

Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited



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President's Message

I am pleased to acknowledge a few members who have stepped up to help in different ways: Dick Peterson is now taking care of refreshments for our monthly meetings, a role previously performed by Barb and Jim Norton for quite a few years; Mike Sousa has been greeter at our meetings; and Ron Hamel has agreed to fill our open seat on the board of directors. Their efforts are appreciated. We have plenty more needs for help, with an active slate of programs and activities on our schedule. We are continuing most of the chapter activities that have proven popular in the past, while looking to add a few changes along the way. All help in making each of these things happen is welcome. Our mix of activities coming up over the next several months starts with the holiday social next week (December 9th, starting at 7:00pm). This year's event will be similar to the last several years. A buffet style meal featuring deli platters, etc will be offered (coordinated by Ron Peimer). We will have bucket raffles and a book sale. It's fun to bring 3 gift wrapped flies and participate in a Yankee swap. Always a good time to meet/greet other members. The chapter is set to exhibit at 2 outdoors' shows between now and spring. These shows have proven to be good venues for MRV TU to show people what the organization is all about. They also are excellent opportunities to reach out to prospective new members. Selling a bunch of tickets for our Grand Raffle (more below) at the shows is a nice bonus. The Rockingham Fishing & Hunting Expo, Salem, NH, runs from January 9th through the 11th and features a wide range of exhibits appealing to many outdoor interests. Fly Fish NH, located at Pelham Fish & Game and co-sponsored by Pelham F & G and TU, rolls around in early March. This show definitely is designed to whet the appetites of fly fishers after a long winter of cabin fever, plus the chapter makes good money at this show. The shows are fun to attend; chapter volunteers are needed at both shows to staff our booth. We have already started the planning process for our April Conservation Banquet. We are fortunate to have Stan Jodziewicz leading the charge again (he definitely outdid himself last spring). Encouraged by the turnout and enthusiasm generated by the past banquet, this event will once again be held at the Derryfield Country Club. We forecast another full house (150 attendees). The banquet is the chapter's largest fundraiser, netting over \$4,000 last April. Donated and discounted prizes from a range of supporters significantly contributed to our success. Key for next April: members who will help solicit prizes and contributions, as well as volunteers to help with the many tasks that go with this event.

The annual Grand Raffle is another important contributor to the chapter's kitty. We will feature 3 great prizes again this year (kayak, fly rod and fly shop gift certificate). Details will be available in December, with tickets being distributed to members in January. The last item that I want to mention actually involves fishing. The venue for the June, 2009 chapter outing is moving to Coleman State Park in Stewartstown, NH. Two reasons drove this decision. We are trying to encourage more "significant others" to make the trip. Coleman, with full rest room facilities, is probably an easier sell for some folks (and a shower wouldn't hurt the rest of us either). Also, Coleman is nicely located in terms of ready access to a good variety of quality fishing spots, including the Androscoggin River.

Happy holiday season to all,

Jeff

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

weissmarym@hotmail.com

SPEAKERS AND EVENTS



Tuesday, December 9th, 2007 @ 7:00pm

Holiday Social, Food, Raffles, Merriment!

Don't forget to bring 3 Gift Wrapped Flies for the Yankee Fly Swap!

Bucket Raffles are \$1 per ticket and \$10 for a dozen tickets.

Raffle items include: Yakima Float Tube, Fly Tying Grab Bags, Books, Videos, Prints and more!

Tuesday, January 13th, 2008 @ 7pm –Casting For Recovery by Wendy Nixon



MRVCTU donates to the CFR Program and Wendy will give us an overview of the 2008 outing and what our donation really means to the women attending the fly-fishing retreat.



Tuesday, February 10th, 2008 @ 7pm-Merrimack Village Dam Removal Project

by Eric Hutchins, NOAA Restoration Center and Deb Loiselle, NH DES.

Eric and Deb will also give us an overview of other projects in our watershed.



