

Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited



Volume xvi Issue 8

April 2008

President's Message

Even though there is still snow on the ground as this newsletter goes to press, the beginning of a new fishing season is in sight. With any luck, the tremendous snow-pack up north will gradually melt and provide a good flow of cold water for our native trout. While we have all been waiting for the winter to end, our TU chapter has been real busy.

Our sixth annual Fly Fish New Hampshire show was the highlight of the winter for over 300 attendees, in spite of a snow storm on Saturday. We signed up some new members; renewed acquaintances with some old ones and made many new friends among the local fly fishing community; and added to our treasury.

In addition to raising money, we also committed to spend some for some VERY worthy causes. We appropriated \$1,000 to Casting for Recovery to support their VT/NH workshop for breast cancer survivors to learn fly fishing. We also approved a \$2,000 donation towards the purchase of 2,100 acres of land and 5.5 miles of riverfront on the Connecticut River in Clarksville. See the attached data-sheet about the purchase.

Our Learn to Tie Flies Classes run by Stan Jodziewicz and Jim Norton and the Learn to Fly Fish classes that Stan and I have been running have about 100 registered participants who are exposed to TU and coldwater ecology issues.

Finally, I want to thank Don McGinley for his years of service organizing chapter volunteer support via the Adopt-a-Biologist program. Don has turned the program over to Dave Magnon who will coordinate volunteer activities going forward. Don, thanks for your efforts over the years. They have made a difference.

At our April meeting we will hold election of officers. This is my last message as president. Thanks for your support over the last few years. It has been my pleasure to "give something back" to support our beleaguered native brook trout. I have enjoyed the experience and look forward to supporting the new board.

Gerry

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EDITORS NOTE: IF YOU
HAVE ANY
SUGGESTIONS OR
COMMENTS ON THE
NEWSLETTER SEND
THEM TO:
weissmarym@hotmail.com

Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday, April 8th, 2008 7:00pm

Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited Election of Officers and Board of Directors Members.
If you are interested in serving as an Officer or as a Board Member, please contact Gerry Crow prior to the April 8th meeting.



Tuesday, April 8th, 2008 @ 7:00pm

Speaker: Charlie Crue – Channel Edge Charters
Fishing in-shore New Hampshire and Massachusetts waters
for stripers and blues

Tuesday, May 13th, 2008 @ 7:00pm (NOT AT THE SWEENEY POST)

Tour of the Milford Fish Hatchery
386 North River Road, Milford, NH
Last Meeting Until September!!!!



Treasurer's Report:

The Chapter's Treasury as of April 1, 2008 is as follows:

Checking -	\$ 11,458.48
CD -	<u>5,361.05</u>
	\$ 16,819.53

Annual Conservation Banquet—Great Food and Fantastic Raffle/Auction Prizes

We have a great venue this year for our Chapter Annual Conservation Banquet at the Derryfield Country Club in Manchester on April 26th from 6:30pm to 10:30pm. The Banquet Committee has really worked hard to provide some outstanding raffle and auction prizes this year and not just for the fishermen out there. We have many prizes that are non-fishing related!

Sample of the Raffle Items

Winston, Able, Sage & St. Croix Fly Rods
Brook Trout Carving
Collection of 45 English Flies w/Box
One Hour of Casting Instruction
½ Day Guided Fishing by Trip-Sean Smith
½ Day Guided Trip by Northwood Outfitters
\$100 worth of Fly Tying Materials
Reddington Fly Reel for 8, 9, 10 wt.
One Hour Stream Reading Instruction

24 c Gold Earrings
Barry Wicklow Caddis Print
Common Man Gift Certificate
Mohegan Sun Gift Certificate-Buffer for 2
Therapeutic Facial
2 Pair Vivatar 4x30 & 7x50 Binoculars
Hannafords Gift Certificate
Sterling Silver Ankle Bracelet
Matthew Smith Print

.....and many, many more items including several different fly lines, Apple Wine, Popcorn Cellars Wine and Maria’s Lemoncello, 6 month free website on NH.com, 4 Fine Art Prints, Margo Burns Photographs, signed 1st Edition “Fish Bugs” by Thomas Ames, signed 1st Edition “Trout Eyes” by William Tapply, gear bags, books and more.

