



Great Bay Trout Unlimited Fall 2010 Newsletter

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Southeast NH's TU
Chapter

Renewed Commitment To Membership and Mission
Volume III Issue I
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**Protect, Reconnect,
Restore, Sustain!**

Meeting & Event

Calendar on Back Page!

Details on special events will be available on our website at www.greatbaytu.org

When a Plan Comes Together: Results of the 2008-2010 GBTU Strategic Plan

By Mitch Kalter

Back in 2007, some of you may remember filling out a survey card, included with your GBTU Newsletter, which asked about your priorities in programming and important activities for our chapter to pursue. The results of that survey showed that the Cocheco Project and river cleanups and conservation were your top concerns. This triggered a strategic planning process making those priorities the center focus. The 2008-2010 Strategic Plan outlined 19 strategic objectives primarily focused on the Cocheco Project. This article is the summary of the results of that strategic plan. The 19 strategic objectives were organized in the areas of protecting, restoring, reconnecting and sustaining the cold water resources that are the central mission of Trout Unlimited. Of those 19 objectives, 15 have been achieved or on track for being fully achieved, one was realized to be unachievable due to subsequent investigation, and only 3 have not been successfully acted upon due to time constraints or lack of manpower. Let's get into the nitty gritty of the plan and what has been accomplished in just

(Cont'd Pg. 2)

Upcoming October Events

By Wendy Nixon

New event this year, on October 2, 2010, from 9:30AM until 3:30PM, Great Bay Trout Unlimited and **Amy's Treat** will be partnering in a day event for participants of all ages that have or have had cancer. Amy's Treat is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing solutions to the day-to-day difficulties of living with cancer and offers unexpected "treats" to renew the spirit. Please visit their website for more information about their organization at www.amystreat.org. There are 15 participants who will be attending the day event and will learn to tie knots, casting instruction, stream entomology, and getting out on the scenic Cocheco River. We are looking for volunteers to help with the event, setup/cleanup, river helpers/guides--we strive for 1:1 ratio.

Great Bay Trout Unlimited also will be hosting the 7th Annual **Casting for Re-**

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Conservation Corner
GBTU salutes and recognizes conservation efforts by other organizations in the area.

CCA NH Oyster Shell Recycling Program

By Jeff Barnum, CCA NH President

(In addition to serving as President of CCA NH, Jeff Barnum is also an active GBTU Board Member)

Last year, the GBTU president, Mitch Kalter, and I co-wrote a grant request to **The Orvis Company** seeking financial support for an oyster shell recycling program. Great Bay has seen a dramatic loss of oyster beds in the last two decades. Reasons: disease, overharvest, and siltation. The NHF&G has reduced the allowable recreational harvest. Siltation is now on the radar screen of legislators and the NHDES. Sustaining the species is imperative, even in light of diseases, as some oysters are able to reach spawning maturity before they are affected. The Orvis Company agreed and granted CCA NH

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When a Plan Comes Together

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the past two years.

Protection and restoration objectives included making sure that GBTU became a known quantity with Cocheco watershed conservation organizations, gained a seat at the "conservation table," advocated for Cocheco River designation into the state's River Management and Protection Program (RMPP), engaged landowners along the Dover Cocheco River conservation easement, helped develop the Community Trail, and to engaged in water testing on the Cocheco River during the hot summer months to help add to the VRAP data base.

Since instituting the plan the Cocheco River has been designated, and GBTU has representation on the **Cocheco River Local Advisory Committee** (as part of the RMPP), the **Cocheco River Watershed Coalition, Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Partnership, NH Technical Assistance Grant Force** (a group currently overseeing the Tolend Landfill Superfund site in Dover near the Cocheco River), the **Dover Open Lands Committee**, and GBTU continues to have representatives attend the Great Bay Working Group called "**Save the Bay**" originated by state Representatives Spang and Borden. GBTU purchased water testing equipment and collected water quality data every two weeks during the summers of 2008 and 2009. and also linked the Cocheco River USGS data, along with the Lamprey data, to our website. GBTU has continued to host annual Cocheco River cleanups for the past three years, but in 2010 the event has grown. It is now hosted on the grounds of **Measured Progress** (a large Dover Community Trail landowner) and included Dover schools, Dover Scouts, NH F&G, Dover municipal officials, including the Mayor, the Dover Open Lands Committee, and featured a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the new parking area to be constructed at the Watson Road access site. GBTU has also continued its annual Lamprey River cleanup, engaging UNH students and Newmarket Youth Recreation participants and volunteers.

