



# Monadnock Chapter Trout Unlimited

Volume 5 Number 2

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

February 2008

## President's Message

*Monadnock TU, an Overview Part I*

We began by resuscitating a lapsed chapter. Some veteran faces from earlier years and some new faces. We held meetings and had speakers, then a newsletter and some events to put in it: float stocking and fly tying classes, raising funds to sponsor a kid's derby and a brook trout study. We put up a table at the local expo and tied wooly buggers with all comers, had a few outings on local streams, got involved in volunteer projects and held a (successful!) banquet or two. We created a group and people got involved.

We reached our first goal – getting the chapter off the ground. Now we need to build on that foundation, to focus our efforts where they can make an impact. We need to connect our projects, so they work together not just for the group but also for the community. Like any undertaking this must be done in steps – you have to load the rod before you can cast the line. We have to start somewhere if we are going to build something out of our efforts and have a positive impact on the habitat we all care so much about.

We have been involved in the Salmon-in-the-classroom project in area schools, especially in Keene (we will be following those eggs in *continued...See President, page 3*)

## Bug Nights!

The eagerly-awaited AVEO **Bug Nights** are **HERE!** As many of you know, aquatic insects and other river-dwelling macroinvertebrates are important indicators of river health because some of these organisms are sensitive to deteriorating water quality. In the late summer and autumn of 2007, our volunteer river walkers sampled and preserved aquatic insects from thirteen sites in the Ashuelot River and its tributaries. Now it's time to sort and identify these exquisite creatures under microscopes in the lab!

**Bug Nights** will be held the following **Wednesdays** from **6 - 9 pm**:  
February 13, 20, 27, March 12 & 19

**Bug Afternoons** will be held the **Thursdays** from **2:30 - 5:30 pm**:  
February 14 (ID bugs with the one you love!), 21, 28, March 13 & 20  
All buggy events will take place in **Keene State Science Center Room 329**. Bug Nights and Afternoons are *free* - see [www.aveo.org](http://www.aveo.org)!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 13, 2008** Weekly *Bug Nights*, 6-9 PM, Keene State College Science Center. See [www.aveo.org](http://www.aveo.org). Free.

**February 14, 2008** Weekly *Bug Afternoons*, 2:30-5:30 PM, Keene State College Science Center. See [www.aveo.org](http://www.aveo.org). Free.

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

**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.

**March 1-2, 2008**, Sixth Annual *Fly Fish New Hampshire Show*, Pelham, NH. **Call Tal for a ride!**

**March 6, 2008** *Fishing the Gaspé Area* w/Bill Greiner, United Fly Tyers, Woburn, MA. 6:30 PM, Fee.

**March 14-15, 2008**, *LL Bean Fly Fishing Expo*, Freeport, Maine.

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# Notes from the 2008 Marlborough Fly Fishing Show ↘

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.

## 2007 - 2008 Chapter Board

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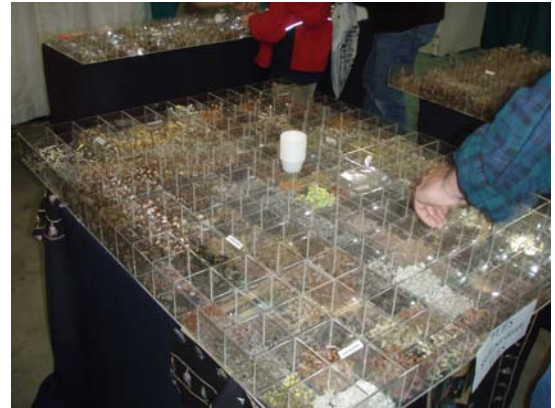
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*Peggy Brenner, ex-President of United Fly Tyers, demonstrates streamer fly tying on Fly Tyer's Row.*



*Why tie your own flies when you can buy them for nine bucks a dozen??*



*Classic Fly Fisherman had a nice display of antique angling and tying artifacts.*




*Eric Dodds showed off his new line of rods at the Wild Water Fly Fishing booth.*



## Fly Tying Class Update

The eleven members of the Monadnock Trout Unlimited fly tying class have been cranking out a variety of nymphs, streamers, and buggers during the first few weeks of class. Skills and techniques have been improving steadily, and the fly boxes have been slowly filling up. Current members of the Beginners class have a final class on the 12th, when they'll get into simple dry flies.

The Advanced class takes right off the next week, same place, same time, and rolls right into more topics of local interest. We have decided to lean heavily on Caddis patterns, and will also be introducing some specific flies discussed by Monadnock TU speakers over the previous few months (flies recommended by Jim Dowd, Arofan Gregory, and others). Once again, the class will cover basic skills but will focus on flies that work well in the Monadnock Region. To sign up for the Advanced class, contact George Walthour at 352-7858. 




