



Troutlines

Special Points of Interest

Conservation Banquet 2014

Chapter Awards

Youth Fishing Day April 19th

Don't Forget to Send in Your Chapter Raffle Tickets! Drawing April 19th

Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar

April Chapter Meeting
Thursday, April 17

Youth Fishing Day Raffle Drawing
Discover Wild NH Day
Saturday, April 19

Trout Pond Opening Day
Saturday, April 26

May Chapter Meeting & Picnic
May 15

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

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Annual Conservation Banquet 2014 Winter Gala

by Tim Pease

This annual event designed to ward off Winter and welcome Spring was graced with over 90 of New Hampshire's finest sportsmen and women. Awash in camaraderie, swapping tales of fishing prowess, consuming fine potables and a superbly prepared buffet of fowl and beast, and acquiring vast quantities of raffle and auction booty; the attendees provided ample support for Trout Unlimited's commitment to conserving coldwater fisheries.

Around tables adorned with sporting art, last year's angling successes are told and embellished, but this is no normal evening with acquaintances. Here stories are taken at face value. Here there is an accomplished array of networked, knowledgeable tale tellers. Poorly crafted renditions are easily exposed while nodding agreement and tentative belief can place the teller on the trophy shelf of New Hampshire sporting lore.

Outgoing director Gordon Riedesel presided over the evening guiding the folks from speaker to speaker, auction to auction, raffle to raffle, award to award and to and from the buffet. No mean feat directing a bunch of New Hampshire free spirits.

Chapter President George Embley provided a recap of a very full Basil Woods 2013 agenda, highlights included accomplishments in steam surveys, riparian repair and improvement and land conservation agreements that will provide serious upgrades to both the

Award Recipients Honored

by Tim Pease

During the March 8th Basil Woods Jr. Trout Unlimited Banquet, President George Embley conferred the chapter's annual awards on Messrs. Ben Nugent and Gordon Riedesel for their contributions to the preservation and protection of coldwater fisheries.



Ben Nugent receives the Silver Trout Award from chapter President, George Embley.

The **Silver Trout Award** was presented to Ben Nugent, fisheries biologist for the Inland Fisheries Division of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. His responsibilities include planning and implementing conservation strategies for riparian improvement and statewide watersheds management. Ben works closely with community and individual stakeholders to protect and improve native Brook Trout habitat. It was in this capacity that Ben guided Basil W.

Presidential Commentary - George Embley



Not too long ago (last weekend) I spotted two large vehicles parked side by side out in the middle of the lake I live on. It gave me pause because it is not a common sight this time of year. In fact, two years ago there was no ice at all in late March. But not this year. There is still plenty of snow on the ground where I live and it appears that March will close with an average temperature of 9° F below normal. That is more like February, except that this year, February was more like January. In spite of all this, the lengthening days and higher sun will prevail and we can finally turn our attention to the local streams and ponds for some springtime fishing. Some of the better streams still have hold-overs from last year (or even some wild trout) so no need to wait until stocking. Also, this will be the last year for Atlantic Salmon fishing in the Merrimack River. As you probably know the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the end of the Merrimack River salmon restoration effort last fall. The remaining broodstock salmon will be released this spring.

Once again, the annual fundraising banquet, held on March 8, was a success. More than 90 people attended and enjoyed themselves (some walking off with some very nice prizes) and we netted a little over four thousand dollars-money that will find good use in conservation and outreach efforts. This banquet would not have been possible without the hard work of the banquet committee (led by chairman Tom Ives) and everyone who helped out during the banquet. And special thanks go to the individuals and businesses who generously donated items for the auctions and raffles.

This year's two chapter service awards went to two very deserving individuals. The Silver Trout award was presented to Ben Nugent for his outstanding contributions to coldwater fisheries as a fisheries biologist with NH Fish & Game. The Basil W. Woods Jr. Award, which honors an exceptional member of our chapter, went to Gordon Riedesel. In the time he has been with the chapter, Gordon has involved himself in everything we do. He constructed and maintained the chapter website and regularly published a first-class newsletter. He also involved himself in just about every chapter conservation and outreach activity. This edition of the newsletter will be the last one with Gordon as editor since he is in the process of moving to North Carolina. We will miss him. He is a good friend, both to the chapter and to me personally.

