

Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited

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MARCH 2007

President's Message

The 5th annual Fly Fish New Hampshire show was a rousing success! We had slightly more attendees than last year and made a nice profit for the TU treasury. The vendor booths were sold out early and we had a waiting list. Thanks to Ron Peimer for lining up the staff of volunteers and thanks to all the volunteers who came out to work the booth, sell tickets, work the snack bar and help with set-up and knock-down of the exhibits. Special thanks to Jim Norton, show chairman, for working all year to line up vendors, coordinate with Pelham Fish and Game Club and work tirelessly to make sure everything came off smoothly. We had good pre-show publicity and got a large article with a couple pictures in the Sunday Nashua Telegraph. We reached a lot of people with the TU coldwater conservation message and likely attracted some new members.

The next big item on our calendar is the annual Banquet/Auction on April 10. David and Marie Merry have planned a real feast for us again and the prize committee has been busy soliciting some great prizes. Now it is only up to us to buy tickets and have a great time at the dinner. Bring along a friend, get to know the other members and win a few prizes!

Be sure to attend the chapter meeting this month. We have a terrific speaker in Mark Prout, fishery biologist for the White Mountain National Forest. Mark will be talking about efforts to survey and improve brook trout habitat. Last August chapter members Jeff Lindberg, Chris Paul, Mike Croteau and I spent a day with Mark doing an electroshock survey of the Gale River. We learned a lot from Mark and made a date to help him again this summer. Come out and learn about brook trout habitat from Mark and you might even get some tips on where to catch some wild brook trout.

The NH Fish and Game department is still fighting for survival in their budget crisis. You can read about it in the article on page 3 of the newsletter. Now is the time for each of us to take action to support the department that we have worked with in the trenches to help restore habitat, survey fish populations and improve the coldwater fishery in New Hampshire. There are two things that each of us MUST do: First, mark March 12 on your calendar and show up at the PSNH Auditorium, PSNH Energy Park, 780 North Commercial Street, Manchester between 4 and 7PM. Second, go to the chapter web site (<http://www.merrimacktu.org/support-fish-game-department.htm>) and note how to contact your state reps and state senator. Take five minutes to write them an email asking for their support to fund the budget of NH Fish and Game through allocation from the General Fund. There is a very real risk that critical programs will have to be shut down and key employees lost. Either lost to layoffs, or moving on to other states where their work is valued and supported. We are just now getting a handle on wild brook trout populations in NH. There is much to do and little time left before critical habitat is lost to development and key expertise lost from NH. It isn't up to "them" to do something; it is up to US to do something. The time is now, so please don't let this opportunity slip past you. Your voice will make a difference – let it be heard.

Gerry

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EDITORS NOTE: IF YOU
HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS OR
COMMENTS ON THE
NEWSLETTER SEND THEM TO:
MRTUNNEWS@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: Feb 13th

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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/SPEAKERS

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:

DON'T FORGET-APRIL 10TH ANNUAL PRIZE BANQUET WE HAVE MANY SPECIAL ITEMS FOR SALE AND BUCKET RAFFLES GALORE PLUS WE ARE FEATURING THE HOMEMADE COOKING OF THE MERRYS!!! THIS DINNER IS ALWAYS A GOOD TIME WITH GREAT FOOD. MAKE SURE YOU PLAN TO ATTEND!!

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 Park Campground have been reserved for the trip. The trip is timed to hit the famous Alder Fly hatch on the river and the hex hatch on the ponds. 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 \$ 35 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 ARE GOING fast**, so please contact Mac Duhaime at mduhaimehome@yahoo.com regarding your preferred site. Go to 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:

As most of you know, the situation regarding a steady and reliable source of funds to fully endow the NH Fish and Game Department has not been resolved. Chapter Volunteer Don McGinley reports that on Monday, 3/12 the NH House finance committee will meet with a presentation by F&G Director Lee Perry. Don asks that chapter members come to the meeting if possible (see below)

To All of You who have volunteered in support of NH Fish & Game,

*The House Finance Committee is beginning today the process of working the State Budget. Exec Director Lee Perry presented the NHF&G budget to the committee today. If you want to see the Finance Committee at work, you can go to Concord next Monday morning, **March 12th**, where a NHF&G Budget Work Session is scheduled for **11:30AM in Room 210-211 in the Legislative Office Building. Of much greater importance, however, is Public Participation in one of the regional Finance Committee "Hearings". The hearings start late today; the whole schedule is:***

- **March 5, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in Lebanon** at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Auditorium E&F.
- **March 6, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in Keene** at **Keene State College, Alumni Recital Hall, Redfern Arts Center**
- **March 8, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in Rochester** at the Rochester Community Center.
- **March 12, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in Manchester** at the **Public Service of New Hampshire Auditorium.**
- **March 15, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in Lancaster** at the White Mountain Regional High School Auditorium.

