

## Pomperaug Fish Day and River Run Draw Crowds

The Coalition held two new membership events in the spring to introduce local people to its work: Pomperaug Watershed Fishing Appreciation Day and Pomperaug Watershed River Run.

On April 29, seventy-five members of the local fishing community gathered at the Coalition offices at the Bent of the River Audubon Center for lunch and clinics by Trout Unlimited on fly tying, rod building, and fly casting. Luncheon speakers were George Black, author of *The Trout Pool Paradox*, and Bob Gregorski, local fishing expert. Bringing together experienced and novice fishermen, this great gathering shed light on the long history of fishing on the Pomperaug.

The Coalition joined with the Appalachian Mountain Club on June 4 to conduct its first River Run, intro-



Trout Unlimited's fly tying workshop

ducing eighty local canoeists and kayakers to boating down the Pomperaug. Boaters gathered in the morning for guided runs down a lovely section of the river. Over lunch at the Bent of the River, Coalition Board member Curtis Read spoke about the extraordinary nature of our precious Pomperaug Watershed, calling it "the best in Connecticut." The bustling, exciting day included clinics on canoe/kayak building, kayak roll-overs, and canoe poling.



A great day on the Pomperaug

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## Grant from Southbury Community Trust Fund Sends Coalition Staff, Volunteers, and Researchers to National River Rally

A grant of \$5,000 awarded to the Coalition by the Southbury Community Trust Fund allowed five members of the Coalition community to attend River Network's annual conference, held this year at the Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. Volunteer Ingrid Davis prepared the following report on her experience of the conference:

Coming from the Great State of Connecticut and our small Pomperaug Watershed and its very small Watershed Coalition with only one and a half staff positions, it was interesting to see how the Coalition fits into the national picture of organizations dedicated to preserving water resources. Awesome knowing that our tiny organization and our hard-working, dedicated founder have national influence, of course! But I also discovered that there are watershed organizations with 10-20 employees out there, and active, vocal groups all over the country. Forty-five of the 50 states were represented along with several tribal nations.

It gave me hope learning that we, the people, are fighting the good fight all over the nation. That perhaps together we can make a difference for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

The conference included keynote talks, field trips, and many extremely informative workshops. Over the three-day Rally, there were about 100 workshops divided into 10 tracks. I selected what I hoped would provide useful knowledge for the Coalition's Volunteer Streamwalk Program and our plan to begin macroinvertebrate sampling in the fall.

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Can you  
Identify  
this critter??



See back page....

I also looked for workshops that would be useful to me as a member of the Woodbury Conservation Commission and to Woodlake where I live.

Most of the workshops I attended were from Track 6: Methods of Protection and Restoration, presented by the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP). This track included:

Beyond Banks & Bugs: Comprehensive Assessment: this workshop provided an overview of the CWP's Unified Stream Assessment (USA) to "evaluate problems and restoration opportunities within stream corridors."

Dumpster Juice & Other Upland Pollutants: they had fun titling the assessment sheets for this one – the Unified Subwatershed & Site Reconnaissance or USSR, which examines "pollution sources and restoration potential within land areas of urban sub-watersheds."

I also attended several workshops from other tracks and a side meeting on Watershed Forestry where I learned that Connecticut is one of only 10 states with a forestry policy that includes privately-held forests.

Full and fascinating days continued with Saturday and Sunday night films from the Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival and the River Network Partners. Great films - it was worth staying up to watch! Luncheon speakers, a hike to nearby Arethusa

Falls and Monday night's River Heroes Banquet rounded out a fabulous learning experience. The clear message across the board is that we all need to take the knowledge from River Rally and put it to work in our own communities.

--- Ingrid Davis



**River Rally field trippers explore the stream against the splendid backdrop of the Mount Washington Hotel.**

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**Coalition Chairman Taylor receives U.S. Department of Interior Award**

Coalition Chairman and co-founder Marc Taylor and the Coalition received national recognition and honor in May when Taylor was awarded a United States Department of Interior 2006 Cooperative Conservation Award in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Taylor was among only 13 individuals and organizations in the entire country who received this award. This is a tremendous honor, both for Marc and for the Coalition, and it also recognizes the importance and uniqueness of the Coalition's work.

Taylor was



**At a Coalition event in Woodbury hosted by David Veselsky, Virginia deLima of the USGS reads the Department of Interior Award to assembled guests including, from left, Midge Baldrige, Coalition Executive Director Cris Schaefer, Pete Campbell, and Coalition Chairman Taylor**

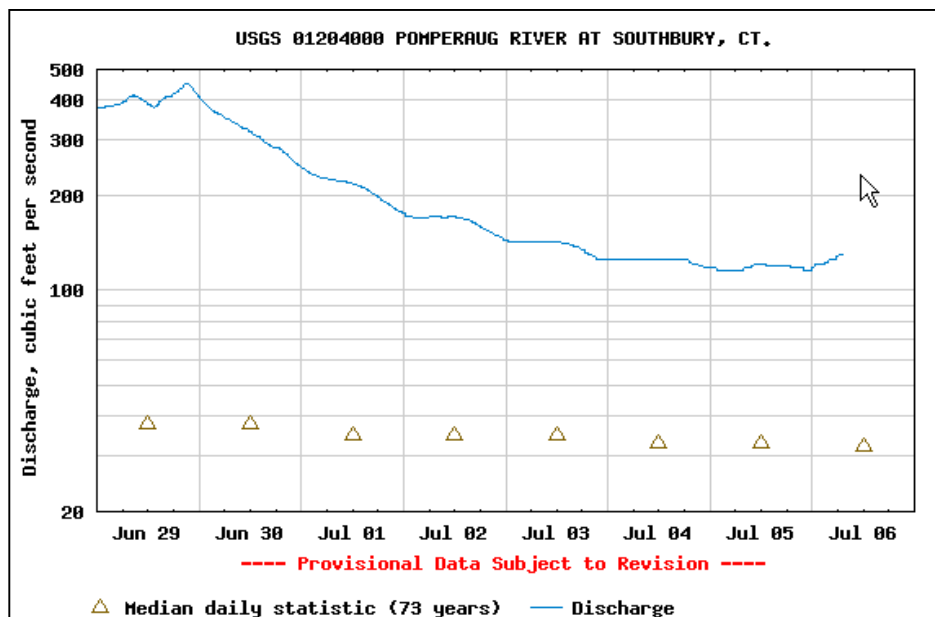
nominated for the award by Virginia deLima, District Chief, USGS Connecticut Water Science Center. The award states:

*Dr. Taylor founded the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition to protect the quality and quantity of water in the basin through the combined efforts of those who have an interest in the watershed. Instrumental in pulling together national, state and local resources, Dr. Taylor created a water-management plan that will serve as a model for other watershed organizations throughout the region and the nation.*

The Cooperative Conservation Awards recognize conservation achievements that involve collaborative activity among a range of entities including federal, state, local and tribal governments, private for profit and nonprofit institutions, other non-governmental entities and individuals. In making the awards, Acting Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett said, "Today we also honor private citizens who heard the call of duty. They embody the concept of cooperative conservation and partnership. Regardless of where or how they serve, all of today's awardees have inspired us with their service."

Welcome to new Coalition members:

M/M Peter Alpi  
 Holly Fitzsimmons & Mark Alvarez  
 Mary Ellen Olcott & Arthur Brieger  
 M/M Mitch Chester  
 Elizabeth Connelly  
 Sandy Cox  
 Steve DeWitte  
 Carol Dicks  
 Tim Ryan  
 Stephen Sasala  
 M/M Vincent Sienkiewicz  
 Elizabeth Silver  
 Jean Trepani  
 John Wick & Susan Hyde-Wick



The Pomperaug's flow has been very high this summer. Real-time stream gauge information available on the Coalition website shows how flow in late June/early July compares to median flow over the last 73 years.

## River Report Card

Did you know that you have daily access on your home computer to real-time scientific data on the Pomperaug, Nonnewaug, and Weekepeemee Rivers? Streamflows in the Pomperaug Watershed are recorded by three U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gauging stations on those rivers. The national USGS stream-gauge program provides streamflow data for purposes ranging from flood forecasting to detection of changes in streamflow due to human activities or climate change. From the establishment of the first stream-gauging station operated by the USGS in 1889, this program had grown by 1994 to include 7,292 stations in operation. Data are stored in a national computer database that currently holds mean daily-discharge data for about 18,500 locations all over the country.

The gauge on the Pomperaug has been recording flows continuously since 1932, and thus we in the Pomperaug Watershed are in the fortunate position of having a full 73 years of data. The information provided by this historical record has

been an important and valuable component in the research being conducted in the Watershed, whose purpose is to provide information that will assist decision makers in their land use and water resource determinations. The information will be helpful in the Coalition's regular updating of its Water Management Plan for the Watershed. It can also be useful in planning recreational use of the river, as it is a good idea to know the river conditions if you plan to be on or near the river for canoeing, kayaking, or fishing. At flows above 300cfs, canoeing and kayaking conditions can become difficult.

In addition to streamflow, the Weekepeemee gauge also records humidity, temperature, wind speed and precipitation.

You can check out the flows of these three rivers by clicking on the "Real Time Stream Flow Data" section of the Coalition's website, [www.pomperaug.org](http://www.pomperaug.org). For more information on the uses to which the Coalition is putting this data, please call the office for a copy of an article on the subject by Chairman Marc Taylor that appeared in the national publication *River Voices*.

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## Coalition Plans Macroinvertebrate Sampling Program in the Fall

What are *macroinvertebrates*? They are aquatic creatures lacking backbones. Examples are insects such as mayflies and dragonflies; crustaceans such as crayfish; annelids such as leeches; and mollusks such as clams and snails. A number of these species are important indicators of the health of rivers and streams because of their sensitivity to pollution.



mayfly

The Coalition has scheduled a Macroinvertebrate Survey to take place on Saturday, September 23, 2006. The day-long event will involve training in the morning by Mike Beauchene, Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator of the Department of Environmental Protection's "Rapid Bioassessment in Wadeable Streams and Rivers by Volunteer Monitors" program. This program is a standardized screening method that keeps the equipment, expertise, and time commitment to a minimum while simultaneously identifying sections of streams with pollution-sensitive organisms. Volunteers will assemble at the Bent of River Audubon Center for the morning training. In the afternoon the volunteers will be assigned to an area in the Watershed for hands-on and feet-in surveying of the local macroinvertebrate population in that area. All equipment is provided by the DEP. Beauchene will work with each volunteer group to ensure that volunteers are making correct identifications. The information collected will help the Coalition in its ongoing assessment of the health of the Pomperaug Watershed's rivers and streams. The results of this one-day survey will also be included in the DEP's water quality monitoring reports required by the state and under the federal Clean Water Act.



dragonfly



caddisfly



stonefly

Curious about this enjoyable and educational event? For more information, call or email the Coalition's Macro coordinator Ingrid Davis (203-263-3578; [ingridd@earthlink.net](mailto:ingridd@earthlink.net)).



mayfly nymph



damselfly larva