Our April 17 chapter meeting is also our Annual Meeting when we elect officers and directors and provide a review of chapter business. The nominating committee has come up with an excellent slate of candidates (see page 4). As they say - your vote is important - so please try to attend. As an incentive, this meeting will also feature Topher Browne, who will talk about Spey Casting and Atlantic Salmon. Topher is an elite-level caster and fly casting instructor and has fished worldwide for Atlantic salmon.

On April 19, set aside some time for Youth Fishing Day. Board member Bill Hall will make sure there are 300 freshly stocked fish for the kids to catch (and keep, but the limit is two). Fishing starts at 9:00 AM at the pond in Merrill Park in East Concord and goes until 3:00 PM. As usual there will be food for sale and we will also have the annual raffle drawing. So stop by, help your favorite kid catch some fish, and see if your number comes up for one of the great raffle prizes being offered this year - including an angler 160 kayak and a Winston 3 wt rod. And plan your day to also visit our fly tyers, who will be exhibiting at NH Fish & Game HQ as part of Discover Wild NH day.

This spring we expect more activity in the Warner River watershed. At this point the most likely project will be providing support to Colin Lawson of Trout Unlimited National and Ben Nugent and other F&G personnel in doing stream crossing surveys. Colin is the coordinator for Trout Unlimited's New England Culvert Project and works out of the Forest Society Headquarters in Concord. The culvert project, a cooperative effort between Trout Unlimited, NH F&G, other state agencies and local communities, is focused on reconnecting trout habitat that has been fragmented by impassable stream crossings. The first step in the process is a survey to identify and prioritize stream crossings that are a total or partial barrier to fish passage. Not only does this work benefit fish habitat, it is equally important to the public because the survey will also provide information necessary to identify, prioritize and fix stream crossings that pose the greatest risk to public and private property. We should know more in the next month or so. So stay tuned.

Finally, our annual chapter picnic will take place on May15 at the Passaconaway Club in Concord.

Youth Fishing Day - April 19th

Bill Hall, “Youth Fishing Day Boss”, “Head Honcho”, and “Coordinator Extraordinaire” wants to remind every reader that the chapter’s annual Youth Fishing Day is just around the corner. This year’s event falls one week before trout pond opening day and on the same day as Discover Wild New Hampshire Day at New Hampshire Fish and Game headquarters. And Bill says this is a great opportunity to get the kids out of the house and back outdoors.

The pond at Merrill Park in Concord (next to Quality Cash Market) off I-93, exit 16, will be stocked with 300 brook trout. The chapter purchases 150 and NH F&G hatcheries donate another 150. Rods, tackle, bait are all provided or you can bring your own. This is a “worm-fest” according to Bill so there should be plenty of fish heading home to the frying pan. Fly fishing is fine too.

The day officially starts at 9AM and runs until 3PM. There are refreshments, snacks, hot dogs and burgers at nominal cost. TU volunteers are welcome and always needed. It is great fun to get kids started fishing. Tell them, Bill sent you.



Editor’s Soapbox

Gordon Riedesel

Thirty-four *Troutlines* ago, I took over as editor. That was October, 2010. I said at the time that I would give it my best effort both out of respect for our chapter’s members and to honor my father who was an old time newspaper owner, editor, and publisher. Since saying those fateful words, “yes, I will do the newsletter” *Troutlines* has tried to cover timely stories, keep members informed, encourage participation, and put a smile or two on readers’ faces.

Traditional journalism attempts to report the news rather than be the news. And I think that our many contributors – presenters at meetings; authors of fiction, non-fiction or somewhere in-between; commentators and providers of story ideas and information – have helped *Troutlines* succeed in the proper way.

This is the last issue that I am the official editor of *Troutlines* as my wife Pat Fair and I are moving to North Carolina. You will see the name Tim Pease a couple of places in this edition – and you better get used to it. Tim has agreed to take over as *Troutlines* editor. Although our styles may differ, what will be consistent is the quality and importance of having an effective chapter newsletter. And that boils down to communication. With your continued good will

toward the newsletter and the valued contributions that make *Troutlines* what it is, the newsletter under Tim’s guidance may or may not keep calm, but it will carry on.

