

# Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited

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## President's Message

This is shaping up to be a very busy springtime for our chapter. The Rockingham Show was a big success, with raffle tickets sold, new members recruited and a few people signed up for the Learn to Fly Fish classes.

PR has started for our fifth annual Fly Fish New Hampshire show March 3 and 4 at Pelham Fish and Game Club. We have sold out all the vendor space for the show and we expect a good crowd, since the Wilmington Show is defunct. The show is a great opportunity to educate the public about TU, connect with many of you who have difficulty attending meetings, and recruit new members. We still need people to help with set-up and to work the TU booth at the show. Contact Ron Peimer ([mrtunews@comcast.net](mailto:mrtunews@comcast.net)) to sign up for a shift.

Now that you have set aside ten minutes to read this newsletter, take five minutes to support New Hampshire Fish and Game solve their fiscal crisis. Go to our Fish and Game Support web page (<http://www.merrimacktu.org/support-fish-game-department.htm>), find your state reps and senator, and send them an email requesting that they support funding the Fish and Game department from the general fund. ESPECIALLY, send a letter to Governor Lynch. Instructions are found on the web page for that, too. This will literally take no more than five minutes, so please do it now.

Now that you are back from sending the emails, there is one more thing you can do to help improve our coldwater resources in New Hampshire. If you haven't done it already, send Don McGinley an email ([donmcg44@comcast.net](mailto:donmcg44@comcast.net)) and register for our Adopt-a-Biologist program. This will put you on our email list that lets you know of volunteer opportunities working with US Fish and Wildlife and NH Fish and Game biologists. You will be on the front lines of habitat restoration, wild brooktrout and salmon preservation and doing something to personally make a difference. It is fun and interesting work, and you will also learn a lot about fish habitat, life cycle and maybe even a couple new fishing spots! A few hours by a few people adds up to big results.

If you haven't been to a meeting lately, you have missed out on some interesting presentations. In January Jim MacCartney, the TU River Restoration specialist for New England, told us about the restoration efforts on Nash Stream in northern New Hampshire. The February meeting will feature a talk by Dianne Emerson, fisheries biologist for region 1 in northern New Hampshire. Dianne has been conducting a telemetry study of wild native brooktrout in the Dead Diamond/Magalloway River system and Lake Umbagog. We partially funded the purchase of the radio tags that Dianne inserted in the fish to be able to track her movements. When you see the size of some of the brooktrout in the study you will be amazed. They look like fish from Labrador!

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](mailto:MRTUNews@comcast.net)

THANKS

**REMINDER:** All meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Sweeny American Legion Post 251 Maple Street, Manchester. Meeting Timeline:

6:30 pm Fly Tying

7:30 pm Chapter Business

7:45pm Speaker

**NEXT MEETING OF THE SEASON: Feb 13<sup>th</sup>**

**SPEAKER: Dianne Emerson – Wild Brook Trout Study in Northern NH**

Dianne is a fishery biologist with New Hampshire Fish and Game in northern New Hampshire. Dianne has been conducting a radio telemetry study of wild brook trout in the Diamond/Magalloway River system. Our TU chapter, along with other organizations, contributed money for equipment used in this study.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/SPEAKERS**

MARCH 13 – Speaker Mark Prout – Wild Brook Trout Habitat Restoration in White Mountain National Forest

Mark is a fishery biologist with the White Mountain National Forest. He will discuss the brook trout habitat in the WMNF and ongoing survey and restoration efforts.

APRIL 10 – Annual Dinner and Auction-no speaker

MAY 8 – **MEETING AT AMOSKEAG FISHWAY** – Hosted by Wendy Schorr – Wendy will conduct a tour of the fish way and give a presentation and answer questions about the role of the Amoskeag Fish way in the restoration of anadromous fish to the Merrimack River system.

### **EVENTS TO REMEMBER:**

#### **ANNUAL FLY FISHING NH SHOW-MARCH 3&4**

The chapter and the Pelham Fish and Game Club co-sponsor the **ONLY** show in the area devoted to all things fly fishing. The show is held at the Pelham Fish and Game facility in Pelham NH and is easy to find off exit # 3 of I-93 (see below). As you know, the Wilmington MA (Shriner's) show is defunct. Our show is expected to be especially well attended this year as we have already sold out all the spots for vendor tables. Be sure to support the chapter and come to the show.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**-We still have a few openings for help at the show. If you can help out either Saturday, or Sunday for ½ or a whole day, why not assist us. Not only do you get in free, but you get a free meal. Contact [mrtunews@comcast.net](mailto:mrtunews@comcast.net) to volunteer, or get further information.

