




# Monadnock Chapter Trout Unlimited

Volume 5 Number 1

[www.MonadnockTU.org](http://www.MonadnockTU.org)

January 2008

## President's Message

Happy New Year! The annual Monadnock TU Holiday party was a success, leaving lots of people well fed and entertained. Some even left richer than when they arrived by a book or a box of flies. Now it is time to start thinking about upcoming events. Along with the banquet and our usual events we will have **Gabe Gries** from our local Fish and Game office at our February meeting speaking about smelt runs into Dublin Lake, among other topics. For January's meeting we hope to present a talk about the planning for the removal of the **Homestead Woolen Mill Dam** in Swanzey. Our January meeting will be on the 24th at the Dublin Library — fly tying at 5:30, coffee, cookies and meeting at 6:30. Hope to see you there 

## December Holiday Party Well Attended

### *Record-breaking snow fails to discourage revelers*

Well, it went down to the wire, but a record number of TU members braved the greasy snowstorm on December 27th to attend the 3rd Annual Holiday Party. Not unlike the New Hampshire Primary elections, the pundits had viewed the new location, the bad weather, the proximity to Christmas, and come up with a prediction of 3 attendees. The actual number was 20 which meant a much more festive time.

The meeting began with a talk by Arofan Gregory on the Sacramento River (see page 2). This was another of those "I'm going to rush home and book a triip" type talks. Very impressive.



Seth Farmer (the one on the right) displays a raffle prize at the Holiday Party.

This was followed by a modest buffet of appetizers, sandwich fixin's, cookies, and drinks. A great deal of discussion followed, mostly related to fishing areas, and projects for the spring. Finally, the much-awaited drawing was held. A variety of prizes were won, ranging from fly boxes to statues to zingers to books. The meeting was over at 9:00, and everyone made it safely home. 

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 8, 2008, Fly Tying Classes, Rec Center, Keene.** Beginner's Class Starts, 6:30

**January 10, 2008, BOD Meeting, Dublin Library.** Meeting starts at 6:30. Everyone's invited.

**January 18-20, The Fly Fishing Show, Marlborough, MA. \$15.** Demos, workshops, vendors.

**January 24, 2008, Monadnock TU Meeting, Dublin Library.** Meeting starts at 6:30, informal fly tying at 5:30. Homestead Woolen Mill dam possibilities.

**January 25-27, The Fly Fishing Show, Somerset, NJ. \$15.** Demos, workshops, vendors.

**February 19, 2008, Fly Tying Classes, Rec Center, Keene.** Intermediate Class Starts, 6:30 PM.

**February 28, 2008, Monadnock TU Meeting, Dublin Library.** Meeting starts at 6:30, informal fly tying at 5:30. John Magee and Gabe Gries will discuss Smelt Creek restoration at Dublin Lake.

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# Arofan Gregory Speaks About the Sacramento River

The December meeting featured a talk about fishing the Sacramento River by Arofan Gregory. Arofan grew up in Keene, and lived in the Bay Area during the formative years when he was becoming addicted to fly fishing. The Sacramento River runs from San Francisco up the Central Valley in California, and is divided by a dam into upper and lower sections at Redding. The Upper Sac is a freestone stream with lots of fast, dropping water interspersed with pools. The Lower Sac is a giant

river fed from above the dam by several excellent trout streams (Pitt, Upper Sac, ??). Both are rich with insect life and trout but require different approaches. The Upper Sac (1500 - 2500 trout per mile) is good dry fly water, and between hatches the fast water is perfect for high sticking with heavy nymph rigs.

The Lower Sac is fast and big, requiring that flies be fished deep, and because the trout are well fed, flies must be presented accurately at a dead drift. Arofan spoke passionately in defense of indicator nymphing, which is the best tactic to meet

these requirements. It may not be as delicate as some methods, but there is an art to it — mending heavy droppers into feeding lanes, long smooth dead drifts and very soft takes on long lines. But the average rainbow is 18", and they grow up to 30" and beyond, so what it lacks in style it makes up for in fight.

A good source of information is The Fly Shop in Redding. They have guide services for all the abundance of local streams as well as the Sac. Arofan also recommends the California version of the Fly Fishers Guide series. Also, look for a link to the presentation on our web site for more information.



