

Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited



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November 2008

President's Message

Trout Unlimited's quarterly publication, "Trout," routinely provides a wealth of information spanning a wide range of topics and issues relevant to the TU mission, as well as information and articles that are just plain interesting. The Fall 2008 issue is no exception. The Project Healing Waters piece really drives home the impact that TU can have on the lives of service people who are dealing with serious challenges, and MRVTU is an active part of it. As an aside, our January meeting will include a summary of the chapter's pilot PHW effort working with the Manchester VA facility.

"Trout" also includes multiple write-ups of regional and local community events focused on bringing the conservation message to broader audiences. New Hampshire appears in two such highlights in the Fall issue. One, together with Vermont, describes the successful effort on the Upper Connecticut River by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests to purchase 2100 acres of land, protecting six miles of frontage. TU chapters throughout New England worked to help raise the funds needed to make this happen. Five NH TU chapters are mentioned by name for their contributions - including our chapter. The Upper Connecticut is also part of TU's Home Rivers Initiatives- status that brings investment of TU resources and will ensure protection and improvements into the future. Altogether, great news for fishing and outdoor advocates in our neck of the woods. The second article highlights Great Bay Chapter's work on the Cocheco River. Working to help provide public access via conservation easements and cleaning up the river are two accomplishments of this partnership of public and private organizations and individuals. This chapter recently hosted a Casting for Recovery session on the Cocheco with eight women instructed by a TU team - including two from our chapter, Tom Judras and Dave Magnon. A representative from CFR will also talk at our January meeting.

Our November 11 chapter meeting will feature presentations by two professionals from NH Fish & Game who work hard to continually improve the state of NH's coldwater fisheries. Dianne Timmins, Cold Water Fisheries Biologist and Chief Biologist for Region 1, will once again provide an update on her program studying brook trout movement and populations. Dianne will be joined by Ben Nugent, Coldwater Biologist whose specialties include watershed analysis. We can count on an informative and interesting session. This is also a good opportunity for us to ask Dianne and Ben for input re: potential chapter conservation projects. Hoping to see a good crowd-

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, November 11th, 2008 @ 7:30pm

NH Fish & Game Biologists Dianne Timmins and Ben Nugent will present results of wild brook trout telemetry and DNA studies and lower Merrimack assessment.

Tuesday, December 9th, 2008 @ 7:30pm

Chapter Social featuring deli platters, soft drinks, and desserts along with bucket raffles and Yankee fly swap.

Treasurer's Report: Burr Tupper

The Chapter's Treasury as of Oct. 08, 2008 is as follows:

Checking -	\$ 9,459.60
CD -	\$ 5,454.89
	\$14,914.49

As of November 3, 2008 the Merrimack River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited has \$14,914.49 in assets. This is comprised of a CD currently valued at \$5,454.89 and a checking account with \$9,459.60 in cash available. The checking account includes \$1,200 for booth rentals for the Fly Fish New Hampshire show.

April Fund Raiser Banquet, April 25th, 2009

This year's Banquet has been set for Saturday, April 25, 2009 at the Derryfield Country Club in Manchester. Tickets will be \$30.00 a person. Prizes 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. Last year's Banquet was a huge success and we have listened to your feedback, we will be increasing 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.



Stan Jodziewicz email: sdjodz@verizon.net

David Merry email: dmerry@insight-tek.com

“Trout Flies for the 21st Century” - book review by Jim Norton

I think my first book on fly tying was a pamphlet that came with the fly-tying kit. There were books that followed which got a lot of use over the years and disappeared, probably given to the grandchildren when they started tying. Of the dozen or so books we have on tying, two older ones I reference are “*The Universal Fly Tying Guide*” by Dick Stewart and “*The American Fly Tying Manual*” by Dave Hughes.



Today you can find just about anything on the web including patterns, techniques, and videos, most of which are excellent. With the abundance of information available including CDs, tiers have a lot of options when looking for help, however I still pick up books, the latest of which is Dick Talleur's *Trout Flies for the 21st Century*. I have a few of Dick's books including the *Versatile Fly Tyer* and *Inside Fly Fishing 100 tips for solving the trickiest fly tying problems* and a couple of his videos. Dick has written a lot of books over the years (about a dozen), articles for magazines including *Fly Tyer* and has 14 videos. For more information visit Dick's web site at www.dicktalleur.com

Here's some background from Dick's site. **Born:** Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Awhile ago. **Worked:** AT&T most of adult life until retirement in 1984; freelance writer, photographer, speaker and teacher of fly-fishing and fly-tying since then. **Fished:** Since I was a kid in rural Dutchess County, east of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Got into "serious" trout fishing circa 1953 (worms & minnows). Started fly-fishing in 1955 (badly). Started tying flies in 1959 (clumsily). Decided to stick with the sport anyway, thus wasting my life (joyously).

Dick used to live in Manchester and presented at a few chapter meetings, providing the opportunity for many to meet him. Dick's books have excellent photography, innovation both in tying and the use of material and instructions that are easy to understand and follow instruct; the same goes for his videos.

Inside Fly Tying has a lot of detailed steps and hints; *Trout Flies for the 21st Century* has more than 200 patterns and great pattern photos and hints. Both books have some local patterns and tiers. Winter is the time I like to get the majority of my tying completed and I reference Dick's books on a regular basis.



