



Troutlines

Special Points of Interest

- Saltwater Flyfishing
- Bylaws
- 24th Annual Conservation Banquet

Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar

Board of Directors Meeting:
February 2, 2012

Chapter Meetings:
February 16, 2012
April 19, 2012

Reelsmithing Workshop
Saturday, February 11, 2012

Chapter Fly Tying Classes
Start February 21, 2012

24th Annual Conservation Banquet
Saturday, March 10, 2012

See *Calendar* on page 6 for more information.

Overflow Crowd Gets Fresh Taste of Saltwater Flyfishing at January Chapter Meeting

As predicted, Ed Mitchell's saltwater flyfishing program at the January chapter meeting brought a standing-room-only crowd to New Hampshire Fish and Game's meeting room. Ed lived up to his billing as an excellent speaker with a willingness to share his tips, observations, and experiences. His *Thirty Years on the Beach* presentation began with the observation that "fishing from the beach is where it's at." To fish from shore requires patience, work, taking time to read the water, and getting to know how to interpret tides, wind, light levels, seabirds, and the structure of where you are fishing. Unlike most streams, low tide offers a twice daily view of the bottom - so pay attention.

Mitchell, continued on page 5



Ed Mitchell and the Standing Room Crowd at New Hampshire Fish and Game

Sign of Spring: The Annual Conservation Banquet

A sure sign of the fast approaching Spring is the annual conservation banquet. Since being moved from February to mid-March in 2009, the chapter's major fundraising and social event sits on the doorstep of the new fishing season. This year marks the 24th annual banquet for the Basil Woods chapter and it looks to be better than ever according to the banquet committee.

Committee member and chapter treasurer Richard Kingston, who fishes Maine's Grand Lake Stream, got to chatting with a fellow angler he had seen several times on that destination river. His new friend was Randy Spencer, a Maine guide but also a singer who makes a living writing advertising jingos and tunes.

Sign of Spring, continued page 3

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Presidential Commentary - Dan Stickney

Hello, All~

This note will ramble a bit, but think of it as a walk along a new stream - lots of new things to take in.

The first pool, figuratively speaking, holds a reelmaking class. You've no doubt heard of the upcoming class hosted by our chapter and Michael Hackney, but to refresh your memories, it'll be held at the Shaker Road School on Saturday, February 11. We'll have a chance to make a nice little 4/5 weight aluminum skeleton reel out of a parts kit provided as a part of the class cost; all tools will be provided for your use as well, and you'll leave the class with a working click-drag reel that you made yourself. This is the second year that we're holding this fundraiser, and Mr. Hackney is generously donating fifty dollars of the cost to the Trout in the Classroom program run by the State Council of TU. You can register for the class at www.eclecticangler.com - just look for Reelsmithing Workshop - NH Trout Unlimited Fundraiser .

The pocket water coming up next holds our Annual Conservation Banquet. It'll be held on Saturday, March 10. You'll be receiving the invitation in the mail shortly, but as a teaser: we'll have a great fishing

canoe, a side-by-side 20 gauge, and a nice saltwater fly rod combo to take a chance on this year, along with the usual assortment of goodies to bid on and buy tickets for. We're also starting a new series of framed artworks in the live auction this year - vintage TU print and stamp pairings straight off of Angus Boezeman's wall! Hope to see you there - it'll be another great evening.

A short walk past a shallow riffle brings us to the last pool for now, holding Youth Fishing Day- yep, it's coming! Saturday, April 21 will be our annual event- the same day as WILD NH Day up at Fish and Game Headquarters. It's always a hoot to watch the kids, and a great chance to talk about our organization to the folks who'll be driving it in the future. We can always use help that day, so put it on your calendars - we'd love to see you there.

There's plenty more to explore, and I'm sure I've missed a few good spots, but I don't want to wear out my welcome on a new stretch of water. I hope to see you at the Chapter meeting and at some or all of the events that I've written about - they're all fun and worth doing if they fit into your schedules.

All best ~ Dan

Editor's Soapbox - Gordon Riedesel

At one time, winter was the perfect time to get to that book you'd been wanting to read, tie flies, to clean and organize your fishing gear, or think and reflect longer and harder than any other season.

When the majority of Americans were rural and the cycles of agriculture dominated, winter was a less urgent time. Yes there were many things to do, but your attention could be focused. Today, in spite of our urbanized existence, seasons are part of our consciousness. Watch some TV and the ads will let you know the season. Sam Adams anyone? But we are an increasingly urban society far removed from the farm, from the country, and too often, from nature.

