



Troutlines

Special Points of Interest

- Banquet Highlights
- Fly Tying Classes
- Volunteer Opportunities

Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar

Chapter Meeting,
April 19, 2012
Mark Foley on Argentina
Fly Fishing

Youth Fishing Day and
Discover Wild NH Day,
April 21, 2012

Final Chapter Meeting of the
Season May 17, 2012

*See Calendar on page 6 for
more information.*

Inside this issue:

<i>Presidential Commentary</i>	2
<i>Editor's Soapbox</i>	2
<i>Reel Workshop Report</i>	3
<i>No-Name Knot Now Known</i>	4
<i>Chapter Calendar</i>	6

Annual Conservation Banquet Highlights

The 24th Annual Conservation Banquet once again showed the vitality of the Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter. One of the principle reasons for this popular event is to raise funds for the chapter's many activities. And this year was a success netting nearly \$8,000 .

Over one hundred attendees filled the banquet hall as they enjoyed catching up with one another, taking chances on our shotgun, canoe, and bucket raffles as well as at Blackjack, the 50-50 raffle, and the 52/52 card raffle. For many, the highlight of the evening was bidding at either the silent auction or at the always entertaining live auction.

This year the banquet committee brought in Maine guide, writer, singer, and story teller - Randy Spencer. His amusing Downeast stories and witty songs added to everyone's enjoyment.



Randy Spencer Entertaining the Guests

Although the chapter holds the annual banquet to raise funds, it is clear that another and equally important reason is the socializing and gathering of

Banquet, continued on page 4

Winter Fly Tying Classes Convene In Spite of No Winter

The chapter's traditional winter fly tying classes kicked back in gear this year with individual classes for beginners and intermediates. Harry Perkins and Jim Timmins taught the beginner class and Ken Welch and Jeddy Waterman the intermediate group.



Paul Doscher working on the Merrimack Salmon Fly - Pattern in *ABC's of Fly Tying*

After the closure two years ago of Hunter's fly shop in Concord where classes had been held, the chapter was offered space at Parker Academy in Concord to teach fly tying. Chapter member Dave Parker generously made this happen. This year's students were enthusiastic and quick learners according to Harry and Ken.

What was different this year was that the beginner class and the intermediate class ran concurrently - rather than sequentially as in the past. Beginner

Fly Tying, continued on page 6

Presidential Commentary - Dan Stickney

Quite a month, March.

As a rule, it's the tail end of Winter - which we're used to. March is, for me, a time to switch hats - literally and figuratively. Warm gear gets put away with the last few cold days of Winter, and the cooler stuff comes out. That said, this month the thermometer has been full of ups and downs.

Last week it was shorts and tee shirts, but this week saw the recall of long johns and knit hats - which is, I guess, what March is really about. April is sometimes kinder, which is what we all hope for.

Fish and Game trucks show up on the roads again, people pull boats out of storage, and the stocks in the fishing gear aisles fill up and empty out almost weekly. I hope you're helping out in this respect; I know I have.

Late in the month we hold our annual Youth Fishing Day at Merrill Park; this event may be the most fun we have during the year. Fair weather or foul, we always have a bunch of eager kids at the pond - though good weather brings more out, of course.

With the help of NH Fish and Game we stock the pond with around 300 eager Brookies - a great introduction to fishing for kids who may not have the chance otherwise, and a nice refresher for the more regular fishers in the junior set.

We'd love to see some new faces - young and old - at the pond this year! It's a great chance to get out of the house, have a delicious burger, and watch a kid's face split in half in the biggest grin of the season. Come out to help, or bring a child -your own or a borrowed one - and spend a while at the pond. We'll be there...

All best~ Dan

Editor's Soapbox - Gordon Riedesel

When April rolls around, a collective sigh of relief can usually be heard around northern New England. Winter slinks away and Spring's inevitability reclaims both the landscape and our spirits. Although the past season forgot Winter when the calendar said it was time, we are on the cusp of another fishing season, already enjoying 12+ hours of daylight, and many are looking forward to being on the water again.