Annual Conservation Banquet - Saturday, April 26



The Conservation Banquet will take place on Saturday, April 26 at the Derryfield Country Club in Manchester (<http://www.derryfieldrestaurant.com/>) from 6:30 to 10:30. There is a full buffet menu with five courses, from soup to nuts and a cash bar. The tickets are \$25.00 a person and will be sold up to one week prior to the event. Tickets at the door will cost \$40.00. The prizes list is over \$3,000.00 in value. Bring your family, friends, bring your neighbors. Get your tickets today or buy them at the next Chapter meeting.

2008 ANNUAL CONSERVATION BANQUET ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

_____ Number of Tickets X \$25.00 = _____

Orders must be received by April 15 – tickets at the door are very limited and cost \$40.00

Make Checks Payable to: MERRIMACK RIVER VALLEY TU
Mail To: Stan Jodziewicz/ Banquet Tickets
33 Beverly Drive
Manchester, NH 03104

Interest in Hunting, Fishing Dropping

By **DAVE GRAM**

Associated Press Writer

STOWE, Vt. (AP) -- Bob Shannon is an avid hunter, a fishing guide and owns a tackle shop, but he sometimes struggles to get his own son out into Vermont's woods and fields. "He'll be sitting there with the video games," Shannon said of 9-year-old Alexander. "I finally had to lay down the law last summer: 'If it's a nice day, you're outside.'" Shannon's challenge reflects a larger problem plaguing many state governments: Revenue from hunting and fishing license sales is plunging because of waning interest in the outdoors. "We're losing our rural culture," said Steve Wright, a regional representative for the National Wildlife Federation. "There are so many distractions, and we're not recruiting young people into hunting and fishing." Sales of Vermont hunting and fishing licenses have dropped more than 20 percent over the last 20 years, leaving the Fish and Wildlife Department pleading with lawmakers for extra funding.

Other states report similar drop-offs:

- Arkansas hunting license sales dropped from about 345,000 in 1999 to about 319,000 in 2003.
- Pennsylvania sold about 946,000 hunting licenses in 2006, down from just over a million in 1999, and a peak of 1.3 million in 1981.
- Oregon had 100,000 fewer licensed anglers last year than in 1987, and 70,000 fewer licensed hunters.
- West Virginia sold 154,763 resident hunting permits in 2006, a 17 percent decrease from 1997.

The trend means trouble for some fish and wildlife agencies, which use license revenue to finance preservation programs for endangered species like peregrine falcons, bald eagles and loons. Game wardens also help with law enforcement, joining searches for lost hikers and skiers. In the search for new sources of revenue to support fish and wildlife programs, Vermont lawmakers are weighing legislation that would dedicate part of the state's sales tax revenue. "The issue here is that most of our fish and wildlife agencies were set up to fund conservation, based predominantly or entirely on one set of users" - hunters and anglers who pay license fees, according to Dave Chadwick, senior program associate with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Washington. "They're shouldering the whole burden for a benefit and an amenity that we all enjoy," Chadwick said. Other fundraising strategies range from sales taxes on outdoor sporting goods, as in Texas, to Florida's surcharges on speeding tickets, said Douglas Shinkle, a policy associate at the National Conference of State Legislatures. Some states are trying to boost efforts to recruit new people - especially young people - into hunting and fishing.

A West Virginia legislator has proposed offering hunters' training courses in public schools, allowing seventh- through ninth-graders to opt for instruction in topics ranging from survival skills to gun safety. Arkansas has used some of its dedicated sales tax revenue to recruit new hunters. However, the state's hunter education program graduated 11,891 people under 30 years old last year, down from 16,596 in 1998. Vermont sponsors youth hunting weekends, typically three a year. Oregon has started youth mentoring programs that match kids up with experienced hunters. Minnesota has two staff members reaching out to the state's burgeoning Southeast Asian population, said Jay Johnson of the state Department of Natural Resources' hunter recruitment and retention program. Wright said it might be an uphill battle because of everything from video games to the growth in structured activities like team sports and music lessons.

But Shannon said he has met with some success. After he laid down the law with Alexander last summer, the boy went out fishing almost every morning, he said.



