



Troutlines

Special Points of Interest

- Upper Connecticut Easement
- Reel Workshop
- Masters at Work

Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar

Board of Directors Meeting:
February 2, 2012

Chapter Meetings:
January 19, 2012
February 16, 2012 - Special Meeting: New Bylaws Vote

Chapter Fly Tying Classes
Starts January 10, 2012

Reelsmithing Workshop
Saturday, February 11, 2012

24th Annual Conservation Banquet
Saturday, March 10, 2012

See Calendar on page 6 for more information.

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38 Miles of Lake and Stream Frontage Protected in the Upper Connecticut Headwaters

Undeveloped waterfronts are a rarity. But thanks to a conservation easement granted by TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc., 2300 acres and 31 miles of frontage on the First and Second Connecticut Lakes will be protected. An additional 7 1/2 miles of frontage on the Connecticut River in Pittsburg and Clarksville are also shielded from development. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) will monitor the conservation easement.

TransCanada owns the land and continues to allow recreational access to the waters of the Upper Connecticut. Boaters have free access to public boat ramps on First and Second Connecticut Lakes. Likewise, hunters and anglers are given free access to easement land and waterfronts. This easement links the TransCanada easement to the protected lands of the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Forest (established in 2003).

As many of our readers know, the land of our northern-most county is exceptionally rich for wildlife and environmental quality. New Hampshire Fish and Game's *Wildlife Action Plan* rates 97 percent of the property as "Tier 1" - the best there is. Hydropower interests acquired much of this property a century ago in order to build dams that would regulate flows to benefit hydroelectric dams near Littleton. Under this easement, TransCanada (owner of the hydropower assets since 2005) is

Make Your Own Reel Workshop Returns in February

An opportunity to make your own reel and help Trout in the Classroom is returning Saturday, February 11th at the Shaker Road School in Concord. Last year's successful and fun Reelsmithing Workshop led by Michael Hackney of the Eclectic Angler prompted our chapter and the NH TU Council to host what has become the second annual workshop.

This year's participants will build one of Michael's newest - and very sharp looking reels. The 3 inch diameter reel will feature a click drag system, hold 90 feet of 4 weight fly line, and handle 25 yards of backing. Participants will receive a "Ported Aluminum Reel" kit and walk out with a functioning reel.



You don't need to have any metal working experience - just a desire to make a reel and willingness to use a little elbow grease and get a little dirty. All necessary tools are provided. Everyone

Presidential Commentary - Dan Stickney

Happy new year!

Here's hoping that the holiday season treated you and yours well - mine was busy, for sure, but a lot of fun with Elliott, the new kid in the house. Lots of tickled grandparents made the running around well worth the effort.

Now that the holidays are in the past, TU leaps back to the fore for the Chapter Directors, many of whom serve on the Banquet Committee as well. Every Monday from now until mid-March we'll meet to iron out the details for this year's Conservation Banquet; it's a lot of work, a lot of fun, and mighty rewarding once it's all up and running. New hands are always welcome, so if you have some time to offer, feel free to catch up with a director at a meeting or *via* e-mail to the website and we'll pass along the details.

The Chapter fly-tying classes are coming up soon - if you're interested in signing up, please check out the chapter website for details and contact information; there's plenty of room at this point, so we'd love to have some more folks join in for the classes with resident fly-tying gurus Harry Perkins and Ken Welch - the conversation is worth the price of admission, never mind the skills that you'll pick up! If you've ever wanted to tie your own flies and know the satisfaction of catching a trout with one of them, you owe it to yourself to spend a little money and invest the time with Harry and Ken - you won't regret it.

See you at the meeting!

All best ~ Dan

Editor's Soapbox - Gordon Riedesel

When I was too young to stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve, I wondered what happened at the stroke of midnight. I curiously asked my mom if there was a flash of light, a bang, or something dramatic to start the new year. My little boy's imagination hoped for something exciting - but my mom explained any flashes of light or noise came probably came from party goers, not the heavens. When I was older, I was entranced by the predicted wildlife activity times (based on the sun and moon) printed in the daily Lincoln, Nebraska paper. Nebraskans love to hunt and fish so any edge you could get on a pheasant, deer, or finned target was worth having. Some folks would swear by these charts - and others probably swore at them. But there just seemed something hopeful about key times mysteriously tied to the sun and moon when a fishing pole or a brand new single shot .410 was involved.