*Tal Gregory, right, addresses the crowd as Arofan prepares for his presentation.*

The newsletter of Chapter 333 of Trout Unlimited is published monthly during the off-season, and more or less as needed during the summer. Submissions in any form are highly encouraged. Please send stories, photos, suggestions, or hot fishing tips to the Secretary.

The Monadnock Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at the Dublin Library. All facets of trout fishing and habitat preservation are discussed, and anyone with an interest in fish or fishing is welcome. Check the website for the latest calendar.

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## Fly Tying Classes Start in Keene

When you think of January 8, 2008, what comes to mind? Voting? Change? Upsets? Comebacks? Of course not! Anyone with half a clue knows that that's the date the Monadnock Trout Unlimited Fly Tying classes started in Keene!

While there was a bit of jockeying for position - at least in the parking lot - nine students were able to breach the long voting lines and make their way up to the second story of the Keene Rec Center. There, they were enlightened on the basics of fly tying while hundreds of citizens practiced their civic duties in the rooms just below.

The class this year is running on much the same pattern as years past. The \$75 fee includes all instruction, materials, and handouts. Students are required to provide their own basic fly tying tools, although temporary loaner kits are available. The Beginner's class runs from the 8th for six weeks on Tuesday nights, and the Intermediate class picks up on February 19th. Classes are taught by a variety of Monadnock Trout Unlimited members, who either present the fly pattern as instructor, or work as a helper to make sure all the students are progressing well.

Although in its second week, there are still a few seats available. Contact George Walthour, 352-7858 if you are interested. 

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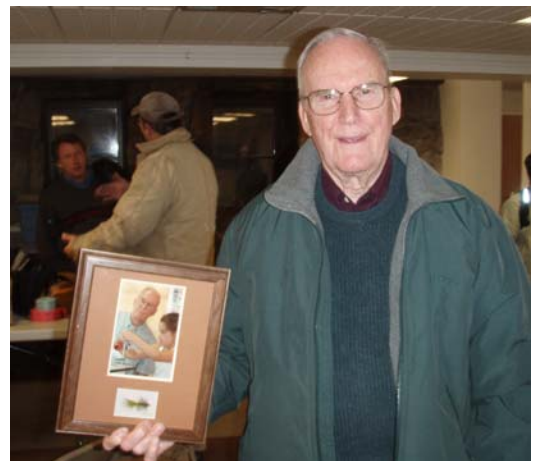
## Judy Tomosa and Karina Jolles from NH Fish & Game

Did you ever wonder who was behind the **Salmon in the Classroom** project? Of course there are volunteers, but the framework, training and salmon eggs come from NH Fish and Game, and it is an effort which **Judy Tomosa** oversees for the whole state. Judy is the Aquatics Resources Educator, and she came to speak to our chapter in November, along with **Karina Jolles**, the Aquatic Resources Education Coordinator.

Judy began the presentation by asking for everyone to mention the first concern that came into their head about water in the state. The answers were wide ranging (for a bunch of fishermen) - trout, to invasive species like didymo, to mercury and mill dams, with several people mentioning the loss of fish from local streams and lakes. There is certainly no shortage of concerns. But how do we address them? Judy's answer is to get into the classroom, and teach kids about our rivers and lakes, how they work, and what is in them. AKA the Aquatic Resources Education Program and Watershed Ecology Program.

The names of these programs may not make kids think **Fun!** when listed: water quality monitoring, macroinvertebrate identification, mapping/land use assessment. But when you take the kids out into the stream and ask them to turn over rocks and collect bugs, or when they see what floats to the surface when you shock a section of stream, it is a different story. CS Lewis used the example of a beam of sunlight falling in a barn. From the outside it is just a ray of light. But once

*Continued...see Tomosa, Page 4*



*At the December meeting, George Walthour was presented the First Annual OWBA (Olive Wooley Bugger Award) for services above and beyond in the field of youth fly tying education.*

