

# Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited



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## President's Message

The green movement has been gaining momentum big time for a long time. The proliferation, growth and visibility of organizations that are truly interested in and committed to improving the environment - water, air, forests, land - is impressive. The magnitude of the contributions of thousands of volunteers, including time, effort and financial, is huge and many successes have resulted.

Trout Unlimited is one of these organizations. In my view, most members share three common threads: they tend to be fishing junkies (with a bias toward fly fishing), they enjoy hanging out with like-minded anglers, and they take pleasure in and appreciate opportunities to fish high-quality water in pristine venues. Maybe there is a fourth thread: they understand that habitat, particularly cold water fisheries habitat, is fragile and needs to be protected. And possibly a fifth: they know they can help others learn to enjoy their sport.

MRVTU has a track record of strong volunteer support in conservation projects, education and outreach. We started this TU year strongly. Sixteen members helped with the Souhegan River clean up after the Merrimack dam was removed. Gerry Crow, Stan Jodziewicz and Jim Norton recently assisted Mark Prout, U.S. Forestry Service biologist, in a brookie survey on a White Mountain stream. The first meeting of Project Healing Waters, geared to introducing injured veterans to fly fishing, is scheduled for later this month at the Manchester VA facility. Bill Cabral has coordinated a group of members to get the program rolling, starting with fly tying. All good stuff, all possible by volunteer effort.

TU nationally is growing. One measure: revenue grew 12% last year. New Hampshire has 1,400 members divided among seven chapters. MRVTU is the largest chapter with 438 members. We've got a lot of horsepower that we can leverage to advance TU goals. If you're not currently involved, please consider stepping forward.

Next chapter meeting October 14 will feature a speaker who will give us some feedback on one of the programs we have supported. We sponsored a young man to attend a trout camp in Pittsburg, and he wants to describe his experience. Hope to see a good turnout at the meeting.

Thanks,  
**Jeff**

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EDITOR'S NOTE: IF YOU  
HAVE ANY  
SUGGESTIONS OR  
COMMENTS ON THE  
NEWSLETTER SEND  
THEM TO:  
[weissmarym@hotmail.com](mailto:weissmarym@hotmail.com)

**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)**

## **October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008**



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



### **Survive & Thrive**

Prevention and Treatment of Common Outdoor Emergencies Presented by Travis Weiss, EMT-I/WEMT/SARTECH. Learn about the Top Ten Essentials recommended when venturing into the wild, even for an afternoon of fishing.

## **November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Dianne Timmins, Region I Fisheries Biologist for NH and Ben Nugent, Fisheries Biological Technician, will be presenting DNA studies results and a lower Merrimack watershed assessment (respectively) at our NOVEMBER 11 meeting. Dianne Timmins is in her fourth year of an ongoing study to learn about the migration patterns and habitat overlap of eastern brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). Her latest addition to this study includes monitoring habitat overlap by smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) in the Magalloway and Diamond Rivers.

## **December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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

### **Merrimack Valley Trout Unlimited Treasurer's Report**

Burr Tupper

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

Checking -	\$ 7,893.00
CD -	<u>\$15,427.98</u>
	\$13,320.98



### **Book Review October 2008 by Jim Norton**

“Atlas of NH Trout Ponds and Ponds” & “Lake of the White Mountains”  
Two books I’ve used over the years are “The Atlas of New Hampshire Trout Ponds” and “Ponds and Ponds and Lakes of the White Mountains”.

Unfortunately I couldn’t find my copy of the atlas, which resulted in ordering a used copy online. Gerry Crow and I used to fish several ponds a day, occasionally we still do, and the atlas was helpful in locating new ponds in the same area. In addition to geographic location the description also includes access, elevation, size and depth along with other information. Most of the material in the book can be obtained from other sources like the “The Hampshire Atlas and Gazetteer” Fish & Game Web site, Mapquest and Delorme software, but for years the book got a lot of use.

“Ponds and Lakes of the White Mountains” by Steven Smith, contains a description of the pond, location, USGS map, size, elevation and depth. If the pond requires hiking, it includes: round-trip time, vertical rise, degree of difficulty, and trail description. The book has an index, which lists ponds by Roadside, Easy, Moderate, and More Difficult hikes. I like to hike in late summer or early fall. There are usually fewer mosquitoes and the weather is cooler.

With four years of spring and fall flooding and the rain we’ve had this summer, trail conditions on many trails varied from difficult to impassible during and after the rain. Checking trail and weather conditions and being prepared is a prerequisite any time of the year for packing into a pond. Below is part of my column from the October 5 New Hampshire Sunday News.