Alex Hicks will be taking over my role as chapter Webmaster. Since Alex is a couple of decades younger (and quite adept at moving electrons about), the technological component of the chapter will be all the better. I think you will all see Alex’s hand (or mouse) at work in the coming months.

Thank you for being members of this TU chapter. It is a special one where there is always room for ideas, projects, and important conservation work. Thank you too for being loyal readers of *Troutlines*. I hope you have enjoyed what we’ve tried to do the last thirty-five editions. I have.



Parson Ponders

Parson Weems, north woods guide savant, periodically leaves his cabin and campfire to offer a few words and insights that can only come from a dark sky view of Orion's Belt on a clear New England winter's eve.

By 2050 more than 70% of the US population will live in urban areas. You would guess that the future for the outdoors would not be better. As people leave for cities, rural space will go back to its native state and a playground will be there for all to enjoy. Too bad that is not what is likely to happen.

I am reminded of an issue that played out in the last presidential election. Midwestern and Southern sportsman raised the issue of losing their lifestyle and that no one appreciated it. Those of the liberal persuasion were perhaps at the heart of a conspiracy to deny that lifestyle to those folks. The Parson is not a conspiracy theorist but there may be a germ of truth in the concern none the less.

Many city folks cannot relate to the reality of living in rural areas. The country is seen as unrefined, lacking in creature comforts, and overexposes humans to the rigors and dangers of Mother Nature. It is not that cities are better, but the city folks already know how to cope with crime and traffic. That is, "the devil they know is better than the devil they don't know."

Other evidence for a disconnect between city and rural folks is seen in the upscaling of the outdoors. City and suburban sports are guided to well-stocked streams over well-worn paths in unsinkable boats; or to fenced game preserves with comfortable hunting blinds on baited trails. Electronics locate fish and game, takes pictures of them and keeps the sports and guides in more or less constant contact. Satellites and the like insure that the lost will be found and the injured whisked to hospitals. Guides return their clients to plush lodges where they are fed food and wine most often served in the finest restaurants of the western world. That outdoors is pretty nifty.

Sure the country folks can be guides and lodge owners but that will wear thin and suggests a society that is not really American. To most, caretaking the rich is hardly a solution

Why should we as conservers of the outdoors care about this? If we want to succeed we need to identify what we want to preserve or recreate, who we are doing it for, and who we will be asking to help us do it

Parson's instincts say there is a problem here. Most conservators see the great outdoors romantically, as it was in the past; as I suspect our Southern and Midwestern sportsmen do. It is, however, the 70% city folks who travel to the upscaled outdoors who will be asked to shepherd and fund the future of the countryside.

These conflicting visions and the ever present demands on the land for minerals, energy and water will create a perfect storm of controversy resulting in poor results for everyone.

No solutions today. The Parson hopes this has raised an issue for thoughts and talks. Discussions are welcomed from all; and will be published along with other "ponderables" in the months to come.

Parson Weems

New Slate of Officers and Directors to be Voted on at the April Chapter Meeting

As part of our annual by-laws the nominating committee of the Basil W. Woods, Jr. chapter of TU (comprised of George Embley, March McCubrey, George Cummings and Dan Stickney) has compiled the following list of new Officers and board members to fill vacant slots.

The following slate will be voted on at the April 17th chapter meeting.

President: George Embley
 Vice President: March McCubrey
 Secretary: Nancy May
 Treasurer: Brad Towle

Director for 1 year term:
 George Cummings

Director for 2 year term:
 Tim Pease

Directors for 3 year terms:
 Ken Welch
 Steven Lowe
 Charles Stumb

The following directors are not up for re-election this year (term expiration in parenthesis)

Bill Hall (2015)
 Peter Denoncourt (2015)
 Alex Hicks (2016)
 Bob Ives (2016)

Banquet, continued from page 1

environment and our knowledge of NH coldwater fisheries. George gave special attention to the chapter's sponsorship of TU Youth Trout Camp designed to provide a north country, week-long stream and outdoor experience featuring fishing skills, stream etiquette, and conservation awareness. Enthusiastic young gentlemen from the 2012 and 2013 Trout Camps lent a hand at the banquet auction; youth ambassadors today and committed fishers and conservators of the future.

Each year the Basil Woods chapter acknowledges individuals who make significant contributions to the coldwater fisheries and to our chapters efforts in support fisheries improvement. Past recipients come from all points on the compass; business, government, professional, sport, Joe Average and Sam Spectacular. We thank them all.

