



Troutlines

Special Points of Interest

- Annual Banquet Report
- Bugs and Trout - TIC Update
- Jim Timmins' Florida Report
- Trinity Sportsmen's Day

Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar

Chapter Meeting & Elections

Thursday, April 18

Youth Fishing Day

Saturday, April 20

Discover Wild NH Day

Saturday, April 20

Trout Pond Opening Day

Saturday, April 27

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Hunting and Fishing in Florida

by Jim Timmins

. . . but, you won't need a firearm. Since wintering in Florida for the last several years, and fishing primarily by wading, and from a kayak, I have come to realize that the vast amount of water that I frequent in the Banana and Indian Rivers, and Mosquito lagoon of the Space Coast can, and often is, lacking of the Redfish and Sea Trout that I seek. When I initially started to fish here, my equipment consisted mostly of fly fishing gear, and I had high expectations of success with boxes upon boxes of killer flies. In reality I did a LOT of blind casting, and NOT much catching. After gaining some experience from contacts, and discomfort from repetitive fly casting, my arsenal has grown to include bait casting and spinning equipment which I use the majority of the time. Still, doing a lot of blind casting (to apparently fishless water), did not increase my success rate to a boasting level.



Jim and a Redfish Meet Up in Florida

Fishing for Reds and Sea Trout in winter is considered to be the most challenging due to constant wind and passing cold fronts. These fish are very susceptible to changes in temperature

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Chapter Activities on Display at Trinity Sportsmen's Day

by Brad Towle

On March 23, the Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter was represented at Trinity Baptist Church's Sportsmen's Day in Concord by chapter members Don and Judy Stickney and board member, Brad Towle.

The chapter was invited to have a display table at the 10AM – 5PM affair and we gladly accepted. There were almost fifty other tables scattered through out the school's three floors. Many were devoted to hunting. Here visitors could see displays of pheasant, deer, boar, and bear and other wildlife. There were two archery ranges, a BB-gun range and a "rock" climbing wall. These were all set up indoors for it was snowing outside! That's March for you.

There were two fishing tables: the Basil W. Woods, Jr. TU chapter and one devoted to striper fishing on the Great Bay.

We spoke to countless people of all ages with questions about TU, fly fishing, cold water fisheries and what our chapter is all about. We brought smiles to many kids when we passed out flyers for our annual Youth Fishing Day which is going to be held on Saturday April 20. It was clear that their parents or grandparents would hear more about Youth Fishing Day from many youngsters.

The many flies on display were admired and folks were encouraged to visit the concordtu.org website for the next fly tying class. As you would

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Presidential Commentary - Dan Stickney

Hello, All.

Gordon, our long-suffering Editor, gently reminded me today that it's time to prepare my last Presidential Commentary. That was something of a shock.

It's been my privilege and pleasure to serve the chapter as President for three years now. Since beginning this trip I've moved twice, gotten married, and been blessed with a son. Reading back through these missives was interesting to me - aside from the splashes from those big life events, it seems that the message has been fairly consistent, and I'll hit it once more at the end of this note.

I've tried to actively offer my time, skill, and energy to the chapter and its events - with sometimes mixed results, admittedly; for the most part, however, I think things have gone well.

We've raised and donated thousands of dollars to folks who have used the money well, helped hundreds of kids learn to appreciate trout, both on the line and in the classroom, and worked with other groups to protect and improve some really important tracts of land right here in New Hampshire.

Those are things for all of us to be proud of.

We've only been able to accomplish those things by working together. I've written, *ad nauseam*, that TU is a volunteer organization - that's how we get things done. Folks who are interested in what TU stands for work together to make things happen. I've asked many times for folks to come out to meetings and

show up for events that the chapter is involved in, and a solid core of members have answered, time and time again.

We do several large events each year as a chapter, and even more appearances happen in classrooms and at kids' functions. Often, it's the same group who shows up at all of these events.

If you've made it to a chapter meeting and enjoyed the cookies, thank my folks - they've stepped up and made the goodies for three years' worth of meetings. Youth Fishing Day wouldn't be the same without Mr. Bill's beard - or any of the other folks who show up every year, just because it's a hoot to be there. The newsletter has improved so far beyond my efforts at it that there's no comparison to be made, thanks to Gordon, our Editor. Our Trout in the Classroom program is strong and growing thanks in large part to Vice President George Embley's hard work.