The Merrimack River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited recently started working with veterans in Manchester in conjunction with the Project Healing Waters program. Bill Cabral is heading the chapter's efforts with this program and Bill gave a presentation about Project Healing Waters at the October Chapter Meeting. Below is a background piece written by Jim Norton and an update on the chapter's activities by Bill Cabral.

Project Healing Waters by Jim Norton

Project Healing Waters was conceived in 2004 when a retired Navy Captain, Ed Nicholson, recuperating from surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center was inspired to offer a program of fly-fishing and fly-tying instruction to wounded soldiers, sailors, and Marines at Walter Reed and Bethesda U.S. Naval Hospital. He found qualified instructors within the membership of Trout Unlimited chapters and the Federation of Fly Fishers and started the program in 2005.

Part of the program's mission statement is:

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc., initiated and conducted by members of the Federation of Fly Fishers and Trout Unlimited, serves military personnel who have been wounded, injured, or disabled to aid their physical and emotional recovery by introducing or rebuilding the skills of fly fishing and fly tying and by using and enjoying these skills on fishing outings and as lifelong recreation.

While initially focusing on the military personnel in the Washington, DC area, the Project has expanded nationwide and is offering its services and program to active military personnel and veterans in Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals throughout the country.

The Project's program provides basic fly fishing, fly casting and fly tying classes and clinics for the wounded and injured personnel ranging from beginners to those with prior fly fishing and tying experience who are adapting their skills to their new abilities. All activities and services are provided to the participants at no cost. Fly-fishing and tying equipment and materials are provided to the participants, including equipment that accommodates their special needs.

The Project's training and educational activities are designed to ignite or rekindle the participants' appreciation and enthusiasm for a wide variety of fly fishing outings. While most of these fishing trips are conducted within a half-day's travel from a hospital, the Project actively seeks opportunities to offer outings in quality fishing sites across the county.

The trips near and far, are provided at no cost to the participants. The Project relies on Federation of Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited, and independent fly fishing clubs to conduct the program at the DOD and DVA hospitals across the nation. The volunteer staff and outings leaders include professional educators and fishing guides as well as experienced fly fishers, all of whom donate their time and knowledge to support the Project participants. Other volunteers help meet the educational, equipment, outings, training, and transportation needs.

Since its inception, the program has hosted hundreds of servicemen wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as disabled veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and other conflicts. The program has expanded to more than 56 locations from Hawaii to Maine where Trout Unlimited chapters, working with the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta have been leaders, with trips to the East Outlet of the Kennebec and a four-day trip for 10 veterans to the Rapid River. In New Hampshire, we've started fly-tying classes at the Manchester VA Thanks to volunteers from the Merrimack River Valley Trout Unlimited and New Hampshire Fish and Game for the loan of the fly tying kits as part of the Let's go Fishing Program.

According to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research more than 15 percent of U.S. troops will suffer from a service-related mental disorder, including post-traumatic stress disorder. It already represents a primary or secondary ailment afflicting many of the nearly 6,000 wounded troops,

Nicholson thinks that fly-fishing can help wounded service personnel recover from their physical and mental injuries.

For more information on Project Healing Waters visit www.projecthealingwaters.org



Project Healing Waters Update-Bill Cabral

MRVCTU has started working with Veterans at the Manchester VA Hospital as part of the Project Healing Waters Program. The first class had a very good turnout of approximately 12 tiers for our first session on Oct .22. Our veterans range from WWII to Vietnam. All our veterans were from the nursing home at the Manchester VA. We had 10 TU members there to assist, so it was basically one-on-one. Jim Norton did the tying demo of the Wooly Bugger. We used a camera to show him tying the fly and projected it on the large-screen TV (56 inch or so). The vets were very happy, and I wish I could show everyone the smiles on their faces and the gratitude in their eyes that someone cared. Over all, it was a very good session and the next two sessions are Nov. 6 and Nov 18.



New MRVCTU member Bob Morrison, who was a longtime Croton Watershed Chapter-TU member, gave us a copy of the CWC, Trout Unlimited Newsletter for some inspiration. I have reprinted Jim Weaver's TU Tips for your reading pleasure.
Mary Weiss

Jim Weaver's TU Tips (reprint from the Croton Watershed TU Newsletter)

Typing Tippet Made Easier

Many of us have difficulty inserting a tippet through the eye of small hooks. To help solve this problem, make sure you have a safety pin on your fly vest. The pin will help you clear tying cement or other materials from the eye of the hook. Also, clip your tippet end at a 45-degree angle or greater before trying to insert it into the eye. This is very helpful in guiding the tippet through a small hook eye. (you might think clipping tippet on an angle would have no effect on a thin 6X or smaller tippet, but it really does make a difference. ---ed)

Knots Tied to Heavy Flies Will Weaken

During the process of casting a heavy fly, the weight and twisting of the fly during the turnover of the cast, both serve to weaken the knot. After each fish is caught, or after five minutes of casting a heavy fly, you should check the knot by pulling sharply on the fly while holding the tippet. You'll be surprised at how many times the knot will break under the pull. Retie the fly often to prevent breakage.

Trick for Leader Preparation

Try preparing a new leader for use by taking green leaves, crushing them, and then rubbing them on the leader. This will remove the glare from the leader and cause it to sink slightly into the surface film - it works!



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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)

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