

The Hatch

HEARING DATE SET FOR PROPOSED BATTEN KILL REGULATION

The Fish and Wildlife board has set a hearing date for the "No Kill" proposal on the Battenkill River from Dufresne Pond to the NY State Line.

DATE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 13TH

TIME
7:00 PM

PLACE
BURR & BURTON ASSEMBLY
HALL, SEMINARY AVENUE,
MANCHESTER, VT

This will be the last public meeting before the Board votes on the 2000 regulations. We expect there to be a sign-up list asking for your vote. There will also be an opportunity to voice your opinion for or against the proposed regulations.

It is imperative that we get as many supporters as we can to this meeting so we have a chance at approving Ken Cox's proposal without additional amendments.

If turnout and participation are as high as the Arlington meeting in August, we stand a great chance of winning. Your presence at this meeting is crucial to the overall success of this proposal.

Please call Bill Bullock at (802) 362-8637 if you have any questions. look forward to seeing you there!

**DECEMBER 13TH MEETING HELD
AT THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF
FLY FISHING A SUCCESS**

Our chapter held its December meeting at the American Museum of Fly-Fishing in Manchester on Monday, December 13th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Over 20 members were in attendance.

Gary Tanner and the Museum were kind to offer the museum as our meeting place and our members had a great time viewing the exhibits before and after the meeting.

Jenny Kimberly and Shelly Stiles of the Soil Conservation District spoke on the current status of our Pig Farm Stream bank project at Wilbur's Bridge in Manchester. A lot of great work has been done in the planning stage of this project and we look forward to playing a big role in helping the District complete this great project.

Members also heard from Jack Stannard (the Bennington and Windham County representative to the Fish and Wildlife Board), outlined his position in voting against the "No Harvest" Proposal on the Battenkill. Jack was seemingly concerned with issues regarding the declining habitat in the river, and primarily attributes the decline to lack of depth, erosion, and degradation of sand/gravel bars

However agreeable with the Chapter's position on all efforts to improve habitat, Jack still opposes the proposed "No Harvest" regulations recommended by the State. He attributes his stance to the fear that the river, once regulated as "No Harvest", will not be able to re-opened under limited/general harvest regulation without expensive and time-consuming litigation. He feels that his decision was made in the best interest of the local community at large.

Jack also feels that the proposed revision to

enable children under the age of 15, to keep 2 fish a day with no size restrictions, and all other anglers to be allowed 1 fish, over 18" per day, will not significantly impact the trout population. Additionally, he feels that harvest of fish over 18" will not decrease but rather increase wild the trout population because, as he feels a fish over 18" is more predatory than it is active in contributing to the gene pool. However, when asked to document his beliefs, his answers were unsubstantiated, and he cited no known sources to support this theory.

NEXT MEETING PLANNED FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15th AT THE ORVIS SCHOOLROOM IN MANCHESTER.

DATE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

TIME
6:00 PM

PLACE
ORVIS SCHOOLROOM,
MANCHESTER, VT

The schoolroom is located directly across Route 7A from the Orvis Retail Store.

Please bring your Fly-Tying materials and equipment as we plan to have Tom Rosenbauer in attendance to help both novice and expert Fly Tyers alike create patterns for the new millennium.