

Tight Lines

Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited Newsletter

Volume 22 Issue 6- March 2007

Message from the Chapter President

April 29 Banquet & Auction Tickets Available Through Newsletter



MMBTU programs like Casting to the Future are supported almost exclusively by funds generated at the Annual Banquet & Auction.

The Merrymeeting Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be busy in 2007. I've listed the major projects that we plan to support below. We devote most of our time and energy to our flagship Casting to the Future youth education program. At the same time we recognize that our public and our volunteers are a diverse group. To that end, we participate in a variety of other projects. The common thread is public education of the priceless value of Maine's cold water fisheries.

The **Casting to the Future (CTTF)** youth education program, now entering its 8th season, is changing and growing. While the content of the time-proven curriculum remains the same, the schedule will compress to accommodate today's busy youth.

Montana Fishing Trip 2006

By Orman E Hines

On my first fishing trip out west I was accompanied by Stephen Martin, from the county, Dave Martel of Lewiston, Dick Soucy and Colleen of Casco. Thanks to Tom Jewett, who was unable to accompany us, our trip was planned out perfectly.

Our first stop was DePuys Spring Creek of Paradise Valley. The spring creeks are fed from underground aquifers which have formed in limestone (CaCO₃) Calcium Car-

bonate, in this case a precipitate of limestone called travertine that forms around algae. It is the calcium carbonates which encourages growth of aquatic plant life, diverse stream invertebrates, and most importantly large and plentiful fish. The water temperature also encourages faster growth, being between 50 and 60 degrees normally all year.

While Colleen spent her time in Yellowstone with camera and tripod. Four of us left Livingstone early on the morning of July ninth to fish Depuys Spring Creek.. We followed the West side of the Yellowstone River out of town to the south for about 10 miles turning off under the two pillared entrance to the main ranch house. As we meandered

The **Embrace-A-Stream** effort that MMBTU helped fund in 2006 was an overwhelming success. Plans are in the works to continue to volunteer our time to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to survey more streams in our area.

MMBTU supports the **Penobscot River Restoration Project**, one of the largest, most creative river restoration projects in our nation's history. Successful implementation of the project will revive not only native fisheries but social, cultural and economic traditions of New England's second largest river.

Project Healing Waters is a joint activity initiated by Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Fly Fishers. The project offers wounded military personnel opportunities to learn, or enhance, fly fishing and fly tying skills, and to use and enjoy those skills on fishing outings.

We ask for your support. By attending the Banquet and bidding on one or more of the donated items, you ensure that MMBTU continues this important work.

In an effort to cut costs, MMBTU members who are receiving a newsletter won't be receiving a separate ticket order form in the mail. Members should order tickets using the order form in the March and April issues of the MMBTU Newsletter, or contact Tom Jewett at 293-4721 or tomj@mainetalk.com.

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through the cattle fields with their huge lineal sprinklers we passed deer feeding along with the cattle. Before we reached the Old Mansion there is a small pond which makes up in the creek, everyone was pretty excited to see if there was a lot fish rising as a good indicator of the days fishing.

Depuy's Mansion, where we signed in, is quite time worn on the out side with Gothic Pillars measuring more than six feet in diameter. It is something from a bygone era, but beautiful on the inside. The entrance foyer walls are made of lacy travertine, the large living room with its stone fireplace

Continued on Page 2

Montana Fishing

Continued from Page One

capped with a painting of a former Miss Montana catching a fish from the creek is spectacular. The fee is 100 dollars per day with a set limit to the number of fishermen per day. The creeks of this area have had a colorful history of water rights fights, and the deluges from 200 year floods in 1996 and 98 which washed them out.

Fishing a spring creeks is a challenge to most of us New Englanders with its crystal clear water and vast expanse of aquatic plants, one has to sight fish to rising fish. Usually there is a hatch in the mid morning and if the wind doesn't blow them to far from the creek there is a fall in the evening. We all had some success with the pros showing us neophytes the correct methods. The fish were not cooperating as well as expected with very few risers. You could see them sulking on the bottom; but we caught a few nice fish mostly on _____. One evening Dave was tempted to try the PHD pool which has several difficult eddies then runs directly into a culvert. With Dave's noted concentration the fish in the pool didn't have a chance. He pulled several nice fish out using a _____. That evening we needed no light to see our way to the car with Dave's SEG leading the way.

