



Troutlines

Nine Teens Thrive at NH Trout Camp 2017!

This past June, our new and Camp Director, Phil Donovan, and *fourteen* of our state’s finest fly fishing mentors, including our own Walt Ryan and Angus Boezeman, expertly led nine teenagers into VT’s Northeast Kingdom and the NH’s Great North Woods to learn the secrets of fly fishing. Three of those teens, William, David and Carter are from our chapter area and they and Phil will be at our next chapter meeting, September 21st, to show and tell their experience. We hope you’ll join us.

“...all good things – trout as well as eternal salvation – come by grace and grace comes by art and art does not come easy.”

Norman Maclean, A River Runs Through It.

This year they stayed at Quimby Country, a 122 year old rustic family resort in Averill, Vermont - the oldest resort in the state and originally a fishing camp. Thanks to Eva Sollberger, the producer of the award-winning “*Stuck in Vermont*” web video series, we actually have [some great introductory footage](#) of their trip! Eva’s camera crew wasn’t the only party to capture our teens! Rumor has it that they ran into *North Woods Law* and their camera crew too! (Above 2017 TU Kids’ Trout Camp photo and quote credits: Phil Donovan.)

Our Next Chapter Meeting

Basil Woods TU kicks off its 2017-18 chapter meetings with a video and presentation of NH TU’s 2017 Kids’ Trout Camp, by Phil Donovan and our local teen attendees. Then Rick Little returns to present *Fly Fishing in Maine is Wicked Fun*, which highlights his experiences fishing in Maine for many years. He’ll take us to West Branch of the Penobscot, Rapid River, Roach River and East Outlet, sharing successful flies and techniques. So please join us to support our newly minted fly-fishing youth and gather some tips from a great speaker who thoroughly enjoys Maine’s wonderful rivers!



In this Issue

President’s Letter	2
Tales Afield	3
How you can Help	3
Council Notes	3
Treasurer’s Update	4
Warner River Nomination	4
Conservation Partner News	4
From your Editors	5
Youth Engagement	5
Calendar	6
Sunapee’s Wild Goose Chase	6

Upcoming Meeting

9/21/17 Chapter Meeting, 6pm
Forest Society, Concord

Contact Us

Officers:

March McCubrey, *Acting President*
Vacant, *Vice President*
Richard Kingston, *Treasurer*
Nancy May, *Secretary*

Directors:

Mike Bartlett, *Bow*
Larry Caruso, *Loudon*
Chris Connors, *Henniker*
Peter Denoncourt, *Concord*
George Embley, *Webster*
Bill Hall, *Deerfield*
Steven Lowe, *Canterbury*
Mike Petrun, *Concord*
Sally Turcotte, *Contoocook*
Ken Welch, *Bow*

Committees:

Banquet: Tom Ives, Ken Welch
Charitable Gaming: Dan Stickney
Conservation: George Embley
Fly Tying Classes: Bob Ives, Ken Welch
Membership: Sally Turcotte
Newsletter: Editor OPEN, Mike Bartlett, Chris Connors
Programs: OPEN
NHTU Council Reps: Paul Doscher; OPEN
TIC: George Embley
Youth Ed Coordinator: Mike Petrun
Youth Fishing Day: Bill Hall
Webmaster/FB/Email: Chris Connors

Please email us at

concordtu@yahoo.com or write to us at: PO Box 3302, Concord, NH 03302-3302

About us

We are a passionate group of anglers and conservationists in the Concord area committed to the preservation, conservation, and restoration of North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. We all love to fish - but we also know that good fishing requires viable, healthy ecosystems. Our 373 Chapter members and over 120 local volunteers contribute over \$9,000 in donations and volunteer hours to our local and greater NH watersheds every year. Read more about us and what we do [here](#).

President's Letter



Greetings Basil Woods Chapter Members,

Because we were unable to fill the position of president at our April elections, March McCubrey, Richard Kingston, and I have agreed to share the responsibility until we fill the opening, which we expect to happen before year-end. This month, I am writing the President's letter and will also be chairing the membership meeting on September 21st.

