



Troutlines

**Special Points of Interest
Planned Programs
for 2014-15**

- ◆ Salmon fishing in Newfoundland
- ◆ North Country Streams
- ◆ Maine Cane Fly Rods

**Chapter Meeting
February 19,2015**

The February program features a talk by Basil Woods Jr member Jim Staples of Loudon, NH on fishing Atlantic Salmon on the LaPoil River in Newfoundland. Jim has fished this river for more than 30 consecutive years and has lots of stories and pictures. This is as remote as it gets and while the fishing is wonderful, getting there is a story in itself.

A reminder, there will be no monthly meeting in March. We will see you at the TU Banquet though

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A Invigorating Evening with a Great Couple



Kathy Scott and David Van Buregel.

Heat returned in more than one way on that January 15th evening. The minor surge in temperature that permitted but one layer of wool was nothing compared with the magnetic warmth and enthusiasm emitted by Kathy Scott and David Van Buregel.

Sequestered away in central Maine. Kathy and David toil away at those things that pay the bills; and then, passionately enjoy all that the north country has to offer. Ardent conservationist too, both are council level executives for Maine Trout Unlimited.

They came to share a recent trip to Labrador and in the sharing left us with a spirit of utter joy for their "other life" full of craftsmanship, adventure and appreciation of all that is serene and beautiful outdoors.

David, a master craftsman and member of the renown Catskill Rodmakers creates exquisite cane rods. Committed to handcraft and detail he eschews modern production methods and makes, as his time allows, only a few rods each year. But what rods they are! Jewels, balanced and lithe shown in Labrador effortlessly laying out large flies and landing 6 & 7 lb. brook trout with grace and power.

David engaged us with a discussion of some of the traditional techniques used in

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Big Fish in Small Water



Conejos Brown



Conejos River

Here in New England, trout anglers are used to the idea that the smaller the stream gets, the smaller the trout you will find in it. There are places that this fact is not always true, however. Most of us know you can find big trout in small streams out west, especially spring creeks. We've read about the "huge" trout in the waters of New Zealand. But we don't often know about the high elevation streams of the southwestern US, particularly in southern Colorado and New Mexico.

I had the good fortune to be in Santa Fe for the TU annual meeting last September. Thanks to an invitation from TU volunteer and Grassroots Board member, Kevin Reilly, I went west a few days before the meeting and fished two streams in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. No, these were not the famous tailwaters of the San Juan, but smaller mountain streams called the Conejos and Los Pinos.

Both of these rivers would be called creeks or streams in New England. The Los Pinos flows from the 10,000 foot plus mountains of the Rio Grande National Forest. Getting there requires a drive up into the mountains, on gravel roads, some of which can be populated by softball sized gravel that makes travel painfully slow. But when you get there, you find a crystal clear stream, perhaps 20 feet wide, populated by wild brown trout.

The day we fished the Los Pinos, we walked about a mile downstream from a ford where the Forest Service road crosses the riv

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Presidential Commentary – George Embley



One thing that occasionally frustrates me is the deluge of magazine subscriptions that come through my door every month. They go into a big pile and, while I occasionally pick one up and read an article or two in an idle moment, they remain largely unread. So this year, I decided to actually spend some time with one magazine and see what it really offered. Because TU is important to me, the Winter edition of *Trout* magazine was a natural choice. And I found that *Trout* is a first-class effort. The content touches on a little of everything - highlights of chapter activities across the country, fly fishing techniques and destinations, conservation, and general philosophy.

In this particular edition, I found a dissertation on the traditional dry fly by Dave Whitlock. Whitlock is easy to read and conveys a lot in a short time. He is also a consummate artist and it is a pleasure just to view his pictures of flies and fish. His wet fly portraits in a previous edition of *Trout* have even infected me with a desire to emulate them with flies of my own. Digging further into the magazine I discovered well-known outdoor author Joe Cermele writing about searching for wild trout in local streams in New Jersey. That's right, New Jersey, not Montana or Pennsylvania, or even New Hampshire. As he put it, he was a native searching for natives. I grew up in New Jersey and would not have been surprised at anything that surfaced in a local stream, except maybe a trout. Yet Joe reported catching wild trout on the fly and relates that in one 150-meter stretch of the South Branch of the Raritan river (not too far from where I once lived), electro-fishing revealed 150 wild trout including a 21 inch brown. And he wrote with a New Jersey flair that brought back memories. It is encouraging to hear of a fisheries resource like this so close to one of the most urbanized areas in the world.

