

# The Hatch

## **MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20TH**

The Southwest Vermont Trout Unlimited Chapter will be meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Batten Kill Inn on Route 7A in Sunderland. The meeting starts at 6:30PM and pizza will be served. All members are encouraged to come along and bring a friend as well.

Owners Cliff and Donna Ward have graciously invited our chapter to use their beautiful inn for our meeting.

We would like to review what activities the chapter has been involved with over the past year, including pictures of the Pig Farm Project and other events. We will also have some incredible video footage of Battenkill brookies spawning this past fall. This is a unique bit of video that you will want to see.

We also plan on discussing future projects and events for the Chapter.

There are numerous opportunities for our chapter to become a leader in helping to improve the cold water fisheries in Southwestern Vermont. We are also looking to make this chapter more fun! While we have a clear mission to protect and enhance our wild fisheries, we should also provide social opportunities such as fishing trips, banquets and family outings.

Please do not miss out on joining us for this important meeting. If you plan on coming please call ahead if you can so that we can be sure to have enough food on hand!

## **JOINT CHAPTER BANQUET ON SUNDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>**

All members are cordially invited to attend the first annual Auction and Dinner Banquet sponsored jointly by our Chapter and the Connecticut River Valley Chapter.

The Banquet will be held at the Roadhouse Restaurant in Wilmington, Vermont. This restaurant is located on route 100, approximately three miles from downtown Wilmington (on the way to Mount Snow).

The doors open at 4:30 PM and dinner will be served at 5:30 PM. The banquet will feature a silent auction and raffle featuring fabulous products and services. Some of the featured items include a full day guide trip with David Dean, an Orvis TL rod outfit, a Green River Graphite Rod and dozens of other great items.

Tickets are \$25.00 and include a full dinner and dessert (Soup, Salad, Home Made Bread, choice of 3 entrees and coffee). A cash bar will also be available.

Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling Jeff Novy at (802) 464-3569, Karen Austin (802) 464-3727 or Bill Bullock (802) 362-8637.

Tickets may also be purchased by mail by sending a check made out to Connecticut Rivey Valley TU Chapter to:

PO Box 245  
Wilmington, VT 05363

We look forward to seeing you there!  
Please come out and support your chapter while meeting new friends.

## **TU AT ORVIS DAYS**

Our chapter will again be participating in the Orvis Days festivities this coming April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Orvis employee and TU member Frank Garcia has secured the use of a large "Trout Unlimited Tee-Pee" for the two day event.

In order for our chapter to make a good showing at the event we will need a few volunteers to help spend some time at the tee - pee to introduce ourselves to the public.

A number of activities are planned including fly tying, video displays, and possible field trips to the Wilbur Bridge to demonstrate the positive results of a well conceived habitat improvement project.

Interested in spending a few hours at Orvis Days? Let us know - we could use the help!

## **BATTENKILL OPPORTUNITIES**

A number of opportunities will be available this coming spring, summer, and fall for those interested in participating in projects that will be helpful to the Batten Kill and it's fishery.

Among these opportunities are:

Wilbur Bridge planting - April 28th

Willow planting on NY side of river - hopefully in conjunction with the Wilbur bridge planting.

West Arlington Covered Bridge - assisting with strengthening the eroding bank on the south side of the river. Arlington has committed to heavy equipment and

material but will need volunteer labor assistance. Scheduled for sometime in June or July

Spawning Redd Survey – Come help flag where trout are spawning on the river. We do this in October and November and this helps Fish and Game officials with the ongoing study of the river.

Other opportunities may present themselves; including a possible habitat improvement project on the river along the lower river below the Covered Bridge.

If you have any questions, suggestions, comments ..... please feel free to contact

Bill Bullock at 802 362-8637 or [bullockb@orvis.com](mailto:bullockb@orvis.com)

Or Doug Lyons at 800 762-5767 x 5579 or [ddclyons@aol.com](mailto:ddclyons@aol.com)

### **Member's Corner**

Below, we offer you a story by Barry Mayer, a recent transplant from Oregon. Barry has introduced himself to our rivers with some success, including a gorgeous 18 ¾ inch brown trout caught down on the New York Battenkill this past December and again in January!!!.

