

Tight Lines

Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited Newsletter

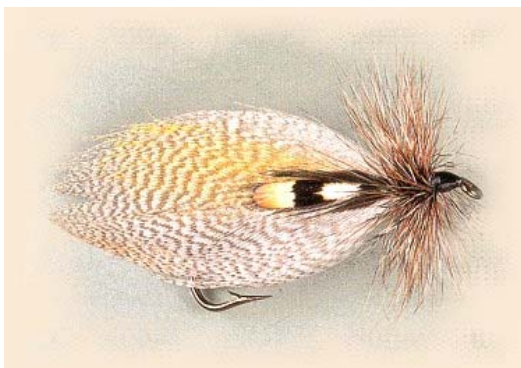
Volume 22 Issue 7- March 2006

Banquet Excitement Builds at Annual Tie-A-Thon

Submitted by Dave Martel

Nine of MMB-TU's finest tiers got together at Ben & Nancy Hunsbergers house along side Merrymeeting Bay on a cold, windy Sunday in February for this year's Banquet Tie-A-Thon.

We had several fine boxes donated by Loon Outdoors to fill. As Tie Master I thought that it would be good if we designated a box for Mayflies; one for Caddis; one Nymph box; and, this being Maine after all.....a Streamer box. You will see the results of our efforts at this year's Banquet.



One table consisted of Steve Heinz, Dale Buxton; Tom Jewett; with Ben Hunsberger and Orman Hines opposite them at the counter. Another table consisted of Nancy

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MMBTU Gears Up For Spring With Youth Events

The L.L. Bean Fly Fishing Expo kicks off the new fishing season March 18 and March 19. Each year MMBTU volunteers set up a booth in the lobby of Bean's retail store and provide information about the Chapter. New this year volunteers will be demonstrating and instructing youth in fly tying. All materials and equipment are supplied by Bean's. This is a great opportunity to

meet new people, and extra volunteers are needed. Contact Dick Soucy at 627-7399.

The 2006-07 CTF dates are set. There are two days of instruction at the Bath YMCA: May 6, Saturday afternoon, 12:30-3:30 & May 7, Sunday afternoon, 12:30-3:30. A day of fishing follows May 13, Saturday Morning, 9-12 at the Durham Rod & Gun Club. The program culminates with a Columbus Day weekend trip to Grand Lake Stream. CTF is open to boys and girls ages 12-17. No experience is necessary. Everybody learns to catch and release trout safely. Gear, lodging, food, transportation included.

For more information, contact Peter Smith: 452-2884. To register, contact Kevin at the Bath YMCA: 443-4112.

Conservation Awareness Night Highlights Volunteer Opportunities

Submitted by Steve Heinz

Our February meeting presented MMBTU members with opportunities for hands-on work to improve Maine's fishing habitat. The turnout was good - twenty-six people attended, including some new faces.

MMBTU member Larry Fiori, Executive Director of the Maine Classic Land-locked Salmon Program, spoke first explaining that the program is designed to allow land-locked salmon to grow to their water specific maximum size in designated waters. The huge salmon his presentation showed awed the attendees. It was impressive that that this could be achieved by a measured, eclectic approach that includes working with IF&W and concerned sportsmen. To sign up to help, see <http://www.classicsalmon.org>. Larry also introduced Jeremy Trainor, the program's Public Advocate for the midcoast region.



**Welcome New Member
to Merrymeeting Bay TU**

Paul Tabor, Bowdoinham

Paul M. Christman, Fisheries Biologist for the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission spoke next on the streamside and in-stream incubation of Atlantic Salmon in the Kennebec and Sandy Rivers. Paul emphasized the sheer size of available salmon habitat in the Sandy River. He described successful efforts to grow young Atlantic salmon using streamside incubation with minimal hatchery support using converted refrigerators, and in stream using buried boxes. Fish started in 2002/3 already have gone to sea - the first from that stream in over 150 years. The program is going on using a combination of volunteer -largely KVTU- and Atlantic Salmon Commission effort. FMI, see <http://www.maine.gov/asc/research/index.html>.

Sean McCormick, Maine State TU Council spoke last on the Embrace-A-Stream Initiative in Southern Maine. Although Maine contains 80% of the historic brook trout range, good data does not exist to define their current range in flowing waters, especially in Southern Maine. Maine TU has just been approved for an Embrace-A-Stream grant to study this by doing a level 1 (road crossings) survey. MMBTU has volunteered to help with the project when approved. Nearly all MMBTU attendees signed the volunteer sign-up sheet passed during the meeting. To add yours, e-mail seanmc@zwi.net.

With the growing threats to Maine's salmonid habitat, it was refreshing to see the difference people working toward achievable goals can make. Your choice: just fish this summer, or work with them to give something back to the environment.

March Fly of the Month: Blados Crease Fly

Submitted by Dave Martel

Hook: Tiemco 911S; Mustad 34007 Size 2/0

Thread: White Uni-Big Fly

Tail: White Bucktail; Pearl Krystal Flash; Chartreuse Bucktail

Body: Pearl (or color to suit) Loco Foam

Eyes: Plastic Stick on

Gills: Red Marker (water-proof.....obviously)

Back: Black (waterproof) marker

Superglue: Green label Zap-A-Gap



This is a Slider (floater) that throws off a trail of bubbles so the Stripers can "home in" on the fly. This fly is so ridiculously easy to "tie" (superglue, actually) that I'm almost embarrassed to give it to you. It's actually constructed (rather than tied) after you get the tail tied in. I should have stock in the Zap-A-Gap company I use so much of the stuff. Tie up a couple dozen of these for when the Schoolies start running in a couple of months. Also.....use them on Pike. Sure...a Pike's teeth will chop these foam flies up pretty good.....but I figure at about 19 cents per fly I can afford to lose a few to the teeth of a few Pike. Enjoy.

About Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited

Merrymeeting Bay TU Chapter 329 serves a membership of 200+ in the mid-coast area of Maine. For more information e-mail: info@mmbtu.org, visit the web site, <http://www.mmbtu.org>, or mail PO Box 191, Richmond, ME 04357.

Tight Lines is published monthly September through May. Please direct comments and suggestions to Newsletter Editor Lois Cunningham at 737-4447 E-Mail: info@mmbtu.org. *Tight Lines* is printed on recycled paper, and is available by postal mail, e-mail and at the Merrymeeting Bay web site, <http://www.mmbtu.org>

Board of Directors

Officers

Gordon "Smitty" Smith,
President

PH: 737-4447; E-Mail: hrnrg@verizon.net

Orman Hines, Vice President

PH: 389-2419

E-Mail: hineso@suscom-maine.net

Dick Soucy, Secretary

PH: 627-7399; E-Mail: rsoucy@maine.rr.com

Brian Cody, Treasurer

PH: 721-0881; E-Mail: bcody@zwi.net

Nancy Conary, Past President

PH: 563-1479;

E-Mail: ncphoto@midcoast.com

At-Large Members

Kelley Baker

PH: 442-9752; E-Mail: pkb530@zwi.net

Sean Baker

PH: 442-9752;

E-Mail: troutfisha@hotmail.com

Lois Cunningham

PH: 737-4447;

E-Mail: loisc@upcountrymaine.com

Steve Heinz

PH: 833-6902; E-Mail: heinz@zwi.net

Peter Smith

PH: 452-2884; E-Mail: ssflies@hotmail.com

Message from the Chapter President

April 29 Banquet & Auction Tickets Available

Submitted by Gordon "Smitty" Smith

Each year I am amazed at the combined energy and skill of MMBTU volunteers who organize our annual fundraising banquet and auction. I don't think I've ever seen a more dedicated group of people.

The banquet is being held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Brunswick this year. The facility is large enough to serve our needs as our event grows, and the staff is very helpful. Also

new this year is our long-time friend and supporter, Graziano's in Lisbon, is catering the event. The buffet menu goes way beyond pasta to deliver something for everyone.

Dick Soucy, Banquet Chair, reports that the donations are coming in, some from companies that are new to us, promising fresh items to entice bidders. All that is left is finishing touches on the entertainment and invitations.

**Reserve your seats
now for another
great Banquet &
Fundraising Auction—
April 29, Knights of
Columbus Hall in
Brunswick. Contact
Dick at 627-7399 or
rsoucy@maine.rr.com**

Tie-A-Thon

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Conary, Dick Soucy, Peter Smith, and Dave Martel.

Smitty Smith came over with a pot of his delicious Moose Meat Chili to ward off the chill, and the afternoon went quickly. I'd say we came up with 10 to 12 dozen great flies. Peter demonstrated his techniques for dynamite Hornbergs; (perhaps THE quintessential Maine pattern); Steve and Tom cranked out the GRHE's and PT's; Orman went after Stimulators with a vengeance; Dave was using CDC like it was going out of style with Rene Harrop inspired CDC Mayfly Duns and Hans Weillenman's CDC & Elk Caddis'; etc and etc. I believe Dick was going with EHC's and Nancy with other Caddis'.

If you don't tie all your own flies you do NOT want to miss getting in on chances to either win, or purchase via Silent Auction one or more of these magnificent fly-boxes.

Thanks to everyone involved. By the way if you didn't specifically receive an invitation and would ever like to attend for Pete's sake don't be shy...tell us. We'd love to have more tiers and WILL put you to work. We have a blast doing this....and, no matter how experienced a tier you may be.....we always learn something in the process.



Casting Clinic I

For beginning and intermediate casters

Wednesday, March 8 6-9 PM
BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL GYM

Come one come all! Bring your rod or use one of ours if you don't have one yet. We will get you started in the right direction or improve your cast.



We have a group of people that are very good to excellent casters, including Steve Heinz, Ben Hunsberger, Tom Jewett, Dave Martel, FFF Certified Instructor Dick Soucy, and Sue Townsend. They've been teaching kids to fly cast and fly fish in the CTF program and now they're offering their experience to the general membership. If you are a beginner or intermediate caster and want to learn, come. If you're an expert caster with years of experience come and share and we'll all learn.



Tight Lines

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MMBTU
PO Box 11
Lisbon, ME 04250

Events: 2005-2006 MMBTU Year

The general membership and the general public are welcome at all meetings including Directors' Meetings. Meetings are held at Graziano's Restaurant, Lisbon, Maine unless otherwise noted. Phone: 353-4335, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

March 8: Casting Clinic I

Brunswick High School

April 29: Annual Banquet & Fundraising

Auction Knights of Columbus Hall; Brunswick

Election of Officers & Board of Directors for 2006-07 Year. Nominations Taken from the Floor:

President: Gordon "Smitty" Smith; Vice President: Orman Hines; Secretary: Dick Soucy; Treasurer: Brian Cody; At-Large Members: Sean Baker, Nancy Conary, Lois Cunningham, Terry Estey, Steve Heinz, Ron Jack, Jim Smith, Peter Smith

May 13: CTF Field Day Durham Rod and Gun Club, Durham

May 13: Casting Clinic II Durham Rod and Gun Club, Durham

June 21-23: Chapter Trip Grand Lake Stream

March General Meeting
Casting Clinic I
Brunswick High School
Details Inside

Wednesday, March 8, 2006
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Directors' Meetings

March 22

May 13

April 12

Come, get involved, help out, support the cause, have fun!