



Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter
Trout Unlimited

Troutlines

www.concordtu.org

April 2015

Chapter Meeting

Next Chapter Meeting
April 16, 2015 At 7 PM
Angus Boezeman
guiding us towards the
2015 North Country
fishing season.

Basil Woods Jr.
last 2014- 2015 Meeting
Picnic May 28.
Passaconaway Club
Concord NH

As part of our annual by-laws the nominating committee of the Basil W. Woods, Jr. chapter of TU has compiled the following list of new Officers and board members to fill vacant slots.

Chapter Members will vote on the new members of this proposed slate at the April Chapter meeting

President: Alex Hicks
Vice President: March McCubrey
Secretary: Nancy May
Treasurer: Brad Towle

Directors
1 yr.: Peter Denoncourt
3 yr.: Bill Hall,
Sally Turcotte
Mike Petrun

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

Tim Pease (2016)
Bob Ives (2016)
Steven Lowe (2017)
Ken Welch(2017)
Charlie Stumb (2017)
George Embley (ex-officio)

Inside this issue:

Presidential Commentary 2
Editor's Soapbox 3
Quest 4
Perspectives 5
Awards 6

Basil Woods Jr Trout Unlimited Chapter Annual Conservation Banquet



Well another Basil Woods Jr. TU banquet has come and gone. What a nice evening. Emcee Richard Kingston and auctioneer George Foster III ushered just under 100 of the capital area's best through this 27th edition of talks, awards, raffles and auctions and fine food. We thank all who helped with their generous donations; and raffle and auction purchases.

A canoe, shotgun, fly rod, two north country getaways a guided saltwater trip and a quilted wall hanging were hallmark take homes for the evening. Fine scotch, vintage wine, numerous boxes of exquisite fishing flies, artwork, pottery, tackle and fly tying materials exited with a faint rushing sound. The take was good the donations ample, a notable financial success for the chapter. Again many thanks.

Noted author, photographer, now educator Thomas Ames discussed the benefits of creating wild microsystems to create sustainable nurseries for brook trout. Much to consider here. Thanks Tom.

On to the Awards. Messrs. George Cummings and Dan Stickney received recognition for their many contributions'

Youth Fishing Day April 18 2015 Merrill Park Pond East Concord



Its Free! Bring the boys and girls. under 16 years please. Catch some fish. We know they are there. Bill Hall Mr. Basil Woods Jr. for this program and the State of New Hampshire Fish and Game put over 300 fish in the pond and they are there for the kids to catch. No license needed here. Bring your own gear if you have it. Use ours if you don't

Burgers on the grill too!

The Big TU raffle will be drawn. Win a kayak, a fly rod, a whole bunch of neat flies, a fly tying vice, a really nice book or next years Xmas tree.

It has been a long winter. Get the kids out. Join us for some fun and learning then go up to Discover Wild NH on Hazen Drive in Concord for more outdoor options. Visit the Basil Woods booth there too. We will be tying some flies. We might let you try and tie one too.

See you in both places !



Presidential Commentary — George Embley

This will be my last President's Message, as we will choose a new president at our April 16 chapter meeting. It has been a privilege to serve as your president for the past two years. We got a lot done and had some fun doing it. It got done because there were dedicated people willing to

spend the time, and sometimes the dollars, to make it happen. Things like Trout in the Classroom, our monthly newsletter and website, our fly tying courses, fund raising, and stream conservation work take a lot of effort, and for each of the past two years, chapter members contributed over 2,000 hours toward those efforts. We also raised a lot of money (almost \$25,000 in the past two years) through the annual banquet, the annual raffle, sponsorship of charitable gaming, and other events.

