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MadDog Trout Unlimited Fall 2023 Newsletter

Protect | Reconnect | Restore our cold water streams, lakes and ponds!



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Dave Aronson's Fly Corner

(Oh and swag.. look for the link for free stuff)!

and as always.. Support your local Fly Shops!!



The July 2023 flooding remains so fresh in our minds and so wrenching to remember. Many friends and neighbors were effected and continue to have challenges. We have heard many stories about how MDTU members helped out and were helped in the aftermath.

The recovery continues and you can help by paying attention to the needs of your friends and neighbors.. as well as to the rivers and streams in our area.

What to do re rivers and streams:

Look for clogged culverts and river blockages.

Notice where the silt and gravel have been put since the flood. Piling this material along river and stream banks is usually NOT an allowed practice. VT DEC has done a great job contacting landowners to dissuade them from this practice and requiring them to remove this material!

What can you do?

Look for woody debris in your rivers and reflect on how they got there!

Look for "big yellow machines" in rivers. Find out if they have a [permit!](#) If you want to find out if the operator has one [click here!](#)

To report what seems to you to be a violation click [here!](#)

Listen for remarks about "dregging" and "levees", building more dams.

Explain to your friends and neighbors that taking these actions will only exacerbate flooding and destruction!



MadDog Chapter Trout Unlimited Moves Monthly Meetings to

1st Tuesday of the Month starting in December 2023!

After years and years of chapter meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month MDTU moves to the 1ST TUESDAY(!) starting in December! Our venue remains the same, The Reservoir in Waterbury, VT. Same time 7:00 for the meeting and arrive by 6:00 for dinner!



2023 Annual Meeting Announcement.

The MadDog Chapter of Trout Unlimited's Annual Meeting is Tuesday December 5, 2023 beginning at 7:00 PM at The Reservoir in Waterbury, VT

MDTU is required to have an Annual Meeting to elect officers and board members, report out on activities of the chapter from the previous fiscal year, highlight upcoming events and projects and take feedback from members.

And, as is our tradition this is the premier of this years Vermont Trout Camp for Teens video!





Chase Brook Riparian Planting

On Monday October 23rd 15 MadDog TU'ers came to Chase Brook to plant willow stakes in the hopes of getting ahead to knotweed that may try and

infiltrate this area! Vermont Fish and Wildlife organized the plantings and MDTU turned out a great group to help install the plantings! Almost 500 willow stakes were pounded in!

Chase was severely impacted by the July floods!

Special shout out to Rich Warren who brought his cordless drill, fastened on a section of rebar and really speeded up the planting process!

We give Rich credit for making this the accepted practice for planting willow stakes from here on in!

In addition Don Coffey, Mike Ware, John Monahan, Dick Muller and others worked on digging out some large maples that MDTU planted along this stretch in 2011!





MDTU Water sampling on the Dog River Summer
2023

This summer we partnered with [The Friends of the Winooski River](#) to sample several sites along the Dog!

Sites sampled were above and below the Northfield Wastewater Plant, along Rt. 12 below Northfield Falls, Chase Brook and Browns Mill Bridge in Berlin.

These samples are then sent to a lab and analyzed to determine chloride, alkalinity, phosphorus, nitrogen, and turbidity levels. The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission has created an interactive [web map](#) that you can use to explore our watershed, and learn more about FWR's water quality data. [Click here to check it out.](#)

The water sampling on the Dog was part of a larger water sampling project coordinated by the Friends. Other sites were along the Winooski and several tribs. It was a very unusual summer due to the flood and a wetter than normal summer after this event.

Who's seen water temps in the Dog in August in the low 50's! Well we did this year!

MDTU will share the results and numbers from the sampling in the Winter Newsletter.





MDTU Summer Meet Up's

MadDog TU kept connecting over the summer with our 1st Thursday of the month fishing and dinner gatherings. It's been a bit slow re attendance so next summer we'll try and tweak the format a bit. However, we did cover the chapter area by fishing and meeting from the Dog and the Mad to the Lamoille, the NEK and finally fishing the Stevens and the Jail Branches(the image above is on the Jail Branch) in October!





The return of the Northeast Kingdom TU Chapter!

Soon there'll be 6 Vermont TU Chapters!

This soon to be re-chartered Vermont chapter has a Board of Directors (listed below) and have adopted a chapter name that honors an NEK TU legacy family and holds onto the traditional chapter name. The name is the David and Francis Smith Northeast Kingdom Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The Smith's father and son respectively were vigorous and tenacious TU'ers who led their chapter and won TU's highest chapter honor, the coveted Gold Trout Award for Outstanding TU Chapter!

The Board of Directors are:

Warren Samuels President

Chip Conquest VP
Travis Dezotel Secretary
Linda Lanteigne Treasurer
Jake Wheeler Director
Roger Leroux Director
Paul Noel Director
Carl Edwards Director
Jessica Booth Director
Kyle Darling Director
Tim Morgan Director

[Click here to keep informed!](#)



The Wild Side

A Documentary on Vermont's Trout

By Jake Leamon

With Partnership from Vermont Trout Unlimited



8.23.23

7 PM at The Big Picture Theater

Cost of Admission is \$7

A Portion of Proceeds will be Donated to
Vermont Trout Unlimited's Trout Camp

The Wild Side, a film by Jake Leamon had its second public showing to benefit The Vermont Trout Camp for Kids in late August. The film was very well attended and raised hundreds of dollars for Trout Camp!

Expect more great work from the talented Mr. Leamon!
Now a student at Middlebury College.



SPRUCE PEAK ARTS



MadDog TU attended the Fly Fishing Film Tour at Spruce Peak Performing Arts last month and met a lot of potential and current MDTU members! The chapter put together an info table, talked with the film goers, sold swag and had a dang fine time at the movies! We'll be back next year!