I could go on, name by name, but I won't. There isn't space enough to thank the folks who make this chapter the lively, active group that it is, but there's always room to add to that list of characters. Here's my pitch:

Show up more.

Come to the meetings and events. Get your feet wet on stream improvement days. Learn something from our interesting speakers, and pass it along to folks who may not know TU or what we do. Tie flies and

Presidential Commentary, Continued on Page 6

Editor's Soapbox - Gordon Riedesel

At this month's chapter meeting, we will be electing a new president. Dan Stickney is stepping down after a very productive and successful tenure. Although most of us wish he would disregard logic, the work load, the responsibility, and the time and energy it takes to be president and accept another term, we know Dan is doing what is best for his more than busy life.

Dan's leadership style mirrors his fishing style - calm, steady, observant, and accepting of both fishless and net-full days. If you have followed Dan's Presidential Commentaries here in Troutlines, you probably have a good idea of who our outgoing President is as both a person and as the cold-water conservationist he is. For Dan, TU is more than fly fishing in the beautiful places trout live, it is about doing all the things that need to be done to ensure the

vitality of the resources that make fly fishing for trout, now and in the decades ahead. Thanks Dan for your work, service, and commitment.



25th Annual Conservation Banquet

The chapter celebrated a quarter of a century of hosting the annual conservation banquet on March 9, 2013 at the Grappone Center in Concord. Over 100 chapter members and guests enjoyed the evening's festivities.

As the long-term fundraising event, the conservation banquet realized \$6,100 for the chapter coffers. As most know, we fund many activities and events throughout the year such as the upcoming Youth Fishing Day, TU Kids' Trout Camp, Brook Trout research projects, and conservation projects. The chapter is fortunate to have established the annual conservation banquet tradition and seen it succeed year after year.

Our special raffles were all successful and profitable for the chapter. Likewise, the silent and live auctions brought plenty of bids and the bucket raffles found many happy winners as did the Blackjack table.

Each year at the conservation banquet, the chapter honors a chapter member with the Basil W. Woods, Jr. Award and gives the Silver Trout award to a supporter - whether a member or not - to recognize their contributions to both the chapter and the TU mission. Former board member and chapter treasurer, Richard Kingston received the Basil W. Woods, Jr. award and Cindy Caron Howe was surprised with the Silver Trout Award to Back Lake's Tall Timber Lodge and the Caron family that has run the lodge for several decades.

Next year's 26th Annual Conservation Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, March 8th at the Grappone Center - so mark your calendars.

Richard Kingston - Basil W. Woods, Jr. Award Winner

You have probably seen Richard on the river, working the banquet, or in the pages of Troutlines. Richard was chapter treasurer for five years and has served on the banquet committee for six. He joined the board of directors in 2007. Like many Basil W. Woods, Jr. Award winners, Richard never let the grass grow underfoot for he was always participating in chapter events such as Youth Fishing Day, Lebanon's Watershed Day, NH Fish & Game Stocking - and of course fishing when he could. He has had several articles appear in Troutlines.



Richard Kingston
2013 Basil W. Woods, Jr. Award Recipient

Some chapter members may have met Richard while he was a practicing veterinarian. After receiving his DVM from Cornell in 1971 he served in the US Army's Special Forces through 1975. The subsequent eight years were spent in private veterinary practice in Washington, Colorado, and Massachusetts. Always enjoying a challenge, Richard also earned a Ph.D. in diagnostic pathology from Colorado State University in 1983 and was a professor at the University of Minnesota Veterinary School. From 1988 - 1994 he called UNH home along with a private practice starting in 1985. In 1994 Richard became a professor and department head at Stratham Community College and then at NHTI in Concord until 2006. Retirement then beckoned and he "got to go fishing a bit more."

When asked his favorite places to fish, he said: Alaska, Colorado, Maine, North Carolina, New Hampshire and Nova Scotia. He thinks an upcoming trip to the Bahamas will add that to his list. As a veterinarian, we wanted to know if he preferred dogs, cats, or trout. Richard replied he never doctored any trout or salmon, but did eat a few!

