



# Great Bay Trout Unlimited Winter 2010 Newsletter

Great Bay Trout Unlimited  
PO Box 1121  
Dover, NH 03821

Email: [greatb3@greatbaytu.org](mailto:greatb3@greatbaytu.org)  
Web: [www.greatbaytu.org](http://www.greatbaytu.org)

**Renewed Commitment To Membership and Mission**

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**Protect, Reconnect,  
Restore, Sustain!**

## Remaining 2009-2010 Meeting & Event Calendar on Back Page!

(Details on special events will be available on our website at

[www.greatbaytu.org](http://www.greatbaytu.org))

### 2009 In Review

Another busy year has come and gone for Great Bay Trout Unlimited. It has been a year of successful annual events as well as a few firsts.

After surviving the winter and enjoying several outstanding guest speakers in the comfort of the Urban Forestry Center, we welcomed the end of the winter with our annual fly auction at Weeksie's. There was a great turnout to vie for some of the extremely generous donations being raffled, silent auctioned and live auctioned and to watch some classic fly tying by the award winning tier Mark Favorite, not to mention the enjoyment of some great food and drink.

We started the outdoor season with the second annual Cocheco River Cleanup and Field Day in April, followed in May with the Lamprey River Cleanup. There was a large and eager turnout for both events, and a great job was done on both rivers. Brook trout raised by Dover students in specially equipped aquariums sponsored by GBTU were released into the Cocheco River in May as part of the Trout-in-the-Classroom program with NH Fish & Game. Our Trout-in-the-Classroom participants grew from three to seven classrooms in 2009.

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## Conservation Partner News

### Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire

By Jeff Barnum

#### Orvis Oyster Project

The Orvis Company of Manchester, Vt. awarded a \$10,000 grant in October to CCA NH to initiate an oyster shell recycling program that will provide some of the preferred and necessary substrate for oyster bed restoration in Great Bay. The oyster population has declined precipitously. Around 1000 acres of healthy oyster beds present in 1993 have dwindled to less than 100 acres. Filter feeding oysters could filter the entire estuary in a few days, but now the filtering capacity is negligible. Siltation, over harvest, nutrient loading, storm water runoff, disease, and excessive nitrogen are the reasons for their demise. Simultaneously, eelgrass has completely disappeared from portions of the ecosystem. It is essential to maintain a stock of native oysters in the estuary while the root causes of their decline are addressed.

Oysters grow best on oyster shell. But, when beds are covered in silt, the young oysters called spat have nowhere to adhere. There are areas where siltation is not a problem and new beds can be established and protected from harvest. New beds can either be seeded or will be available for young oysters when natural spat sets occur. Oyster shell is not readily available and some current efforts resort to using hard clam shell as an alternative substrate. The Orvis Oyster Project will reuse shell currently discarded by the many regional seafood restaurants serving oysters purchased out of state. Larger volumes of shell may be available at regional oyster festivals in New England. Shell must be stored out of doors for three warm months at an existing site already established at the University of New Hampshire's Kingman Farm. Collected shell will be used directly in the bay as substrate and in cultivation projects.

The recycling program will involve gaining the cooperation of all the area restaurateurs up and down the coast and scheduling weekly pickups. Robert's Maine Grill of Kittery, Maine, has jumped on board

already, and we expect other restaurants to follow. Nick Lapointe of the Home Depot in Portsmouth, NH has provided the five gallon containers and Scott Eldredge of Eldredge Lumber in Kittery, Maine has helped out with the easy open lids. Volunteers will drive established routes and exchange empty containers for full ones. Sources and the number of bushels are recorded. Collected shell will end up at the Kingman Farm for eventual bed restoration by The Nature Conservancy or CCA NH if additional funding from other sources is secured. Scamman's Home and Garden Showplace in Stratham has helped solve the logistical problems.

The project will provide some of the shell necessary for the work and research of Dr. Ray Grizzle of the UNH Jackson Estuarine Lab and a cultivation project led by Ray Konisky of The Nature Conservancy. In the latter, volunteer residents raise oysters in cages suspended from piers until they can be transferred to new beds in the bay. Both individuals were instrumental in early project development.

The CCA NH Oyster Recycling Steering Committee has been charged by the board to oversee and administer the project. Signage, media and outreach, and a kick-off event are being considered. The group meets monthly immediately after the board of directors.

CCA NH is thrilled with this grant from Orvis. This is an opportunity to directly engage local businesses and indirectly engage the public. Great Bay has not been so great, of late. Media coverage will be essential. A good portion of the public is not aware that Great Bay is under considerable stress and, as most scientists agree, may reach a tipping point. An effort to restore oysters and raise public consciousness is essential. An informed public will ultimately influence policy makers and hopefully alter our personal activities and behaviors so that we can all be stewards of a healthy Great Bay.

Anyone who wishes to become involved or has questions about this project contacts Jeff Barnum.