A chapter member told me his goal was to get his son outdoors hunting

and fishing. This dad signed his boy up for fly tying classes because he wanted to keep him unglued from video games and the Internet. When the son brought me four turkey tail feathers from a tom he had just shot hours earlier to our chapter booth at Wild NH Day, I knew his dad had succeeded. Every year for the last three, this boy has bagged a deer on youth day - one was an eight-point 194 pound buck.

Two years ago the chapter did a member survey. One of the questions was about the then new chapter website. More than one respondent said, "I work all day at a computer, I'm not about to spend my evenings in front of one." Although we have no plans to abolish our website, we are sympathetic to the issue of how much technology we face daily.

Not until a copy of Nicholas Carr's New York Times Bestseller "The Shallows - What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains" landed on my reading pile was I able to fully recognize that technology, the Internet in particular, has changed the way we think, read, and act. Carr refers to "interruption technologies" such as the Net that are changing how we think. Our brains re-wire themselves by building neural pathways that are in demand and softening those that are no longer needed. Musicians and athletes know practice makes you better - it strengthens the neural pathways. But according to Carr and the growing research on technology's impact on the human brain, there are changes that should concern us. The distractions and multiple linkages of the Internet shift our



Pocket water holding wild Brookies - Central NH

Editor's Soapbox, Continued from page 2

attention away from deep reading or thinking into fast, shallow, and easy-to-forget processes which re-wire the brain – at the expense of focus and complex thoughts.

We cannot change how the Internet and technology direct and mold our modern lives, but we can control our non-digital experiences. This is why events such as Youth Fishing Day, Wild NH Day, Trout In the Classroom, Kids' Trout Camp, or taking your kids to the woods, lake, or stream are more important than ever.

How many of us anticipate getting on the stream to simply observe, approach, cast, drift, and strip your line – unplugging from daily demands? Getting away from it all has greater urgency than ever. Although I may be preaching to the TU choir, I'm convinced we can pass on our love for being in the outdoors and what it holds for those who discover it in the way generations have before. It may just be an off switch away.



Sign of Spring, continued from page 1

Richard and Randy spoke some more and the idea came up that maybe, Randy would be open to performing at our annual conservation banquet.

The banquet committee decided that adding some entertainment would be a great idea for the evening's festivities. We are looking forward to having Randy's songs and tales on March 10th.

The banquet mailing should be arriving in your mailbox very soon if it isn't there already. Registration remains the same as last year; \$45 per person and \$85 per couple. If you have 9 friends (and we know you have more) you can buy a reserved table for all 10 for \$450. We know not everyone will come to the event but the shotgun and canoe raffles are open to everyone. If you enter and win the CZ 20 Gauge side-by-side shotgun or the Wenonah 13' Solo canoe, we'll let you know you've won if you can't make it. As Dan alluded to in his Presidential Commentary, there are lots of great raffles and auction items. The Basil Woods TU Banquet is known across the state for its well-organized and well-stocked auction tables. The food is pretty good too!

The primary purpose of our conservation banquets has been to raise funds for chapter activities. In 2011 we funded and supported:

- Trout-in-the-Classroom
- NH TU Kids' Trout Camp
- Barry Camp
- Youth Fishing Day
- Streamside planting on Indian Stream
- Brook Trout Telemetry
- Research on wild brook trout on the Piscataquog
- Casting for Recovery
- Amy's Treat Fly Fishing Day for Cancer Survivors
- NH Wildlife Federation
- Watershed protection projects

We hope you will consider joining us for the annual conservation banquet. We thank everyone in the chapter for being a member of TU and making the Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter, one of the finest in the Northeast.

Troutlines

February, 2012

A Big Thank You to Gary Michaud

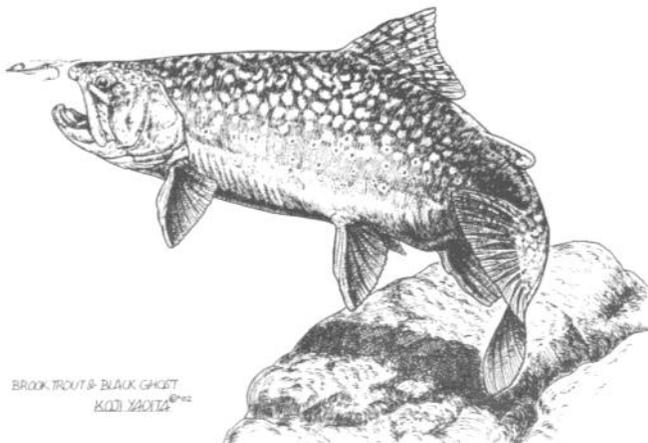
Gary Michaud of Auburn has stepped down from his service on the Chapter's Board of Directors. Gary served as a director for many years always bringing a positive voice to the board.