After fishing the spring creeks for two days we drove northwest through Billings, Helena and then to Craig Montana where the Missouri river flows out of the Holter Dam. We stayed at Sentinel Rock Ranch only a couple miles from the access road to the dam and the town of Craig which is only a bridge with Fly Shop and a few other buildings, accommodations are limited.

We took turns nymph fishing below Holter Dam and drift float trips on the Missouri with Tracy Allen of Adventure Anglers. The Missouri below Holter Dam is really a big spring creek having as many fish per mile as any Spring Creek. Most of the fish are 20 inches plus.

Nymph fishing about a mile below the Holter Dam, with a dropper was a humiliating lesson in unraveling knots for me, as many of my cast went awry. I watched Dick, Dave & Steve land fish and Break off fish that ran almost to the end of their backing. I came away skunked; but more determined to learn how to fish with a dropper nymph than ever. Thanks to the pros I got rid of the knotted leader and caught a couple fish.

Stephen Martin and I spent the first day fishing on the Missouri with Tracy Allen a transplanted North Carolinian guide. We soon got a lesson in ducking swallow guano under the Craig Bridge while casting to several risers,

without to much luck. As we progressed down the river we became a little more proficient at casting to the spots that Tracy pointed out, especially near the banks.

My first experience with a Missouri rainbow proved to be quite short, when he took off like a Grand Prix racer, my Hardy reel screaming and my five weight rod bent almost straight to the gunnels, the minute I put a little pressure on the reel he broke off. A short while latter I was able to control my temptation to slow the next one down, keep the rod tip up, and had a nice fish in the net.

After fishing the Missouri we spent a day fishing the spring creeks again dividing up our crew between DePuys and Nelsons Spring Creek which is just across the Yellowstone River from Depuys.

The next day we were off to Wyoming and six days in Yellowstone National Park. Dave and I stayed at Roosevelt Cabins while Dick drove up to Canyon to stay with Colleen; and Stephen caught a plane home to Aroostook. While in the park we fished Soda Butte Creek, the Lamar River, and Trout Lake. One day I took a break from fishing and drove through the northern part of the park stopping at Tower Falls, Fishing Bridge, Obsidian Cliffs and every-where the Buffalo blocked traffic. Meals at Roosevelt Lodge are excellent, Dave's favorite the huckle berry ice-cream was a great meal ender, but watch out for the spicy chicken dish they serve.

Most of our fishing in the park was done on the Soda Butte Creek just a few miles east of Roosevelt. The Soda Butte flows through a valley surrounded with worn down volcanic peaks with lava columns showing on their flanks. There is a large herd of buffalo which you need to give the right of way to. We saw Pronghorn Antelope jumping through the high grass looking more like a good size dog or wolf which are supposedly seen quite often in the valley. Soda Butte Creek is

not much more than 30 feet wide but having a little gradient and being shallow has a good strong flow that under cuts the banks and forms deeper eddies on corners. These are the places the Yellowstone Cutthroats like to hold in. Dick and Dave had great success with what else a wooly bugger pattern, while I stuck with a PMD and had some success.

On our way back to Bozeman and our flights home we stopped for a couple hours at the Museum of the Rockies which has some wonderful displays especially of dinosaurs.

Montana is another beautiful part of the US that I would highly recommend to all fishermen and outdoor enthusiast alike. Having good friends to share a trip with, that enjoy fishing made Montana and Yellowstone a spectacular experience for a first timer.

Notes:

Fly Fishing Shops: Dan Baileys, Yellowstone Angler, Livingston, Montana,

Shipped items size 15 waders' backup reels cost \$8.50

Fish caught Browns Missouri & Spring Creeks, Cutthroat, Rainbow Trout, and White Fish. looks more like our chub.

Itinerary Portland to Cincinnati, Salt Lake City to Bozeman

Pronghorn Antelope, Black Bear, Elk, Pelicans & whirling disease

Fishing License cost days internet \$65 Montana per year or

Yellowstone 7 day permits \$20 dollars

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.

