

Spring 2017 Newsletter

MadDog TU 2017 Conservation Projects!

Clark Amadon

Get your shovels, buckets and boots ready, the MadDog Chapter of Trout Unlimited is planting trees and working on conservation projects this spring! Never, never has it been more important to act locally on our local rivers and streams! Unthinkable policies are now being considered nationally and MDTU is making a strong statement that clean, cold waters matter! Many groups have marched publicly and these trees plantings are MadDogger's chance to show our spirit and resolve in working for cold, clean fishable waters!

Yes, we're going back again for more tree planting on the Dog at the Rogers Farm this spring! The dates are contingent on the weather and field conditions at the farm, but most likely we'll be planting April 22nd or the 1st Saturday in May, the 6th! This is a reach of river that has been entered into a river easement. The Rogers Farm now has a buffer of 50 feet either side of their reach on the Dog. MDTU plans to plant and work on this stretch as long as we can. We'll keep you posted on the exact dates.

Another project moving along is a dam removal project on the East Branch of the Passumpsic River in East Burke. A long way from the Mad and the Dog, you bet! However, remember that this river is in the MDTU region. Please pay attention to the MDTU FB page for more information on this project. The Connecticut River Watershed Council is taking the lead on this and Ron Rhodes, CRWC Dam remover extraordinaire, is in charge.

Last year MDTU planted at the Rogers Farm twice, once in the spring and again in the fall. MDTU was also involved in a large planting at the Carpenter Farm in Waitsfield on the Mad River. More work is planned for this season.

So get those tree planting tools ready! This is our chapters chance to insure our treasured rivers and streams are available to our kids and their kids.

We always need a big turn-out of volunteers in the spring. We plant more trees then. More hands make lighter work plus we get to see how last year's work is coming along. Last week I looked over the reach with Nate Rogers and while it is hard to grasp how it'll look in the spring what excited me was the extent of the buffer!

50 feet of buffer is quite impressive, compared to how many farm fields look at rivers edge. Many of the current MDTU members may not see just how great 50 feet of buffer is, but our kids and grandkids will enjoy the legacy of this work!





MadDog Movie Night

Colin Cascadden

On February 23rd 2017, MadDog TU hosted a screening of the film Providence by Confluence Films. The film explored fly anglers returning to the Providence Atoll in the Seychelles Islands, which is located in the Indian Ocean. The Atoll had been closed to fishing for 5 years due to Somali pirates. It was a great film if you are into warm waters, sand flats, and big fish on the fly. We had a good turn-out and attracted some members from other TU chapters, as well as non-members who were just interested in the film. We had a

casting area set up by our Let's Go Fishing instructors, Shawn and Gloria Nailor and Bob Hynes. Both fly rods and spinning rods were available, as well as a fly tying table with a demonstration by Ken Valentine. The VT Teen Trout Camp was also there sharing videos from past summers and answering questions about this year's camp. Finally, we unveiled our MadDog TU t-shirts in new colors. A Presidential Rod, hand built by our very own Clark Amadon was also raffled off. Thanks to all who helped out with this terrific event.



Trout In The Classroom (TIC)

Shawn Nailor

You may or may not be aware but the MadDog Chapter of TU is the local sponsor and supporter of TIC in Northeastern VT. What is Trout In The Classroom you ask? That's a great question. TIC is a program that provides aquariums, chillers, filtration equipment and chemicals which allow students and teachers to raise trout eggs in their class. The eggs are Brook Trout and come from VT Fish and Wildlife at the Roxbury Hatchery. Detailed information about the program in VT can be viewed at <http://vermonttroutintheclassroom.weebly.com> /.



The program starts annually around mid-December with tank setup and egg delivery after students return from Christmas break. They monitor egg development, test the water and feed the trout after they hatch. The project ends with release of the trout as fingerlings in a local stream. This year saw significant growth in the number of schools participating in our area, below is a list of those schools and the teachers leading the effort.

East Montpelier Elementary School – Robin Gannon and Ted Stevens

Northfield Middle School – Cynthia Fortin and Meg Lyons

Crossett Brook Middle School – Brian Dumais, Colleen Barrett and Melissa Williams

Stowe High School – Mike Rapoport

Moretown Elementary School – Duane Pierson and Diana Puffer

Lamoille High School – Deb Morin

North Country High School – Christopher Murphy

Hyde Park Elementary School – Emily Carr

Waterville Elementary School – Erin Paquette and Sarah Bacon

River Rock School – Dave Aronson and Andrew Costagliola

Harwood Union High School – on hold this year

We are always looking for volunteers. If you live in one of these communities or recognize one of the teachers and have an interest in helping, please email me at nailorvt@gmail.com. I would like to thank Syl Stempel, Mike Bard, Jeremy Whalen, Ray Daigle and especially Mark Joseph who is the TIC Coordinator for VT.

In the next newsletter we will provide an update on release day. We will also talk about what is involved in starting TIC at a school and discuss which schools will be adding TIC next year.



Winter Fly Tying Classes

This winter we tried something new for our fly tying classes. We partnered with VT Fish and Wildlife and their Let's Go Fishing Program. As in the past, we had the consummate teacher Tom Cate providing the instruction. Vermont Fish and Wildlife provided the location, printed Tom's great manual and used their channels to help spread the word and took care of registration.

This year there were two sessions. One started in January which had a three-night introductory session and another three-night intermediate session was held in February. All sessions were on Thursday nights and held at Fish and Wildlife's facilities on Junction Road in Montpelier VT.

We had 12 people register for each session, it was great to see people of all ages participating and some travelled from Hanover NH and Stockbridge VT. The class was very well received and The Let's Go Fishing Program received great feedback on it. We will be doing a similar fly tying program next winter with different flies, so stay tuned to this newsletter as we get closer. Please contact me at nailorvt@gmail.com if you have any questions