Regarding reconnecting our waterways, GBTU has testified, and or submitted advocacy letters, for the removal of the Winnicut, Oyster, and Taylor River Dams, with the Winnicut River Dam now gone. We attended public input sessions for the investigation of the removal of the Exeter Dam. Testimony letters have also been submitted advocating the designation for the Oyster River, and adding sections of the Lamprey and Exeter Rivers for designation status into the RMPP. Sustaining these resources involves education of the public, obtaining sponsors and raising funds to continue the work and achieve our goals. GBTU now supports seven Trout-in-the-Classroom (TIC) tanks and coolers in Dover classrooms where brook trout are raised and focus learning about the habitat on which they are dependent. Through this program the Cocheco River has become an extension of the classroom

where macro invertebrates are studied and water quality is tested. GBTU also assisted TIC projects in Hampton and Hampton Falls by delivering the brook trout eggs in 2009. Plans are underway to add a TIC tank in the **NH Children's Museum** in Dover. GBTU provided an after school fly tying program in the Dover Middle School in 2010, and plans to again this year. The **Kid's River Day Program** was started in 2010, and we continue to hold **Casting for Recovery** days annually. This year we will begin collaboration with **Amy's Treat**, bringing the same on the river opportunities to cancer patients of the Seacoast Cancer Center of Wentworth-Douglass Hospital. In addition to successful annual Fly Auctions held at loyal sponsor and supporter, **Weeksie's Pizza** of Dover, we have gained a major 1% For the Planet sponsor in **Summit Supply**, and most recently have received sponsorship from the new **Roundabout Diner** at the Portsmouth traffic circle.

Where have we not achieved our objectives? Engagement of our membership. While GBTU has always enjoyed a loyal core of tireless volunteers, new faces willing to help pilot projects and help carry the burden of Officer and Board of Director responsibilities continues to be a struggle. We are faced with the possibility of not having a Treasurer elect for the first time in our history. Who will take the reins of President, Vice President and Secretary in the future? Who will share their expertise and talents on our Board of Directors? Where will the new ideas and energy come from? Those strategic objectives remain to be realized and only you, yes you, the person reading this article, can help achieve those objectives.

Construction of a new strategic plan to take us down the road for the next two years is underway. In the coming months you will receive surveys or questionnaires, the results of which will form the basic building blocks for that plan. Please participate. GBTU is your chapter. Get involved. Who knows what we can achieve with your help?



Attendees of the Cocheco River Celebration wander through outreach tents . See **Summer Recap** page 5.



CCA NH Oyster Shell Recycling

(Cont'd from pg. 1)

\$10,000.

Why save the oysters? An adult oyster can filter up to twenty gallons of water a day. Great Bay has not been so great of late: nitrogen loading; storm water runoff; a profound loss of eelgrass; and eutrophication. Historically, the extensive beds may have been able to filter the entire bay in four to five days. The remnant beds take well over a year and a half to do the same. When oysters spawn, the young (called spat) drift with the currents looking for a spot to anchor. Their preference is an oyster shell bed. Unfortunately, old beds are covered with silt. Our intent is to collect shell, dry it to kill pathogens, and then create new beds so that the natural spawn can attach and grow. CCA NH is working with The Nature Conservancy and the UNH Jackson Estuarine Lab to create new sites one acre at a time.

The shell comes from area restaurants who are pleased to remove it from the waste stream. Weekly collections are made at participating restaurants. Other potential sources are regional festivals and processors.