We are sorry to have him leave but the board thanks Gary for all he has done during his tenure. Thanks Gary!

Update on NHTU Fundraising Effort TD Bank Affinity Program

by George Embley

We are almost 50 percent of the way toward obtaining an annual donation of more than \$500 for NH Trout Unlimited. As of the end of December, 23 households have contacted TD Bank and have been added to the Affinity Program for Trout Unlimited. Thanks to your efforts we have made good progress toward the 50 households that are needed. Please keep encouraging other members (and their friends and family) to sign up. It is a no-risk, no-cost way of helping TU. See "Help NH TU" on the chapter webpage for more information:
http://www.concordtu.org/news_announcements



Welcome New and Renewing Members

We look forward to hearing from you and all new members and meeting you soon.

Kyle Matzke
Christine Daniels
Ronald Haigh Jr
Alan Rosenfeld

Bylaw Revision Vote at February Chapter Meeting

The Board of Directors is submitting proposed changes to the chapter bylaws at a special meeting to be held during the February 16th chapter meeting. The proposed revisions clarify the legal structures and controls the chapter must follow as a non-profit organization. They also bring us into full compliance with Trout Unlimited's national charter.

Key changes and clarifications to the bylaws include:

- The Annual Meeting will be held at the regular chapter meeting in April. This had been held at the May meeting.
- The structure of the Board of Directors will have at least three officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary and/or Treasurer. Up to 9 non-officer members can serve on the board. Each director's term is three years - and the terms are staggered to provide continuity.
- All chapter offices are one-year terms. The President can serve no more than three consecutive terms but the other officers can serve longer.
- Special meetings of the chapter can be called by the President or Board of Directors upon written consent of the lesser of 10% of the members or twenty (20) members. Amendments to the chapter bylaws can be done at either a special meeting or the annual meeting.
- The proposed bylaws now include a provision to remove a board member through due process for not performing his or her duties.

The full text of the proposed bylaws are posted on the chapter website: www.concordtu.org on the Events and Announcements page. Copies of the proposed bylaws will be available at the February meeting and can also be mailed to you upon request. e-mail your request to: concordtu@yahoo.com or call Ken Welch at 603 228-0614 for a paper copy.



Drawing courtesy of www.davewhitlock.com

Mitchell, continued from page 1

Just like learning to read freshwater, reading salt is as important and more complicated. Ed referred to the ocean tides but also the daily tides of light - that is the ebb and flow of day and night. Both tides are in motion and you must be aware of how the co-motions of both affect fishing.

Seabirds such as gulls, terns, gannets and loons (which winter over on the coast) feed where the forage fish are. And where there are forage fish, it is likely there are bigger fish for the saltwater fly rodder. Sometimes you can see larger fish feeding on the forage fish but other times you can't - but know they are there and how the larger fish chase their prey. Some go in circles, others feed up and down along a track, and others just chase the forage fish. Get to know the behaviors of game fish.

Casting a saltwater fly rod, is not like casting your favorite 5 weight. The bigger rods require you to spread the work of casting out over your body, not just your arms, wrists, and shoulders as on a trout stream. If you are a beginner, avoid the powerful rods (even though that's what dealers will try to sell you). Tone it down Ed says. Casting is "all about the backcast" - high, level, and fully extended. In saltwater, striping baskets are an immense help. An important tip from Ed is to figure out your casting lengths and mark your line accordingly. Mark a green line where your cast is first effective, then after several trials, find out what your normal maximum cast is - then mark it in red. This way you will know your range.

Ed's lines are primarily floating with strong 9 foot leaders. At night, leaders can be shorter - and of course you'll need wire leaders when chasing toothy fish like bluefish. Ed reminds us to be sure your wire to line knots are secure.