From early spring through fall, our chapter takes advantage of the warm weather and focuses on conservation, outreach, and youth education. Our ongoing conservation effort has been in the Warner River watershed. In our May newsletter, we provided an overview of the project and discussed our plans for the summer. Thanks to many volunteers and partner organizations, those plans are becoming a reality. In this and future issues of Troutlines, we will fill you in on what we accomplished and what the future holds. And our October 19th chapter meeting will be devoted to local conservation issues, with Ben Nugent presenting results and implications of six years of field work and Chris Connors filling us in on the nomination of the Warner River into the NH Designated Rivers program. In the meantime, here are a few highlights.

The Warner River is now part of the Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP). Under the leadership of chapter member Bob Ball, other members and community volunteers have done monthly water quality testing at a number of sites on the river and its tributaries. This is the start of an annual effort to monitor the river and ensure continued good water quality in the watershed.

Workshops were held for all Warner River watershed communities in June. These workshops had multiple sponsors, including our chapter and Trout Unlimited National. Road agents, town decision makers, and conservation and planning professionals attended. All were given new tools to help prioritize road/stream crossings in a way that addresses both flood resiliency and habitat improvement. Particular thanks go to board member Chris Connors, TU New England Project Coordinator, Colin Lawson, and NH F&G fisheries biologist Ben Nugent, the prime movers organizing these events.

For the second year, we have funded a NH F&G intern to help lead field work in the watershed. Martin Bean, this year's intern, has done an outstanding job in leading surveys and preparing reports. An important element of this work is visiting landowners with brook trout streams and demonstrating the value of those streams through electrofishing and macro-invertebrate surveys. These visits are paying off. Landowners are becoming advocates for the watershed and some are interested in following up with conservation projects on their property.

Our conservation efforts have already influenced community actions in the watershed. An important factor in the acquisition of the PK Brown tract was the fact that we found brook trout in a stream running through the property. The report of brook trout and excellent water quality was a catalyst for starting the process to nominate the Warner River into the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. As reported on page 4, this process is nearing complete success with recent approval by the NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee. If passed by the NHDES Commissioner, the legislature and Governor this will be the first completed nomination since 2011 and the most supported nomination in NH history.

While our outreach effort has emphasized conservation, we also take the opportunity to promote the Basil Woods Chapter and our youth education efforts. Chapter volunteers have partnered with NH F&G to do presentations and exhibits at local farmers markets and community events. On Labor Day weekend we spent four days in the Fish & Game Building at the Hopkinton Fair with exhibits highlighting our conservation work and youth outreach. Our exhibit was very popular -especially the hands-on display (continued on page 5)



Our bucket full of forest magic - and an astonishing fifty-five wild brook trout!

Tales Afield: Of Trout & Two Men

Every year each stream assessment we do in the Warner River watershed writes a unique new story of stream, and trout and dedicated volunteers. Particularly memorable was an assessment this August. Thanks to one of our members and his son (a NH TU Trout Camp graduate who helped us on surveys this year), we had the opportunity to assess a stream on their Newbury property. Initially things looked grim, as the downstream reach of our first 100 meter course suddenly disappeared underground. Upstream flow was low and so slow that collecting macroinvertebrates was a challenge. Yet bank scars revealed that this headwater stream could roar, so a few instream glacial erratics, an ample forest canopy and an abundance of instream wood formed deep, dark pools - that *low and behold* supported fifty-five wild trout! As we all stood marveling over our bucket of precious gems, I couldn't decide who was more stunned and proud – the young man who just learned the gravity of his stewardship or the retired elder who grew up nearby and just never, ever knew.

How you can help us make a Difference!

Help us make more of a difference for our communities by joining a committee to help develop our great programs and activities or volunteering in the field. We are looking for a Program Director to plan presentations for our chapter meetings. Volunteer to do conservation work in the [Warner River Watershed Conservation Project](#) and the new [Warner River Volunteer River Assessment Program \(VRAP\)](#). We can do more habitat assessments, restoration projects and river water quality testing if there are more to help with the planning and fieldwork. Join our Banquet Committee to help us plan and stage our largest conservation fundraiser of the year. Help keep our communities and chapter members engaged by sharing your experiences and adventures by posting on our Facebook page – or write an article for our newsletter. Please contact us for more information and send us your ideas.