MDTU also attended Trout Day at Sugarbush Resort in July! We tied flies, taught fly casting and met some great folks!



Chapter Fundraising!



SUP MDTU Fund Raising Raffle! A 10 foot, Pau Hana Oahu Paddleboard.

100 tickets to be sold!

\$25/ticket!

[Click here to purchase tickets!](#)

Description:

Looking for a versatile paddleboard that can handle surQng, cruising, and all-around paddling? Look no further than the Oahu paddleboard from Pau Hana Surf Supply. With its classic nose rider shape, the Oahu keeps you above the water, no matter your skill level. It's the

perfect board for beginners looking to progress quickly,
and it's a must-have in any Pau Hana collection. Shop the
Oahu paddleboard today and experience the best in
versatile SUP design.

Paddleboard Specifications

Length: 10 ft

Width: 32 in

Thick: 4.25 in

Rider Weight: Max: 200lbs | Adv Surfer: 263lbs

Paddleboard Weight: 29 lb

Volume: 187 L

Fins: 3 Qns with 5-box setup

Deck: Extra soft EVA deck pad

Hull Type: Planing



Keep Supporting your local Fly Shop!

Our local fly fishing shops need our support and patronage! Show them some love during
the holidays!

[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 4th person and you can choose from two items from the table, a cool, tech MDTU long sleeve t-shirt, silipint with MDTU logo or a new fly box!



MDTU 2024 Events.

MadDog TU is looking at busy 2024!

There's a spring riparian project planned for Rogers Farm in Berlin, VT along the Dog River.

We'll continue to conduct water sampling in the Dog, as well.

The educational events are huge, too! For the Vermont Trout Camp for Kids we're in year 11! The Introduction to Fly Fishing for Women is in year 3!

The MadDog TU 2 Fly Tourney in partnership with The Fly Rod Shop continues, too!

We hope to expand our community membership with events for families in the Central Vermont area as well!

The Dog River Wild Trout Initiative moves into year 3! We hope to develop specific plans and projects recover wild trout numbers in the lower Dog River.

The summer fishing and dinner meet ups will continue perhaps with some tweaking to allow for increased attendance.

Remember that all MDTU meetings are changing to the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Except for the On-going MDTU Board Meetings which are the 3rd Mondays of each month from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at The Vermont Natural Resource Council's Office in Montpelier.



15 schools are running Trout in the Classroom this school year.

They are:

Hyde Park Middle School, Northfield Middle School, Barre City Middle School, Riverside School, Peoples Academy, Millers Run School, Newark Street School, Stowe Elementary School, Harwood Middle School, Crossett Brook Middle School, Wolcott School, Williamstown Elementary School, St. Johnsbury Middle School, Lowell Elementary School. And Salmon in the Classroom at North Country UHS.

[Please click here](#) if you'd like more info re TIC for your school or know someone who'd like to explore this unique and compelling hands on science curriculum!



MDTU Dog River Wild Trout Initiative Update

Yes, that's a Dog River redd up there! Where few are found now dozens were in the past. Here's to when that trend returns!

To aid that return the Wild Trout Initiative's next meeting is Friday December 1st at Capital City Grange from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

If you'd like to be on the invite list click [here](#).

Last cast..





And yes! One more chance to get that raffle ticket!

[Here!](#)





MadDog

TROUT UNLIMITED

MadDog TU Annual Report numbers for 2023 Fiscal Year:

MDTU's membership volunteered 3935 hours.

Supported 14 Trout in the Classroom programs.

Staffed the 2022 Vermont Trout Camp for Teens.

Solicited corporate and business donations for Trout Camp

Trout Camp Committee met regularly to plan the Camp.

Began the "Dog River Wild Trout Initiative".

Ran the Winter 2023 Fly Tying Class.

Hosted the Premier of "Salmon of the Clyde" at the Big Picture Theatre in Waitsfield.

Began The Introduction to Fly Tying for Women.

Held meetings each month of the year.

Participated in "Trout Day" at Sugarbush Resort.

Initiated a renewed partnership with Friends of the Winooski.

Participated in the Mad River Valley's Recreation and Conservation Planning
Process.

Sent out 4 newsletters.

Sent members to the Vermont Council of TU monthly meetings.

Current treasury balance for MDTU is \$9,835.07 and Trout Camp's balance is
\$10,265.15.



Detached Badger at Work.

Dave's Fly Corner!
From Dave Aronson
Fly: Blue wing Olive Cripple



Blue wing Olive Cripple— —
Size 18-22 Daiichi 1100 dry fly hook
Strand of Axel flash material,
Calf body hair or CDC in white or dun
Olive brown spectra blend dry fly dubbing
Griffiths sheer 14/0 thread Tan
Grizzly neck hackle

This is a great time of year for this fly, any slightly warm day these BWOs will be hatching late morning through dusk. The fish, are always keen on these flies as they're usually hatching in prolific numbers. I tend to chose the cripple style like seen here on 6 or 7x tippet. Fish can be a bit weary with the conditions this time of year, but their hungry so let the water rest a bit and as long as the hatch is still going this fish will start to hunt again. I believe the cripple style pattern does better on these fish in part due to the size of the fly in general and life is just getting harder for these bugs, the fish key in on them more from my experience. Best of luck out there!

Dave Aronson

Thanks to Dave Aronson from Northfield,VT! fly tyer and fly angler, extraordinare!



MDTU Meeting schedule

The 1st Tuesday 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.

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: Joe Nailor

Secretary: Clark Amadon

Board Members:

Daphne Zencey

Nancy Thomas

Kurt Budliger, Vermont Trout Camp Director

Brian Divelbliss

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-personalities 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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