Please try to attend a Hearing in your area. I will be going to Manchester. If you want to attend a hearing and have questions, don't hesitate to Email me; I'll do my best to help you.

To give you an update on the key financial bills to assist NHFG, their current status is:

- * **HB376**, giving a % of state Room & Meals Tax to NHF&G
Bill & and hopefully a Key Amendment by Rep Dennis Vachon will be voted 3/7 by the House.
- * **HB527**, establishing a saltwater fishing license
*Bill is being **Retained** in the House F&G Committee, thus **Dead for the time-being.***
- * **LSR 1304**, creating a Conservation Decal @ \$10 for all non-motorized vessels
No Senate Bill assigned to date.
- * **HB433**, providing \$200,000 to support the NHF&G Search & Rescue effort
House vote on the bill is 3/6.
- * **HB498**, returning more of the un-refunded gas tax to NHF&G
House vote on this bill is 3/7.
- * **SB191**, increasing support of NHF&G Non-Game Species from to \$350,000
Waiting for Senate Wildlife, F&G Committee to make a recommendation.

If you wish to actively support NHF&G, you can find lots of info on these bills just by clicking on the NHF&G website at www.wildlife.state.nh.us. You can also see legislative details, including bill text, status, committees and committee members' contact info by clicking on www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ and just enter bill number (e.g. HB376) at Quick Search. You'll find schedules for hearings as well as the other info.

Emails, phone calls and letters to Legislators and Governor Lynch supporting NHF&G are still needed to make an impact. A petition created by MRV-TU received a large number of signatures this past weekend at the Fly Fishing Show. Attendance at Committee Hearings is also of tremendous importance; you can choose to speak or just as importantly sign-in as "support" of NHF&G.

If you can find the time to go to Concord, and need any info or guidance, just contact me and I'll ensure that you'll have the info necessary to make a huge difference (including a free parking space).

ADOPT A BIOLOGIST PROGRAM

Don Mcginley will again be coordinating chapter volunteers to assist the state biologist with riparian and ichthyology analysis. The project is outlined below:

The 2007 season is quickly approaching with Atlantic salmon fry stocking planned for mid-April. Most importantly, we will have an opportunity this summer to assist NH Fish & Game to improve the habitat of Nash Stream in the Groveton area. All who attended the January and February TU meetings got to hear detail about this effort from Jim MacCartney and Dianne Emerson. Attendees also got see some terrific results by Dianne on her area Brook Trout tagging study – we hope to assist her again this June with trout “catching” and tagging.

*If you participated in any 2006 Adopt-A-Biologist activities, you are already on my Email list for 2007 (if you changed your Email address, please send me a quick Email to ensure I have your correct address). If you **signed up in 2006, but were not able to participate, you need to sign up anew**; if I don't hear from you, I'll have to drop you from the list. For any and all newcomers and your friends (you don't have to be a TU member to participate in the AAB Program), if you'd like to help out and enjoy New Hampshire with fellow coldwater caring anglers and friends, all you have to do is send an Email to Don McGinley prior to March 16th. I will do the rest. All volunteers can expect to see our first activities Email request in late March/early April.*

Email to: donmcg44@comcast.net providing your name, town of residence and a phone number. If you have an interest in specific activities, please also include this information.

5th ANNUAL FLY FISHING NEW HAMPSHIRE SHOW SMASHING SUCCESS:

Last weekend, the chapter and the Pelham Rod & Gun Club sponsored NH's only fly fishing show. The show was very well attended with hundreds of visitors coming to see the exhibits and vendors. KUDOS AND THANKS to chapter members who volunteered to make the show a success.

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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