Council Notes

If you have been reading the Concord Monitor newspaper lately you know about Governor Sununu's removal of the wetland permit extension from the Executive Council's agenda, effectively halting the proposal for a free public boat access facility on Sunapee Lake. The NH Fish & Game Department (NHFGD) was gifted this 3.1 acre property on [the Sunapee Wild Goose site](#) to establish a public boat launch there and [for over 25 years](#) has been attempting to do so.

On August 22, 2017, the [NHFG Commission](#) wrote an [open letter to the Governor](#) asking him to change his mind and support the project. This is the [only](#) safe, free, public boat access on the lake with ample parking. Other boat launches are municipal, private, and State-owned fee-based facilities with public access at the will and pleasure of the owners. We as TU members need to support the NHFGD's proposal to establish full public access to one of the largest lakes in our state. In doing so, we not only open up a great fishery, but also show NHFGD that we are willing to help support them.

The NHFGD is also dealing with [more possible rule changes on the Magalloway River](#). The river starts in upper western Maine near Wilsons Mills and flows between Maine and NH into Lake Umbagog. It's one of NH's last [native](#) trout rivers that produce very large brook trout - and a main Androscoggin River tributary. [April's new rules](#) prohibiting the use of live or artificial bait led to local land owner complaints that they were not allowed to fish off their own docks for bullheads. By opening up the river to live bait fishing we run the risk of losing some of the best fishing left in the state. Maine is also interested in what NHFGD decides. This could become a contentious issue and one we need to watch and be prepared to voice our concerns.

- Tom Ives, TU State Council Chairman



Treasurer's Update

As we close our fiscal year (September 30th) it is my pleasure to report that our chapter is in excellent financial shape. Income this past year approximated \$12,735 with the major sources being our banquet which netted \$4,008 and our participation in the NH Racing and Gaming Commission program for non-profits which netted \$7,501.

Now the good news! Our chapter expended \$1,148 for Youth Fishing Day. We donated a total of \$7,525 with \$4,250 going to a variety of 501c3 organizations including Hope on the Rise, [Nash Stream](#) and the Forest Society (to conserve a North Sutton parcel with a [pristine, wild brook trout, headwater stream](#)). We donated another \$500 to a [TU-Dartmouth Tag-a-Fish Program](#) lead by the Sebago Chapter (Maine) and \$2,775 to the NH Kids' Trout Camp.

Now the really good news! As we move toward our next fiscal year we will carry forward \$40,060.00 in our chapter checking account. Thus our chapter is well positioned, with a lot of effort and your help, to again develop and support a variety of projects that promote TU's mission.

- Richard Kingston, Treasurer

Warner River Nomination – RMAC Votes Yes!

After two years of hard work, the Warner River Nomination Committee, composed of representatives of Sutton, Bradford, Warner, Webster and Hopkinton as well as NH Fish and Game and Basil Woods TU has achieved success!

On May 31st, the nomination to include the Warner River in the Rivers Management and Protection Program was submitted to the NHDES Rivers Program, beginning the formal state process. On July 11th, the Committee provided a tour of the river to NHDES Rivers Program staff and the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC). That evening, a public hearing was held at the Warner Town Hall. All testimony supported the nomination.

On August 29th, the RMAC met and unanimously voted in favor of the nomination. The NHDES Commissioner now makes his review. If approved, the nomination is forwarded to the legislature. If the legislature and Governor approve, RSA 483 will be amended to include the Warner River. This is the most supported nomination in NH history.

Learn more about how the Warner River nomination supports TU's mission by visiting the website [here](#).

Please also join us at our October 19th Chapter Meeting at Fish and Game Headquarters. We are entering the political arena and need your support!

Basil Woods Supports New *Buy-a-Tag* Project to Help Protect Wild Brook Trout

Trout Unlimited chapters in Maine and New Hampshire, the NH Fish and Game Department, and Dartmouth College, are again teaming up to improve wild brook trout populations in the Upper Androscoggin Watershed by conducting research in 2017 on spawning sites and migration patterns of brook trout in tributaries of the Dead Diamond and Swift Diamond Rivers.

