



Streamlines

Winter 2020



President's Message

Dear CVTU Members,

In our last newsletter I updated you all on our goals of providing interesting and engaging monthly chapter meetings in the hopes of increasing attendance and attracting new members. I also asked for your support by inviting new members to join us at these meetings. I'm happy to report that these efforts have resulted in some of the largest attendance we've had in recent memory. In addition, I've received many positive comments about these presentations, especially our January "Guide's Night Out"! This was a first of its kind meeting, where five guiding companies presented tips, tactics and techniques for a variety of local fisheries. The night was capped off with a raffle for a free guided trip, won by new member Chase Whiting. I'm very encouraged by the fantastic support we received at these meetings, and I hope you will continue to help us spread the word. Please be sure to follow our Facebook page and website for updates on meetings and topics of interest. All the best,

Ryan Whitney

President – Central Vermont Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Conservation Update

We have many interesting potential conservation projects in the pipeline. We are working with the Lamoille County Natural Resource Conservation District <http://www.lcnrcd.com/> and the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District <http://winooskinrcd.org/>. We are looking at 2 dam removal projects with a host of other groups. One dam removal is up at Smugglers Notch on the Brewster River and the other one is the Hands Mill Dam on the Jail Branch Brook east of Barre. We will also be working with some of these groups up at Ten Bends on the Lamoille River to continue tree planting. Anyone who can volunteer to help with this important work should contact CVTU at <http://www.vttu.org/> STAY TUNED! And check our website www.vttu.org and Facebook page for updates.

Barry Parker

Conservation Committee

There Will Be No Banquet this Year

Organizing and putting on our annual banquet requires a tremendous amount of time and energy. This year the Board has decided to devote this effort to conservation projects, and to gearing up for our 50th anniversary banquet bash in 2021.

Slote Scholarship Money Finds a New Home

Since the latter part of the 1990s, CVTU has administered a scholarship in memory of Bill Slote, a CVTU member, who died at the young age of 33. Bill's parents provided the bulk of the money for the scholarship, and the interest from a specially created account awarded a small scholarship to an outstanding Essex High School graduate who planned to continue his / her education in environmental or natural sciences. Over the years, finding a recipient for the scholarship has not always been easy, and there have been many years with no nominee/recipient. The scholarship seemed to have run its course.

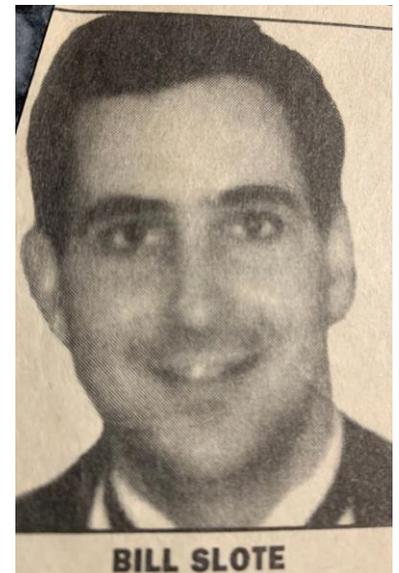
Almost 4 years ago, Rhey Plumley and I approached the Board with the idea of donating all the money in the account to a conservation project on the Willoughby – one of Bill's favorite places to fish. Over the past few years we have worked with Pete Emerson from VT Fish & Wildlife on several promising projects that could be accomplished with the money we had - none of which has come to fruition for various reasons.

Last summer/fall, Pete pitched a novel idea to us. He had been working with CFES – Brilliant Pathways, based in New York. <https://brilliantpathways.org/> Their goal is to help students from underserved areas learn the skills necessary to go to and survive in college. With a STEM focus, they use mentoring and instruction in skills such as goal setting, teamwork, leadership, etc. The Slote money will steward mentorships for students at Derby Junior High - a large number of students who will receive attention from a multitude of STEM leaders in the region, Pete Emerson included. This money will help engage students in programs like the Salmon ladder, electro-fishing, tracking fish, and habitat enhancement. The \$16,089.22 we donated augmented by money from CFES Brilliant Pathways will cover costs for the program at Derby Junior High for 3 years. Given that Bill benefited significantly from mentoring by Art Rye and others, it seemed an appropriate use of the money.