From the beginning, my most important goal as president has been to get more members interested in volunteering so we could get more accomplished. Along with continuing our successful programs – such as the banquet, Kid's Fishing Day, and the fly tying courses -- we have become more involved in two areas: local stream conservation and Trout in the Classroom. For three years now, we have been supporting NH Fish and Game's efforts to characterize wild brook trout habitat and fisheries in the Warner River. This past year we completed a culvert survey in the Lower Warner River Watershed. The project attracted a good mix of local and chapter volunteers and also generated some new recruits. There was a lot of discussion about where and how to find trout, and new friendships and fishing partnerships were formed. We hope to build on this support in our future streamside conservation efforts.

NOTE: Ben Nugent, of NH Fish & Game, and other fisheries experts are looking at our crossing data, together with results of earlier electro-fishing surveys, and we should

soon have a pretty good idea of where future conservation work in this watershed might be most productive. Ben is finishing a report summarizing the findings, which will go on line soon (the link will be posted on our website when available).

In the second area, Trout in the Classroom, we have continued to expand our support of this nationwide program. With the addition of the Henniker school, we are now supporting eight schools with chillers. Chapter volunteers also support teachers and school events, such as the Lebanon 4th grade watershed conference. Thanks to our fundraising, we can usually offer chillers to additional schools that wish to participate, but we could be more effective if we offered more volunteers to help in the classroom or at the local stream when the kids release their trout. I can testify that our volunteers not only work hard, they get a sense of satisfaction from it. When you see a call for volunteers, I encourage you to join in...

There are a lot of people who deserve recognition for their efforts, but I'm afraid the list is too long to include all their names here. We have a dedicated and hard-working board of directors, and it has been a pleasure working with them. These members -- together with former board members who act as advisors to the board -- are the glue that holds our chapter together. My thanks go to all who volunteered this year, but I am particularly grateful to this small core of dedicated volunteers who have been there for the chapter time and time again.

Our next and final chapter meeting will be our annual meeting on April 16 where we will have elections and a presentation by Angus Boezman. And we will officially end the year with our annual picnic on May 21. Please try to make the annual meeting and meet your new officers and board members. I look forward to seeing you there and in the future. I am stepping down, but I'm staying involved and plan to support our new president in the same way others have helped me.

Knots for Everything

Jim Timmins' continuing quest for the ultimate technical fishing solutions brings us this gem on knots for fly fishermen. This does a good job of destroying my personal mythology that you only need two knots to fish. Learn something every day! It is of course a video so you need to get to your computers to see and review it. Here is your link. Good luck and strong knots <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbeSr-Dxdig>



Basil Woods Jr
Concord New Hampshire



Remember, you can now find us on Facebook. Facebook users can use the Facebook search tool for “Concord TU” or “Trout Unlimited, Concord NH.” We will use Facebook as another method to share information about what is happening regarding chapter and important cold water conservation activities - maybe even a few fish stories, too! Not a Facebook user but still want to check out the page? Here’s the direct link: <https://www.facebook.com/ConcordTU>. Questions? Ask Alex Hicks, our Webmaster – ConcordTU@yahoo.com

Editors Soapbox

Tim Pease

If this sounds somewhat like the dorm room conversations you had with your buddies over a few mind altering beverages it should. Those conversations/diatribes addressing seemingly cosmic issues were fascinating because we were young and we thought we could fix any and of these problems. In our dotage we have concluded that it’s all impossible so we no longer think the great thoughts. .

Someone recently referred to our current fish management practices as akin to Disneyworld, attributing an degree of outdoor fantasy to current practices I too have concluded that many of our fishing venues had essentially become outdoor natural theme parks. However today, most conservation schemes seem dedicated to reestablishing some version of a the pristine past wild, undammed, absent non native species, isolated and unavailable venues.

My dad said “you can never go back”. Like many parental aphorism this one too took some time to sink in but I think I got. You see when you go back to must accept the whole “way back” package. So if you like the 50’s you get not only gleaming cars, modern appliances and perfect families you get tract housing, women in the home only, segregation, red baiting, et.al. and in the 60s you get, civil rights and great educations but you get Vietnam, and burning cities, you get the picture. Every moment has its tradeoffs. And the corollary to this is, that if the wayback package is not intact you will get different outcomes and sensibilities like civil rights and no burning cities as an example.