Our chapter's Youth Fishing Day is set for Saturday, April 21 at Merrill Park in Concord - from 9AM to 3PM. This year's event is one week before trout pond opening day on the 28th. This is one of our most enjoyable annual projects - getting youngsters out catching trout. It's all free for the kids.

Also on Saturday the 21st, N H Fish and Game and DES, with support from the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH, will host Discover Wild NH Day. Chapter fly tyers will be

there - and there is plenty to see. It's free. See: www.wildnh.com.

Chapter members have some worthwhile opportunities to be on the water and contribute to the great outdoors. As noted in George Embley's article on page 3, the chapter is looking for volunteers to help NH Fish and Game with Brook Trout surveys here in central New Hampshire. There will be several times in June that teams will be in the field with NH F&G biologists in the Lower Warner River Watershed. Call George or e-mail him to let him know you are interested. 603 456-2315 or gembley@tds.net. This project should reveal some things we don't know about Brook Trout and the macroinvertebrates (caddis, mayflies, etc.) they feed on.

If you have a favorite lake, especially in the north country, and are on it in the summer, DES is looking for volunteers to do lake monitoring. Statewide, lake assessment volunteers collect data on approximately

175 lakes. North Country lakes are underrepresented and this is a golden opportunity for TU members with northern ties to make a difference. If you live on a lake in central NH, your help is needed too.

Sara Steiner, DES' Volunteer Lake Assessment Coordinator told *Troutlines* there will be a 1/2 day workshop for volunteers on Saturday June 2. Sara can be reached by phone at 603 271-2658 or e-mail her: sara.steiner@des.nh.gov.

April and what follows is looking good. Hope you will get out and be a part of what we do - and have a good time doing it.



Make Your Own Reel Workshop a Success

by George Embley

Sixteen participants, including two students, made reels at the second annual Reelsmithing Workshop on Saturday, February 11, 2012, at the Shaker Road School in Concord. The workshop was led by Michael Hackney of the Eclectic Angler, and hosted by the Basil Woods Jr. Chapter and the New Hampshire Trout Unlimited Council. This year's participants built one of Michael's newest, and very sharp-looking reels. The 3-inch diameter reel features a click drag system, holds 90 feet of 4-weight fly line, and handles 25 yards of backing. Everyone at the event completed their reel at the workshop – with some final polishing and personal touches left for homework.



As a result of this workshop, we raised \$800 for purchasing chillers and other equipment for NH TU's Trout-in-the-Classroom program. The Eclectic Angler donated \$50 from each participant's registration to the program. Trout-in-the-Classroom is part of the New Hampshire Fish & Game's Watershed Education Program. Students raise Eastern Brook trout and incorporate environment and ecology lessons in their classrooms and when the fingerlings are ready, released into selected streams. New Hampshire Fish and Game supplies the fish eggs and guidance. Trout Unlimited chapters contribute chillers and tank supplies. More than one thousand New Hampshire schoolchildren learn about aquatic ecosystems through this program each year.

*Michael Hackney's reelsmithing workshops:
www.eclecticangler.com*

April Chapter Meeting Mark Foley on Fly Fishing in Argentina

Tired of winter and can't wait until spring to wet the line? A flight south to Argentina and you'll find summer weather and wild fish eager to take your fly! Mark Foley of *First Cast Fly Fishing* will present fly fishing in Argentina. His presentation will encompass fishing in northern Argentina for Golden Dorado and in Patagonia for trout and salmon. In addition to all the fishy advice, he will provide "how to" details, ranging from fly fishing lodges to do-it-yourself trips.

DES Lake Assessment Program Looking for Volunteers - Training Workshop Soon

The Volunteer Lake Assessment Program is looking for eyes, ears, and energetic volunteers to help monitor New Hampshire's lakes. Lake Associations as well as frequent users of a lake give of their time to help DES monitor and understand what is going on in our lakes. This year's half-day training workshop for volunteers will be held Saturday, June 2.