## Fly of the Month



*Universal Nymph*

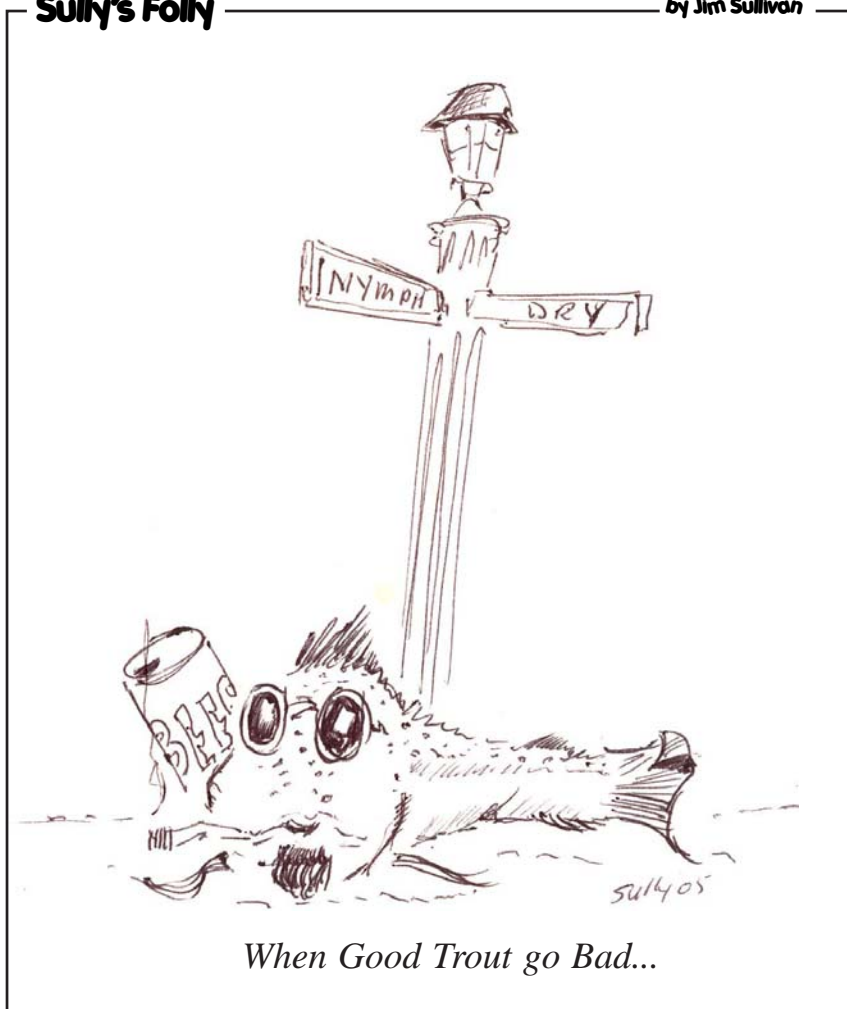
Nymph hook  
Brown 6/0 thread  
Bead for head (optional)  
Natural rabbit or squirrel dubbing  
Grouse, partridge or chinese hen feather  
Holographic or pearl mylar  
fine copper wire  
Gold goose biot

This month's fly ties in well with the January fly swap, which has "Bead Head Nymphs" as the category. Submitted by Ed Katuska, a member of last year's fly tying class at the Rec Center in Keene, this fly is apparently a cross between six of the most popular nymphs. Ed reports that it's been a real producer for him, and that it's fairly easy to tie. I think the biots strapped onto the side of the nymph are rather slick looking [editor].

The image and recipe above are borrowed from a Steve Sweitzer article on the Global Fly Fisher. You can find the full article and tying instructions here:

<http://globalflyfisher.com/patterns/universal/>

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*When Good Trout go Bad...*

*Tomasa...continued from Page 3*

you are standing in it, you can see a whole new world of blue sky and trees, and suddenly it takes on an unimagined new meaning. It is the difference between making lists on a blackboard, and finding life where you didn't think it existed.

Following up on this idea, Karina told us about the **Let's Go Fishing** program, which trains people to take kids fishing. They provide training and equipment, and off you go. It is a nice follow up to the education program, and includes elements about fish identification, proper handling and release or how to prepare fish for the table.

Monadnock TU is already sponsoring several local schools with equipment and volunteers to help the **Salmon in the Classroom** program. With the guidance of Judy and Karina we may soon get involved in getting kids out into the stream for exploration or a little fishing. And we were able to provide some information as well, giving our visitors help in how to think about a fly tying program. If you are interested in helping with any of these programs in local schools, please speak up - there are plenty of opportunities.