusive activities. Know the seasons and who is likely to be sharing the woods and waters with you. Keep dogs under control and respect outdoor users' rights to enjoy our open spaces.
- **Finally, licensed sportsmen and women are reminded to take the basics of hunter safety to heart.** Treat every firearm as it were loaded, keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times. Positively identify your target and what's beyond.

FLY FISHING WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

<http://www.FlyFishingInsider.com>

<http://www.about-flyfishing.com>

NH DEPT ENVIORMENTAL SERVICES PUBLICATION:

Good pamphlet online about common riparian plants in NH. Download file at:

<http://www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/VRAP/documents/FieldGuideToCommonRiparianPlantsOfNH.pdf>

You can use the information to learn what is growing/flowering along the water. This information can be useful in determining what bugs are hatching. This relationship is discussed in the following book which you may find interesting:

PHENOLOGICAL FLY by Bob Scammell

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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