There is something I learned in my economic studies call “*ceteris paribus*” . It means all things being equal. In economic theory it is used to create a framework to study how changes in one variable would impact another. It works real great to create

a theoretical construct. It fails in real life because things don’t change one at a time or if the do the present condition represent cumulative changes over time. In either case it makes it difficult for theory to deal with reality and no matter how refined your theory, you come to realize there is no single silver bullet solution. All the variables matter

And so it is with our conservation efforts. We posit that if we return the native fish species that we can overlook the that old cooling effect of the great American forest canopy, or the public pressures generated by todays populations to just drink, see and be in the water doesn’t alter the theoretical outcomes. In short partial measures don’t work as we might expect them to and total changes back in time are undesirable

We cannot reinstate the whole wilderness package of, pick the time, 1800, 1850, 1900. Nor should we. I have no desire to return to human luxuries extant then. I kind of like the running water, indoor toilets, paved roads, electricity, cars, et all of today. I suspect most would balk at any solutions that suggest a return to yesteryear that did not include the above and much more too.

Remembering that thriving brook trout and Atlantic salmon populations existed in the eastern US when the forest supplied mast timbers and sunlight never hit the ground or that natives caught fish with pre Columbian technologies should trigger some thought of the impact of man on this ecosystem and its public resources. The zero European populated eastern US was a wonderful “natural world”. There were few folks. But, to grow the then settlers flatten the forest, dammed the rivers, ate the fish and the migrating birds, drained the swamps (I do miss the mosquitos), grew some crops, and built some roads.

The result was as every text book on conservation notes the siltation of streams the raising of water temperatures and by the late 1800s the almost total loss of habitat for both brook trout and salmon.

How do you go back. You can't. In 1780 there were 3 million here. By 1880, when we imported brown trout, there were 50 million and today we have in excess of 300 million folks and many of the original species of humans, animals and fish now exist in significantly different proportion to each other. We have not enlarged the original public natural resource pool one wit. Resorting to war famine and disease to reestablish old ratios seem bad public policy to me. I short, "We have met the enemy and they is us".

If we cannot go back then we must go forward. Humans are the ultimate Darwinian force. Natural forces like meteors, volcanos, earthquakes, floods, droughts had always been awed by man and man was assumed to adapt to their outcomes. We now have worked hard on floods and droughts, think we can divert meteors, but still need to accept volcanos and earthquakes at face value. What we have not taken at face value were hunger, darkness, cold, and isolation, and in so doing we have significantly altered our world.

Even though we cannot go back we need to address some of the alterations we have imposed on ourselves. In fact we have made great strides. In 1960 some rivers actually burned and offal and dross ran through all but the most remote tributaries. No more; but, these are not the rivers of 1650. We have created wonderful fisheries in the wake of epic dam building. Tail waters are not for the most part natural but they are productive attractive fisheries.

I recently attended a presentation on the proliferation of post WW II dams in the west. The contention was that they were unnecessary and even with fish ladders and supported stocking programs provided a diminished fishery over the previous condition. Hatcheries were an anathema creating "stupid" inferior fighting fish unable to breed for lack of genetic diversity. Here the solution was eliminating dam and the sequestering of native stocks to be admired but not fished. Or if fished only at exorbitant cost to manage the allocation of these scarce resources to the public.

Sure we should dismantle some of these unnecessary dams but I doubt that the Grand Coulee will be off line soon and it is the granddaddy of all fish gateways in the west. Why not breed smarter, better, genetically diverse fish to cohabitate with the natives. My word we can parse your DNA in a day and alterations are practically on demand. Even if they new species do not effectively cohabitate with the native fish but they are sustainable, albeit with the intervention of man. Lets find a way to make our more acidic water more productive for bugs, forage fish, and game fish. What's wrong with that? We used our alleged

minds to get us into this mess; use it to get us out.