Sara Steiner, limnologist and project coordinator says there are many lakes needing attention - particularly in northern New Hampshire.

If you and your lakeside friends are interested please contact Sara at DES and reserve your spot. One lake can be monitored by two people and a boat. For more information see the VLAP at www.http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/
Contact: sara.steiner@des.nh.gov
603 271-2658

Volunteers Wanted Chapter Conservation Project in June

by George Embley

In June, our chapter will be assisting NH Fish & Game in doing a Brook Trout survey in the Lower Warner River watershed. This watershed flows through Sutton, Warner, Salisbury, Webster, and Hopkinton. There is currently very little information to describe the status of brook trout within those boundaries. We will need your help to complete this work.

Ben Nugent, of NH F&G, estimates that there will be about twenty to twenty-five survey locations. One crew, consisting of two fisheries biologists and two to five volunteers can survey three to four locations in a day. Electrofishing will be used to characterize the brook trout population and a qualitative assessment of the habitat will be done (e.g., land use, stream type, and macroinvertebrates present). Results will be used to identify intact populations of wild Brook Trout and prime habitat locations and to recommend actions to protect these populations.

Ben has set aside time in June to do this work. If you have an interest in helping with this project, please contact George Embley at 456-2315 (email gembley@tds.net). This is a great opportunity to learn more about our local watersheds and to help protect the wild Brook Trout that inhabit them.

Banquet, continued from page 1

kindred spirits. All of the above activities were in full force this year.

Every year, the chapter hands out two awards to recognize chapter members and non-members alike who have made significant contributions to the chapter or coldwater fisheries. The Basil W. Woods, Jr. award is given to chapter members who have given time and energy over a number of years that have long-term benefits for our chapter. This year, Tom Ives, past-president of the chapter was given the Basil W. Woods, Jr. Award. Tom has and still does, go the extra mile for the chapter. He let us meet at his office, store items as needed, would set-up and break down our display booth whenever needed, he would always have the time to talk with a member or a director - even during a busy workday, and always seemed at ease even when the pressure was on. Tom's tenure as chapter president featured membership growth, new activities, and continued support for our many projects.



Tom Ives - Basil W. Woods, Jr. Award Winner
Charlie Preston - Silver Trout Award Winner

The Silver Trout Award is given to someone who has contributed to the chapter and our mission - member or not. Charlie Preston received this year's Silver Trout Award. Charlie has been a long-time member of the chapter and is best known among banquet-goers as the creator of many beautiful wooden objects. His inlaid jewelry boxes always bring strong bids and his hand-crafted nets get plenty of attention. Charlie has supported the chapter through his craftsmanship and artistry. He has always asked what he could do rather than be asked for something. It is difficult to quantify all that Charlie has done for the chapter but at least the Silver Trout Award is one way we can acknowledge him and show our appreciation for all he has done for the Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter.

“No-Name Knot” Exposed

by Jim Timmins

Having read Bob Ives' story on losing a salmon on a recent trip to the Margaree to a questionably tied knot brought back memories of Skye Lodge Pool on the river. I witnessed a gentleman that suffered a similar loss on a large salmon that jumped - rewarding him with a tippet end resembling a pig's tail. The curly-cue was a result of a failed, simple clinch knot.

Angus' animated reaction to Bob's knot failure wasn't surprising to me. As a guide, Angus highly recommends the “No-Name Knot”. It is probably the only knot he uses - and for good reason. His clients and students would agree.

Searching for the “No-Name Knot” might be difficult given its name. Bob's recent story (“Salmon Quest” - March, 2012 *Troutlines*) compelled me to demystify the knot and attribute a real name to the knot. I do so with the good wishes of Angus I am sure.