Bill Slote was born in 1962 and grew up in Georgia, VT. He had a paper route and one of his customers was Art Rye (one of the Willoughby old timers). Bill expressed an interest in fishing and Art took Bill under his wing for years (treated him like another son) and taught him to fish, to hunt, to love the NEK and the outdoors. Bill became passionate about all of these. He worked at Johnson Filaments after high school, had a salt water fish tank, a beloved bird hunting dog named Ben. He was into hard rock (Metalica) and always drove junkers. He was a good fisherman and caught A LOT of fish - his hands would shake when he missed a fish. He was good at whatever he chose to do. He knew many fishers and hunters in the NEK and his name is on the memorial rock on the Willoughby.

He died in 1995, at the age of 33, nine months after his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. He wasn't rich or famous. He was a Vermonter who was passionate about the outdoors and the NEK, and he died far too young. As Art mentored Bill, the CVTU Board thought it would be fitting for the scholarship money to go towards a project that would expose youth from the area to the world that Bill loved so much.

Sheila Reid
Newsletter Editor



Bill Slote 1962 - 1995

*Special thanks to Dick, Scott, and Patti Smith for sharing
their memories of Bill with me.*

Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

This is CVTU's 6th year supporting the Trout in the Classroom program. In the area our Chapter area covers, we now have 45 tanks. There are 5



Eggs a week after delivery

inactive tanks, due either to lack of teacher availability and /or curriculum changes, which we anticipate will be active next school year. Classrooms new to our program are Essex Founders School, Winooski Middle School, Ferrisburgh Central School, St. Albans BFA High School and Jericho Browns River Middle School.



Eggs hatched and Alevin feeding on their egg sacks

On January 9th, thirteen volunteers spent the day delivering 4,200 brook trout eggs to the 40 classrooms and the excited students. I did receive an email at the end of that day from the Charlotte Central School Teacher stating an egg had hatched. "One of Nature's surprises"!! All eggs will hatch by the end of January and feeding will start in early February. For tanks that have been purposely kept cooler (42°), feeding will not start until the second week in March. Once feeding starts, students will monitor water quality and make necessary adjustments. Release into local streams will start in the middle of May.

Bob Wible
TIC Program

Fundraising News

Chapter fundraising is an exciting opportunity for members to take a chance on winning unique gifts and destination stays. More importantly, the success of these activities means the chapter continues to have resources to support our mission of habitat conservation projects and Trout in the Classroom education. We are able to do this work thanks to the continued generosity of you -- our members.

We are thrilled to offer a new trip raffle: four days/three nights for two at the **West Branch Angler (WBA)** Resort in Hancock, N.Y. This fishing experience includes breakfast each day and a full day float for two anglers (on either the West Branch, East Branch or main stem of the Delaware River). Visit the WBA website, www.westbranchresort.com, to learn more about this one-of-a-kind fishing destination located on a two-mile private section of the West Branch of the Delaware River in an area known as the "Gateway to the Catskills."

Tickets and pricing will soon be available on our website. www.vttu.org

Cathy Yandow
CVTU Board member

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Fly du Jour – the Spina – a Vermont Original

Dick Spina was an old friend and regular customer at the Classic Outfitters who tied beautiful flies. ‘The Spina’ is his original creation and was christened on Noyes Pond where Dick and his wife caught many good sized Brook Trout. I have used it on Vermont ponds and local streams for trout, on the Saranac for Land Locked Salmon and in Canada for Atlantic Salmon. It can be tied in a variety of sizes and styles, with or without a bead. It is one of my “go to” flies. Unfortunately both Dick and his wife passed away at relatively young ages, but I’ll always have this fly to remember him.

The pattern

Hook: TMC 200R, #6-10 or equivalent
Thread: Brown or black
Tail: Black marabou tips, tied short
Body: Flat silver mylar tinsel
Throat: White hackle barbs, the length of the hook
Wing: Olive marabou, topped with 2 strands of krystal flash

Ol’ Rhey Plumley



The 2020 Lake Mansfield Trout Club outing will be held on June 7th and 8th. The cost will be approximately \$200 including 3 meals. If interested, contact Larry Bruce at lhbrucejr@gmail.com and he'll send more information as it becomes available.