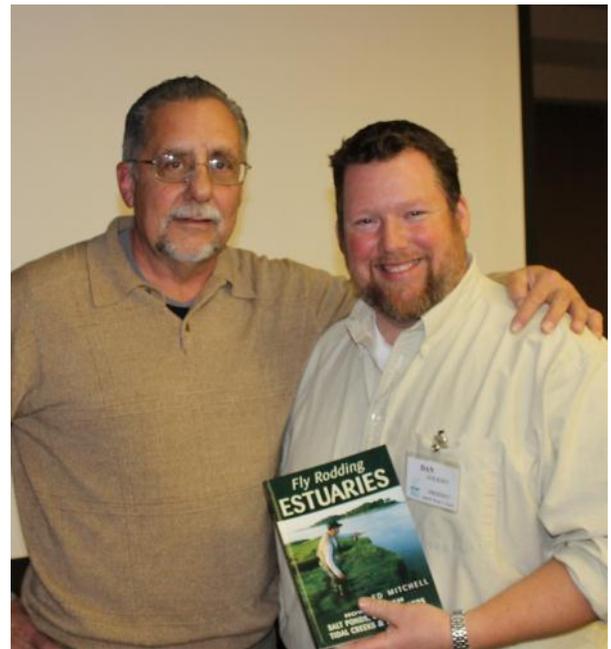
In one of Ed's published articles "Strip Tease" he wrote about the two primary ways to retrieve your fly in saltwater. First, is the one-handed strip - just like in fresh water. The rod tip needs to be down but when a fish hits, don't lift your rod tip as in fresh water, pull the line straight away. The second method is the two-handed method where you also keep the tip down, but both hands work the line. One of his books can help you further on this technique - or you can hire a NH saltwater guide.

When it comes to saltwater species, striped bass are one of the biggest thrill in the Northeast. You will probably see other anglers catching small stripers but remember says Ed, "Big bass don't live with

small bass. They act differently." Since Ed has been fishing from the beach for so long, he has honed his strategies for big fish. His pointers for catching big fish are:

- There is usually a 1 -2 month window for big fish in the Northeast
- Fish when the new and full moons are at perigee (when the moon is closest to the earth)
- In mid-season, fish in estuaries and inlets, in the early and late season fish points of land on the coast
- Find tides that match up with lowlight times or night for the best results
- Prepare your gear ahead of time
- Use big flies if you can
- A Southwest wind on a cloudy day is good, if there's a northwind, do something else
- Remember that fish are very sensitive to weather changes.

Ed briefly touched on what to know about specific target fish: bluefish, stripers, bluefin tuna, and in warmer waters - pompano. It was a full and fun evening and everyone walked away with lots of great tips and ideas. One lucky angler won a box of saltwater flies donated for the evening's raffle by Jeddy Waterman and brought \$240 to the chapter's coffers. We send a big Thank You to Jeddy and Ed!



Ed Mitchell and chapter President Dan Stickney - proud new owner of Ed's *Fly Rodding Estuaries* book.
For more information see: www.edmitchelloutdoors.com

Calendar

February 2, 2012. Board of Directors Meeting

February 21 - March 27 Beginner fly tying classes. **February 21 - March 20**, Intermediate fly tying classes. Tuesday nights at Parker Academy, Pleasant Street, Concord 7PM - 9 PM. For information call Harry Perkins 603 746-4925 or Ken Welch 603 228-0614, 603 491-8497 (cell). Registration forms available on chapter webpage: www.concordtu.org/calendar and [events](http://www.concordtu.org/events)

February 11, 2012. Reel making workshop at Shaker Road School, 9AM - early afternoon. Fundraiser for Trout in the Classroom. \$50 of the \$130 fee goes to TIC. Registration and Information: www.eclecticangler.com/NH-TU-Workshop-2012

Thursday, February 16, 2012. 7:00 PM Special meeting of the chapter to vote on proposed chapter bylaws. Meeting will be held as part of the regular chapter meeting. Copies of the proposed bylaws will be available online and at the meeting. The speaker will be Richard Kingston on the NH - NC Fly Fishing Connection. At the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord.

March 1, 2012. Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, March 10, 2012. 24th Annual Conservation Banquet, Grappone Center, Concord, NH.

April 19, 2012. Chapter Meeting, At the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord.

Saturday, April 21, 2012. Youth Fishing Day and Wild NH Day

Saturday, April 28. Trout Pond Opening Day

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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SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

A special meeting will be held as part of the February chapter meeting, to vote on proposed changes to the chapter's bylaws. As per current bylaws, a majority of those attending the special meeting have the authority to change the bylaws of the Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter #200, Trout Unlimited. Copies of the proposed changes will be available on our chapter website, by calling Ken Welch at 603 228-0614 for a paper copy, and at the meeting, Feb 16.

Thank You.
 Board of Directors, Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter, TU



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