*“Around 1000 acres of healthy oyster beds present in 1993 have dwindled to less than 100 acres.”*



### Scenes from 2009:

*Fly Auction  
Lamprey Cleanup  
Trout Camp  
Casting for Recovery*

## 2009 Year In Review (Cont'd from pg. 1)

We started the outdoor season with the second annual Cochecho River Cleanup and Field Day in April, followed in May with the Lamprey River Cleanup. There was a large and eager turnout for both events, and a great job was done on both rivers. Brook trout raised by Dover students in specially equipped aquariums sponsored by GBTU were released into the Cochecho River in May as part of the Trout-in-the-Classroom program with NH Fish & Game. Our Trout-in-the-Classroom participants grew from three to seven classrooms in 2009.

The summer brought on the third annual Youth Conservation Trout Camp up in Pittsburg, NH. This year was a transition year, as the camp will now become a state wide initiative overseen by the NH State TU Council. In addition to planting 95 trees on the banks of Indian Stream, the camp was filmed and featured on **NH Chronicles**, airing in August. 2009 saw the GBTU Board of

Directors grow both in number and expertise with the addition of Geoff Wilson, Rich Seaward, Jonathan Mitchell and Jeff Barnum. Geoff brings his expertise as a professional watershed restoration specialist, Rich his small business experience and Jeff his knowledge and experience in marine conservation issues to the board. Steve Huebner took over for the departing Brad Johnson as the Conservation Director, and new member Rich Seaward became treasurer taking over for long time Board Member and previous president, Sean Smith. Mark Seymour became a member of the Cochecho River Watershed Coalition Board of Directors, and assumed the role of Vice President. Yours truly began his first year on the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership Management Committee, not to mention taking over as chapter president this fall. Most recently, Jonathan Mitchell was appointed to the newly formed Cochecho River Local Advisory Committee. Our

Secretary and Casting for Recovery coordinator, Wendy Nixon, ran a wonderful day long Casting for Recovery event on the Cochecho River in October. It has been a busy year for your Board of Directors!

Our fall programs were well attended. We learned how to wade for Striped Bass, and learned the secrets of how to successfully fish our local rivers. Our year ended with a good old fashioned pizza night and Yankee Swap.

Yes, 2009 was a busy year full of fun and rewards, but 2010 has the promise to be even better!

Mitch Kalter

## Trout Unlimited To Hold 2010 Annual National Meeting In New Hampshire

Each year, Trout Unlimited holds a national meeting somewhere in the country. The meeting consists of seminars, business and planning meetings and recreational outings, often to enjoy the local fishing and appreciate the work of the local chapters. In 2009 the meeting was held in Travers, Michigan, the birthplace of Trout Unlimited 50 years ago.

The 2010 annual meeting will be held in Waterville Valley, NH. One of the showcases will be the Connecticut Home River Project (see article next page). Approximately 200 people are expected to attend the meeting from September 16-19.

In addition to seminars and business meetings, recreation will be on the agenda. Sight seeing and fishing will rank high on the list of recreational activities to be sure.

Hospitality rooms, with snacks and drinks, are usually hosted by the chapters of the state where the meeting is held. These events are currently being planned by members of the NH State TU Council, in coordination with the national organization.

Exactly what role GBTU will play in the annual meeting is not yet determined, but suggestions for activities in the seacoast area are potentially on the table, and ideas are welcome.

If you have an idea for an area activity for meeting attendees please contact one of our board members or the State Council Chair, Mr. Burr Tupper, by email at [nhflyangler@gmail.com](mailto:nhflyangler@gmail.com). You can follow the progress of the event planning as well as other state chapter events and happenings at the new TU Council website at [www.nhtrout.org](http://www.nhtrout.org).

Let's all work to make this a memorable event for all attending and make all those who didn't wish they had.

Mitch Kalter



## GBTU and the Connecticut Home River Project

The only Trout Unlimited Home Rivers Project in the Northeast is on the upper Connecticut River. Joe Norton, the Director of the project couldn't be happier. GBTU collaborated with Joe this summer during the Youth Conservation Camp held in Pittsburg, NH. Joe gave an excellent talk on some of the river habitat impacts by the history of logging and development in the area. He discussed how rivers used to transport logs were straightened, culverts for roads built, and raising livestock and farming right down to the river's edge impact the delicate balance of a river's ecology, and

negatively impacted the fishery. He also discussed the Connecticut Home River Project's plans to reverse some of these changes.

After his talk, the campers took a tour to see some of these impacts first hand. Everything from hanging culverts, to road erosion and river channel straightening as a result of logging were seen firsthand.

After some electro-shocking and bug collecting the campers and councilors were lead by Joe in planting 95 saplings along the banks of Indian Stream to help restore the riparian zone im-

pacted by livestock. It was a long but very satisfying day for everyone involved.

