

Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited



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President's Message

As you read this, another summer has screamed by and is history - once again, we made the mistake of blinking. It's hard to believe that our first regular meeting to kickoff the new TU year is right around the corner, September 9th.

TU has made significant contributions to coldwater fisheries on a variety of fronts since its founding 49 years ago. Every issue of "Trout" highlights success stories from across the country. Within our state, the TU NH Council works hard at coordinating the efforts of our 7 chapters with a range of initiatives, many of which benefit from TU National support. The major emphasis is to achieve tangible results, including better habitat, improved long term access to quality cold water fisheries, "best practice" stream management projects, etc. TU summarizes the focus: **Protect- Reconnect- Restore- Sustain.**

The chapter's board of directors has met monthly during the summer, working on plans for the coming year. As we reviewed past activities and potential new endeavors, I (and others) have been continually impressed with the wide range of programs in which our chapter has been involved, not to mention the level of effort expended by our members. We should all be proud of the chapter's accomplishments. Our objective is to make 2008-2009 a year that continues and, in fact, builds on this tradition. One cornerstone to making this happen is to encourage active participation by a larger number of members. We have over 400 members, people who obviously are interested in the TU mission. We're hoping that many from this group can increase their time commitment to pitch in on the many different areas that will contribute to making the year most successful. The pacing items in terms of how many programs that we pursue, and the scope of our effort in each program, is limited primarily by volunteer hours and budget.

Opportunities to help come in many flavors- there's something for everyone. A representative summary of the kinds of things in which we are involved (some are in-place, others are tentative pending lining up volunteers):

- Pulling together monthly meetings that are interesting to the majority and attract bigger turnouts
- Conservation: Defining and implementing habitat improvement projects; Adopt a Biologist; dam removal assistance
- Education programs: Let's Go Fly Fishing; Adopt a Salmon; Casting for Recovery; Healing Waters; Nashua Library; Kids Camp
- December social and spring banquet; chapter trip
- Outreach: newsletter; website; booth
- Fundraising: Fly Fish NH show, raffles, engaging sponsors

Take a look at the list- it's obvious that it takes a lot of horsepower to make all of this happen. Think about which activities would be interesting to you. TU will benefit from whatever you can do.

Thanks,

Jeff

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EDITORS NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THE NEWSLETTER SEND THEM TO:

weissmarym@hotmail.com

Merrimack Valley Trout Unlimited Treasurer's Report

Burr Tupper

We will be starting a new season of activities for our chapter and I thought that it would be worthwhile for us to review where we collected money for our restoration and charitable programs and where we spent our funds during the last fiscal year. We currently have \$8,806.03 in our checking account and a CD valued at \$5,414.35 for a total of \$14,220.36. Our revenues last year came from the April Banquet at the Derryfield Country Club, December Social, Fly Fish New Hampshire Show at Pelham Rod and Gun Club and the monthly raffles. The cash out was for chapter expenses such as the Newsletter, chapter trip, banquet support, raffles, website and education/conservation programs. The banquet was a huge success both socially and financially. We supported the following programs financially;

- Kids fly fishing camp
- NH Wildlife membership
- Posters warning of the perils of "snotgrass"
- Matching funds-Basil Woods Chapter challenge to help fund the Pittsburg, Connecticut River conservation easement program
- Adopt-A-Salmon
- Casting for Recovery
- MRVTU Lets Go Fishing Program

It is the hope of the Board of Directors that we can find some restoration and charitable projects that we can fund for the 2008-2009 year sessions. If you have suggestions please contact anyone of the MRVC-TU Board Members.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings & Speakers

The Board of Directors have been working very hard to fill up a slate of interesting speakers for our monthly meetings. Below is the schedule for meeting topics and speakers September 08 through December 08.



September 9th, 2008

MRVC-TU Kickoff Meeting hosted by our chapter President, Jeff Lindberg. Jeff and the BOD Members will give a brief recap of projects and initiatives MRVCTU has accomplished in 2007/2008 and where we are headed in 2008/2009. Jeff is looking to our members to attend the kickoff meeting and contribute ideas and discussion on the Chapter focus for projects and funding initiatives in the upcoming year.

October 14th, 2008

Jake Noonan, Recipient of the MRVC-TU Kids Trout Camp Sponsorship attended the 2008 Kids Trout Camp in Pittsburg, NH this past July. Jake had a fantastic experience and he will give us a brief presentation about his experience at the camp and his new found love of fly-fishing.

Kate Fox, Communications Director, Casting for Recovery will give a brief presentation on Casting for Recovery. For the past 2 years MRVC-TU has donated funds to Casting for Recovery and this is great opportunity to learn more about the program and the impact that our support gives to women recovering from breast cancer who participate in this program.

November 11th, 2008

Eric Hutchins, NOAA Restoration Center and Deb Loiselle, NH DES will give us a presentation on the Merrimack River Dam Removal Project and other projects slated for our watershed.