Barry – lots of people have gone years without seeing a trout that big from the local rivers!

### **Let's Do Lunch**

By Dr. Barry Mayer

After watching the only other fisherman I saw all day catch a redbreast of about 22 inches on his third cast, my partner (the only other fisherman I saw all day) and I decided to find some shade to have lunch. It had been a slow morning on the Deschutes. We'd walked upstream from the Trout Creek campground in short sleeves and no waders on the 1st day of October. Fish were seen working, and each of us had a take but only the one fish had come to the net. Sage and other autumn scents were pungent; the temperature 84 degrees. The day was cloudless and nearly dead calm.

The spot chosen was down the bank where we had to scramble under low boughs to find a seat in the shade. With our feet in the water we were preoccupied with taking off

our vests while bent over beneath the branches. Sandwiches (peanut butter and jelly in my case), snacks and sun-warmed drinks were tumbled out of pockets. The spot allotted to me was a rock that though not level, was flat. If I sat on top, it dug into my bottom. If I sat on the flat face, I slid down. So I was constantly digging my left heel in to reseat myself. Once settled the only other fisherman and I began partaking of our elegant repast.

It was then that we noticed we were not alone. Not four feet in front of us was a dark shadow in the eddy. It was 15 or 16 inches long and was positioned well under the drip line of the overhanging tree. It would remain stationary, then drift effortlessly to left or right, forward or back. So little body movement could be detected that it seemed to will itself where it wanted to go. As we watched we could see the white of the inside of its mouth at the end of each of these deft, graceful amblings. Once in a while it would just tip up or down, the finale of each ballet step always a lazy yet purposeful sip.

At first we sat stone still for fear of alarming our luncheon guest, but I kept slipping off the slanted rock, and I needed to readjust the pressure points poking into my undercushions. After 15 or 20 minutes of fidgeting, it was clear this character was not the spooky type. Perhaps *Salmo* was enjoying eating with us as much as we were with it. We discussed the fish's movements and complimented its efficiency and grace while we polished off the Pringles. We hoped that by watching attentively we might see what was on the menu and turn that to our cause later. But, the light was bad, and the morsels being gulped so delicately were below our visual threshold.

After a last draw from our canteens, we debated whether to return to the sunlight. If the afternoon's fishing were to be as humdrum as the morning's, our current activity might be more rousing. I knew my buns wouldn't tolerate much more of the rock, even in the interest of science, so we left... reluctantly. Our finny lunchmate not only didn't leave, it continued eating during the tumult we created getting back into our gear. The fish's choice of a cafeteria couldn't have been better. It wasn't crowded, and the cuisine was apparently excellent. There was no way a mediocre fisherman could drift a fly through the fine

comb of overhanging branches. I know. I quit trying after I lost the second one.

Lunch was the high point of the day for me. Stimulating company, great food and a warm kiwi and strawberry Snapple sipped slowly. It just doesn't get any better.

### **Fly of the Month**

The pattern below is a color scheme for the old reliable Woolly Bugger. I first saw this fly this past summer. Joe Phillips is the angler who showed it to me. The only variation I have added is the tungsten cone head. Joe ties the fly pretty big. I'm a little more conservative because otherwise someone may stumble upon an angler concussed from being whacked in the back of the head by the conehead!

Hook – your favorite streamer type hook  
Tail – olive maribou  
Ribbing – gold wire  
Body – olive chenille (you can substitute as you see fit)  
Hackle – grizzly died yellow/olive tied palmer as with standard woolly buggers  
Head – tungsten cone head (optional)

Give this fly a try. It worked for me on several occasions this past summer and fall and I plan to have a fair share of them in my fly box come spring.

Editor's Note: Recipients of this newsletter are encouraged to contribute. Perhaps you have come back from a trip you would like to share with others. Maybe you have discovered the true shade of pink necessary for a properly tied Hendrickson without having to endanger the well being of every female fox in the area (look up Flicks original pattern if you are confused by this reference).

It doesn't look as if fishing season is just around the corner but it is. Come join us in March to kick off "spring training" for the 2001 fishing season.