

Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited

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OCTOBER 2006

President's Message

At the September meeting we announced our meeting line-up (see articles below) and the schedule of coming events. We will be sponsoring two schools this year in the Adopt-a-Salmon program. We are adding a school in Goffstown to the one we sponsored in Raymond. Director and State Back-the-brookie chairman Tom Spencer is also looking into logistics for Trout-in-the-classroom, which educates school children on conservation ecology and restoration of our state fish, the brooktrout. Contact Tom if you want to learn more.

In August a number of us helped Mark Prout, fishery biologist in the White Mountain National Forest, survey a reach of the Gale River near Franconia to look for wild brooktrout. We found some, along with some salmon fry and stocked brooktrout. Mark really appreciated our help and we had a great time. We plan this to be an annual event. One attraction is that Mark agreed to schedule this survey on a Saturday. Most of the volunteer opportunities we have are on weekdays, so this was a rare treat for some folks to volunteer and not have to take a vacation day from work. We plan to do this again next August.

This past winter Stan Jodziewicz and I put together a Learn to Fly Fish class. We both are certified instructors with the State of NH Let's Go Fishing program, so this was a joint venture between the state of NH and TU. We had 45 students sign up and over 30 students attended one or more classes. We held the classes in two locations, Salem and Merrimack, over 5 two-hour sessions, with the last session being an on-the-water casting class. This went over so well that we plan to expand it this year to include intermediate fly fishers, in addition to beginners. If you want to brush up on things like presentation, insect identification or fishing strategies and tactics, contact Stan or me for information about the classes, which will be run in March and April.

We will soon be cranking up plans for our major fundraiser of the year: the Grand Raffle. Watch for the opportunity to sell (and buy) raffle tickets. Your efforts and contributions made it possible to buy a chiller for the Adopt-a-Salmon program, donate money to replace the tank truck used in the Merrimack River Anadromous Fish program, and support other programs such as purchase radio-telemetry transmitters to track wild brook trout in northern NH. In the next few months you will hear more about programs in the newsletter and at chapter meetings. There are loads of opportunities to get involved for just a few hours, so give me a call or an email if you want to learn more or participate.

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 in Manchester. Meeting Timeline:

6:30 pm Fly Tying

7:30 pm Chapter Business

7:45pm Speaker

NEXT MEETING OF THE SEASON: OCT.10TH

SPEAKER: WILLIAM ROSS FROM UNH LIBRARY

We have a special speaker this month from the UNH Library. Bill Ross is the curator of the fly fishing antique book and memorabilia collection at the library. His presentation will describe the library's collection of fly fishing related material and tell us how to access it and view the displays. This talk should be especially interesting to those who have an interest in NH Fly Fishing history.

Bill Ross has been Head of the Milne Special Collections and Archives in the University of New Hampshire Library for over 16 years. He is responsible for overall management and program development for the department, which consists of rare books, manuscripts, New Hampshire state documents, university records, and the University Museum.

NOVEMBER MEETING IS ON 11/14

SPEAKER: Fred Ketchman

Fred is the owner of FKD Bamboo Rods in Milford NH and will speak on the history and construction of bamboo fly rods-more info on this talk in the next news letter

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

DEATH OF CHAPTER MEMBER:

Ken Grandstaff of the MRTU chapter died in August of this year.

WEBSITE FOR FLY PATTERNS:

<http://www.virtualflybox.com/patterns/index.php>

WADING SAFETY:

The most recent issue of *FLY ROD & REEL MAGAZINE* has a good article on "swimming" with your waders: <http://www.flyrodreel.com/index.php/page/issues/id/19162>

NORTHEAST KINGDOM OUTFITTERS OUT OF BUSINESS:

The chapter has learned that Northeast Kingdom Outfitters ("The Smiths") in Newport VT have gone out of business via "retirement". A description of what happened can be found on the following website:

<http://www.northeastkingdomoutfitters.com/> The owners were good friends of the chapter and had donated many items for the raffles.

WILMINGTON FLY FISHING SHOW IS NO MORE:

The chapter was notified by the sponsors of the annual Wilmington MA fly fishing show (Shriner Auditorium) that they will no longer be having a show at that location. A variety of reasons were given, but the bottom line was that attendance was down and there was not enough profit to be made. The sponsors are continuing to have a show in Worcester MA, but it is an "all sports" show with just a small section devoted to fly fishing.

CANOE TRAIL:

For those of you who are “manly” river drivers, the following site describes the Northern Forest Canoe “Trail” which stretches from Maine to NY State: www.northernforestcanoetrail.org

FISHING IN VERMONT:

For those of you who have an interest in fishing the Peoples Republic of Vermont:
<http://caddis.middlebury.edu/trout/VTrivers/index2.html>

FLY FISHING LATIN: Don’t know your --Isonychia from your Hexagena? The following site will give you a chance to “convert” the Latin genus/species of insects into common insect names:
<http://users.eastlink.ca/~dryfly/hatchtax.htm>

PENOBSCOT RIVER OPENS

NY TIMES had a good article on the re-opening of the Penobscot River in Maine to Salmon fishing:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/28/us/28salmon.html>

BEAR KILLS THOUSANDS OF FISH

The article below was found at the WMUR website:

CONCORD, N.H. -- A teddy bear dropped into a pool at a hatchery in Milford, N.H., killed all 2,500 rainbow trout living in the pool.

Fish and Game Department hatcheries supervisor Robert Fawcett said the teddy -- dressed in a yellow raincoat and hat -- clogged a drain earlier this month, blocking oxygen flow to the pool and suffocating the fish.

In a statement, Fawcett noted: "RELEASE OF ANY TEDDY BEARS into fish hatchery water IS NOT PERMITTED." Fawcett said that in the past, frogs and dead muskrats were known to block the drain, but this is the first time a teddy bear has killed hatchery fish.

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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