December 9th, 2008

Chapter Social featuring deli platters, soft drinks, and deserts along with bucket raffles and Yankee fly swap (possibly a book sale this year).

Tom Ames is scheduled for our March, 2009 meeting. Tom is a photographer, entomologist, and author whose books include The Hatch Guide for New England Steams and Fishbugs. Fly Fisherman Magazine has described the Hatch Guide as "the most useful and informative book for eastern fly fishers since Art Flick's Streamside Guide in 1947. Tom is working on a new book to be released early in 2009.

We also hope that Diane Timmins, NH F&G Biologist will speak at our February Meeting and give us an update on her native brook trout tagging and tracking activities. Look for meeting & speaker updates in the monthly Newsletter.

Merrimack Village Dam Removal Project

By Randy Mithoefer



In August, Merrimack River Valley Trout Unlimited members had an opportunity to be a part of the removal of the Merrimack Village Dam on the Souhegan River.

The removal of the dam will eliminate a barrier to migrating fish, improve the overall ecology of the Souhegan River and restore 14 miles of the river to its natural condition. The Souhegan is one of the most important rivers for the Merrimack Watershed Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, and one of 14 NH rivers designated for special protection under the Rivers Management & Protection Program.



Demolition began in July, and a call went out for volunteers to help with collection and relocation of mussels and other stranded water creature and removal of trash exposed by the dewatering of the area when the dam was breached. Due to the rainy summer and high water, the first of the volunteer dates had to be rescheduled to August. Three dates were set and volunteers organized to help in the effort.

Members of our TU chapter were on hand to help with the clean-up and mussel relocation on Saturday, Aug. 9th; Friday, Aug. 15th; and Tuesday, Aug. 19th.

Everyone stated that they had a good time and felt like they were contributing to an important project. Members in attendance were: Dave Magnon, John Speidel, Steven White, Ron Hamel, Don Beckman, Joel and Jacob Gruber, Jon and Brenda Shuttle, Stan Jodziewicz, Michael Noonan, Mike Atkinson, Randy Mithoefer, Gerry Crow, Jerry Bernier, and Jeff Lindberg.

“The Merrimack Village Dam removal project is a great example of how citizens, conservation groups and agencies can work together to successfully restore a river. Removing this outdated dam will provide community benefits as well as ecosystem restoration.” – Eric Hutchins, Gulf of Maine Habitat Restoration Coordinator of the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA), US Department of Commerce.

To view a live web cam and archived photos of the project go to:
www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/damcam.html

Then click on Live Dam Cam.



A special “THANK-YOU” to Randy Mithoefer for coordinating our chapter volunteers for the Merrimack Village Dam removal project!

Wetlands Ecology Institute is a winner for both fishermen and ecologist.

By Burr Tupper



I recently had the opportunity to attend the Wetlands Ecology Institute that was coordinated by the staff of New Hampshire Fish and Game with support from the University of New Hampshire and N.H. Department of Environmental Services. The program was two weeks in length and each day focused on a particular aspect of watershed ecology. Hands-on, experimental learning was emphasized in both the field and in the classroom. The class was composed of instructors from the Fish and Game “Let’s Go Fishing”, teachers working on master and doctorate programs and individual from town conservation commissions.

As a TU Member, fisherman and member of the New Boston Conservation Commission, I found that the information covered in the program gave me a better appreciation for reading the water, stream assessment and a much better understanding of macro-invertebrates identification.

As a member of a conservation commission and Trout Unlimited the topics on GPS mapping, plant communities, pond and lake ecology, wetlands evaluation and aquatic resource management will be helpful in water protection and restoration.

If you can afford the time, the course is well worth it. The instructors were very knowledgeable, the material was very comprehensive and field trips were outstanding.

Wetlands Ecology Institute http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Education/ed_calendar.htm



Fly Rod Building Series with Dave Merry

Dave is interested in offering a pre-meeting Fly Rod Building Series of 6 to 7 sessions focused on the fundamentals of Fly Rod Building. The Series would begin possibly in October and finish in April starting prior to the 7pm Monthly Meeting. Please email weissmarym@hotmail.com if you would be interested in this type of series being offered before each of the monthly chapter meetings. Dave is known for building exceptionally fine fly rods and hopes to share that knowledge and expertise with other chapter members. The rod building series would offer guidance and suggestions on materials selection, techniques and recommended reading.

(Dave’s picture on the left as he grills some steaks at the annual chapter outing)



Merrimack River Valley Chapter

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

President	Jeff Lindberg	Jlindb595@gmail.com	603-595-7544
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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, September 9th, 2008 @ 7:00pm SWEENEY POST

Merrimack Valley Trout Unlimited Kickoff Meeting-Join us for an overview and discussion on chapter projects and initiatives in 2008/2009. Members are encouraged to attend and share their ideas and discuss ongoing projects, educational programs, community outreach, fund raising, membership drives, sporting shows and speakers and events.

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