In addition to our first participants, **Robert's Maine Grill** and **Jumpin' Jay's Fish Café**, others have come on board to recycle shell that will ultimately end up on the bottom of Great Bay. **The Oar House** in Portsmouth and **The Old Salt** in Hampton are in the fold as are **Philbrick's Fresh Market** on Lafayette and **Sanders Fish Market** on Marcy St. The two latter establishments market fresh oysters and are urging their clientele to bring shell back for recycling and as a drop off location. All the businesses are displaying signage explaining the need for the program and brochures are available for the public. More restaurants are being solicited in Hampton and Portsmouth.

Several tons of shell was moved to UNH's Kingman Farm in Madbury in June. **Karl Scamman** of **Scamman's Home and Garden Showplace** in Stratham did the heavy lifting for transport by **Gary Cote** of **Sullivan Tire**, also in Stratham. The shell will remain at the farm until adequate warm weather has seasoned it and any pathogens are destroyed. The Nature Conservancy and UNH's Jackson Estuarine Lab will utilize the cured shell. The CCA NH Oyster Committee continues to meet after every regular board meeting to oversee the project. A good portion of the original grant remains. Outreach and education is an essential component of the program. The project has been the central theme in several outreach events this spring and summer. Some positive press has generated interest from individuals outside CCA NH that, as yet, cannot be utilized. Great Bay is the end point for several significant rivers in which GBTU has a vested interest. **Is this a project in which we can collaborate?**



Bags containing collected oyster shell are loaded at Scamman's Home & Garden Showplace for transport to UNH's Kingman Farm for long term storage until use in reef restoration.

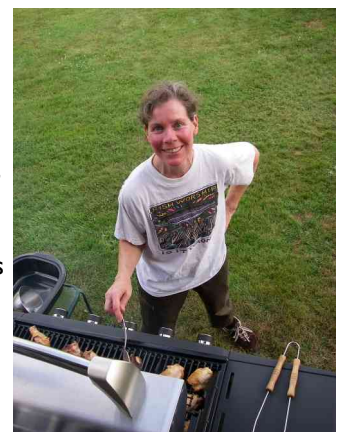
Upcoming October Events

(Cont'd from pg 1)

covery event on the Cocheco River on October 16, 2010, from 9:30AM until 4:00PM. Those of you that participated in past events know the thrill of the day. The anticipated 8 women who attend will learn to tie knots, casting instruction, stream entomology, and getting out on the Cocheco River. Fly fishing plays a key role in the healing process for a lady that has survived breast cancer. The Casting for Recovery National Program is a non-profit support and educational program for women who have or have had breast cancer. Visit their website for additional information at www.castingforrecovery.org. Again, we are always looking for volunteers to help with the event, setup/cleanup, river helpers, and again strive for 1:1 ratio).

Contact Wendy Nixon at fishinnixoncfr@comcast.net or 603-868-1701 for more information or to volunteer for the event.

Hard at work. Chapter Secretary, Wendy Nixon, kept all campers and staff well fed at this summer's Youth Conservation Camp in Pittsburg, NH. Wendy served as Chef for the entire camp again this year. Everyone's waders were a little snugger by the end of the 5 day camp.



GBTU would like to salute the efforts of other groups in the region that take action to clean up our waterways and ensure that others can enjoy those resources.

Dover Cub Scout Pack 173 & Friends of Willand Pond and Take Action

By Norma Willard

Last spring winds and rain brought down trees and branches everywhere. This was particularly true around Willand Pond. Willand Pond is one of Dover's more beautiful resources and is enjoyed by kids, adults and dogs that walk the trail.

After the storms there were trees blocking the pathway and people stopped enjoying the trail around the pond. The Friends of Willand Pond and Dover Cub Scout Pack 173 agreed to partner and made a plan to clean the area.

On May 1st the Cub Scout leaders arrived early at Willand pond with chain saws in hand. They cut the trees and branches that were in the trails into pieces small enough to be picked up by kids and adults.

Later the Cub Scouts of Pack 173 arrived at the beginning of the pathway with wheel barrels and rakes.

The scout leaders gave a talk of the procedures to take place. A Friend of Willand Pond, member also gave a short talk on the joys of Willand Pond and how she hoped the boys would enjoy fishing, and boating there. One boy asked about algae and was assured the pond was very clean.

