

BATTEN KILL WATERSHED ALLIANCE 9/06

*****ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY 10/3*****

*****SITE VISIT TO TERRIFIC TWIN RIVERS PROJECT*****

*****NEW YORK HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS COMPLETED*****

*****VERMONT FISHERY MANAGEMENT PUBLIC MEETING 9/21*****

ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING & TWIN RIVERS SITE VISIT TUESDAY 10/3.

The Annual Meeting will be at 7 pm at the West Arlington Grange at the Covered Bridge off Rte 313W. Before the actual meeting there will be a site visit to the Twin Rivers project at 5pm and then supper at 6pm at the Grange. This is a very important meeting, with elections for board members and discussion of future projects. Board members Charlie Wilson, Peter Hetko, and Jim Walker are up for re-election. The Board is proposing to expand the board by adding Heidi Pickering, riparian landowner of West Arlington and Bill Whitney, riparian landowner of Shushan, NY. Members should feel free to come to just the meeting at 7pm, or also attend the supper and/or the site visit. The Twin Rivers site can be reached from Rte 313W by entering the driveway between sections of guard rails opposite Wilcox Road in Arlington, and we will meet at the bottom of that drive by the river at 5pm. Please turn right and park along the side of Wilcox Road and then walk down to the bottom of the drive. Call for more information : 802.375.9019. Terrific structures for cover and shelter have been installed in the first phase of the project: rootwads in combinations along the banks for cover and shelter, and slate rocks in the riffles as feeding stations. Thanks to Green Mountain National Forest, Vermont Fish & Wildlife, Orvis , National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and Bennington County Conservation District for their support.

VT FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT BATTEN KILL POLICY MEETING 9/21.

The VFWD has developed a draft management plan for the fishery that may involve stocking of sterile rainbow trout. The intent is to provide anglers with catchable trout that can be harvested, while protecting the wild brown trout as the breeding population, since the rainbow are sterile and will be spawning in the spring. The Public Meeting concerning this proposed policy will be Thursday 9/21 at 7pm at the Riley Auditorium at Burr & Burton Academy in Manchester. The proposed introduction of stocked trout into the Batten Kill has threatened the funding for the second section of the Twin Rivers Habitat Restoration Project. The supporting organizations intended to be investing in a wild trout fishery , which will be altered by stocking. The BKWA is committed to the Twin Rivers project and the wild trout of the Batten Kill, and we therefore must oppose the state's proposed plan. We encourage all to attend the meeting, to learn more about this plan, and to express their opinions. Contact Ken Cox at 802.885.8828 or Ken.Cox@state.vt.us for more information or to express an opinion.

NY BANK STABILIZATION AND HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS COMPLETED.

The Alliance completed a bank stabilization project at Battenkill Riversports in Jackson. An old improperly designed rock vane was removed, a new J-hook rock vane angled upstream was installed, and tree revetments were installed along a long stretch of eroded bank. Carl Schwartz and Mark Rinehart of US Fish & Wildlife operated machinery and Alliance River Stewards planted the site afterwards. BKWA had financing from the Habitat/Access Stamp Program from the NY DEC, and we partnered with Clearwater Chapter of Trout Unlimited in renting the machinery as they executed a bank stabilization project at the Foster Farm in Shushan. Trout Unlimited has also completed installation of habitat restoration and erosion control structures on White Creek in Salem.

BENEDICT BROOK CULVERT REPLACED.

The pipe culvert on Benedict Brook at River Road in West Arlington has been replaced with a larger, open bottom arch culvert by the Town of Arlington. This new structure will be large enough to contain flood waters without washing out the road, and it will allow unimpeded fish passage for breeding, feeding, and cold water refuge. Although this was a Town project financed with a combination of state, federal, private, and local funds, it originated in the Roads & Rivers Inventory conducted by the Alliance several years ago for the Town. The project is at #1752 River Road, which parallels Rte 313W in West Arlington if you would like to take a look.

SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF TROUT BEHAVIOR PRESENTED.

The Southwest Vermont Trout Unlimited Chapter sponsored a presentation by Dr. Robert Bachman at Burr & Burton in Manchester on August 29th. Dr. Bachman presented the results of his study of wild brown trout that demonstrate how they feed and how they compete with each other for feeding territory. The importance of

cover and shelter was also discussed. Finally, the effects of introducing hatchery trout was shown in stressful competition for territory that resulted in a smaller trout population the following year. He had slides of individual trout showing their patterns of behavior and fascinating video showing feeding and fighting among the trout. The presentation strengthened the case for installation of cover and shelter, and raised questions about the potential harmful effects of stocking on wild trout. More information about Dr. Bachman and his research can be found at www.TUSWVT.org.

LET ME KNOW IF THERE IS SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE ON OUR MAILING LIST

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE WE ARE BUILDING AT www.battenkillalliance.org

THE BATTEN KILL WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Executive Director: Cynthia Browning (802)375-9019 exdir@battenkillalliance.org

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

Mission: To promote good stewardship for the Batten Kill watershed in Vermont and New York.

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.

Batten Kill Watershed Alliance

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