Heck if an osprey snatched a rainbow trout from the upper reaches of the Snake and deposited it, likely barely alive, in Yellowstone Lake, and it survived to breed with cutthroats it would all be okay. Think of man as osprey; more ubiquitous, more impactful, for sure but he is just as much a part of this eco system as the native bird.

Man does have an advantage over the bird. Though, neither can undo the deed, but man can formulate plan B. Will we lose something in our Plan B's? Sure! Yellowstone Lake may have a strong rainbow fishery and cutthroats may wan until a smarter, stronger, cutthroat is rendered. So be it. It is better than killing off the existing fishery in hopes that the old one can be sustained in the face of continuing human pressures. Does it really matter that it is "the way it was"? There are sustaining brown trout fisheries in 34 of the 50 states and that's bad because the osprey did not bring them. Go figure.

To conserve and preserve are terms for defining the absence of continuing deterioration they are not recipes for turning back the clock. We need to stabilize our ecology recognize that we cannot go back in time and provide solutions that will create a use of these public resources that benefit all; in clear recognition that these are shared resources and as such may need non-traditional approaches to creating, maintaining and sustaining them.

Solutions that effectively withdraw the resource from the public and require some artificial method of allocation are viewed as elitist and subject the promulgators to public scorn and associated withdrawal of support for such solutions. Remember the snail darter and the TVA. It was not the snail darter that was the issue but the withdrawal of the river that drew the ire. See it today in global warming. It is the withdrawal of the energy resource that is at issue. In part here because here we have privatized the public resource (paradoxically engendering more strident advocacy) but it is the withdrawal that is at issue.

This tricky stuff! We cannot waste our Plan Bs by returning to yesteryear. It won't work it, it will make us look elitist, the public won't like it and conservation will if it continues down this path fail and need to be recast. We in conservation often look to science to guide us and we should, the science of the future not the science of the past. Dad was right! You cant go back and nor should we! Lets make more and better natural theme parks.

Tim Pease

Quest

As with Don Quixote I have been on a quest not tilting at windmills but casting endlessly at the King of the angling kingdom "The Aerialist", the Atlantic Salmon.

Charlie, Angus, Dave and I once again returned to the magnificent Margaree Valley in search of our destiny, to land an Atlantic Salmon to touch that shimmering silver beast that is the object of our lust.

We first waded across the river at the forks pool and watched from the shingle as fish after fish rolled and leapt from the depths like acrobats in a circus. Ten, twenty, fifty or more and not one would touch the flies that were offered in reverence to test their celibacy.

Having fished for half of the day we returned to the crossing point to find that the water had risen a foot or more due to rains in the highlands the night before, oops lesson number one keep track of the river while fishing.

The next day we ventured to the swimming-hole pool for more of the same. The fish were rolling and frolicking casting a disparaging glance at our feebly cast fly's.

On the third day having been shunned by the Margaree we decided to try our luck on the Middle River at the Bridge Pool. I waded to the middle of the river and sent cast after cast toward the stone bridge abutment to swing over the deep pool below the bridge. The stone abutment was a fly magnet as I lost fly after fly on the submerged rocks. Then I hit upon a new presentation by accident. I made a cast (duplicating the previous 500 made) took two steps stumbled over a rock and saw my line running back up stream. Thinking I was once again hooked up on the stones of the abutment, I raised my rod hoping to salvage one of the last of my dwindling supply of flies when suddenly I felt a surge in the line. I actually had a fish on, as calmly as I could I mentioned to all within a half mile that I had a "Fish On"!!!! I fought the King for what seemed like an hour feeling the strength of his will as he rushed up and down the river from one side to the other. Then with one final flip of his tail he was gone.

I still had my fly and the battle was well fought. we both left the scene satisfied. He in that he had beaten me and I knowing that I had been beaten by the best that fly fishing has to offer.