Volunteer – Educate, Protect and Make a Difference
By Burr Tupper & Mary Weiss

We spent last Saturday in Lancaster, NH with Karina Jolles, State of NH Fish & Game Let's Go Fishing Program Coordinator. Several passionate volunteers attended the certification course, which started at 9:30am and wrapped up at 4:30pm. The day flew by and Karina did an outstanding job of keeping the participants engaged and efficiently delivered a lot of information in a one short day.

The Let's Go Fishing Program is focused on beginner education for children and adults interested in all different types of fishing. The Let's Go Fishing programs can cover ice fishing, spin and fly-fishing and also saltwater fishing. This is a great way to get the next generation and their parents interested in the outdoors and learning more about conserving our aquatic resources and understanding the need for wildlife management. One of the participants who attended has been a Let's Go Fishing Instructor for 2 years and shared with us the success of an after school ice fishing program that he had just completed. The kids were age 10 and up and this was a recreational activity offered as an alternative to skiing and other more tradition winter sporting activities. The kids attended four separate 2-hour class sessions to learn about fishing including fish species, habitat, safety, equipment usage, wildlife management programs in NH, rules and regulations, ethics and being a responsible outdoorsman (person). The ½ day field trip where they actually go ice fishing is all part of the Let's Go Fishing Program.

Merrimack River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited has several certified Let's Go Fishing Instructors and I know they are involved in a series of Let's Go Fishing, Learn to Fly Fish classes that are taking place in Manchester, Nashua and Pelham in March and April. Last year MRVC-TU help to educate over 60 people in learning to fly fish and cold water Fishery conservation.

As we hear more about the declining number of children and adults that no longer get outside to enjoy fishing and hunting, you start to realize the importance of programs like Let's Go Fishing. As an active volunteer, you have the opportunity to recruit and educate the next generation of sportsmen and sportswomen and groom the next generation of conservation minded citizens.

Becoming a member of Trout Unlimited shows that you are interested in the stewardship to preserve our aquatic resources. As a member of the Merrimack River Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter you have so many opportunities to give just a little time to share your knowledge and enthusiasm for the outdoors. We have over 400 members in our chapter, the largest in the state. Imagine if each of us could give 1-2 days a year what we could accomplish to our goals of education and protection.

Here are just a few of the ways you can become more involved.

Merrimack River Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter

Trout Unlimited is a national organization dedicated to protecting and improving cold water fishing resources. Our local chapter is a key building block and our local members volunteer their time, money and energy to improving cold-water fishing resources in New Hampshire. Check the website for volunteer opportunities, www.merrimacktu.org



Become a Volunteer Teach or Work on a Project

The aquatic resources of New Hampshire have in the past few decades have experienced traumatic effects of society's abuse. New Hampshire has 3.5% of its land area covered with lake, ponds, streams and rivers. Consequently, the maintenance and on going stewardship is the responsibility of sports men and women who enjoy these resources whether it is fishing, boating, swimming or general recreation.

As persons who like to fish we can help in this stewardship effort by participating in some of our chapter's restoration, stocking or educational programs. Many of us are familiar with our trout or salmon in a classroom programs and some of the fly tying and casting clinics that some of our members participate in the local area.

If you want to be made aware of volunteer opportunities, send an email (davemagnon@yahoo.com) to Dave Magnon, coordinator of the Adopt-a-Biologist program. Stocking of Atlantic salmon fry in local streams and brooks begins in April.

NH Fish and Game "Let's Go Fishing Program"

One of the other ways to get involved in the stewardship of our New Hampshire resources is by getting involved in the "Let's Go Fishing Program" sponsored by New Hampshire Fish and Game. The goals of the program are;

- Promote wise use of New Hampshire's aquatic resources through responsible and ethical outdoor behavior.
- Teach proper skills and inform the public about rules and regulations to ensure a future for the sport of fishing.
- Provide the information and instruction necessary for the public to participate in fishing...a healthy outdoor activity for all ages.

I urge you go to the Fish and Game web site and look up how to become a volunteer. This is good way to help protect our resources by passing along you knowledge and love of fishing to others. It will also the Fish and Game funding problem by getting more people interested in fishing and thus the sale of more licenses.

Chapter Restoration and Protection Projects

Our Trout Unlimited chapter is also looking for projects in our area of the state to help in stewardship of the aquatic resources in our local area. So if you have an idea or would like to be a volunteer please contact one of the members of the Board of Directors.

