

BATTEN KILL WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Newsletter March 31, 2005

Membership - is up to 145. We are proud to announce that 2 of our newest members are the Towns of Salem NY and Manchester VT. The Town of Arlington is already represented through the individual memberships of the supervisor, clerk, and members of the Select Board and Planning Board. We are honored and encouraged by such confidence in our organization.

It is not unusual for people to forget when their membership expires, so we will try something new. Soon we hope to send a specific reminder to those members who have not paid dues in over a year.

River Stewards - The Alliance is preparing for the river steward program again this coming season. If you have any ideas for tasks for the stewards, or would like to participate in the River Use Committee, please contact Roy.

River Use Committee - The committee met on March 15 at the Georgi Museum in Shushan. Following the recommendations in last year's river steward report, the committee divided the river into monitoring zones for steward tasks. Other procedural changes, such as a more structured meeting schedule, recruitment of member volunteers to float with the stewards, alternate activities, and outreach, were considered for recommendation. Other items discussed were logo display and modification of the report form. The Alliance has now been contacted by 4 young people interested in being a river steward. All of this is dependent on the Alliance getting funding. The next meeting of the River Use Committee is scheduled for

Thursday April 21 at 6:30 pm at the Arlington Town Hall.

Beaver - In response to the beaver activity in the Shushan area, the Alliance has purchased more wire fencing which volunteers continue to wrap around trees near the Shushan Covered Bridge to discourage the beaver. If you would like to help or are a riparian land owner having beaver problems, contact Roy and we'll try to provide you with fencing and volunteers. This is an example of how member dues can help the river and the community. Riparian trees are very important to river health.

Gone Fly Fishing Weekend - a number of Inns and B&B's along the river have organized a special package for anglers for the weekend of May 21-23. The package offers a two night stay and hearty breakfasts.

Visit www.vermontlodging.net/fishing for more information or contact Roy. Saturday, May 22, will include the Gone Fishing and Crafts Fair, held from 11-3 in the barn at the Battenkill Inn in Sunderland. Alliance and Trout Unlimited volunteers will demonstrate tying of flies originated on the Batten Kill and teach tying for kids.

The Batten Kill Fishery, a Review of Scientific Findings 2000-2004 - The Alliance has been asked to arrange for public open house and poster sessions to present the results of the 12 studies of the river which were undertaken in Vermont in an effort to discover the reasons for the 60% decline in the wild brown trout population. It is

anticipated the open house will take place this fall. As details become known they will be announced.

Planting - It's that time of year and we will be planting various riparian areas with cuttings and purchased plants. If you would like to participate, or know of an area in need of vegetation, please contact Roy immediately. The Whitney project, completed last August, will be planted up with black willows, streamco willows, and red osier and silky dogwoods, around April 2.

Dufresne Dam Removal - The Manchester Conservation Commission and Manchester Rod and Gun Club are sponsoring a public meeting to discuss the Dufresne Dam on April 26 beginning at 6:00 pm at the Rod and Gun Club headquarters, located at the Dana L. Thompson Memorial Park off Route 30 in Manchester.

Representatives of the Agency of Natural Resources will make a presentation on their work to date, followed by an informal discussion of issues associated with the dam and its possible removal. The meeting will be held

Agency Studies and Projects - The US Forest Service GMNF, VT Dept of Fish & Wildlife, US Natural Resource Conservation Service, Bennington County Conservation District, the Alliance, and possibly others, are approaching land owners regarding the placement of trout cover and habitat in the river. As details become available, they will be announced in this newsletter.

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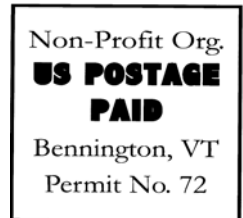
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Board of directors: Bill Bullock, Greg Cuda, Jim Henderson, Pete Hetko (Chair), Al Klein, Ken Nicholson, Jay Skellie, Jim Walker, and Charlie Wilson

Mission: To coordinate, educate, and promote stewardship for the benefit and enhancement of the Batten Kill watershed in the states of Vermont and New York.

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March 31, 2005 Issue

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SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND TROUT HABITAT PROJECTS
GONE FLY FISHING WEEKEND
PLANTING, BEAVER, AND DUFRESNE DAM
RIVER STEWARDS

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW - individual membership is \$20 per year; family ' \$25; sponsor ' \$50; business ' \$100.

This newsletter and the work of the BKWA is made possible by volunteers, funds from the US Forest Service Green Mountain National Forest, donors, and member dues. The BKWA is an equal opportunity organization.