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MadDog Trout Unlimited Summer 2022 Newsletter
Protect | Reconnect | Restore our cold water streams, lakes and ponds!

MadDog Chapter Trout Unlimited now meets all year long!

The 1st Thursday of the month; Now ALL YEAR LONG!

November to April Meeting place: The Reservoir in Waterbury, VT.

Fall/Winter meeting times: 6:00 PM meet for check in and meal. 7:00 PM formal meeting starts. Fall Winter Meetings in person and virtual.

Spring/Summer: May-October are fishing and dinner meetings. Location and venue change monthly.

Vermont Trout Camp for Teens Had a great 10th Anniversary

The Vermont Trout for Teens was a rousing success this year! It was our 10th anniversary Camp, with two years off due to Covid. 12 campers learned about fly tying, entomology, stream science, trout habitat, and all caught trout! They also had many fly tying sessions!

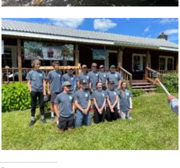
We were delighted to back at Jackson's Lodge in Canaan, VT on Wallace pond. The Campers fished on various sections of the Upper Connecticut River and we had just a wonderful week of weather!

Trout Camp has great sponsors!

Each camper left with camp with a new fly rod and reel plus a chest pack with nippers, a fly box full of flies and a pair of hemostats! The flies were tied by outstanding TU volunteer fly tiers. The rest of the tackle was curtesey of Orvis!

The camp also got a huge donation from the Kingsbury Corporation! Plus sizable donations from The Alchemist Brewery and Smuggler's Notch Resort! Food donations came from Misty Knoll Farms, Red Hen Bakery, Dakin Farm, Hollister Hill Farm, Jasper Hill Farm cheese, Lake Champlain Chocolates and Fever Farm.

Know a 13-16 year old who might love a camp experience like this for 2023? Send them the Trout Camp link!



Mad Dog TU 2-Fly Tournament

Come join the Mad Dog Chapter of Trout Unlimited for our 4th annual catch and release fly fishing event!

When: Sunday 9/11/2022

What: A dry/dropper fly fishing catch and release tournament – any combination of flies but the top fly needs to be fished dry

Where: The Winooski River and its tributaries (excluding the trophy stretch in Waterbury) meeting at The Fly Rod Shop in Stowe, VT

Who: Teams of 2 – limited to 20 teams

Why: All proceeds to benefit the Vermont Trout Camp - http://www.vermonttroutcamp.com/

Cost: $100 per team (plus processing fee) – registration at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/388354407487

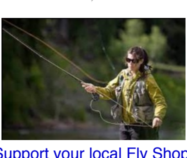
Contact: Shawn Nailor, nailorvt@gmail.com
Instagram: @MDTU2fly

2022 Mad Dog 2 Fly Tournament Rules

- Must fish upstream Winooski from the Bridge Street bridge in Richmond
- The Trophy Section in Waterbury (between the US 2 Bridge East of the Village and the Winooski Street bridge) is closed to fishing
- Can fish tributaries in the Trophy section
- 6 hours of actual fishing time
- Walk and wade only, no boats
- Each team gets to score the 6 fish of their choice
- Photo-based catch and release with ruler trays
- Points based - 1 point per inch of fish, round down under 1/2" otherwise round up ex. 9 3/4" = 10 points; 9 3/8" = 9 points
- Record fish to the nearest ¼" for largest fish prizes
- Plus 5 bonus points for each different species (brook, brown, rainbow)
- Plus 10 bonus points for returning with trash from the river
- Trout only
- Must be a dry/dropper rig
- Can fish any combination of flies provided the top/lead fly is a dry fly and fished on top
- Prizes will be cash and based on the payout below
  - 1st place team - 25% of entry fees
  - 2nd place team - 15% of entry fees
  - 3rd place team - 10% of entry fees
- Largest fish – top 3 individuals - must be 3 different individuals, will be merchandise

Schedule for the day

8:00 - 8:30 pre-fishing meeting at The Fly Rod Shop in Stowe
8:30 - 9:00 travel to the river
9:00 - 3:00 competitive fishing time
3:00 - 3:30 travel back to The Fly Rod Shop in Stowe
3:30 - 5:00 turn in your cards, calculate scores and socialize on the great day!



Support your local Fly Shop!

Our local fly fishing shops need our support and patronage! Show them some love this summer!