Tuesday, March 10th, 2008 @ 7pm-Thomas Ames, Author and Commercial Photographer

Thomas Ames is a [commercial photographer](#) whose studio is located in an old woolen mill in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Mr. Ames makes photographs for a variety of advertising and editorial clients, including furniture companies, heavy equipment manufacturers, engineering firms, ski equipment importers, educational institutions, specialty food distributors, medical journals and many others. He brings the same attention to clarity and detail to his widely acclaimed fly fishing insect photographs that he applies on behalf of his commercial clients. In addition to his book, [Hatch Guide To New England Streams](#), Mr. Ames is a regular contributor to [Fly Fishing and Tying Journal](#). His articles and photographs have also appeared in *Fly Rod & Reel* and *Fly Fisherman*. He gives numerous slide lectures throughout the year to fly fishing clubs in New England and New York State.

Treasurer's Report: Burr Tupper

The Chapter's Treasury as of December 4, 2008 is as follows:

Checking -	\$ 9,307.45
CD -	<u>5,454.89</u>
	\$14,762.34

We have collected \$1,300 in booth fees for our Fly Fish New Hampshire Show, \$90 for new members rebate from TU national, \$40 dollars from our monthly raffles and \$125 in speaker fees donated by Jim Norton and Gerry Crow. We have used some of our assets to purchase raffle prizes for our December Social and our Spring Banquet.

Annual Banquet Set for Saturday, April 25, Tickets Available Next Month!

The annual Banquet is set for Saturday, April 25, 2009 at the Derryfield Country Club in Manchester. Tickets will be \$30.00 a person. Last year's Banquet was a huge success, all tickets were sold and we have listened to your feedback. There will be an increase in the number of non-fishing items to appeal to all. This year we be limiting the number of tickets to 150, they will be going on sale in January. Help us to raise the funds needed to continue our work and spend an enjoyable evening. More to come!



Showcase your talent or business

Prizes for this year's Banquet are already being gathered and you can help us! David Merry is putting together a bucket raffle table of member made items. Last year we had wine and food items and David wants to expand on the idea. Do you have a craft or specialty you would like to share? Contact David at the email address below. Those of you who own businesses or work for a company that may want to contribute please let us know.



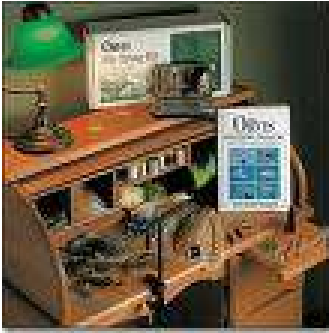
Stan Jodziewicz email: sjodz@verizon.net
David Merry email: dmerry@insight-tek.com

FLY TYING Classes

Saturday January 24 Nashua Library 10-4
Saturday January 31 Manchester Library 12-4:30

Instructors Jim Norton, NH Fishing Guide, and Stan Jodziewicz, certified 'Let's Go Fishing' instructor present an introduction to fly tying. The class will cover the tools, materials, threads and hooks required for fly tying, a hands-on session on the basic steps, and a full fly tying session with nymph, wet fly, streamer and dry fly samples. The class is designed for adults; however children over twelve may attend if accompanied by an adult. All tools and materials will be provided; participants are welcome to bring their own tools if they have them. Sponsored by the Merrimack River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the NH Fish and Game Department Aquatic Education Program, and the Nashua and Manchester City Libraries.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required at the library web sites.



Merrimack River Valley Chapter TU Tips by Jim Norton

A suggestion at one of the chapter meetings was to write up tips for the newsletter so in lieu of the book review here's a few which includes two books I reference the most during the season.

Journals for Flow Levels & Wading: Years ago I started keeping hunting and fishing journals; for fishing I have a river journal for drift, canoe and kayak trips and another journal for everything else. I could have used one journal.

The river journal has the Date, River, Put-in and Take-out location and times, Flows, Water and Air temperature, Names of anglers, Weather, Hatch activity, Fish, Flies, Wildlife, and notes. Some trips are a page others have several trips on a page. The other journal has similar information, for hike in ponds it includes trail conditions and hiking time.

For rivers flow and water temperature are the key factors for fishing and for ponds and lakes its water temperature. Checking the weather should be routine for all trips. I use the Weather Channel web site; www.weather.com. The hour-by-hour forecast is reasonably accurate; for longer trips the 10-day forecast provides a good reference. The current month provides daily precipitation amounts. Over time you can get a handle of how flows will be affected by precipitation. Most towns have PC's with Internet access available at local libraries, which is great when you're on the road.