The scouts and others got ready to attack the job. One scout explained to one of the adults that her garden cart wasn't really a wheel barrel but that it would work. The boys were eager and started by running with the wheel barrels to see how much brush they could pick up. As the hours went by they moved a little slower. Their eagerness didn't slow down as they watched high the brush pile got. (This pile was later removed by the city).

Everyone worked so hard and so fast that the job was completed early and it was decided to clean up the liter and rubbish around the shore also.

At the end one scout said to another "we get free ice cream from Strafford Farms when we are finished."

The other scout replied "It isn't free we worked for it!" They certainly did work for their ice cream. They also learned how two completely different groups could work together as one to accomplish a big task. Thank you Cub Scout Pack 173 and Friends of Willand Pond.



Ceremonial ground breaking for the Wiswall parking and access area at the Cocheco River Day Celebration May 15th at Measured Progress. See **Summer Recap**



New Board Member Mark Favorite (Right) works hard to feed the members of the UNH Sigma Nu Fraternity (Above) posing on the Wiswall Dam, and others, after helping out at the Lamprey River cleanup. See **Summer Recap**





Summer Recap

By Mitch Kalter

A lot has happened since we met at the Urban Forestry Center last April. Here is a brief recap of a very busy summer for GBTU.

May 1st marked the annual **Lamprey River Cleanup**. The event was well attended with our friends from **UNH's Sigma Nu** fraternity and the **Newmarket Chameleon Club** showing up in force with our usual GBTU member volunteers. The **Roundabout Dinner**, a new restaurant at the Portsmouth Traffic Circle, supported the event by donating all of the food and drinks.

The third annual **Cochecho River Day** took place on May 15th on the **Measured Progress** campus. The event was extremely well attended, with the **Mayor of Dover**, **Dover Open Lands Committee**, the CEO of **Measured Progress**, **NH F&G**, the **Boy & Girl Scouts**, **UNH Sigma Nu** fraternity, and students and teachers of the **Dover Schools** as well as many others present. The Trout-in-the-Classroom grown brook trout were released into the Cochecho River as were some fish from NH F&G. In addition to the river cleanup and some trail maintenance, there was also a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the upcoming parking area to be built in the near future at the Watson Road entrance to the trail.

GBTU manned an outreach booth at the **Gundalow Company's Piscataqua River Festival** on the Portsmouth waterfront on June 5th.

It was a rainy June 6th that marked the date of the first **Kid's River Day** on the Cochecho, where 12 Dover HS students got to practice the skills and knowledge they had accrued during their **Outdoor Pursuits Class**, taught by Dover teacher and GBTU BOD member, John McKernan, and done in coordination with NH F&G's **Let's Go Fishing Program**. Read all about it on our website under the Cochecho Project/What's Happening/Kid's River Days.

A **TIC Teacher's Appreciation Day** was held on the Cochecho River on June 20th. GBTU volunteers hosted a day on the water for the teachers and assistants that worked so hard to make the Dover **Trout-in-the-Classroom** programs so successful during the school year. GBTU Treasurer and manager of **Weeksie's Pizza**, Rich Seawards, kept everyone well fed and hydrated. Despite the heat and low water conditions, some healthy trout were caught and quickly released; great job teachers!