Joe has a lot more work to do. He is usually up at his office in Lancaster, NH, from the spring thaw to late fall working on the project. From time to time he requires volunteers to help plant trees, and man a shovel. If you are interested in lending a hand you can contact Joe at [jnorton@tu.org](mailto:jnorton@tu.org). I know he will be happy to hear from you.

Mitch Kalter

## GBTU Youth Education 2010

GBTU will be assisting Eagle Scout candidate, Peter Bergeron, in achieving his goal. Peter, a Newmarket, NH scout, has put together an Eagle Scout Project that includes setting up facilities to teach fly fishing and fly tying at the Newmarket Recreation Center. Peter has already collected donations and built a storage cabinet for fly tying equipment at the center. This month Peter has organized two fly tying instruction sessions and will be utilizing fly tying kits loaned from GBTU. GBTU members will also be assisting with the fly tying instruction. We wish Peter well in his efforts to become an Eagle Scout.

January will also mark the beginning of the Dover Middle School Fly Tying After School Program. GBTU volunteers will be supplying tools, equipment and instruction for a group of Dover Middle School students and their parents. The program will run for six consecutive weeks beginning January 5<sup>th</sup>.

GBTU is also planning to start its Kid's River Day Programs on the Cocheco River this year. These short one day programs will be like mini youth conservation camps, teaching some basic river ecology and fly fishing skills.

## Great Bay Trout Unlimited Casting for Recovery Event 2009

This year Great Bay Trout Unlimited hosted its 6<sup>th</sup> annual *Casting for Recovery* event on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 4:00, on the banks of the scenic Cocheco River, in Dover, New Hampshire. We were blessed with exceptional weather. Six women were able to attend and enjoyed learning to tie knots, had casting instruction on land in the Measured Progress parking lot, learned entomology by the river's edge and waded into the river with one-on-one guidance, caught fish and had a lot of fun.

Great Bay Trout Unlimited strongly supports the efforts of the *Casting for Recovery Program*, a national organization which was founded to help enhance the lives of breast cancer survivors by offering activities tailored to promote and support mental and physi-

cal healing, shared experiences, and the hope that comes from learning new skills.

Many sponsors and volunteers made this event possible—including, Measured Progress of Dover for the use of their parking area and restroom facilities for the day's event, Dunkin Donuts of Lee, NH for coffee and donuts, Weeksie's Pizza of Dover for their outstanding donation of hot pizzas and rollups, North Country Angler of North Conway for donating the fly boxes for all the flies that were generously donated by many members of GBTU, and the many who volunteered their time either guiding on the river or helping out in many other ways and the many that tied flies for the women to take home with them, Fish and Game stocked the river prior to the event and Three Rivers stocked the

day of the event, Judy Tumosa gave dynamic entomology presentation, and the Let's Go Fishing Program supplied needed equipment.

*You can view more information about the National Casting for Recovery Program at [Castingfor-recovery.org](http://Castingfor-recovery.org), or contact Wendy Nixon at [fishin-nixon2@comcast.net](mailto:fishin-nixon2@comcast.net) for further information on how you can help our local event for next year, October 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a day full of hope, promise and trout... and a lot of fun!*

Wendy Nixon  
Coordinator for Casting for Recovery Event,  
Women's Activities, Secretary and Event Photographer for  
Great Bay Trout Unlimited



*"It was a day full of hope, promise and trout... and a lot of fun!"*



## Remaining 2009-2010 Season 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.*

### **January 4, 2010– The Casting For Recovery Program**

Special Guest Lt. John Wimsatt will present a short movie on the workings of the NH F&G Law Enforcement Division.

TU Secretary and *Casting for Recovery* coordinator, Wendy Nixon, explains this program and why it is so important to participate.

### **February 1, 2009-Fly Tying Night**

Bring your vise and some tools and you are all set for the fly tying experience of the year. ( A limited number of vises and tools will be available for your use).

### **March 1, 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 magazine articles on the subject. Mr. Ames will discuss “Matching the Hatch in the 21st Century.”

### **March 29, 2010– Annual Fly Auction**

The Third annual Fly Auction will again be held this year at Weeksie’s Pizza. Doors will open at 5PM, with events starting at 6PM. A special raffle for a custom made bamboo fly rod will be held. Check the website for details.

### **April 5, 2010-Bill & Janet Thompson from North Country Angler**

These popular guests return to speak about what else-fishing!

### **May 15, 2010– Cocheco Field Day & River Cleanup (Measured Progress lower parking lot)**

**10AM-2PM**

Annual river cleanup and the release of the brook trout raised in Dover classrooms. There will be other presentations and a cookout as well.

### **May 2010– Lamprey River Cleanup (Date & Time TBD)**

### **July 14-18, 2010– 4th Annual NH Trout Unlimited Youth Conservation Camp**

This year the camp will be held at Bear Tree Cabins, Pittsburg, NH