Robert Pampiano of the Sebago TU Chapter reported that after several weeks of delay due to the bad spring weather, water levels and some technical problems with equipment, field operations began on 7/23/17. As of 7/31/17, over 300 young trout had been captured and tagged near the mouth of Loomis Brook where it meets the Dead Diamond River. Sponsors have been assigned to these fish and tracking has begun (more fish will be tagged and additional sponsors assigned as the season progresses).

Robert also mentioned it is important to note that this project is designed to tag and track very small fish. Doing so is often very difficult, so it may be some time before there is further tracking information available for the fish assigned to each sponsor. In fact it is possible that some fish will not be located again. Tracking will continue late into November, however, and will then resume again next spring.

Funding for the project has come from four TU chapters in NH (including Basil Woods), five TU Chapters in Maine, two sportsmen's groups and several individuals. NH Fish and Game, in addition to providing the services of biologists Dianne Timmins and Andy Schafermeyer, is providing equipment and a \$13,000 Heritage Grant, so the total cash raised to date is just over \$23,000. Dartmouth College is providing a variety of services including two graduate students and a summer intern, and Southern Maine Community College and Iowa State University are both providing a student to work on the project.

Using the money and in-kind services listed above as "matching" funds, the Ammonoosuc Chapter has applied to TU national for an Embrace-A-Stream Grant seeking just under \$10,000 for the two year project.

We'll keep you posted on the teams progress and our tagged trout!



President's Letter (cont.)

(continued from page 2)
of macroinvertebrates that we include in every event. These events bring in new members and have become an important source of volunteers for our field work.

Our chapter currently provides six schools with chillers for Trout in the Classroom. Chapter volunteers also support school events. For the past nine years we have supported the Lebanon School District's 4th grade watershed conference. In late May, Bill Hall, Steve Lowe, Tom Ives, Jim Timmins, Walt Ryan and I were there to introduce the kids to fly tying and spin casting and help NH Fish & Game biologists teach them about the local fish and bugs. This fall a couple of us will meet the new class of 4th graders when we help out on their field trip to the New Hampton hatchery.

At our membership meeting this month we are fortunate to have Rick Little return with a talk entitled "Fly Fishing in Maine is Wicked Fun". Rick is entertaining and very knowledgeable, having been fishing Maine's water since he went to school there in the 1960s. I have fished a couple of the rivers he covers and hope to learn more about the flies and techniques in that part of the world. We will also hear from Phil Donovan who was in charge of this year's Kids Trout Camp. Phil is a member of our chapter as are several of the camp counselors. Three local teenagers who attended this year's camp have been invited to describe their experiences.

We're hoping for a good turnout on the twenty-first. See you there.

George

From Your Editors

We have embarked on a new style and content for Troutlines, and welcome your comments and ideas. We also want to reach out to those one hundred or so of you who prefer to have a copy mailed to your door. We are seeking to convince you to convert to receiving a color .pdf copy by email as this will help us cut down on the increased expense and time we spend printing and mailing hard copies and leave more money and energy for our conservation projects! Accordingly we are starting a new email list for chapter members and non-chapter members who would like to receive our newsletter by email. Please [email us](#) to get on this list. Thank you!

Beech Hill School Fun

Last spring George Embley, Ben Nugent, Tom Ives, Peggy and Charlie Strumb, Bill Hall, Walt Ryan, Chris Connors and our 2017 intern, Martin Bean conducted a scaled-down field day for Trout in the Classroom students at Beech Hill School in Hopkinton. We set up two program stations. The Fly Tying and Casting Station took place in a lower classroom and just outside, next to their pond. We set up a Stream Survey Station with electrofishing and macroinvertebrate sampling on their campus stream, a short walk away. Aubrey Nelson, their teacher had small groups of the students rotate through each station. Despite the black flies, we all had a great time and hope to return next year!

(Above Photos credits: Chris Connors)

Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter Trout Unlimited

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Visit us on the web at:

- concordtu.org
- facebook.com/concordtu
- warnerriverwatershedconservationproject.wordpress.com

Newsletter Information

Troutlines is published September through May. Chapter members who have given TU national their e-mail address will receive an e-mail notice from us through the TU national server that the latest newsletter is online at our chapter website. Paper copies are sent to members who don't have an e-mail address listed with TU national or who have made a special request.

We periodically get returned emails announcing the newsletter is available on line. Almost always this happens because your e-mail address has changed. Please log onto the TU national website and update your email address so we can stay in touch. Only you can do it.