In an article about stomach pumps for trout, Robert Younghan lamented our culture of convenience. Stomach

pumping is an easy way of finding out what the trout are eating, but it can't be good for the trout. Why not take the time instead to observe what is happening around you? A guide once told me that when we keep a trout out of the water to take his (or her) picture, it is like you running a hundred yard dash and then having someone hold your head under water while you are being photographed. A stomach pump would be like ending the run with an endoscopy!

We live in a geological epoch known as the Anthropocene, which is an informal term for the epoch that began when human activities started to have a significant global impact on the Earth's ecosystems. I learned this from Christopher Camuto who wrote about the threat to our rivers and fish from climate change. The Winter issue had a lot more - snapshots of Alaskans whose livelihood could be lost by toxic waste from mines in Canada, a 91-year-old grandmother who just learned to fly fish, etc. So for me, *Trout* magazine was a rewarding read. And this year, I plan to dig through each issue, even when most of the other stuff goes unread.

Trout magazine is one of many means by which TU keeps its members informed and involved. More locally, Tim Pease makes sure that timely, informative issues of *Troutlines* are issued 9 times a year. We try to make sure every chapter member receives a copy (either electronic or paper). If we do not have an email address, we provide the paper copy. However, printing and mailing are expensive and also require more manpower. If you now are receiving a hard copy but are willing to accept an electronic one, please let us know. We can notify you when the new *Troutlines* is available by email, but you can always access the latest edition of *Troutlines* at our chapter website.

Webmaster Alex Hicks works hard to make sure that the website is up to date. If you are looking for current information on a meeting or event, check the website. Recently Alex also instituted a Facebook page for the chapter.

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HEARINGS ON BILLS AFFECTING FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT'S FUTURE on FEBRUARY 5, 2015

Please speak with you legislators. Watch for future hearing so that Fish and Game can continue to work for NH sportsmen

Hearings on two bills relative to funding and status of the N.H. Fish and Game Department took place on Thursday, February 5, 2015, before the House Fish, Game and Marine Resources Committee.

HB518 – as recommended by the Legislative Fish and Game Sustainability Commission – would grant the Department, with the consent of the Fish and Game Commission, the authority to set license the amount of hunting and fishing license fees. The Fish and Game Commission and the Department support this bill. This hearing will take place at 10:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the Legislative Office Building (LOB).

HB663 would merge the Fish and Game Department into the Department of Safety. The Fish and Game Commission and the Department do NOT support this bill. This hearing will take place at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Legislative Office Building (LOB).

Follow the status of these and other bills of interest to Fish and Game at <http://wildnh.com/Legislative/bills>.

Learn more about the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's funding situation at <http://wildnh.com/funding>.

Check out the links for details

Conservation Banquet

Finishing touches are coming together for the Annual Basil Woods Jr. TU Conservation banquet. Thomas Ames noted photographer, author and bug experts will combine his fascination for all things insects and trout with his second career as a 5th grade teacher to share his ideas about engaging the future generations in our natural world. Should be a good discussion from a unique perspective.

A packet should arrive in the mail in the next two weeks. You will be able to register and buy your raffle tickets for a canoe, and a shotgun . Rarely does so little investment offer so much return. Even the undrawn tickets contribute to a great conservation organization. Flies, pottery, quilts, trips, gift certificates, fishing gear of a wide and varied nature , books and prints will be there for your consideration and avid consumption. The banquet committee assures us that there will ample potables and a sumptuous repast to kick off the evening. George Foster will again preside over our auctions with his renown patter.

The Conservation Banquet marks the end of winter and hails open water and hatching insects. It is a time for stories and plans. Invest a fun evening in our cold water fisheries. See you there!

Richard Kingston will again EMC our evening and it is his practice to showcase the photos and exploits of our members. So, please send along no later than February 21 your photos (with a note regarding location etc.). The photos can be sent to : rkingston71@yahoo.com. I sent Richard a picture of "one that got away" and he did not use it. Go figure! I am sure your photo documentation will be far more intriguing. We look forward to you sharing your catches and venues with us.