Here are some timely tidbits that may (or may not) impact your outdoor activities.

2012 is a leap year. We have leap years because the earth revolves around the sun in a slightly messy 365.2422 days. So we add a leap day - February 29 - every four years. Our calendar, the Gregorian Calendar -

adopted in 1582 - calculates the solar year at 365.2425 days - leading to a small error of one day every 3,236 years. There are other rules that determine leap years but they occur on the order of centuries divisible by 400. The Gregorian Calendar sure beats its predecessor, the Julian Calendar (45BC) which goes awry by one day every 128 years.

There will be 13 full moons in 2012. August will have two full moons - on the 2nd and 31st. The second full moon of a calendar month is often called the Blue Moon. However, according to Sky and Telescope Magazine, there are differing interpretations of a Blue Moon. A more technical definition for a Blue Moon is the third full moon of four in a given season. A Blue Moon is the third rather than fourth full moon because all the other full moons already have name. In 2012, the full moon on August 31 is a Sky and Telescope approved Blue Moon.

From the astronomical archives it appears that full moons have nothing to do with state records for either trout or salmon. If the past is a predictor - then Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays don't look as promising as the other days of the week. Here are the state records and days caught:

Brook Trout - Tuesday, May 8, 1911, 9 pounds in New London

Brown Trout - Friday, July 4, 1975, 16 pounds 6 ounces, in Pittsburg

Rainbow Trout - Monday, September 16, 1996, 15 pounds, 7.2 ounces in Bristol

Landlocked Salmon - Sunday, August 30, 1918 and Monday, August 31, 1942, 18 pounds 8 ounces - both in New London

2012 Dates and Times

This year, Trout Pond Opening Day is as late as it can get - Saturday, April 28th. But if you can't wait, NH Fish and Game lists ponds and lakes as well as rivers and streams without closed season on trout.

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 11 (immediately following our Annual Conservation Banquet on the 10th)

Spring (Vernal Equinox) begins on Tuesday, March 20th, 1:14 AM.

Summer Solstice, June 20, 7:09 PM.

Wednesday July 4th will have a waning full moon.

Masters at Work

By Bob Ives

The call was loud and clear **Fish On!** Everyone quickly dropped their rods and scurried over the rocky shingle to where a salmon has just taken Angus' fly. Two days ago my brother Tom had one on in the very same spot. Now, cameras at the ready, all eyes trained on the battle at hand - the fish of kings versus a mere mortal with fly rod in hand. In the human world, the mere mortal was a master angler. Battle lines were drawn.

Like a trident missile launched from the depths, the airborne fish throws his head to free itself of the mortal's hook as it dives back into the crystal clear water. Rocketing upstream, the fish erupts clear of the surface in a spray of water. The battle goes back and forth. Angus gains some line only to have the fish make another powerful run for freedom from the incessant tug of the fly. Eight more acrobatic leaps follow. The now weakened fish is brought in closer for everyone to see. The water is so clear it looks like the fish is floating in air. Dave Poole wades in to tail the apparently subdued fish. Dave takes one more step and reaches for the salmon only to have the fish dash once again into deeper water. But finally, weakened by the battle, the magnificent fish is grasped with both hands as if he is trying to wring the tail of the fish off.

Cameras click as Dave cradles the fish in both arms and Angus recovers from his battle. Dave eases his grip so Angus can hold the fish of kings aloft for all to see. With the last photo taken, the mere mortal is but a momentary victor. The benevolent conqueror relinquishes his prize back into the depths of the clear water. Seemingly undaunted, the fish dashes back to the safety of the pool. All hope this fish will spawn and head down stream to for the long arduous travels in its ocean realm to grow and, with luck, return to test the skills of another mortal known as a salmon angler.



Bob Ives is a long-time member of the Basil Woods Chapter, TU and has served as board member and advisor. His budding career as a writer and observer of cold-water fly fishing participants (especially his brother Tom) can be seen in his story *The Androscoggin Grand Slam* on the chapter website http://www.concordtu.org/news_announcements, this issue's story "Masters at Work", and in future issues of Troutlines.