The Fly Rod Shop Stowe, VT
The Silver Trout Waitsfield, VT
Lead and Tackle Lyndonville, VT

Yes! Cool MDTU swag!

Click here and be the 5th person and you can choose from two items from the table, a cool, tech MDTU long sleeve t-shirt, silipint with MDTU logo, a new fly box or a fishing log book!

In August and September MadDog TU Fishes The Little River and the NEK!

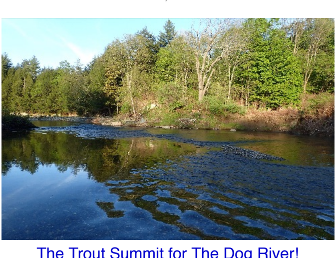
On Thursday August 4th MDTU is fishing The Little River in Waterbury, VT. The Little is a tailwater formed by the Waterbury Reservoir Dam and runs approximately 6 miles from the dam to the mouth of the Winooski River. While we could be in a "dog day" that day the Little runs in the high 50's to low 60's and has wild brook, brown and rainbow trout! Fish the Little and then join your fellow MadDog anglers at The Blackback Pub in Waterbury Village!

The Blackback is a wildly famous craft beer pub and the "Blackback" refers to our native brook trout, which in many quarters goes by the nickname, "Blackback"!
Join us The Blackback at 7:30 for food and the fishing report!

Then on Thursday September 1st MDTU fishes the NEK! Then we meet at another wildly famous establishment in East Burke, VT, Mike's Tiki Bar!! Again meet at Mike's at 7:30!

Options for fishing in this area would be the East and West Branches of the Passumpsic River, Pherrins River in Island Pond, and maybe try some delicious trout ponds in the area! North of West Burke, in Sutton, off from Rt. 5 these ponds include, Wheeler Pond, Duck Pond and Vail Pond! Wheeler was stocked in mid-May with 15" "blackbacks". Also in the area are east of Lake Willoughby is Long Pond and to the south of Long is Newark Pond and just north of Newark is Bald Hill Pond Just a wee touch north of the Sutton area ponds' is May Pond in the town of Barton. This also has 15" Blackbacks. Maybe bring that canoe or sit on top and try out the ponds before alighting for Mikes!

(For those curious about these ponds depths).



The Trout Summit for The Dog River!

Friday November 4, 2022

The Dog's history as a legendary wild trout fishery is well deserved. For years this small and intimate river sang a siren song to anglers! It was a mecca with predictable hatches and wiley wild brown trout.. Then.. it changed and withered.. Now about 20 years into that decline MadDog TU is hosting a Summit in hopes of spurring action! Many changes have effected the river and many studies done to seek an answer to the trout decline. We recognize more studies may be needed but so are actions to help the river rebound!

The decline in wild trout numbers and change in species has been well documented over these years. For years MDTU has been asking..”what’s going on”? This decline has occurred even with the change in regulations that have been in place for some time and the removal of the dam on lower Cox Brook and more recently on Bull Run. So far, there seems to be no leading indicator(s) for the decline. Some issues mentioned include, change in precipitation, high water temps, climate change, little woody debris, invasive species, imbedded substrate, AOP passage and high water events. Perhaps, all are contributing. However, with the studies has come no real “action” no significant moves to actually do something. Now we think it’s time to “take action”. Hence MDTU’s hosting a “Summit on the Dog”. We believe that action must take place not more studies though perhaps studies and action can take place concurrently.

We see this Summit :

as starting point to take significant action on behalf of the wild trout population in the Dog. Currently, we are beginning to reach out to stakeholders. Asking them to come to the Summit and begin working on taking concrete and doable steps. Stakeholders we have identified include of course VT Fisheries scientists. We are planning to reach out to local landowners, local conservation commissions, Norwich University, the DEC basin planner, DEC river scientists, Friends of the Winoosk, VTrans and even, heaven help us, the railroad. Even though we strongly believe action needs taking it’s crucial that action is done in partnership. Without willing and able partners no good and sustainable action can take place.

Tentative details:

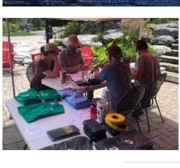
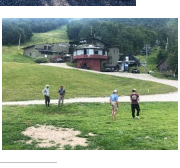
Venue: Capital City Grange in Berlin, VT. Date: Friday November 4, 2022. 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Want to participate, know someone you think should be invited?
Please send an email here. We'll keep you posted as planning continues and reach out to other parties.