Editors Soapbox

Tim Pease

This Month A Few Words from Council Chairman, Tom Ives

It was a Dark and Stormy Night

The first time I read that line was in a Peanuts cartoon strip. I thought it was great hearing it from Snoopy sitting on top of his dog house with a type writer in front of him, deep the thought. I'm a Snoopy kind of writer I like first lines in books. It can set the tone for everything that follows. Fishing is the same way. I keep a diary of my bigger fishing trips. That way I can sit down years later and go back to the stream were I caught that nice rainbow and experienced it all over again.

I went to Yellowstone one summer with my family. Camping within the park was great. Our plans allowed me to fit in a morning to try my luck on the Yellowstone River. Not having fished it before I had no idea where to go. Having the family minivan limited me further . I drove around on a few side roads, found a likely spot and walked down to the river. On the second cast I hooked a nice cutthroat trout. It was the first of only two fish I caught that day. I maybe spent forty-five minutes on the river after driving around and everything else. Reading in the diary recently made the fifteen years slip away and brought it all back to me. You plan your trip making sure you have everything you'll need and go fishing. You may not catch fish but keeping a record of the time spent will make those dark and stormy nights a little brighter.

As the state council chairmen I get involved in many of the environmental issues that go on in the state. Things that will make a difference in fishing in general; but' also affects our standard of living. Major pipelines both natural gas and oil, are being proposed to go through the state.

High power electric lines and critical funding to support Fish and Game are starting to be discussed in the state legislature. These are but a few of the higher profile items for our consideration.

As TU members we all need to stay alert to these and other issues and developments that are happening in our state. By staying vocal, active, and involved in your chapter and community you can affect the outcome of what is and will be going on in the state. Please help us keep New Hampshire the state we want it to be.

Tom Ives

Chairman TU State Council

Bug Nights

If you've ever wondered which caddisflies or mayflies are common in the Upper Merrimack River watershed or what does a Baetidae nymph aka blue winged olive look like, you should come to Bug Nights at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH from 6 pm to 9pm every Wednesday. Go to http://merrimackriver.org/_data/meetthebeetles.pdf for more info & directions



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 north country night

After that last 12 inches of the "light dusting" they predicted in the papers I set out to check my trap lines. You just can't leave unwatched. Had to pick my way along as I am not the only trapper in this neck of the woods. Also there are a few spring holes under the snow that are best missed to avoid a wet trouser leg or worse.

Back at the cabin I got to thinkin about a bunch of stuff that you can't see that seems like it ought not to be missed. Seems there is some things we can't see and other things we don't want to see.

It hard to see this global warming stuff and until recently folks in the government even denied that it was happening at all. Now they say it's happenin but nobody knows why. So, we can pretend like it not happenin. Not sure if it means anything but those who guffaw the notion all seem to come from places that have stuff that burns like oil, and coal. Probably just a coincidence.

And except for those metal towers sticking up you can't see much about this fracking thing and the underwater lakes their building to hide the water they use to blast out the oil. Somehow we are supposed to believe that taking stuff from under ground leaving empty spaces and moving some other stuff further down below is not going to make a difference. Looks like a case of "ostrichitis" that you could not get a 4th grade science class to believe in, if you ask me. Must be somethin in that oil that make you batty.

Course, then there is that air pollution and acid rain stuff that went on for so long till they fixed the chimneys in the Ohio river valley and elsewhere. Seems like we can't see the good air either. Again now some folks who say we ought to burn more coal cause its good for the mines. Course you cant see some of the mines either so it a ok to say that it a good place to work. If you can see the mines and the tailings it's okay since they build walls so steep around them that from ground level its all hidden or they plant grass on the parts that are left. See no evil.?

We New Englanders had our sight gone for a while too; when we missed the bark falling off of all those logs we floated down our rivers and streams. And we probably still don't see those pesky culverts either.

All that's not seeable is kinda understandable but what makes me ponder is this. Went to start the stove the other night and out of the old newspaper pile came a paper about the last big election. In it was a piece that said those folks in the south, the midwest and the west were concerned that some candidates did not understand their rural life style. Right next to that old paper was yesterdays paper that talked about earthquakes in rural Oklahoma that "some suspected" might be caused by fracking. Now here is a bunch of folks who on the one hand say they want things to be the way they used to be and at the same time seem wont't do anything to keep it that way.