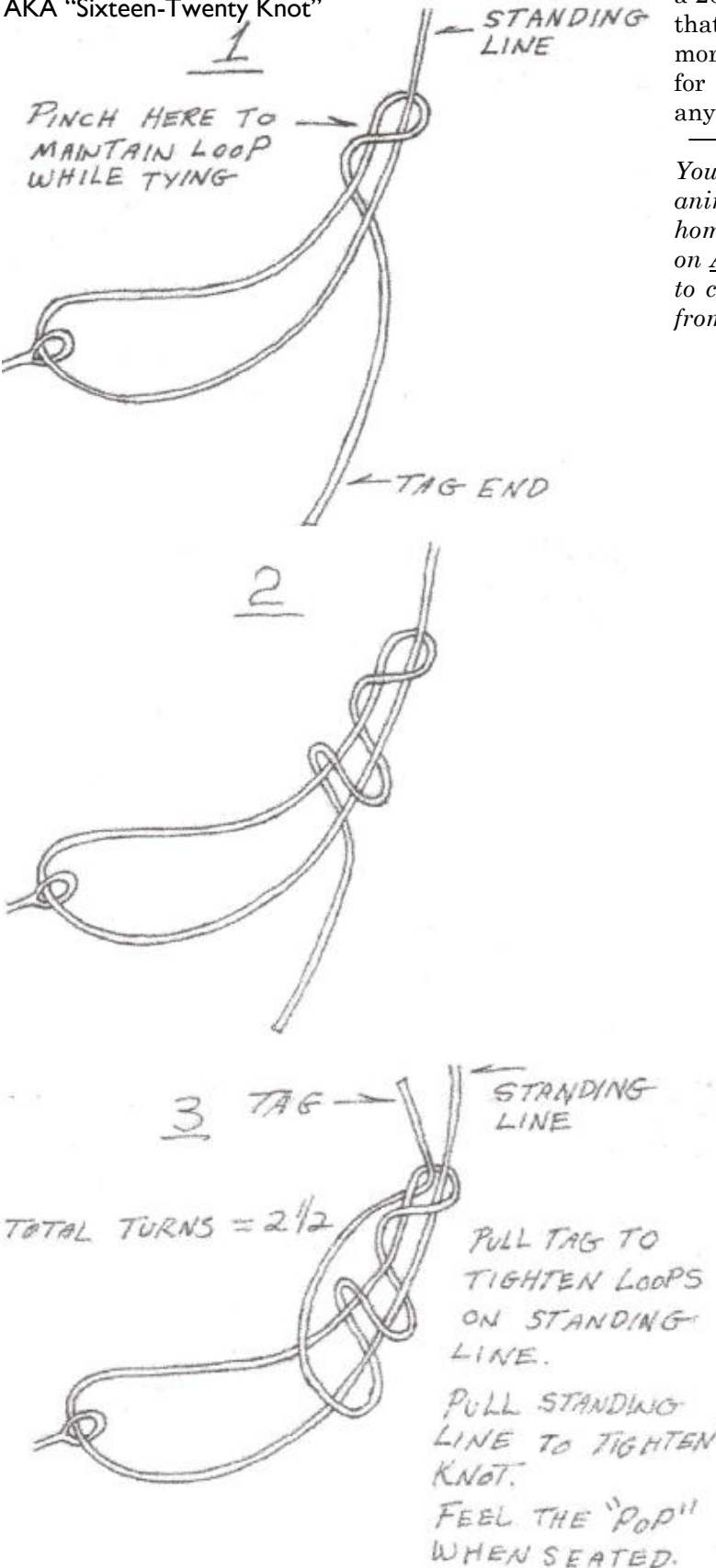
The mysterious “No-Name Knot” is known by many anglers as the “Sixteen-Twenty Knot”. The “Sixteen-Twenty” requires some background. The knot was named by Richard Nightingale, author of *Atlantic Salmon Chronicles*, and is found in the knot chapter. Nightingale named the knot in honor of the Sixteen-Twenty Club. The only membership requirement is to catch a 20+ pound salmon on a size 16 or smaller hook. He became a member in 1995.

