

# The Hatch

**Tues. January 10th Meeting –  
7:00 PM at the American  
Museum of Fly Fishing**  
(Route 7A in Manchester,  
immediately south of the Orvis  
Flagship Store)

Refreshments will be served.

Steve Roy, the Fisheries Program Manager for the Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forest will present details of the planned project on the Batten Kill slated to start in 2006. Steve will discuss what will be done on the river and explain the value of the various methods.

Steve is nationally recognized for his trout habitat studies and projects. The Batten Kill is very fortunate to have his skills and experience available.

This promises to be an informative and interesting meeting, not to be missed. The meeting will take place at the American Museum of Fly Fishing. The opportunity to check out the Museum itself is reason enough to spend an evening out.

## December 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes

The Chapter meeting on 12/13 was productive. A new slate of officers was elected to serve your chapter:

President  
Eric Rickstad  
Vice President  
Doug Lyons  
Treasurer  
Frank Nelson  
Secretary (and webmaster)  
Peter Bellamy

In addition, the following were elected Directors of the chapter:

Directors  
Bill Bullock  
David Carmona  
Steve Hemkins  
Scott McEnaney

The chapter is developing a website and we plan to use the following online address:

<http://www.tuswvt.org>

Efforts are being made to secure this domain for our exclusive use and we will report back to the chapter when the site is up and running.

We look forward to getting your feedback and input on making the chapter site. Let us know what information you'd like to see presented on your chapter site. Suggestions and constructive criticism requested and welcomed!

## Get Active in Your Chapter

As you all know, our chapter has not been particularly active in recent years. With so much activity going on with regards to the Batten Kill and the amount of quality trout angling available in the SW Vermont area there is a clear and present need for an active TU chapter in the region. In this spirit, a call to arms is being issued to get the chapter up and running, so we can become an effective voice for our beloved trout waters. We also want to be an enjoyable social outlet for those who appreciate the camaraderie that comes with trout fishing.

## Batten Kill Updates

There's been a great deal going on with regards to the Batten Kill over the past several years which culminated in an Open House presented by state and federal officials dedicated to get to the bottom of what ails our beloved Batten Kill. Though there's no doubt many factors come into play with regards to the health of the Batten Kill, it appears habitat issues are at the heart of this river's problems. Specifically, there's a general lack of large woody debris and other in-stream cover that provide trout with holding areas and protection from predators. These findings will be put to the test with a major habitat improvement

initiative along a 1/2 mile stretch of river upstream of the where the Green River enters the Batten Kill. Dr. William Lesko has generously made available his property to the state and federal agencies to undertake this project, and other property owners have indicated their willingness to allow for work in this section of river. This sort of land owner cooperation is critical to the future of the river. If you know Dr. Lesko please thank him for his generous support of the river.

The project will utilize current methods of natural stream design (bioengineering) that will make for a much more protective environment for the trout while using natural materials such as root wads and large tree revetments.

### **Plans for 2006**

#### **Tues. March 14th Meeting - 7 pm American Museum of Fly Fishing**

This meeting will allow people to get together and tie flies, perhaps swap / sell tackle and otherwise have a pleasant pre-season outing. Bring your tying materials and vise and share a few favorite patterns with your angling brethren as we get ready for the upcoming season.

#### **Sat. April 8 2006 - Opening Day Pancake Breakfast**

A pancake breakfast to get everyone warmed up for a day on stream. A great way to raise funds towards habitat work, sign up a few new members and motivate people to wet a line on opening day. We look forward to making this an annual tradition. If there are any expert flap-jackers out there, don't be shy, let us know, we'll need your help! Locale and time TBD.

#### **Monthly Fishing Night Out - Second Tuesday of each month - May through September**

Throughout the balance of the spring and summer we'll have more informal gatherings designed to get people out on the water. As with our winter meetings, the dates will be the second Tuesday of each month. A different river will be chosen each month and announced in the newsletter. In the fall (October) we will begin again with bi-monthly meetings and will line up speakers or make use of the talent within the chapter for enjoyable presentations.

#### **Habitat Project**

This summer our chapter will look to undertake one habitat project. This could consist of our offering a day of labor on the Lesko project or perhaps tree planting along a stretch of river. Agency managers have been contacted and a project will be planned. We will keep members appraised via newsletter and website.

#### **On-Line Presence**

Speaking of the newsletter, we are hard at work on building a chapter web site, and will make the newsletter available both through traditional mail and electronically (via email or download from the site). The newsletter will come out on a bi-monthly basis to start. We'll look to make both newsletter and website informative and useful, offering a few regular features such as a fly of the month. If there are any budding writers out there, send us your ideas.

#### **Photos For Website / Newsletter**

Have any great pics of local scenery or fishing trips? We invite you to submit them to the chapter for the

newsletter and/or website. Pictures that include SASE will be returned or they can be returned at a chapter meeting. Email any pictures to Peter Bellamy (address below).

There's no shortage of opportunities to participate whatever your level of interest. Habitat work and protection of our rivers is critical and anyone interested in this aspect of being a TU member will find plenty to do here. We have many talented individuals in the area and look forward to making our meetings informative and fun.

The social opportunities in TU membership should not be overlooked. Monthly fishing meetings over the course of the summer will be planned and hopefully we can all get out and enjoy some terrific fishing in good company. It's not unrealistic to see the chapter making an annual trip to other areas to sample the fishing outside the region.

#### **We Need Your Email Addresses**

Help us save chapter resources by signing up for the electronic version of our newsletter. Please email us with your contact info and we will save paper and mailing costs by emailing our newsletter to you.

Any questions or comments, contact any of the following people:

E. Rickstad - [President@TUSWVT.org](mailto:President@TUSWVT.org)  
D. Lyons - [VP@TUSWVT.org](mailto:VP@TUSWVT.org)  
F. Nelson - [Treasurer@TUSWVT.org](mailto:Treasurer@TUSWVT.org)  
P. Bellamy - [Secretary@TUSWVT.org](mailto:Secretary@TUSWVT.org)  
B. Bullock - [amff1@together.net](mailto:amff1@together.net)

**We look forward to seeing you in the upcoming months!**