Somebody said after that 911 thing that giving up privacy

for safety was a sure way to have neither one. That's looking to be more true than not.

Looks to me that there is another rule that the rural interested folks need to think about and that is that giving up mother nature for prosperity will git you neither.. Those farmers who are leasing out land to fracker's and ranchers who let the miners on their back forty probably need to take heed. That funny tasting water in the tap and orange colored slick in the watering troughs and on the crick are probably a sign that somethin hidden ain't. And the idea that it ain't your tap water or your drinking trough probably wont get you invited to too many socials hereafter. Ask those folks in Appalachia if mining coal and gouging the land was a good idea or if it paid off for em. Them old newspapers says otherwise.

Not sure what's making folks do things that are not good for em or their neighbors. My way of thinkin is that it is fear. Afraid they will miss out on what everybody seems to want. Fear they wont have a job. Seems like there are a lot of already rich ones are out there helpin make them rural folks more fearful too.

Funny though, rural folks, they don't seem to want what money brings in the city and I'm not sure how they'd use it in the country. I don't get it. Maybe the rural lifestyle is just about somethin.else. It is a real ponderable!

Parson Weems



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It even led me to finally sign up for Facebook. Now I am struggling to learn what a "like" implies. Alex is happy when he receives a lot of "likes" for his page so when I accessed it, I clicked the "like" button -- nothing terrible happened! I urge you to try it too.

Two important chapter events will be taking place over the next month. Don't forget to mark your calendars for March 14 and help us celebrate the end of winter at our annual conservation banquet. Preparations are well underway and you should be receiving a mailing with all the details soon. We have plenty of great prizes, and well-known author Thomas Ames will be the featured speaker.

At our February 19 meeting, chapter member Jim Staples will talk about fishing for Atlantic salmon on the LaPoile River on the island of Newfoundland. Expect Jim to have plenty of tales to tell about his experiences on the river. He should -- he has been fishing it for over 30 years! This is one not to miss.

George

Kathy and Dave p 1

making cane rods and provided insight into the farming of cane in China as well as the rather intricate import process. Dave then entertained a host of questions from wannabe and committed cane fishermen.

You might have thought the night was all about Dave but you would be wrong. Kathy lit up the room with her smile and esprit de vie. She took us through her evolution as a writer beginning with her first book on the crafting of bamboo rods through her last combining rod building with and trip to Labrador to test the rods' mettle on large brook trout. The rods won, the pictures were exquisite, the trout large and colorful and through Kathy's lively guided talk you could smell the spruce and feel the dew. She talked of wildflowers and bears and trout and pike. She wandered us through the woods and streams of both northern Michigan and Maine letting us in on a piece of the shared life that she and Dave have so thoroughly enjoyed and fully appreciate. A wonderful couple, a delightful evening!

Kathy and Dave are small stream fishermen preferring the water off the beaten path; so, it is unlikely that you will catch them on the regular beats. However should you want a custom rod, from what I have seen, Dave would be a top choice builder. Reach Dave at Ardea Bamboo Rods P.O. box 56, 633 Rome Road-Mercer, Norridgewock Me, 04956 or email him at dpvbkjs@tdstelme.net.

For entertainment Kathy's books, *Brook Trout Forest*, *Changing Planes*, *Headwaters Fall as Snow* & *Moose in the Water Bamboo on the Bench* would be welcome companions to a fire on a cold winters day. Her first book is out of print and hard to come by; however, Kathy graciously donated a complete set of her books to Basil Woods Jr. and they will be available for bids at the upcoming TU Banquet on March 14.. It will be a welcome addition to someone's sporting library.

You just never know what great things will happen at our Monthly TU meetings. Hope to see you there soon so you can enjoy our engaging speakers and continue your much appreciated commitment to protecting and improving our cold water fisheries here in New Hampshire.

TU Preferred Membership

Save time and resources by becoming a Trout Unlimited Preferred Member. This program allows you to automatically renew your TU membership through a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual giving plan. You'll be saving paper, postage and the cost associated with printing renewal notices, along with the hassle of mailing in a check every year.