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Auction Donations of Goods and Services As Of March 4, 2007

Please support the merchants that support MMBTU's programming.

Coastal Fly-Fishing Video (10 copies)
[Angler's Book Supply](#)

One Full Day Guided Fishing for Two
[Canalside Cabins](#), Grand Lake Stream, ME

Two Nights Stay
[Canalside Cabins](#), Grand Lake Stream, ME

Two Logo Hats and Discount Pricing
[Chota Outdoor Gear](#)

One Year Subscription
[Fly Rod & Reel Magazine](#)

Framed Prints - Assorted
[Dave Footer](#), Wilderness & Wildlife Artist

\$10. Gift Certificate
[Game Box Video Games](#), Brunswick, ME

\$15. Gift Certificate
[Gulf of Maine Books](#), Brunswick, ME

One Full Day Float Trip at Shawmut
Four Hours of Casting Lessons for One
[Highlands Guide Service](#) - Dick Soucy

\$25. Gift Certificate
[Jim Teeny](#)

"Cover Girl and other Fly-Fishing Stories" and "Selling fish Stories From a Fishing Live" Books
[Jim Hall](#)

"Moose in the Water Bamboo on the Bench" "Headwaters Fall as Snow" Books
Two Handmade Furred Leaders
[Kathy Scott](#)

One Year Subscription to Gray's Sporting Journal
[Morris Communications](#)

One Day Rafting Trip for One Person
[North Country Rivers](#)
Battenkill 3 Reel (2)
[Orvis](#)

\$25. Gift Certificate
[Pennell's Clothing](#), Brunswick, ME

\$20. Gift Certificate
[Red Dragon Toys](#), Brunswick, ME



Canalside Cabins in Grand Lake Stream, ME, provides lodging for the Columbus Day Weekend trip for Casting to the Future students.

40% Discount Certificate
[Thomas & Thomas](#)

Assorted Framed Prints
[Tom Lowell Jr.](#)

One Year Subscriptions
[Uncle Henry's](#)

Cash Donations:
[Songbird Enterprises](#), Falmouth, ME

[Verity Software House](#), Topsham, ME

2007 Banquet Ticket Order Form

Your Name (s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Street : _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: _____ - _____ - _____ *PLEASE! Enter your phone #*

Please reserve tickets for:

Quantity Name _____

() _____

() _____

() _____

Total () @ \$25. each = \$ _____

Mail to:

Tom Jewett
PO Box 130
Vienna, ME 04360

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make payment by check, money order or credit card. Make Checks & Money Orders payable to: MMBTU

Orders must be postmarked & prepaid by April 25, 2007 to get the \$25 advance sale price. Ticket price at the door is: \$30.

Payment Method:

() Check Number _____

() Money Order

() Credit Card

Type: (VISA) (MasterCard) Expires on: ___/___

Number _____

Name on Card: _____

Billing Address (if different from mailing address)

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature: _____

Tight Lines

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About Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited

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,

Directors' Meetings: March 27, April 10, May 22.
Come, get involved, help out, support the cause, have fun!

March General Meeting **BUG NIGHT**

& CTF Presentation & Sign Up

March 13, 6-9 PM
Graziano's Restaurant, Lisbon, ME

April 28: Annual Banquet & Fundraising Auction
Knights of Columbus Hall; Brunswick

May 5, 12, 19: Casting to the Future
Youth Education Program

May 8: Casting Clinic

June 20-22: Chapter Trip Grand Lake Stream
Make reservations now!

October 5-8: Casting to the Future at Grand Lake Stream



MMBTU Membership Update

Welcome New Members

Sean Baker, Woolwich
Jason Castonia, Edgecomb
Doug Covell, Brunswick

Norm LaPointe, Lewiston
David Storkson, Sr, Dresden

Thank you Renewing Members

John Daly, Auburn
Thomas Nadeau, Brunswick
Jeff Bryant, Cumberland
Paul Gillis, Portland
George Viscarelli, Lewiston

Stephen Goodwin, Freeport
Allan Frasier, Woolwich
Roger Fortier, Sabattus
Marcel Allard, Lewiston
Howard Allyn, Bowdoin