Those of us who have worked with Richard have seen his strong commitment to the chapter and TU's mission. The choice of Richard Kingston for this year's Basil W. Woods, Jr. Award was an easy and excellent choice. Thanks Richard!



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and will leave the flats for deeper water. Redfish do not like wave action on the flats.

The Intracoastal Waterway through the lagoon system averages 12 feet deep, and is basically the deepest water in the system. There is little tidal change in the lagoon, and water depth is influenced primarily by wind. Varying conditions cause the fish to move around frequently. It is difficult to know where to find them. Anglers with years of experience and those that spend most days on the water have the most success.

In my case, as with most that lack the above, success depends on the hunt. When fishing from a flats boat plenty of water can be covered in the hunt for fish. Fishing from a kayak is limited. How far you can go depends on paddle power and wind conditions. On my best days about 10 to 12 miles will be tops, and if planned correctly, with a little luck as well, a free ride back will be provided by the power of a tailing wind.

A typical day will begin at daybreak, and that is usually when the wind will be the lightest. With the morning's wind forecast, fishing reports from online and word of mouth sources, Google Earth scans, and past experience one sets out in search of bait and bird activity - all signs of fish. Reds will broadcast with their tails in the shallows while tipping up to bottom feed. At other times they may be charging schools of bait and causing surface disturbances. As they tend to school in the winter, Reds can be spotted pushing water with their large shouldered bodies and sizeable numbers in their search for food in many shifting locations. The most challenging Reds for me to spot are the one or two that will be laid up in the shallows just soaking sun, and not active. I most always run upon these, and spook them without a chance to cast to them. I have not found anything more exciting than to spot a solitary tail breaking through the surface without the slightest disturbance to the water while reflecting the sun, especially after paddling several miles. This is the time to stake out the kayak and come up with a plan of success (I hope).

Sea Trout are not quite as conspicuous as Reds, but they charge after schools of baitfish as well. They are known to lie in very thin water against the mangroves, or in a sand hole amongst the grasses waiting for an opportunity. They are built to attack with their eyes high on their head looking up, and attack they will. This is not a critter with a mouth you want to put your finger in. They have sharp teeth

for a reason. Trout also travel in schools, and can be quite cooperative at times. Gator trout, usually 8 pounds or more become extremely spooky, and are not surprisingly difficult to approach. From the perch on a flats boat the experienced fisherman can spot them from some distance, but from the low view of a kayak, even if one stands up, an approach for a successful cast is limited, at least for me. I have not caught a Gator Trout, but some reach the 24 inch class.

So a day hunting and finding fish is a successful day for me even if I miss hooking one. This is a blessing as there are many days on the water without sinking the iron.

There is lots of wildlife to experience in the lagoon with the many varieties of water birds, and of course osprey and eagles. Wild pigs and the occasional alligator are all possible sightings in a day's outing. I have seen two bobcats and a Florida panther which is a very rare experience. I feel very fortunate.

Some tips I would offer to anyone considering a Florida fishing trip for Reds and Sea Trout is to be flexible with the dates in the winter months. This past winter has presented conditions that prevented me from getting on the water for a week or more at a time due to wind and cold. In fact, January has been my most successful month this year. This morning, March 26th, the temperature was 51 degrees with high winds pushing 35 mph. Not conducive to flats fishing. When conditions are not good for fishin, I continue my hunting with Geocaching which has been enjoyable.

Also, in the case of hiring a guide I would be sure to inquire how often he/she has been on the water in the area one plans to fish. There are many guides here, and all looking for employment.

Anyway, c'mon down. It beats shoveling.

Sportsmen's Day, Continued from Page 1

expect, stories of all sorts were shared.

NH Fish and Game supplied us with brochures on places to fish, fish ID booklets, and boat access maps. We were invited to come back next year by the event coordinator and were asked to stay for the sportsmen's banquet afterwards where grilled meats and other hearty dishes were waiting. The banquet alone attracted close to 250 people after a good day sharing the love of the great outdoors.