#### **FLY ROD BUILDING CLASS AT FLY SHOW**

Cotes Fly Shop Rod Building Class

Learn how to build your own IM6 custom high-modulus graphite rod at the Fly Fish New Hampshire Show March 3rd in Pelham NH.

The class is 4 to 5 hours and includes the following: Explain procedure and fit rod grip. Assemble and glue on reel seat. Discuss guide placement and spline blanks. Do several practice wraps on provided blanks pieces. Learn how to place guides and instruction on inscriptions. Lecture on finishing of the blanks, the finer points of using flex coat epoxy, and the use of color preserver.

At the end of the class the student would still have to take the blank home and do the wraps. A rod wrapping bench is included in the cost of the course.

Blank Choices: For this class the prospective rod builders could choose from the following size rods to build:

6ft 3wt

7ft 4wt

7ft 6in 4 or 5wt

8ft 4, 5, or 6wt

8ft 6in 5 or 6 wt

9ft 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10wt

These would all be Cote's Custom IM6 graphite rod blanks. High modulus blanks finished in translucent brown. These blanks build up to smooth powerful rods with excellent dampening ability. The cost of the class is \$135.00 per student which includes: the rod bench, the blank, grade A cork, A-16SRB reel seat, Guide set, guide placement chart, and brown thread. Also included in the cost of the course is a single use package of rod finish. Up grades on the blanks or components (limited to store stock) are available, but arrangements must be made in advance directly with the Cote's Fly Shop Please specify rod choice upon registering for this class.

For information e-mail [gizmocpns@aol.com](mailto:gizmocpns@aol.com)

Maryann Cote

Cote's Fly Shop

508-892-3765

**NOTE: This class has been taken by many members of the chapter and is highly recommended!**

## **DIRECTIONS TO THE PELHAM FISH & GAME CLUB**

Exit # 3 from I-93

East on Rt. 111 (right turn from both north/south 93)

Right at McDonalds onto Rt 111A (Range Rd)

Follow approx 2 mi

Left onto Marblehead Rd.

Marblehead becomes Simpson Mill Rd. after about ¾ mi.

Look for signs directing you to the show

## **ANNUAL CHAPTER TRIP TO ERROL NH (ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER)**

The chapter will be making its annual pilgrimage to Errol NH and the Androscoggin River on Fri June 22 to Sunday June 24. Once again, sites at Mollidgewock State Camping Park have been reserved for the trip. The trip is timed to hit the famous Alder Fly hatch on the river. Last year anglers were very very successful in their search for the wily Trout. The park is located off Rt. 16 about 3 miles south of Errol NH.

The cost (per adult) this year for the TWO nights *AND* the fabulous steak, or chicken dinner on Saturday is only \$33 per person. It is well worth the trip just for the dinner alone, not to mention the great fishing. In addition to the many opportunities to fish the Androscoggin, chapter members

can easily travel from the park to as far away as Pittsburgh NH or the Rapid River in Maine and return for the feast Saturday night.

The **sites go fast**, so please contact Mac Duhaime at [mduhaimehome@yahoo.com](mailto:mduhaimehome@yahoo.com) regarding your preferred site. Go to [www.nhstateparks.org/ParksPages/Mollidgewock/mollidgewock.pdf](http://www.nhstateparks.org/ParksPages/Mollidgewock/mollidgewock.pdf) for a map of the campground. We have reserved site # 21-28 and 30-34 (13 sites (4 people per site). The sites go fast so if you have a favorite site, be sure to contact Mac and send in your \$\$\$. First come (with money) first served.

## **ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

### **New Hampshire Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting** (Don McGinley)

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, Jeff Lindberg and I attended the NHWF “annual meeting” as your TU Chapter Delegates. The meeting was attended by about 25 people from the many “affiliated clubs” throughout New Hampshire; we were the only TU Chapter in attendance. The meeting agenda included election of new Directors, approval of changes to the By-Laws, approval of the 2007 budget (put on hold until the March NHWF General Meeting), and reports of several federation committees.

Lee Perry, Executive Director of NH Fish & Game, discussed the department’s budget crisis. All participating organizations appeared to fully support new funding initiatives to keep the Department solvent, including state General Fund support tied to several bills currently in the Legislature. If you feel strongly about supporting NHF&G (and I hope every TU member does), it is imperative that we all write/call/contact Governor Lynch and our Legislators to let them know ... please check our TU Chapter Website for help in contacting the Governor and your Legislator, or Email me at [donmcg44@comcast.net](mailto:donmcg44@comcast.net) for assistance.