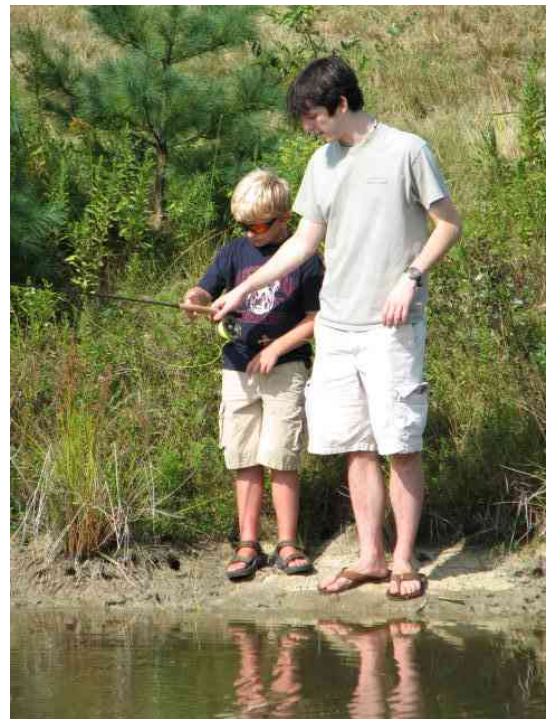
July 14-18 marked the fourth annual **Youth Conservation Camp** up in Pittsburg, NH. The camp was a hit again with the eight teenage participants. GBTU contributed a significant number of the staff, with the camp run this year by the TU State Council for the first time since it was started by our chapter four years ago.

In a show of appreciation for all of the great land conserva-

tion work they do, GBTU hosted a **Strafford River Conservancy Family Fishing Day** on August 21st at the Roselawn Farm in Madbury. A great time was had by all! I hope you all enjoyed the great weather, were able to spend quality time with your families and friends and had the opportunity to stretch a line this summer. We look forward to seeing you again this fall!



Rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm at the first Kid's River Day



Volunteer, Sam Rice, a graduate of the first GBTU Youth Conservation Camp, shows a young Strafford Rivers Conservancy family member the ropes at the August 21st Family Fishing Day event.



A Logo of Our Own

Did you notice the new logo at the top left corner of the first page (enlarged and copied above)? Yes, GBTU now has its own logo thanks to the efforts of board member Jonathan Mitchell. While we find nothing wrong with the TU National logo, and will continue to use it to identify us as a loyal TU chapter, having a logo to call our own gives us a more defined sense of identity. Not to mention that it looks great too! Sew on patches and vinyl self-adherent stickers are now available for purchase. Ask about them at our next meeting. Other items sporting our new logo are on the way!



Debut of the GBTU utility trailer at the Lamprey Cleanup.

CASTING FOR RECOVERY LOCAL EVENT

FLIES NEEDED

Great Bay Trout Unlimited is hosting its 7th annual Casting for Recovery event for breast cancer survivors on Saturday, October 16, 2010.

Do you like to tie flies for fun?

Here is your chance to tie some flies

and support a good cause.

Come to the Great Bay Trout Unlimited October 4th general meeting at 6:30 at the Urban Forestry Center and bring some flies. We will be sending each lady home with a box of flies. We will have up to 10 women attending this event this year, so bring as many as you can make.

Don't have time to tie, or don't tie, a donation of a fly box, tippet or leaders would be appreciated.

Please contact Wendy Nixon, Secretary, Women's Programs and Casting for Recovery Coordinator at fishinnixoncfr@comcast.net if you have any questions.



Happy faces at the 2009 *Casting for Recovery* event on the Cocheco River. This year's event will be on October 16th. Please help make this year's event as successful as those of past years.



President's Message September 2010

The Year of Getting Involved

As summer draws to a close and the days get shorter and evenings cooler we desperately try to take advantage of those last summer days to do the things we planned but never seemed to get to. Very soon it will be too late. It is time to get into the autumn/winter mode which is part of the charm and privilege of living in New England. If you don't get to that summer activity this year there is always next summer, right? Unfortunately, that attitude can be pervasive, and things that we intend to do, good and worthwhile things, just never seem to get done. Could that be the explanation for the slow growth of GBTU's membership volunteerism? Due to focus and hard work, GBTU's depth of programming, community service and conservation involvement has grown tremendously in the past few years. While events are usually well attended by other community groups, and interested individuals, it is often the same GBTU faces that are there to roll up their sleeves to get the behind the scenes work done to make these events possible. Is continued growth of GBTU possible without increased volunteerism? I do not think so.

