

# Tight Lines

Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited Newsletter

Volume 22 Issue 8- May 2007

## *Casting to the Future 2007 Session Begins*

Submitted by Ben Hunsberger

We had a great first session of Casting to the Future on Saturday, May 5, thanks to our wonderful team of instructors: Dave Martel, Dick Soucy, Kate Farnham, Smitty Smith, Terry Estey, Dale Buxton, and Brian Cody. There are 13 kids signed up this year, 8 were there on Saturday; others had SATs to deal with. It's a nice group of kids, all polite and eager to learn.

Terry, Smitty, Dale, and Brian handled the Knots and Tying section. After an initial obstacle (our vises didn't fit the tables), the team worked around the problems and the kids successfully tied wooly buggers and Duncan loops. Smitty provided a knot tying hand-out for the kids, and they took their flies home with them.

Dick, Dave, Kate, and I were in the gym introducing casting. We started with rigging the up rods and safety with Dave, who enthralled the kids with his stories of fly fisher-



man getting stuck by their own hooks and the absolute necessity for eye protection. Next, we moved on to basic casting with Dick (and yes, we all wore eye protection while we watched). Dick is a certified casting instructor, so even the teachers pay close attention when he's describing how to cast. Each section started with a short demo of the skill, followed by 10-15 minutes of practice with kids spread out across the gym. I think this worked well to break the time into reasonable increments for our teenage crew. The kids were very focused.

Next week, we dig into more casting skills. The kids will revisit the basic cast and false casting, then move on to challenges like casting with wind and casting with weight on the line. But the best part next week will be learning how to play a fish - with our instructors acting the part of the fish, and they fight like tarpon!

In two weeks, on May 19, we finish up the spring portion of the program at the Durham Rod and Gun Club. The kids will be in for a real treat as they hook up with freshly-stocked, energetic rainbows. It's a great program to be involved with. Drop me a note if you'd like to help out! [huns@gwi.net](mailto:huns@gwi.net).

## Thank You Supporters of MMBTU for making the 2007 Banquet & Fundraising Auction a Success

MMBTU relies exclusively on the generosity and commitment of the businesses and individuals who donate cash, in-kind merchandise and time each year. Below is a partial list of supporters of the 2007 Banquet & Fundraising Auction. Let them know you appreciate their support when you patronize their businesses.

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- ♦ SS Flies, Denmark, ME
- ♦ [Temple Fork Outfitters](#), Dallas, TX
- ♦ [The Mooring Bed & Breakfast](#) - Georgetown, ME
- ♦ [The Orvis Company Inc.](#)
- ♦ [Thomas & Thomas Rod Company](#) - Greenfield, MA
- ♦ Tom Jewett
- ♦ Tom Lowell
- ♦ [Uncle Henry's](#)-Augusta, ME
- ♦ [Verity Software House](#).-Topsham, ME

### 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](mailto:info@mmbtu.org), visit the web site, <http://www.mmbtu.org>, or mail PO Box 191, Richmond, ME 04357.

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*Long-Overdue Recognition of Chapter Volunteer Dick Soucy Finally Came at the 2007 Banquet with the Presentation of the Bob Powers Award by outgoing Chapter President Smitty Smith*

## Time to Sign-Up for the MMBTU June Club Trip to GLS is NOW

*Submitted by Dave Martel*

From Wednesday June 20th through Saturday morning June 23rd a bunch of intrepid fly fishers are going to descend on Grand Lake



Stream in far Downeast Maine for 4 days and three nights of Landlocked Salmon fishing. You're invited! We stay with John and Mary Arcaro at Canal Side Cabins, just steps from the famous Dam Pool of GLS.

Cost is \$35/per person per night....or \$105 total per person. We cook our own meals; usually breakfast/lunch on your own; and a big meal before the evening fishing taken together.

Never been on the "Club Trip"? No time like the present. Get a check in the mail to Brian Cody (Club Treasurer) made out in care of MMB-TU for \$105/person. That's all

there is to it. All bedding is provided...so no damp sleeping bags tenting out.

How's the fishing you might very well ask? How about nothing less than superb. Landlocks in the stream....or if lake fishing is more your

style world-class Smallmouth action on either Big Lake (3 miles downstream) or West Grand Lake (about 150'...yes FEET) from your cabin.

Not a world-class (Dave Whitlock or Lefty Kreh) fly fisherman? Don't sweat it....neither are any of the rest of us. We do know the stream though.....and can probably get even outright novice fly fishers into action.

Come one... come all. It's a blast. There are 8 beds still available as this is written; but they will almost certainly fill up fast. Don't delay...and don't get left out.

Need driving directions? NO sweat. We usually car-pool up. If you can get to Bangor (I-95) and find Route 9 (aka The Airline) you can't get lost.

My largest landlock measured (key word there) a solid 25" (Yup!!) on a Cecil Pierce cane rod,

no less.....but I'd say the average would be closer to 16"....but hey....nothing to sneeze at; and I usually take a +/- 20" every trip...sometimes several. What in the world are you waiting for?? We usually even take an hour or so out of our fishing/rigging time to show new folks how to nymph.....and that, my friends; is definitely worth the price of admission. :>)

Don't delay. Get out your checkbook and do it NOW...before you get sidetracked and possibly forget.

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## *Tight Lines*

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### About Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited

# may meeting Casting Clinic and Election of Officers for 2007-08 Year

May 19, 12 noon - 2 pm Durham Rod & Gun Club  
59 Pound Road, Durham, ME

#### **May 19: Casting to the Future**

Youth Education Program—Durham Rod & Gun Club  
59 Pound Rd., Durham, ME

#### **May 19: Casting Clinic for Instructors** at LL Bean

Contact Greg Ponte [GPonte@tds.net](mailto:GPonte@tds.net)

#### **May 22: Board Meeting**

Graziano's, Lisbon, ME 6 PM

#### **June 20-22: Chapter Trip Grand Lake Stream**

There is still time to make reservations. See Story Page 3. Contact  
Dave Martel at [dnsmartel@adelphia.net](mailto:dnsmartel@adelphia.net)

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



## MMBTU Membership Update

### *Welcome New Members*

Joseph McLean, Auburn

Dana Debraaf, Topsham

### *Thank you Renewing Members*

Harry Heap, Brunswick

John Engelbert, Lisbon Falls

Dick Dunphy, Nobleboro

Ronald Giles, Southport