On major watersheds, what happens on the upper section will be reflected down river in a day or two. Two inches of rain in the Rangeley area will affect the Androscoggin in Errol even if it doesn't rain in the Errol area. On mountainous terrain a few inches of rain can cause rivers to rise several feet. By checking the United States Geological Web site <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nh/nwis/current/?type=flow> you can get the flows for most rivers in New Hampshire. By clicking on the river you can get graphs by CFS and height for a week up to sixty days. It's interesting to watch the flows rise and fall after major rainstorms. Rivers can rise quickly but most take several days to return to normal. That was the case this year in June with major flooding on several watersheds.

There's always the exception, you can check the flows and forecast and still get surprised by flash flooding. Last year the Wild River in Maine went from 50 CFS to 10,000 in a few hours, taking out bridges on Route 113 and Route 2. It would not have been a day to be on the Androscoggin or hiking into remote ponds. Most hike-in ponds require crossing streams and brooks that can become impossible to cross when flooded.

A few years ago flash flooding in Vermont stranded anglers fishing a tributary of the Connecticut washing out bridges in the area. The anglers were rescued the next day. In 2008, we had several flood related deaths, including a young girl who died when Ames Brook flooded, washing the SUV she was in down stream, demolishing the car. Fishing hike-in ponds requires being prepared; having the proper clothing and a first aid and emergency survival pack should enable you to spend a night in the woods if necessary. Having someone who knows where you are and when you will return, goes without saying. Anglers fishing below dams need to be particularly alert to changes in flows from dam releases since water can rise a foot or two in a short period of time. If there has been heavy rain in the watershed, it's only a question of time before it moves

down river. Water released for power is another problem angler's encounter, hot dry days generate demand and the closer you are to a dam the more severe the increase will be.

Anglers have different comfort levels for wading; keeping a journal will let you reference previous trips. I use CFS (Cubic Feet per Second) others prefer height and sometimes I keep both. For every river I have flow level when wading becomes difficult and not worth the risk. The same goes for canoeing, kayaking or drifting.



Sports and Fishing Shows, Volunteer Opportunities (Ron Peimer)

The chapter is involved in two sport/fishing shows early next year. Both shows present an opportunity to assist the chapter by volunteering your time to "man the booth". Volunteers help the chapter raise money via raffle sales, generate new members, inform the public about TU's mission, and get a chance to participate in an interesting experience.

ROCKINGHAM FISHING AND HUNTING SHOW (January 10th & 11th, 2009)

This show is held at the Rockingham Racetrack clubhouse in Salem NH. This is probably the largest sport show in NH and features dozens of vendors selling fishing & hunting equipment, destination outfitters, boats, fishing equipment sales, and "game" food retailers, seminars on techniques for hunting/fishing, and a host of related activities. This is an annual show that attracts thousands of attendees from the New England area. We need volunteers to assist us Friday 1/09 in the afternoon and Sunday 1/11 at either the am, or pm shift. Members who assist get free admission and have plenty of time to walk around and peruse the exhibits.

NH FLY FISHING SHOW (3/07 & 3/08, 2009)

This show is co-sponsored by our chapter and the Pelham Fish and Game Club. It is held at the Pelham Club's facility in Pelham NH. This is the only exclusive fly-fishing show in NH and the only show dedicated to fly fishing in the immediate area as the Wilmington (Shriners) show is no longer held. This show is an annual event and is a major fund raising activity for the chapter. The show features a large number of vendors of equipment, trips, and other items/activities related to fly-fishing. In addition, there are seminars every hour by local "experts" covering a variety of fly-fishing techniques, tips and locales. Chapter members who assist are given free admission and volunteers help sell raffle tickets, take admission at the door, assist with the show's logistics, and serve food. In addition, there is plenty of time to walk around and view all the shows activities. We need volunteers to assist in the afternoon of Fri 3/06 (set up) and both the am & pm shifts on sat/sun (3/07 & 3/08)

If you would like to help, please send an email to mrtunews@comcast.net, or call 603-714-4135



Merrimack River Valley Chapter

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~ 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

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)