*Brad Tetu (right) gives some advice to Steve Morris as Mike Miller (front) looks on.*

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*President...Continued from Page 1*

articles in the newsletter). Those Keene salmon fry are released into the Beaver Brook, which empties into the Ashuelot. We have also been working on the project headed by Eric Swope to monitor water quality in Beaver Brook, hoping to find and eliminate sources of toxins found in that stream. Put those efforts together with a chance to work on the removal of the Homestead Woolen Mill Dam on the Ashuelot in Swanzey, and our involvement with the Source to Sea clean up, and we have begun to take those first few steps.


Hopefully, this will lead to expanded efforts in area schools to include macroinvertebrate education or fishing classes – and maybe some of those students will eventually be interested in taking fly tying classes or being sponsored for fly fishing camp. There is an opportunity to help in a statewide genetic study of native brook trout, which could tie in with our work on Beaver Brook and throughout the watershed.

Every time I drive by a strip mall, I wince a little – yes, saving a little money on my tee-shirts is nice, but I remember places that used to be fields or woods, and now they are parking lot and cinder block. I have spent a long time shaking my head, thinking what a shame it is. Global warming, kids in front of video games instead of out digging worms, shopping carts in places that should be fishing holes. I have not done much to change that except by sending money to this organization or that one, organizations that in turn depend on local people to raise awareness and bring about change. It has taken a while, but the lesson has sunk in at last – if I want it to be different, or to get better, I've got to climb out of my car and do what I can. I hope you will join us in trying to do something — for a change for the better 

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## Sixth Annual Fly Fish New Hampshire Show

Merrimack River Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited and Pelham Fish and Game Club are co-sponsoring the Fly Fish New Hampshire Show – the ONLY Fly Fishing Show in New Hampshire. The show will be held March 1 and 2 at Pelham Fish and Game Club, 300 Simpson Road, Pelham, NH. Vendors signed up to exhibit at the show include fly shops, guides, outfitters, and sporting and conservation organizations throughout New Hampshire. Doors open at 9:00 AM on Saturday and Sunday and are open until 4:00PM each day. In addition to exhibits, there will be continuous seminars and demonstrations presented by local and regional experts. **Tal Gregory is looking into a group bus! Call him at 352-8673!**

“This is an opportunity for local anglers to learn about new tackle, techniques and locations to enjoy fly fishing,” said Jim Norton, show chairman and member of both Merrimack River Valley Trout Unlimited and Pelham Fish and Game Club. See [merrimacktu.org](http://merrimacktu.org) for info and directions. 

## Fly of the Month




*Dord's Dorothea Emerger*

Dry hook, 14 - 18  
Yellow 8/0 thread  
Tail: Ginger hackle fibers  
Body: Yellow dubbing  
Thorax: Orange Dubbing  
Hackle: 2 wraps Gray hackle, followed by 4 wraps brown or ginger hackle. (wet or dry hackle as desired)

This month's fly was suggested by Jim Dowd, last month's speaker. He uses the pattern heavily on the Deerfield river during early season sulphur hatches. Originally from *Mayflies, the Angler, and the Trout*, Jim has simplified the pattern a bit more by leaving the gray hackle (wings) off the fly. He is firm on the thorax color, however - orange is a necessity as a strike inducer. (I made the orange using the standard yellow rabbit along with a bit of reddish synthetic dubbing in the coffee grinder.)

Fished in the surface film, of course, but can be made to sink more or less by the use of wet or dry hooks, and hen or cock hackle.

It should be a real producer on the Deerfield 

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Fly Fish New Hampshire Show  
~ Sixth Annual ~  
New Hampshire's ONLY Fly Fishing Show  
March 1 and 2, 2008  
at Pelham Fish and Game Club  
March 1 9am-4pm Admission \$7.00  
March 2 9am-3pm 12 and under Free  
[www.merrimacktu.org](http://www.merrimacktu.org)

## Salmon in the Classroom



The Salmon in the Classroom program has kicked off for the 2008 year! Salmon eggs were delivered to four area schools on February 8. They have been at the hatchery since October, and once in the tank they will develop into Alevin (fishlike shape with attached egg sack)

within two to three weeks. The Fry will be ready to be released in three months or so. They begin the development cycle at 36 degrees, and as they mature the temperature rises. Supplying the tanks and chillers is a major fundraising effort of the Monadnock Chapter. There are currently tanks at Franklin School, Symonds School and Jonathan Daniels School in Keene, and one in Harrisville run by the Marl/Harris before and after school program. Students not only take care of the fish, they study their life cycles, learn about biology and reproduction, understand the environment, and even sketch the release sites of the fish for art class. The salmon are involved in all areas of study. Keep an eye on the MTU Newsletter for status reports as these fish continue on their path to the ocean! 