By the middle of August maples along the marshes and bogs start to turn. It’s one of the early signs of the changing seasons. It’s the time to start fishing ponds in the mountains. With the sun lower in the sky and daylight decreasing the ponds start to cool down and the trout become more active. New Hampshire has high elevation ponds that are accessible by road but I like to hike into remote ponds. New Hampshire Fish and Game stocks many remote ponds by helicopter with fingerlings; there are remote ponds that have natural reproducing wild trout. There are a few ponds accessible by half-mile hikes but most are a 1-5 miles. Hiking time can vary based on terrain and trail conditions. The rule of thumb is two miles an hour plus a half hour for every 1,000 feet increase in elevation gain. A 4-mile hike with a 1,000-foot increase would be 2 1/2 hours.

I try to pack light, I like round float tubes, and for longer hikes I strap the tube on a backpack frame. With waders, boots, fins and tube the total weight is 17 pounds. One or two fly boxes with small dries, wets and nymphs and a couple of small wooly buggers. Other essentials include water, food, a hiking stick, first aid and emergency survival kits, AMC trail guide, flashlight and appropriate clothing.

By the end of September there’s about 12 hours of daylight. Getting an early start helps, it’s good to be fishing by mid-morning. Plan on being out an hour before dark; heading out by three for a two hour hike provides a little extra time. After a long day it’s good to stop and get a coffee for the ride home.

## Announcements, Dates to Remember and Thank Yous!



Jim Norton and Stan Jodziewicz will offer free Fly Tying Classes at the Manchester and Nashua Library this January. There will be a class at the Nashua Library on Saturday, Jan. 24 and at the Manchester Library on Saturday, Jan. 31. Registration for the classes will be done through the library Web sites.



A belated THANK YOU to Ed Murphy for his generous donation of more than \$500 worth of merchandise to the April banquet. Ed's donations helped make our banquet a huge success!

Extended Season on the Contoocook and Sugar Rivers has been accepted by NH Fish & Game and will be implemented in 2009. Thank you to everyone who wrote letters to Fish & Game to support the change.

MRVTU will start the first session of fly tying for Project Healing Waters at the Manchester VA Hospital on October 21. Bill Cabral is coordinating the effort and has seven volunteers lined up and ready to go. Bill will do a brief presentation to the chapter at our January 2009 meeting. Thanks, Bill, for all your hard work.



## **New Hampshire Trout Unlimited Council**

Dave Magnon, Chair  
218 Joliette Street  
Manchester, NH 03102  
603-661-9862

### **Summary: 2008 Annual Meeting**

The 2008 Trout Unlimited National Annual Meeting was held at Snowbird, Utah during the second week of September. Charles Gauvin, national President, reported on the fiscal “state of TU” and outlined a number of current initiatives, including activities tied to long-range conservation projects such as the Eastern Lands, Eastern Water and Public Lands that are defined by creating partnerships with other conservation organizations who have similar mission statements and goals. In addition, it was mentioned that TU national has signed onto the country wide “Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development” movement, and Mr. Gauvin urged all TU Chapters, Councils, and individual members to sign on as well.

The National Leadership Conference (NH’s representative is Adam Bronstein of the Basil Woods Chapter) announced that it is spearheading a renewed “youth membership” drive, complete with a youth-oriented website and newsletter. Additional emphasis will be placed on getting more teachers involved with Trout-in-the-Classroom activities. New Hampshire is fortunate to have national staffer Rochelle Gandour, who heads the TIC effort for national, residing in and working from the state as she completes her graduate studies at Antioch Graduate School in the Monadnock area.

Also of significant note is that a general framework for developing Council and Chapter long-range strategic plans, which outlines goals, strategies and tactics is now available. This document has been made flexible enough to be adaptable for specific and individualized approaches for writing CEI’s, Conservation Plans, and overall Strategic 5-Year Plans.

Paul Doscher (national grassroots Trustee), Adam Bronstein (NH’s NLC representative) and I traveled out a few days early to take advantage of the high desert/Great Basin fisheries. We drift-boat fished the Green River below the Flaming Gorge Reservoir and caught good-sized browns and cuttbow hybrids. We also wade-fished the Logan River for Bonneville Cutthroats, the Strawberry River in the remote Pinnacles Canyon, the meadow-winding Weber River that boasts very large brown trout, and the Provo River (largely re-worked by TU manpower) for rainbows and browns.

The scenery everywhere was spectacular, and so was the overall fishing experience. The New Hampshire delegation also lobbied the national decision makers to get the 2010 Annual Meeting scheduled for our state. We’re thinking of locating the venue in Waterville Valley, where easy access can be had for conservation projects on the Pemi, Nash Stream and the Upper Connecticut, all of which will be showing measurable results by that time. We’ll keep you posted as to our progress in that regard.



# Merrimack River Valley Chapter

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

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