



Millers River Chapter of Trout Unlimited Newsletter

JANUARY 2007

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Millers River Chapter 725 Web Site: www.millersrivertu.org

TU CHAPTER 725 MONTHLY MEETING

January 17, 7:00 P.M.

Millers River Environmental Center
Athol, MA

Guest Speaker – Jim Shouey

Many of you will remember Jim from a previous presentation. Jim is a guide on Montana's Madison River and spoke to us about fishing this river a few years back. Please come and welcome Jim back as this month he will be talking about something a little different. He will focus on planning and taking that fishing trip to western destinations and the Do's and Don'ts so that anyone can maximize their potential for a successful trip.

Presidents Message

Well, January again, and even though the winter has proven to be milder than usual (so far), it's still too cold to motivate most to jump in the river. Sure there are the exceptions, a few who will fish the Swift River throughout winter and 'John' of the Millers River bulletin board that had some luck in Bearsden just after Christmas, but for most of us, it's time to hunker down and get ready for the new season. The holiday time of year tends to mark the start of this 'preparation' period for me.

Last week, after the Christmas rush, I had time to start thinking about fishing again and, as usual, it started with taking a little inventory. Out came the vest, packed with fly boxes, reels, leader materials, tin weights, floatant, ..., and a lot of trash. By time the Fall of the year rolls around, seems a significant portion of my vest is full of empty wrappers, old tippet pieces, tangled leaders and destroyed flies. Even though I start the year with the best intentions of staying organized, it all gets left there until this winter clean-up. Popping open the fly boxes, the holes tell me what I need to tie to get ready for next season. This year, I'll need more wooly buggers, a lot of GRHE nymphs, and I won't be ready for the Hendrickson hatch without an assortment of these imitations. That should get me past the early part of the year – I hope.

My fly tying space is still a mess after it served as a bedroom for the holiday guests. Clearing off the table, organizing the materials that have accumulated since my last tying session, figuring out what needs to be restocked and cleaning the head cement jar will take me another week before I can get down to any serious tying. November was the last time I did any tying at all and I can accumulate a lot of junk in that period of time. I don't know why, but I'm not the type than can keep a clean work space for very long. Things just get lost on a well organized table! With the need to restock my own boxes and the start of fly tying classes this month, I can't put this task off much longer.

My fly reels will need some attention as well although I'm pretty diligent about maintaining all my equipment in top shape. The lines never get cleaned enough during the season so I'll take care of that. I'll have to replace a line or two this year – probably save the old ones for lawn casting or something. The reels with cork drags will need a little lubricant but should otherwise be in good shape. My fly rods are never put away in anything but good shape so they're ready to go now. I need to look over my leader and tippet as well. Last thing I need is to find out I used the last of my 5X tippet when that's all that will work!

Wading gear? That will have to wait for warmer weather. I'll wash the waders with one of those gore-tex washes. It seems to improve the water repellency and I'm convinced that regular cleaning will extend the life so I'll do it again this year. If you've never washed your waders, try it. You'd be amazed with the amount of dirt that washes out even from seemingly clean waders.

Outdoor shows are another important winter custom needed to get ready for the upcoming season. By the end of February the Millers River Chapter will have participated in all the local shows: Marlboro, Worcester and Springfield. When it's cold out these shows can be just the ticket to keep the blood flowing and your thoughts centered on warmer times. Besides, where else will you be able to see all the latest goodies and must-have flies? I hope you all get a chance to make these shows and perhaps help man the Chapter booth.

Fly Tying classes will be starting up this month (see www.millersrivertu.org or visit www.mwcc.edu to register) with beginning fly tying followed up by an advanced class. These can be a great way to keep your head in the game and will hopefully get me through to warmer times. Whether you're just starting or just need a refresher, consider joining us for some mid-winter tying. The talk alone can be worth the price of admission.

Oh, and don't forget our regular meetings, 3rd Wednesday of every month, and our upcoming banquet, 3/31/07.

All in all, I think I will stay plenty busy until I can get back on the water. Hope your "winter fishing" is as active as my own.

Happy New Year!

-Pat

Learn to Tie Flies with Millers River TU Classes at Mount Wachusett Community College

<p>CSPI 303 Beginning Fly Tying</p> <p>Provides the basic skills and knowledge needed to become a proficient fly tier. The focus will be more on techniques than patterns, but many popular patterns will be used for instruction. Topics will include introduction, use of basic tools, hook types, basic fly design as well as step-by-step in-class tying instruction. Each student will be provided with course literature, all hooks and materials required for completing in-class tying, and if not currently a member of Trout Unlimited-Millers River Chapter, will be provided with a one-year membership. Students are responsible for providing their own tools including a fly tying vise. See www.millersrivertu.org for a complete list. Course fee: \$50 Materials fee: \$10 payable to instructor Thu Jan 18 – Feb15 6:30 – 8:30 PM CRN 16023</p>	<p>CSPI 327 Advanced Fly Tying</p> <p>Move beyond the basics of fly tying. Build upon basic skills, focusing on more complex patterns using a wider range of materials. Learn to tie parachutes, hoppers, attractor flies and more. Use materials newer to fly tying such as CDC and foam, and, learn more advanced methods of working with traditional materials. Students should understand tying basics, use of tools, knot tying, dubbing etc. Bring your own vise, tools, and thread. Materials and hooks for flies tied in class will be provided. Course fee: \$60 Materials fee: \$10 payable to instructor Thu Mar 1 – Apr 12 (no class Mar 15) 6:30 – 8:30 PM CRN 16022</p>
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Register by calling Mount Wachusett Community College at (978)630-9238, at www.mwcc.edu or in person.

Winter Fishing Show Schedule

The Flyfishing Show at the Best Western in Marlboro, MA – Friday, 1/19/07 - Sunday, 1/21/07.
 (The Millers River Chapter will run the MA/RI Council booth on Sunday, 1/21/07)*

Eastern Outdoor Expo at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA – Thursday, 2/8/07 – Sunday, 2/11/07
 (The Millers River Chapter will run the MA/RI Council booth on Sunday, 2/11/07)*

The Springfield Sportsman Show at the Big E in Springfield, MA – Thursday, 2/22/07 – Sunday, 2/25/07
 (This is a Millers River Chapter booth and we will run the booth all four days)*

* If anyone is interested in helping to man our booth hours, please contact Pat Higgins at (978) 632-3141 or email at pat_h@comcast.net.

Membership News

Our Chapter just passed a significant milestone in that we now have over 100 members... 102 to be exact!

It's great our Chapter is growing, and on behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors I wish to thank you for your support. If your membership has expired, please renew today! You can renew online at www.tu.org – please click on the Join/Renew tab on the top of the page, or send your membership to Paul Fischer, Membership Chair, 215 Holly Drive, Winchendon, MA 01475. The 2007 membership rates are:

Youth/Student (under 18)	\$20	Regular Member	\$35
Senior (62 or older)	\$20	Family Membership	\$50

Welcome new members:

Randy Baker, Royalston, MA	Ryan King, Holden, MA	Bill Burton, Athol, MA
Scott Piepiora, Ashburnham, MA	Tom Wansleben, Greenfield, MA	Richard Dral, Athol, MA
Michael St. John, Ashburnham, MA	Todd Smith, Alexandria, NH	Benjamin Titta, New Salem, MA
Aaron Pekarek, Westminister, MA	Doug Griffin, Orange, MA	

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact Paul Fischer, Membership Chair @ paul_f@comcast.net or 978-297-0550.