New Hampshire Trout Unlimited Camp for Kids

Snowfield Cabins in Pittsburgh, NH

July 9-13th 2008



Great Bay Trout Unlimited will host New Hampshire's 2nd Kids Trout Camp in Pittsburg, NH, on July 9 - July 13, 2008. Last year, a total of six children participated in the five day, four night camp, which provided them the opportunity to learn how to fly fish and experience first hand the precious natural environment that encompasses our trout streams. Classroom and riverside sessions included fly casting instruction, river stewardship, stream entomology, learning to "read a river", fish biology & behavior, fly tying, proper releasing of fish, and most of all, appreciating and having fun on a picturesque New Hampshire mountain stream.

This year's camp, like last year, will offer a one-to-one camper-to-counselor ratio. All of the campers received information about how **Trout Unlimited** plays a vital roll in coldwater fisheries conservation and restoration.

Applications must be received by April 15, 2008.

The application process requires the following:

1. Contact Information: Name, Date of Birth, Address, City, State, Zip, Telephone, Email and Gender.
2. A written essay by the applicant about why he/she would like to attend the camp and what they hope to gain from the experience.
3. A recommendation of a student counselor or science teacher including their address and phone number.

Completed Applications should be mailed to:

New Hampshire TU Trout Camp
PO Box 801
Exeter, NH 03833

For more information about the New Hampshire TU Camp for Kids, contact Sean Smith at 603-731-1861

Merrimack River Valley Chapter TU will help to sponsor a young man or woman, ages 14 to 17 **who is accepted** to the TU Camp. Please contact Mary Weiss, 603-487-5498 to learn more about MRVCTU Sponsorship assistance.



Merrimack River Valley Chapter-TU Textbook Scholarship

The MRV-TU Textbook Scholarship is a \$500.00 textbook scholarship awarded to a high school senior who will be attending a college or university during the 2008 – 2009 academic year as a full-time or part-time student. The scholarship is not paid to the student but is deposited in the student's name with the college or university's bookstore. The scholarship pays for textbooks only. Up to two grants will be awarded.

Eligibility

1. The student must be enrolled full-time as a high school senior.
2. The student must plan to enter college in the fall of 2008.
3. The student should be planning to study in the environmental sciences.
4. Must have a minimum high school GPA of 2.5 .
5. Must live in the area covered by the MRV-TU.
6. Must demonstrate successful completion of their first semester of college by sending transcript to address given.

The scholarship is available to current seniors in high schools within the Chapter's designated area. Students applying must be attending a college or university in the 2008 – 2009 academic year. The student must also successfully complete the first semester of their freshman year.

Merrimack River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited does not discriminate based on race or gender.

Requirements

- The student must submit a 300-500 word essay on the given topic
- Complete the application form
- Submit two letters of recommendation from high school instructors, one should be from a science instructor
- Submit a high school transcript
- Submit first semester college transcript to address given

BOOK REVIEW by Jim Norton

**Images of America, Glimpses of Maine's Angling Past by Donald Wilson
Carrie Stevens by Graydon R. Hilyard and Leslie K. Hilyard**



In the March newsletter I covered a few books relative to northern Maine and New Hampshire “We Took to the Woods” by Louise Dickerson Rich, “Northwoods Echos” and “Northwoods Heritage” by Richard E. Pinette and Robert E. Pike “Tall Trees, Tough Men” and “Spiked Boots” . .

If you like books with a little history about the way things used to be that are easy reads with a lot of pictures try these two.

“Images of America, Glimpses of Maine’s Angling Past” by Donald Wilson author of twenty plus books including Smelt Fly Patterns and co-author of New Hampshire Fishing Maps. The book is a pictorial narrative of the heyday of Maine’s sporting camps, hotels and guides. Most of the hotels and camps pictured in the book have vanished along with the large catches and huge fish pictured in the book. If you’ve ever fished Maine it’s easy to relate to the photographs of what once was.