NHWF vice-president Jim Kennedy discussed efforts on behalf of conservation. Highlights included financial support from the Foss Farm Project at UNH in Durham. No projects were undertaken or discussed in support of coldwater fisheries, an item that we need to pursue with NHWF in 2007.

Jim Kennedy also led the discussion on NH Legislative Bills to be pursued in Concord this year. Much discussion ensued in regard to the proposed Saltwater fishing license. We also brought up several bills of interest to coldwater related resources. If any of you desire to receive a list of angling/coldwater related bills and their on-going status, please just Email me and I’ll provide at least a monthly update to you.

### **NO STOCKING OF THE FAMED BATTEN KILL IN VT**

VT fish and game has decided not to stock the Batten Kill with hatchery fish  
<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070122/NEWS/70122015>

### **SALT WATER FISHING LICENCE IN NH?**

NH Fish and Game is considering imposing a salt water fishing license to help make up the F&G revenue shortfall. Don McGinley attended a meeting at F&G his report is found below. In addition, you will find a link to the Fosters *Daily Democrat* article outlining the proposal and describing the problem of revenue shortfall for the Fish and Game Dept:

<http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070121/NEWS01/101210161&SearchID=73270074335464>

Don Mcginley reports:

As for the S/W License meeting, with the best attendance I've ever seen for a fishing meeting:

- 1) Attended by close to 100 people, including 3 F&G Commissioners (Glenn Normandeau, Bill Carney, and Mitch Kalter) and 3 House Reps.
- 2) This meeting was for individuals as an apparent difficult meeting was held with charter/party boat operators about a week ago (there were still a few charter guys who came & harped a lot about cost).
- 3) Lee Perry ran the meeting and started with a 30 minute presentation on Dept Status and Marine Division specifics. It had some good info, maybe much of what was presented awhile back to orgs like TU (maybe you attended?). It was generally stated that "nothing" is currently finalized in regard to how the Dept will proceed, including the listed \$15/\$30 fees. A big negative in my mind was that no thought has been given to make the license free for those 68 years old and over.
- 4) Some discussion of the 2006 Magnusson Act update ensued. I haven't looked at the detail -but will more than likely just ask Ken Sprankle for the facts. Statements by John Nelson indicate that the Federal Govt. (NOAA I guess) will implement a fee based tag or stamp in 2011 if the states fail to act in the meantime (the requirement is to provide detail numbers on fishing activity to the Feds).
- 4) There were lots of people making comments, maybe 20-25.
- 5) As a pure guess, I'd say that at 2/3s of the attendees were AGAINST any license at this time, at least until concurrence is gained with Maine & Massachusetts. It was also apparent to me that the majority of the attendees were uninformed on any of the other Dept proposals to deal with the \$\$\$ problem.
- 6) Dennis Abbott (new House F&G Committee Chairman) waved the draft bill over his head and stated that the bill (when it is published) will not have any fees in it nor will it state a date for implementation; fees and implementation will be done via the "Rules" process.

As for myself, I asked 2 questions and made 2 recommendations.

Q1: Marine Div currently spends about \$1M, most I assume that would otherwise go to Inland Fish Div. If new license yields \$1M, how much of the now \$2M pot will be kept and how much returned to Steve Perry?

No answer at this time needed.

Q2: What are Dept projections for "loss of anglers" if license is approved (using various fee amounts in the estimates)? I reiterated what happened here with huge fish/hunt license increases 5 years ago and what happened in Mass with their fee increases earlier.

Rec #1: Treat the license as a stamp (like the salmon Stamp line item) and charge the same for Non-Residents as Residents - or suffer what I call The Maine Syndrome (PTN ratio - **P**ork **T**he **N**onresidents)

Rec#2: Cut the S/W fee in half for all who hold a regular fishing license (gave credit to Jim Norton for this idea - which I think has great merit).

#### **FLY FISHING WEBSITES OF INTEREST:**

**Local Salt Water Fly Fishing Group** [www.neflyrodders.org](http://www.neflyrodders.org)

## HUNT WITH A DOG?

At the end of a long day of bird hunting, your dog is probably very thirsty. A brewer in Holland has developed a beer especially made for dogs:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/01/22/beer.dogs.ap/index.htm>

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

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**ALL MEETINGS HELD THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH  
(SEPT-MAY) AT THE SWEENY 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