

# Valley Angler Stocking the Saco by Bill Thompson

In what has become an annual rite of spring the members of Saco Valley Anglers Trout Unlimited have once again stocked the Saco River with trout. Saco Valley Anglers have been doing this for over twenty-five years. The annual event came about do to the efforts of two of the founding members of the trout club Dick Surette and Dick Stewart. Dick Surette was always fond of saying: "Most clubs stock trout in private ponds for the exclusive use of their members, our club puts trout in public water so that anyone may fish for them".

The stocked fish are in addition to the trout stocked by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. The trout are paid for by funds raised by club members at their annual auction. This year's auction was held last month at the Wentworth Hotel in Jackson.

This year seven Saco Valley Angler volunteers gathered together with the crew from Summer Brook Fish Hatchery to stock the river. The trout were stocked through out the fly fishing only section of the Saco River in North Conway. The trout are taken from the hatchery truck, placed in large plastic buckets and hauled to the river by the volunteers. Every effort is made to ensure that the fish are distributed over large area of the river. The truck makes five separate stops along the two and a half mile section of the fly fishing only section. The North Conway Water Department and the North Conway Country Club contribute to the stocking by allowing access to the river that would otherwise not be available.

Valley residents and visitors may have noticed the signs posted by the club along the river. The signs read: "Saco River Trout Management Area. This portion of the river is a special regulation area being managed to improve recreational fishing through increased stocking and the enforcement of fly fishing regulations. It is community supported through Saco Valley Anglers, Trout Unlimited and New Hampshire Fish and Game. We request that you support this effort, respect private landowners, carefully release your fish and help keep this area scenic". I think that just about sums it up.

In the event that you may wish to support Saco Valley Anglers we would love to have you on board. It is easy to join. Just send in a membership application to Trout Unlimited and you will be assigned to our chapter. If you already belong to a T U chapter or would just like to support our efforts you can purchase a Saco Valley Anglers T shirt for a mere twenty dollars. T shirts are available at the North Country Angler in North Conway. All funds go to S V A. By purchasing a T shirt you will be adding one more trout to next years stocking. The shirts are quite attractive and feature the clubs logo on the front and a map of the Saco River fly fishing only area on the back; making it much easier to locate one of those big old brown trout.

See you on the river.