July was a busy month for MDTU volunteers!

MadDogger's helped out a this years Mad Marathon in the Mad River Valley. This was the 5th year that MDTU ran an aide station at the Mad Marathon, The World's Most Beautiful Marathon! Over 800 runners completed on a delight summer morning. Runners from around the country ran by our station! Plan to help out next year!

The next Saturday MDTU was at Trout Day at Sugarbush Resort. MadDog had a fly casting demo/instruction site and a fly tying table as well! Sugarbush offers Trout Day each year for Resort guests and the Mad River Valley Community!

More Volunteering! NEK MadDog TU'er's this one's for you! Saturday August 13th 10 AM to 1 PM.

NEK MadDoggers help clean up the Clyde above Salem Lake! Get a free pair of Darn Tough socks and(!) a free lunch!

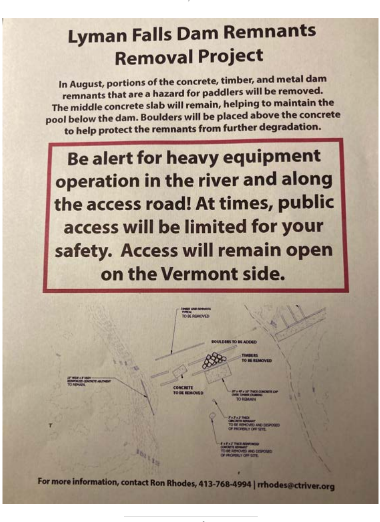
Contact Patrick Hurley.

Last cast..

Changes with big yellow machines! Instream work at Lyman Falls on the Upper Connecticut River!

Beginning in August portions of the dam at Lyman Falls are being removed and a large rock structure is being created. These changes are made for paddling safety reasons.
Lyman Falls can be treacherous. (I've gone through 2 pairs of waders here over the years). There's a good deal of rebar in the concrete and timber cribbing at the dam. The work is really aimed at boaters have had many issues here over the years.
The changes will improve safety at the site and hopefully the rock structure being added mid-current will keep the integrity of the wonderful Lyman Falls pool intact.
We'll see..
So.. be careful next month if you fish here and be aware you may not be able to get at the water.

See below for more information



Lyman Falls Dam Remnants Removal Project

In August, portions of the concrete, timber, and metal dam remnants that are a hazard for paddlers will be removed. The middle concrete slab will remain, helping to maintain the pool below the dam. Boulders will be placed above the concrete to help protect the remnants from further degradation.

Be alert for heavy equipment operation in the river and along the access road! At times, public access will be limited for your safety. Access will remain open on the Vermont side.

BOULDERS TO BE ADDED
TIMBERS TO BE REMOVED
CONCRETE TO BE REMOVED

For more information, contact Ron Rhodes, 413-768-4994 | rrhodes@ctriver.org

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MadDog Chapter Trout Unlimited #539

Founded 1986

MDTU Mission

Our mission is to conserve, protect and restore north-central Vermont and Northeast Kingdom coldwater fisheries and watersheds through education, advocacy, and boots-on-the-ground conservation.

Vision

The vision of the MadDog Chapter of Vermont Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fisheries once again thrive, so that future generations can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.

MadDog Trout Unlimited Board of Directors
President: R. Jared Carpenter
Vice President: Samantha Aronson
Treasurer: Robert Hynes
Secretary: Clark Amadon

Board Members:
Zach Cockrum
Nancy Thomas
Kurt Budliger, Vermont Trout Camp Director
Brian Divelbliss, Board Member elect

What’s in a Name?

With a name like “MadDog,” its not an unusual question.

With the possible exception of one board member, the “MadDog” moniker isn’t a reflection of anyone’s personality or the chapter’s collective political persona.

It’s simply a geographic descriptor of the loose, self-claimed boundaries of the waters that our chapter calls “home.” The Mad River to the north, and the beautiful wild-trout Dog River to the south. Both are tributaries of the grand and multi-personalitied Winooski which, from its headwaters in Cabot to somewhere around Bolton Dam, is no less “home waters” to most MadDog members. Since the Northeast Kingdom chapter has yet not re-formed "MDTU" also stretches out to include from Rt. 100 East to Connecticut River and from Rt. 302 north.

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