Nightingale's research with Maxima leader material of 8 to 12 pound test shows that the “Sixteen-Twenty Knot” has a confidence factor of 99%. Nightingale explains his confidence factor as dividing the average breaking strength of each knot by the average strength of the unknotted material as measured with a Berkley test gauge. In nearly half of over 60 knots tested the leader material broke before the knot failed.

The accompanying drawing will help those that wish to try the knot. There is one distinguishing feature that you will let you know you have tied the “Sixteen-Twenty” aka “No-Name” knot correctly. In the final tightening process you will feel a “click or pop” indicating that the knot is seated, and complete. I would not trust this knot unless I experienced the “pop.”

Although I am a disciple of the Double Turle knot for salmon flies with turned up eyes, I will keep the “Sixteen-Twenty” in my thoughts when I aim to land

Tying Diagram: The "No Name Knot"
AKA "Sixteen-Twenty Knot"



a 20 pound Atlantic salmon on a #16 fly. My guess is that the pulls of a salmon will have to come a little more often before I undertake that feat, so don't look for my name on the Sixteen-Twenty club roster anytime soon. JT

You can follow more complete tying steps with animations at: www.orlandooutfitters.com. On the home page click on Fly Fishing Resources and click on Animated Knot Tying Instructions. You will have to click on the picture of the knot, second row-third from left, for the instructions and animation.



Jim Timmins is a frequent contributor to Troutlines. He has served on the Board of Directors, is actively working on several chapter projects, continues as a counselor for NH TU's Kids' Trout Camp, teaches chapter fly tying and has forgotten more about knots than most of us will ever know - and even finds time to go fishing.

TU Kids' Trout Camp Applications Accepted Through April 10 - Hurry!

There is still time to get applications in for this year's New Hampshire TU Kids' Trout Camp. Recommend Trout Camp to some outdoorsy kid in your neighborhood. You can download a brochure at: http://www.concordtu.org/calendar_and_events

You can also contact camp director Yvonne Nansi at: yln@comcast.net or 603 472-3427

Trout Camp runs from Sunday June 27 - July 1. Camp is held in Pittsburg at Metallak Lodge. Co-ed open to all kids age 14-17.

Troutlines
April, 2012

Fly Tying, continued from page 1

classes run for 6 weeks, intermediate classes for 5. Students could alternate between classrooms if there was a fly being taught in the other class they were interested in learning.

The beginner class uses the book, *The ABCs of Fly Tying* written by chapter member Maurice Beliveau. Maurice is an artist and angler who was inspired to write this handy and excellent book after taking the chapter's fly tying courses a number of years ago. It is in color, loaded with Maurice's fine drawing and diagrams, and is easy to follow. Published by Stackpole Books in 2001, it is out of print but can be purchased through www.abebooks.com.



Drawing courtesy of www.davewhitlock.com



Harry Perkins shows the beginner class how to tie feather wings on a streamer. Pictured left to right: Eric Nestler, Stephen Lynch, Dick Goyette, Kennetha Marshall, and Chris Borg.

Calendar

Thursday, April 5, 2012. Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, April 12, 2012. *Turning Tail*, a new film on Atlantic Salmon, Red River Theatres, Concord. 7:00 PM, \$12. Fundraiser for NH Guides Association.

Thursday, April 19, 2012. Chapter Meeting, At the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord. 7:00 PM Mark Foley on Fly Fishing in Argentina. Election of chapter officers.

Saturday, April 21, 2012. Youth Fishing Day at Merrill Park Pond, Concord 9AM - 3PM and Discover Wild NH Day, NH Fish & Game Headquarters, Concord. 10AM - 3PM

Saturday, April 28. Trout Pond Opening Day

Thursday, May 3, 2012. Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, May 17, 2012. Final Chapter Meeting of the season. At the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord. 7:00 PM

Always check the chapter website for news and updates. www.concordtu.org

Newsletter Information

Troutlines is published monthly except during the summer. 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.

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 and update your membership information with TU national.

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Trout Unlimited is dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and protection of North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.