



Millers River Chapter of Trout Unlimited Newsletter

November, 2007

Officers

- **President – Pat Higgins**
- **Vice President – Charles Fredette**
- **Treasurer – Eddie Atter**
- **Secretary –**

Board of Directors

- **Ken Elmer**
- **Rodney Flagg**
- **Paul Fischer**
- **Kim Gifford**
- **Don Barnes**
- **Bill Manser**
- **Matthew Penttila**
- **Brian Tanguay**
- **John O'Loughlin**

Newsletter Editor – Paul Fischer, 215 Holly Drive, Winchendon, MA 01475 – secretary@millersrivertu.org
Millers River Chapter 725 Web Site: www.millersrivertu.org

TU CHAPTER 725 NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY – November 14, 2007 – 7:00 PM

**Millers River Environmental Center
100 Main Street, Athol, MA**

**Doors will open at 6:00 P.M. for Fly Tying with Ken Elmer
Annual Business Meeting and Election**

Pizza and Soda provided!

Message from the President

It's that time of year again! November is our annual business meeting where we'll focus on the current state of our Chapter and our focus in the future. An important part of this is feedback from all so please come with your ideas and energy.

Another big part of our business meeting is the annual election. While we've been working hard to put together a slate of officers, filling these positions has not been easy. As always, the current board is anxious to have support and involvement from anyone with the will and desire. Infusing the leadership of our Chapter with new faces and fresh ideas is vitally important to achieving our long term goals and objectives.

This marks the end of my 2nd and final year as president. Ed Atter has also reached his term limit as treasurer after 3 years. These positions will need to be filled as well as the vacant Secretary position. Charlie Fredette, our current Vice President, is wrapping up his first year in that position. Our hope is to be able to offer a slate for your consideration at the November meeting.

And, a quick note of thanks for the members of the board. A lot of work has been done over the past couple years to try and make our Chapter active and position it for sustainable growth in the coming years. Much of this has been unglamorous, behind the scenes work. All of your officers and directors have worked tirelessly, donating time to own and drive various projects as well as just provide the needed infrastructure to get us through month to month. None of what's been accomplished could have happened without their support and efforts and my tenure would have been much less enjoyable and far less productive. I offer my very special thanks to the entire board for a job well done (not that you're off the hook now!).

Some important notes, this month's meeting will be on Wednesday, 11/14. That's a week earlier than normal in order to avoid Thanksgiving. Doors will open at 6:00 P.M. Ken Elmer will be tying flies for winter fishing on the Swift River. And, we'll be meeting in the East room (instead of the typical room) of the Environmental Center to avoid a conflict with the Bird and Nature Club.

And the most important part, pizza and soda will be provided so there's no excuse not to show!

See you all there.

-Pat

Athol Boy Scouts Earn Fly Fishing Merit Badge
By Charlie Fredette

At a Boy Scout Court of Awards on June 14 at Tully Lake, scouts Dustin L'Heureux and Joey Jalbert were awarded the Boy Scouts of America Fly Fishing merit badge. This event served to spotlight a partnership between the Millers River Chapter TU and Troop 72 in Athol that began about a year ago with an invitation to talk to the troop about fly fishing and fisheries conservation. After listening to presentations by Matt Pentilla and yours truly, the scouts decided to designate "Fly Fishing" as the theme for their October 2006 troop meetings. In October I gave presentations on fly fishing equipment, fly tying, and fly fishing knots. Seeing a high level of interest, I offered to serve as merit badge counselor for the fly fishing merit badge. Several scouts participated in the merit badge sessions.

The merit badge requirements are quite challenging, covering an array of knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to become a proficient fly fisherman. Conservation topics include the Boy Scout Outdoor Code, principles of Leave No Trace, catch and release fishing, and state fishing regulations. Fly fishing topics include rods, reels, lines, care of equipment, types of flies and their uses, "matching the hatch", and, of course, safety and first aid. Required skills include tying knots, fly casting, and tying flies. Required hands-on experiences include streamside insect sampling, catch and release fly fishing, and cleaning and cooking fish

Congratulations to Dustin and Joey for being the first scouts from Troop 72 to complete all the requirements and qualify for the merit badge. It was my pleasure to present them with their awards at the ceremony on behalf of the Millers River Chapter. In recognition of their accomplishments, Dustin and Joey are receiving one year memberships in Trout Unlimited. We hope to see them both on the Millers in the days and years ahead!

A special word of thanks goes out to Troop 72 Scoutmaster Mark Cole for supporting my work as merit badge counselor. Mark provided the scout hall for all the classroom sessions, provided fly tying equipment, and helped out with the field trips. Mark also introduced me to "The Usual", a fly pattern that serves him well on the Millers.

Upcoming Events

November 14, 2007, 7:00 P.M. , Annual Business Meeting and Elections, Millers River Environmental Center
December 18, 2007, 7:00 P.M., Monthly Chapter Meeting, Millers River Environmental Center