Editor's Soapbox, continued from page 2

Autumn (Autumnal Equinox) begins on Saturday, September 22nd, 10:49 AM.

Halloween, like the 4th of July, will feature a waning full moon on Wednesday, October 31st.

Daylight Savings Time Ends on Sunday, November 4th.

Regardless of your wall clocks or internal clocks, Tuesday November 6th is the General Election.

Veteran's Day is Sunday, November 1st. Thanks to all.

The Winter Solstice comes on Friday, December 21st, 6:12AM.

And if you want to give some of your own time, check out the volunteer opportunities at NH Fish and Game:

www.state.nh.us/Education/Volunteer_news_opportunities.hem.

Happy New Year!



Reelsmithing Workshop, continued from page 1

at last year's event completed their reel at the workshop - but some did the final polishing and personal touches at home.

The fee for the reel making workshop is \$130 - with \$50 of that going to New Hampshire's Trout in the Classroom projects. The number of participants is limited to 25. Pre-registration is required and can be done on-line at the Eclectic Angler's website: www.eclecticangler.com/NH-TU-Workshop-2012



Some of last year's Reelsmithing Workshop participants.

TransCanada Easement, continued from page 1

permitted to install electricity generating capacity at both First and Second Lake dams. They also can limit public access to the dams and other components of their hydro infrastructure as they do now for reasons of safety and public security. Cleve Kapala of TransCanada said, "We are pleased to have been able to work with the Forest Society to complete the conservation of this land. We look forward to continuing to welcome recreational users of the property and to being a good neighbor and steward in Pittsburg and Clarksville."

The map on page 5 outlines the easement lands. If you are reading the paper version of Troutlines, the darker grey around the lakes are the easement lands. If you view this on our webpage, it is in color and the easements are clearly visible in red.

This article is based on the press release by SPNHF and can be read at:

<http://www.forestsociety.org/news/press-release.asp?id=560>

Update on NHTU Fundraising Effort TD Bank Affinity Program

by George Embley

We are forty percent of the way toward obtaining an annual donation of more than \$500 for NH Trout Unlimited. As of the beginning of December, 20 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

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 and at the meeting, Feb 16.

Thank You.

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

Events in the Region

9th Annual Freeze Up

January 8th 2012 at the Mousam River in Kennebunk, Maine. Brought to you by www.maine-fly-fish.com, and [Eldredge Bros Fly Shop](#) and Scott Fly rods