It's the most efficient and environmentally sound way that you can support TU's conservation work. You'll still receive all the wonderful benefits of TU membership...and we'll also send you a handsome Preferred Member card for your loyalty to TU (mailed in January.) Simply choose the amount and frequency of your pledge and complete the rest of the secure form found at www.tu.org/sustain

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er. When we arrived at a place where the canyon leveled out into grassy meadows, I started fishing. It was a typical cold high mountain morning, but there were fish rising to small midges or mayflies in one little run. The water was only about 3 feet deep, yet behind every large rock there was a brown trout, no less than 10" in size. Walking up the stream, and dropping a large stimulator with a small midge emerger dropper, resulted in another dozen fish caught one exceeding 16 inches. I kept reminding myself that a stream this size in New Hampshire might be loaded with brookies, but catching one over 8 inches would be rare.

Our other two days were spent on the Conejos River, also in Colorado but at an elevation of just under 9,000 feet. Both the Los Pinos and Conejos flow eastward to eventually feed the Rio Grande, and both were once strongholds of the Rio Grande Cutthroat trout. Today, the Rio Grande Cutts are confined to a few smaller streams, very isolated and where browns and rainbows can't get to.

The Conejos is a bigger river, perhaps the size of our Baker River or upper Contocook. It mostly flows through areas of large Douglas Fir and Engleman Spruce stands, but in the upper elevations near the old mining town of Platoro, it is a smaller stream that flows through beautiful alpine meadows. The fishing can be tough if the wind is strong (as it was the day we were there) but the river can hold very large browns and rainbows. Kevin hooked and landed one brown that exceeded 20" from a deep eddy in which we could easily see more than 15 fish feeding. Both of these rivers, in National Forests, have excellent access, and there are campgrounds all along the upper Conejos.

Finally, on the TU conservation tour, later in the week, we visited the Valles Caldera National Preserve. At 9,500 feet it is one of the few "super volcanos" in the world, similar to Yellowstone, but less well known. There are no "thermal features", like Yellowstone, but there are two tiny streams that hold enormous quantities of wild fish. The San Antonio Creek and East Fork of Jemez River originate in the Caldera and flow through a spectacular open basin for many miles. Both are never more than a few feet wide, but scientists have measured the fish populations at 110 fish per 100 meters. Yes, more than one fish every meter! One of our TU buddies who had the good fortune to fish the East Fork said "You probably only get one out of every 5 casts to land in the water (it's windy) but every time you hit the water you rise a fish!"

If you decide you will be visiting northern New Mexico or southern Colorado, please get in touch. I can give you some tips on where to go and how to get the best information on accommodations and fishing.

Paul Doscher padoscher@comcast.net



East Fork of Jemez River Valdes Caldera



Winter Fly Tying Classes Underway

Winter weather has raised havoc with fly tying but all of the students are making good progress. Must be a down year for fly tying as other clubs and organizations are getting fewer studentz too. This has been particularly true for our Intermediate class. There remains a number of opening and great instructors will be on hand to guide your progress. Maybe you are up to speed on the vagaries of muddlers, hornbergs and soft hackle streamers but you know others who could use some brush up skills or tips from the more experienced. It is a great night out with your stream-mates and the late season class even portends of spring. So grab a buddy and come on down for an evening out to hone your skills and prepare for spring. Last minute decisions are ok Show up and pay us when you get here. Or use the sign up sheet below. Don't forget the picnic at the end of the season too.

Classes will be held at the "old school" Passaconaway Club on Garvin's Falls Road overlooking the river in Concord beginning February 17th and run from 7 - 9 PM.

Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter Trout Unlimited **Winter 2015 Fly Tying Class Registration**

Intermediate class *Tuesday Evenings: 7 - 9 PM, February 17 - March 17,* - 5 weeks
Passaconaway Club - Garvins Falls Road, Concord NH

Name:

Address:

Phone and e-mail:

Check the Class or Classes you are signing up for.

Intermediate Class February 17 - March 17 - \$ 75 \$ _____

Please make check payable to: Basil W. Woods Chapter TU Total \$ _____

I have never been a TU member I am a TU member

Send registration and payment to: Basil W. Woods Chapter TU **Questions? e-mail us at: concordtu@yahoo.com**

PO Box 3302
Concord NH 03302

Please print and photocopy this form if you need extras.

◆ Schedule may be interrupted due to storm days.

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

February 19, 2015	Chapter meeting
February 17 2015	Fly Tying classes begin
March 14, 2015	TU Banquet—save the date
April 18, 2015	Youth Fishing Day

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