The second book “Carrie Stevens” by Graydon R. Hilyard and Leslie K. Hilyard represents fifteen years of research on one of the worlds best know fly tiers Carrie Stevens. Upper Dam in the Rangeley area of Maine is where Carrie’s is credited with developing the Gray Ghost, the most famous streamer and my favorite. If you ever visit Upper Dam located between Mooselookmeguntic and Upper Richardson Lake, it’s worth a visit to camp “Midway” where Carrie lived summers for thirty years. Carrie put her flies to good use landing a 6 pound 13 ounce brook trout, which probably launched her fame as a tier. One of her more notable quotes was that she never used a vise, had never seen anyone tie a fly and no one ever seen her tie a complete fly. In addition to the Gray Ghost, Carrie is credited with developing between 50 and 100 other streamer patters and spurring other tiers to develop streamer patterns. The book contains excellent photographs of Carrie's flies along with replicas of her patterns. The book provides an overview of what the Rangeley area was during early 1900’s including a history of the Rangeley area including lodges, travel, guides and other tiers.

Upper Dam is an easy day trip from Errol, if you’re looking for something to do during the chapter trip to Mollidgewock plan a trip to Upper dam. The road is gated so it’s a good hike but worth the effort.

New England Regional Meeting – May 3rd 9 AM - 4PM:

(All TU members and state agencies are welcome to attend).

DOYLE CONSERVATION CENTER

464 Abbott Avenue

Leominster, MA 01453

978-840-4446 x1901

Please call to register prior to the meeting on May 3rd.

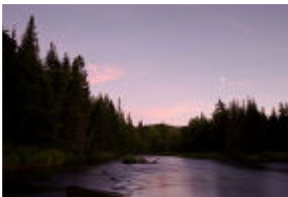


Stan --- Teaching a Fly Tying Class at the Nashua Library!

Alder Fly Hatch-Mollidgewock Campground

We have reserved our camp sites at the ***Mollidgewock Campground on the Androscoggin River*** in northern New Hampshire. The trip is scheduled for June 19th, 20th and 21st, 2008 to hit the Alder Fly hatch, which provides some of the best dry fly-fishing of the New Hampshire and entire New England fishing season. The cost is \$45 per person and includes a 3 day (Thurs., Fri., and Sat.) Campsite and the Saturday Dinner. The cost to attend just the dinner is \$15 per person. To reserve your Campsite contact Mac Duhaime, mduhaimehome@yahoo.com, 603-222-1144. Payment should be mailed to Stan Jodziewicz, 33 Beverly Dr., Manchester, NH 03104.

The Chapter Trip is a lot of fun with great fishing, time to spend with old friends, meet new friends, enjoy good food and lots of laughs!



The Connecticut River Forest Project
A Land Conservancy Partnership of
The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and Trout Unlimited

MRVC-TU has approved a \$2,000 contribution to The Connecticut River Forest Project. See the attached sheet describing the project.



Merrimack River Valley Chapter

CHAPTER OFFICERS

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (SEPT-MAY) AT

President	Gerry Crow	gerrycrow@charter.net	603-889-5611
Past-President	Carl MacConnell	Tyer3@juno.com	603-666-3985
Vice-President	Mac Duhaime	mduhaimehome@yahoo.com	603-622-1144
Secretary	David Merry	david_merry@comcast.net	603-264-5132
Treasurer	Stan Jodziewicz	sdjodz@verizon.net	603-624-1073
Directors	Burr Tupper	burr@hotmai.com	603-487-5498
	Ron Peimer	flytyr@hotmail.com	603-714-4135
	Jeff Lindberg	jlindb595@gmail.com	603-595-7544
	Tom Spencer	tlspencer_22@msn.com	603-673-2028
	David Magnon	davemagnon@yahoo.com	603-661-9862
Director/Newsletter Editor	Mary Weiss	weissmarym@hotmail.com	603-487-5498

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (SEPT-MAY) AT THE SWEENEY AMERICAN LEGION POST, 251 MAPLE STREET MANCHESTER NH. DIRECTIONS: ELM STREET TO VALLEY STREET TO MAPLE STREET (1ST LEFT AFTER STADIUM)

Tuesday, April 8th, 2008 @ 7:00pm

Charlie Crue – Channel Edge Charters, Fishing in-shore New Hampshire and Massachusetts waters for stripers and blues.

Tuesday, May 13th, 2008 @ 7:00pm

Tour the Milford, NH Fish Hatchery

Merrimack River Valley
Chapter Trout Unlimited
Stanley Jodziewicz
33 Beverly Dr
Manchester, NH 03104-2841

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