The 2014 **Silver Trout Award** recognized NH Fish and Game biologist **Ben Nugent** for his field work and volunteer activism. Ben's seemingly tireless personal efforts with riparian stakeholders have improved what we know about our watersheds and their courses.

This year's **Basil W. Woods Jr. Memorial Award** was given to **Gordon Riedesel**; an honored a cog in the chapter machinery. In his time with the chapter Gordon did much to modernize the chapter's communications nudging us on to the Internet while providing a continuous flow of insightful and charming vignettes in Troutlines the newsletter he so professionally edited and produced. He made us all better.

Raffles, always an opportunity for much gain at little expense, were here again this year. A CZ Redhead Deluxe 20 Gauge Over-Under Shotgun and an Escape 12 Angler Kayak were the major prizes this year. Some twenty bucket raffles endowed fly tying materials, books, fishing gear, discounted rods, shooting supplies and pottery to the lucky winners. Thanks to all winners and contributors alike.

George S. Foster III, longtime sportsman and collector of sporting memorabilia lent his professional auctioneering services and crowd pleasing patter to the raffle drawings and both the live and silent auctions.

Silent auction offerings included numerous boxes of exquisitely tied flies for salt and fresh water prey. Locally crafted items in wood, glass, clay, leather

and cloth, stone, silver, were actively bid on. Sought after art work and literature completed the silent auction offering. Thanks to all the donors and many years of enjoyment to all the buyers.

Live auction interest was directed to drinkables (wine and syrup), art (prints and fabric) fishing trips, crafted items in ceramic and wood, trout flies. Of course, the revolving case of Coke (now in its 25th year of being auctioned) and limitless stash of Board of Director flies drew contributions for which the chapter is ever appreciative.

A special live auction offering of 18 salmon flies from the fly boxes of the late Harry Perkins was particularly well received. Judge Perkins a long time leader and contributor to Basil Wood TU left us last year and his empty seat at this year's gathering saddens us all.

Around 9:30 a sated and smiling crowd exited in search of warm sunshine, glistening waters, hungry trout and the fellowship of fishing buddies. A good time was had by all.



Awards, continued from page 1

Woods Jr. TU volunteers, members of the Warner Conservation Commission, and interested local residents in a two-year long survey of the Warner River watershed. In addition to inventorying Brook Trout and other fish, the project identifies water quality and stream habitat in order to maintain and improve this river system.

Ben generously gives his time, enthusiasm and his considerable expertise ensuring that the volunteer conservation community is able to extract maximum benefit from its projects and programs. His company and smile are a welcome extra. At a time when attention to aquatic ecosystems are constrained by tight budgets it is refreshing to find dedicated individuals who extend themselves in their commitment to a vibrant enduring coldwater fishery. Thank you Ben Nugent



The **Basil W. Woods Jr. Memorial Award** was conferred on Gordon Riedesel for his achievements in communication and his continuing contributions to the many chapter community programs. Gordon's editorial and publishing skills have revitalized our ability to communicate with chapter members and professionally convey the chapter's goals, programs and activities through our website and newsletter. His editorial columns have led us up many tributaries of wisdom and wonder.

Gordon leaves New Hampshire for North Carolina where he will again draw on his dad's Nebraska newspaper editorial heritage and edit the Pisgah Chapter Trout Unlimited newsletter. Our chapter will be challenged to replace his Trout in the Classroom and Youth Trout Camp mentoring and teaching exploits, and his back room organizational expertise for all of our major programs. In his moving on, fewer of us will be shamed in comparison to Gordon's inestimable fly tying skills.

While Gordon would insist that he has taken much for his association with the people and programs he has endowed with his grace and effort; it is we, the directors and member of Basil W. Woods Jr. Trout Unlimited, who have gained the greater measure of his company. Gordon you will be missed.

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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Calendar

- April 17 Chapter Meeting, 7:00 PM. Elections and Topher Browne on Atlantic Salmon
- April 19 Youth Fishing Day, Merrill Park, Concord
Chapter Raffle Drawing
Discover Wild NH Day
at NH F&G Headquarters, Concord
- April 26 Trout Pond Opening Day
- May 15 Final Chapter Meeting of the Season

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