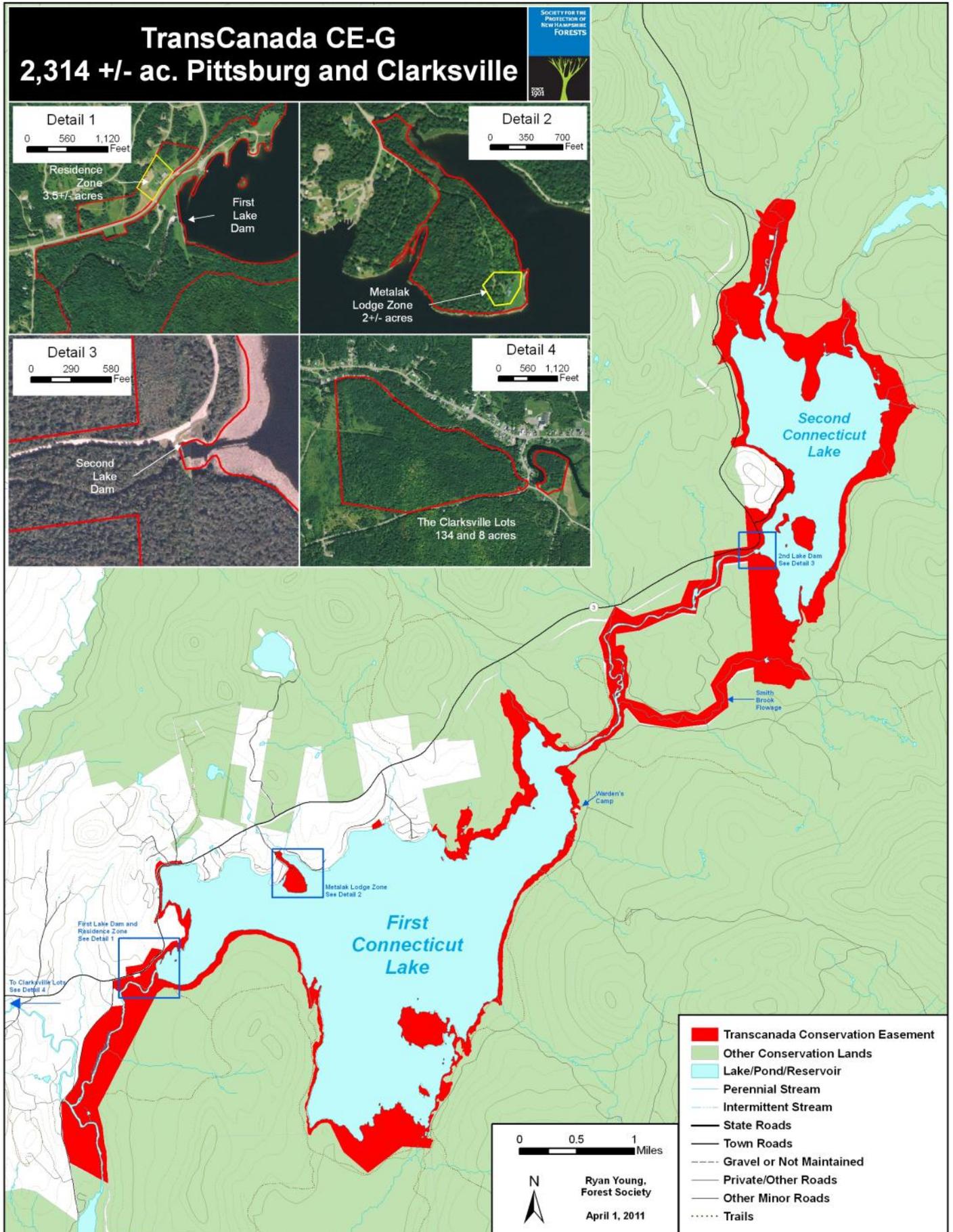
New England "Spey Clave"

by Jim Timmins

Although prevalent on the west coast, spey claves are just starting to catch on in the east. The New England clave is scheduled for May 5, 2012. It will be held in Barkhamstead, CT. American Legion and People's State Forest on the Farmington River. Organizers are securing reps with rods, lines and demos. There is no charge for the day as it is pre-season for the area.

Camping may be available. If interested keep up with the progress at www.speypages.com. Click the "Spey Clave" link on the left and select "Claves and Other Gatherings".

TransCanada Conservation Easements of the Upper Connecticut



Calendar

Thursday, January 5, 2012. Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2012. 7:00 PM - Chapter Member Meeting. Ed Mitchell, Saltwater Fly Fishing presentation: "Thirty Years at the Beach". At New Hampshire Fish and Game Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH. NHF&G is co-sponsoring this program and has generously opened its large meeting room for Ed Mitchell's presentation. See chapter webpage: http://www.concordtu.org/calendar_and_events

January 10 - February 14, 2012. Beginner fly tying classes. Tuesday nights at Parker Academy, Pleasant Street, Concord. For information call Harry Perkins 603 746-4925 or Ken Welch 603 228-0614, 603 491-8497 (cell). Registration forms available on chapter webpage: http://www.concordtu.org/calendar_and_events

February 2, 2012. Board of Directors Meeting

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.

February 21 - March 13, 2012. Intermediate fly tying classes. Tuesday nights at Parker Academy, Pleasant Street, Concord. For information call Harry Perkins 603 746-4925 or Ken Welch 603 228-0614, 603 491-8497 (cell). Registration forms available on chapter webpage: http://www.concordtu.org/calendar_and_events

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

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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Welcome New and Renewing Members

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

Craig Borgeson
 Wayne Bracy

Ideas Wanted

Planning for the 24th Annual Conservation Banquet is underway and we want your ideas. Let us know what new things you would like to see. Would it be a special speaker; different auction and raffle items; certain menu items; etc? How can we make the annual banquet better? Let us know!

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