If you would prefer to receive paper copies of Troutlines rather than electronic copies, drop us a line to either our e-mail or mailing address. If you now receive a paper copy and would prefer to read it online, drop us a note with your email address or update your membership information with TU national.

If you have an article and/or pictures to submit for Troutlines content, we would love to hear from you! Please email us at concordtu@yahoo.com.

2017-2018 Calendar

9/14/17 WRWCP Bradford Presentation
Community Center, 134 E. Main St., Bradford

9/21/17 Chapter Meeting
NH Trout Camp 2017, Phil Donovan & our teens; *Fly Fishing in Maine is Wicked Fun*, Rick Little

10/05/17 Board Meeting
10/6-8/17 WRWCP/WRN Outreach
Warner Fall Foliage Festival, Warner

10/19/17 Chapter Meeting
NH F&G Headquarters, Concord
Warner River Watershed Conservation Project Update, Ben Nugent and George Embley; *Beebe River Project*, Ben Nugent, and *Warner River Nomination Update*, Chris Connors

11/02/17 Board Meeting

11/16/17 Chapter Meeting

12/07/17 Board Meeting

1/04/18 Board Meeting

1/18/18 Chapter Meeting

2/01/18 Board Meeting

2/15/18 Chapter Meeting

3/01/18 Board Meeting

3/17/18 Conservation Banquet

4/05/18 Board Meeting

4/19/18 Chapter Meeting

5/03/18 Board Meeting

5/17/18 Chapter Picnic

Chapter Meetings begin at 6 PM. Social Hour, Fly Tying, Raffle & Pizza; Program Begins at 7 PM. SPNHF, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, unless posted otherwise. Board Meetings begin at 6 PM at Szechuan Gardens, 108 Fisherville Rd, Concord, NH 03303. All are welcome!

Sunapee's Wild Goose Chase: A Swan Song

With over twenty years of history, such a thorough, collective approach and well-vetted process... what happened? We read and examined the Wild Goose Proposal and Plans and spoke with many. On account of all the inaccurate statements we've read in the press lately, we decided to bring forward some facts and personal insight.

1. **Wild Goose Site vs. State Park Site:** Many repeatedly state the Wild Goose proposal will cause greater environmental impact than if the State Park expanded to incorporate greater public boating access and parking. Yet **Normandean Associates, Inc.'s 2017 report (p 34)** states that due to the state park's boat ramp location on Chandler/Johnson Brook, a brook trout and spawning stream, and the **shallow lake depths**, *'periodic maintenance dredging [would be required] on an on-going basis..., resulting in impact to the perennial streambed.'* Dredging within a stream near its outlet affects **the entire stream's sediment regime and more - and** can alter the lake's shoreline sediment regime. Altering aquatic regimes causes significantly more environmental damage than altering a terrestrial site (as proposed at Wild Goose) – and the long-term maintenance price tag typically far exceeds the latter's.

2. **Pavement:** Many complain about all the pavement proposed but fail to understand or educate that this pavement is *permeable pavement* designed to collect and treat toxic, warm, parking lot stormwater runoff, thereby preventing pollution from entering the lake.

3. **ADA accessible sites:** Pre-retirees and retirees compose most of our state population growth. Fish & Game's Wild Goose proposal provides a fully accessible ADA boat ramp design and two ADA parking places. Where are ADA accessible sites provided now?

4. Finally, as a NH resident who had the luxury of growing up on this lake and three others nearby, I came to learn from and deeply appreciate each lake's unique beauty and character. My experience led to a natural respect and desire to protect them so that future generations could enjoy and come to appreciate them as I do. Since then, I've been acutely aware of increasingly restricted access to these lakes. In fact, non-resident public access is only available at two of the four. This restrictive approach is perhaps the most dangerous to the health of our public waters as limiting residents from enjoying these resources also limits their appreciation and protection for them. In the end, shoreline property owners will protect their private interests. Who beyond Fish & Game and the courts will protect ours?

Over \$400,000 of our tax payer money has been wasted. Poor tone, finger pointing and misinformation still dominate the press. An honest, mutual effort to provide safe, free public access and parking for our lovely lake seems a wild goose chase with no end in sight!