Bob Ives

Basil Woods Gets Lucky With New Member

This year we had a new member, a notably young guy in the midst of us codgers. He is a teacher and from what I can glean a pretty good one too. Mike was in the fly tying class and when I asked for articles and he obliged with the piece below. I am and probably all of us in Basil Woods are flattered by his kind words but more importantly we are pleased to have his company and contribution. Thanks Mike.

Perspectives

Most people have heard the quote "change is the only constant in life." Through our many experiences, we learn how to handle these changes, to some extent, but never truly master change. I mention this because, at the young age of twenty-three, I have experienced great change in the past eight months. I uprooted my whole life, within a week's time, for a teaching job and new life in New Hampshire.

In the summer right before I moved to New Hampshire, I joined Trout Unlimited. I love fishing, and conservation, so this organization was one that I held in high regard. I was eager to jump into things, so I found out when the meetings were, and I was ready to start my new journey. The first meeting was very interesting, and to say the least, I was nervous. Throughout the meeting I spoke with numerous members, all who were very welcoming with only nice things to say. I even won a door prize that night. I was hooked.

Throughout my time with the Basil Woods, Jr. Chapter, it has been a roller coaster ride. Many activities come and go like monthly meetings, fly tying, and the banquet, but there was one very important item that has not wavered since my first meeting. What I am referring to is being part of a family. Building the relationships with people in the chapter has really opened my eyes to the connection each of us has to fishing, the natural world, and who we are as people. Talking to another member for just a few minutes can put a smile on your face, make you laugh, and then at the same time torture you with that inevitable "I really need to get out and fish" thought.

I believe this family feeling is something that does not get celebrated enough, especially because it sometimes takes an outsider's perspective to see the beauty of something so normal. Next time you attend a meeting, or TU event, look around. Imagine how much fly-fishing knowledge and experience there is right in the room. Honestly, it's probably more than I could ever forget. The best part is that's only a small part of what we know! I can almost guarantee you know something else about nu-

George Cummings accepts the **Basil Woods Award**
 Upholding the ideals and principles of Basil Woods
 & the founding chapter members



George Cummings is a long time chapter member and contributor marking the decommissioning of the Sewalls Falls dam as the high water mark of his efforts. Ever active since 1981 in the chapter, George has been program chair, an active board member, fly tying contributor, and hands on roll up your sleeves field guy on the Nash stream project. George will be cutting back his time with the chapter next year and he will be missed.

Dan Stickney accepts the **Silver Trout Award**
 For distinguished service and dedication to conservation of our cold water fisheries.



Dan is currently ex officio president of the chapter a three year presidency that began the Warner watershed project. Dan has served as Newsletter editor and Treasurer for the State Council. Dan was also a key member of the team that raised funds for the Salmon stocking truck, which extended the Merrimack River Salmon Restoration Program during a period of few funding options. Look for Dan around many of Basil Woods Jr. chapter efforts. He is a tireless contributor.

Perspectives page 5

merous people. It could be their family, a funny story about them, or any other of the long list of items you could discuss. If you're really lucky, it might be something very special (like where their secret fishing spot is), but we won't go into too much detail on that. That alone says how much we all are connected with one another in the chapter.

I once had the outsider's perspective looking in, but now, I feel like a longtime member of the Basil Woods, Jr. chapter. Trout Unlimited is amazing, in many ways, and the chapter is something to be celebrated due its members, the heart and soul. Without you, I would not be writing this article and bringing this to your attention. I am proud to be a Basil Woods, Jr. member, and you should be too. Thank you for welcoming me into this TU chapter, your lives, and your family.

"Sometimes the most ordinary things could be made extraordinary by doing them with the right people."

- Elizabeth Green

Mike Petrun

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.

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 and update your membership information with TU national.

Basil Woods Jr. Chapter TU
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Calendar

- April 16, 2015-7PM Chapter Meeting**
- April 18, 2015 Youth Fishing Day**
- May 28,2015 Chapter Picnic**

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