Silver Trout Award to Caron Family and Tall Timber Lodge

Angus Boezeman presented Cindy Caron Howe of Tall Timber Lodge this year's Silver Trout Award. The Caron Family has long supported TU and the Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter through multi-year donations of lodging and meals, conservation programs, and fly fishing programs. Cindy's husband, John was part of the conspiracy to make sure Cindy came to the banquet - she was surprised and appreciative. The chapter was happy to give the 25th Conservation Banquet Silver Trout Award to the Caron family and Tall Timber Lodge.



Noted fly tyer and chapter member, Bob Wyatt created this full dress Atlantic Salmon fly, "Lilac" for the 25th Anniversary Conservation Banquet. It was a featured item in the Live Auction.

April Chapter Meeting to Feature TIC Leaders and Experiences

by George Embley

This month Judy Tumosa will discuss how the NH Trout in the Classroom fits into the state Watershed Education Program. She will be joined by two TIC teachers, Ellen O'Donnell and Lise Bofinger who will share their student's work with watershed studies and Trout in the Classroom projects in their own communities of Deerfield and Concord.

The Watershed Education Program works with schools and communities to help them understand and manage local aquatic ecosystems to provide healthy habitat for fish and wildlife. Eighty schools located in every major watershed in the state are currently involved in this program. Judy will demonstrate how students gather data about water quality, aquatic macro-invertebrate, and warm and cold water fisheries and then how they map, analyze and share their data using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology.

The Basil Woods chapter supports both of these programs with the chillers that are essential to raising trout from eggs in the TIC program.

Judy Tumosa has worked for the NH Fish & Game Department for 7 years as their Watershed Education Specialist. She has been a wildlife and aquatic specialist and environmental educator for many years, working for USDA, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the Bath Village School, and has run a forestry and wildlife consultant firm with her husband. She has worked in aquatic systems for many years and loves sharing the mystery of what's just below the surface with anyone who is interested.

Ellen O'Donnell teaches 7th and 8th grade science and is an 8th grade Magnet Advisor, working on environmental projects at Deerfield Community School. Ellen is an adjunct faculty member at UNH, teaching a science methods course to prospective teachers. Ellen works hard to try and make her students independent learners. She says the most gratifying thing is to see students asking good questions and showing a deeper understanding of the material.

Lise Bofinger, in her own words, loves teaching and learning and has taught at Concord High School for the past 28 years. She is currently teaching Environmental Science and Freshwater Ecology and is also the curriculum facilitator for science at Concord High School.

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talk to folks, or just talk. Bait a kid's hook at Youth Fishing Day. Try attending a Directors' meeting - they're interesting, the food is good, and the conversation is always lively, one way or another. Help out on the Banquet Committee and see what goes into planning our biggest social and fundraising event of the year.

However it fits for you, show up more. We'll all be better off for having you around. Thanks for considering this request from me for the last time.

Finally, thanks to everyone on the Board of Directors for all you do to serve the chapter. Without you folks and your efforts we wouldn't be the strong, active group that we've become. You've made it a rewarding and interesting ride for me, and I look forward to continuing to work with all of you.

All best~ Dan

Calendar through May, 2013

Thursday, April 4 Board of Directors Meeting. 6 PM Szechuan Garden, Penacook

Thursday, April 18 Judy Tumosa, NH F&G and some Trout in the Classroom teachers will share with the chapter this year's Trout in the Classroom activities. Annual Meeting and Officer Elections.

Saturday, April 20 Youth Fishing Day, Merrill Park Pond, Eastman Street, Concord

Saturday, April 20 Discover Wild New Hampshire, NH Fish and Game, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord

Saturday, April 27 Trout Pond Opening Day

Thursday, May 2 Board of Directors Meeting. 6 PM Szechuan Garden, Penacook

Thursday, May 16 Annual chapter picnic. Place and exact date and time to be determined.

All chapter meetings at 7:00 PM, Society for the Protection of NH Forests, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord unless posted otherwise.

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

Other Happenings

Great Bay TU Canoe Raffle - Drawing April 13
16'9" Old Town West Branch Fishing Canoe
Info and tickets: www.greatbaytu.org/

2013 NH TU Kids' Trout Camp - July 24-28, 1st Connecticut Lake
Applications available at chapter website:
http://www.concordtu.org/news__announcements

Welcome New Members

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting you soon.

Brian Hotz

April Phelps

Edward Rice

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.

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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