I think part of the problem is that we, the officers and board of directors do not communicate opportunities as well as we could. Perhaps the reason we do not have a Treasurer elect to assume office in October is because we have not explained what a Treasurer really does and how much help there is for them to do it. Is it simply the fear of the unknown? Perhaps our membership does not know of the camaraderie, teamwork and support that our officers and board of director members get and give to each other; that there is the strong unspoken commitment to not let each other fail in our tasks. Perhaps they don't appreciate the tremendous feeling of reward and accomplishment that comes with successfully filling those roles or volunteering to plan and staff events. Well, that poor communication must be corrected!

Could it be our membership feels that getting involved will demand more time than they have to give? In reality, involvement at any level makes light work for the rest of us. Giving just an hour or two working on a favorite project that is meaningful to you can make a huge difference for an event organizer, committee chair, board member or officer. If you don't do it someone else will have to...or maybe it just won't get done.

Somehow I just don't think that is the full explanation. Maybe it is just that members don't have the desire or passion to give just a little more time out of their week. Perhaps they have not seen the look of wonder on the face of a 6th grader as they look at a brook trout egg just forming eyes. Surely they have not witnessed the look of pride and worry as that same 6th grader releases that young brook trout, now fully developed from that eyed egg, into a local river. I am sure

that they have not seen the smile of a young person as they begin to feel that fly rod load properly for the first time or the little girl, who used to hate creepy crawly things, plucking stonefly nymphs from the underside of a turned over river rock asking "Can I make a living doing this?" They certainly have not seen the glowing smile on the face of a *Casting for Recovery* participant who has just hooked their very first fish with the help of a GBTU volunteer river host on a crisp autumn day. I could go on...

In short order, the duties, responsibilities, and skills useful in assuming the various roles of our officers will be available on our website. Opportunities for interested new board members or member volunteers to assume will also be fleshed out. We are beginning a new strategic planning phase, and that planning and future growth will depend on membership interest and willingness to participate. We, the membership, are the rate limiting step in the GBTU formula. Without our passion and interest there is no GBTU. So to paraphrase a famous movie line, best said in a gravelly Clint Eastwood voice, "Are you feeling passionate? Well, are you

_____?"

Let's make the 2010-2011 GBTU year "**The Year of Getting Involved.**" Don't wait for next summer. If I, or my fellow officers and board of director colleagues, aren't giving you the information you need to pull the volunteering trigger, please, ask us for it! Demand it in fact! Finally, please follow the immortal words of the action hero actor serving as Governor of California and "Do it! Do it now!"

Tight Lines & See you all soon!

Mitch Kalter, President GBTU



Campers at the Summer Conservation Camp learn how to prevent the spread of Didymo. See **Summer Recap** p. 5.



Fall 2010 Meeting & Event Schedule

All of the programs listed below will take place at the Urban Forestry Center, 45 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth, NH, and begin at 6:30PM, unless otherwise indicated.

October 2, 2010– Amy’s Treat River Day (9:30AM-3:30PM, Meet at Measured Progress Parking Lot)

This first time event is being done in collaboration with local nonprofit, Amy’s Treat, which works to provide recreational activities for people undergoing treatment for or having survived cancer. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity. Contact Wendy Nixon if interested in volunteering.

October 4, 2010– Trout Bugs

Renowned author and educator, Thomas Ames, Jr., will present some of his work and knowledge on aquatic insects. Mr. Ames is the author of *Hatch Guide For New England Streams* and many other books & magazine articles on the subject. Mr. Ames will discuss “Matching the Hatch in the 21st Century.”

October 16, 2010– Casting for Recovery (9:30AM-4PM, Meet at Measured Progress Parking Lot)

A day of enjoying the fishing on the Cocheco River with women recovering from breast cancer. Contact Wendy Nixon if you are interested in volunteering.

November 1, 2010– Movie Night

We will present the film “Good Life” featuring some local and national fly fishing talents. Come live the dream of the fly fishing life; at least for an evening! Bring plenty of popcorn!

December 6, 2010, Effects of Climate Change in NH

NH Fish & Game Commissioner, Eric Orff, will discuss the effects of climate change in our home state. Eric was a biologist with NH Fish & Game for 30 years, and works with the National Wildlife Federation. He is well versed on the subject. Some of the effects already taking place may surprise you.

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