



# Troutlines

### *Special Points of Interest*

- Fishing Mentors
- Ben Nugent to Speak
- Take More Trips . . .
- Jim Timmins on Veevus

### **Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar**

No December Meeting

**January Chapter Meeting**  
Thursday, January 17

**February Chapter Meeting**  
Thursday, February 21

**25th Annual Conservation Banquet**  
Saturday, March 9

*See Calendar on page 6 for more information.*

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## Chapter Fishing Mentors

Inspired by Fishing Mentors programs in other TU chapters, the Board of Directors gave a big thumbs up to sponsoring a similar volunteer project for the Basil Woods chapter at the December board meeting.

A Fishing Mentors program is very simple. All that is needed are volunteer fishing mentors from the chapter who are willing to go fishing with other chapter members. Many members, especially new ones, have plenty of enthusiasm and a willingness to learn, but don't know where to go or how to fish different situations or prefer not to fish alone. Many of our older members have never lost the desire to hit the water but may not know accessible and productive waters that would suit them best.

There is no bureaucracy or complicated communications required. Fishing mentors would simply let the board know they are interested, provide a contact name, number and any restrictions (such as weekends only) which would then appear in Troutlines and/or the chapter website. A chapter member who wanted to fish with a mentor would contact any of them directly and make arrangements.

Other TU chapters who have a Fishing Mentors program know that it fills a need among kindred fishing spirits, builds good relationships within the TU community, is one of the best and easiest ways to volunteer, and is a significant way to pass on to the next generations our love of fly fishing and what TU stands for.

*Mentors, continued on page 4*

## Brook Trout in the Lower Warner River Watershed:

### NHF&G Biologist Ben Nugent to Speak on this Summer's Field Work

Although the gorgeous brook trout in the picture below came from northern New Hampshire, the waters of the Lower Warner River watershed just west of Concord are home to more wild brookies than one might guess. As part of a long-term biological assessment of brook trout and their environmental situations, NH Fish & Game, the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, and locally interested groups including the Basil Woods TU chapter and the Warner Conservation Commission joined forces this summer to determine the status of wild brook trout in the Lower Warner River watershed.

This past summer, lead biologist Ben Nugent led many volunteers and other Fish & Game biologists to streams, brooks, brooklets, and other small waters in search of wild brook trout, aquatic macro-invertebrates, water quality data, and environments favoring *Salmo fontinalis*.

*Warner River, continued on page 4*



Brook Trout just before release. Underwater shot by Angus Boezeman.

## Presidential Commentary - Dan Stickney

Happy New Year!

I thought long and hard about what to write about this month; Fly shows are coming, Winter fishing is here, we have some good projects in the works, and I know I'm starting to think about upcoming trips to help take the edge off of waiting for Winter to end.

I couldn't decide, so I'm writing about thinking about it - that'll make sense, I hope, in a bit.

Trout have a way of swimming into the most obscure parts of our lives. I find myself thinking about fish I've caught - or missed - during quiet moments; if I'm searching eBay for something - a left-handed smokeswinger, say - sooner or later I'll search for a rod, or vise, or some material, or something. Distraction swims nearer the surface of my mind than I'm willing to admit, sometimes.

Last year I was skiing at a local area. When it was time to leave, I stopped to look in the small brook that runs through the area, because I can't help myself. Incidentally, I saw trout. Small ones, but the body shape is unmistakable - I'm sure they were trout.

My point, I suppose, is that even with a new family and all of the priority shuffling and busy-ness that

goes along with it - and the rest of life - I still love trout. One of the greatest things my folks did for me is get me outside and put a fishing rod in my hands. That is so important, now that I think of it, because it gives me a place to go - even in my mind - when I need a few minutes' peace and quiet; I think that's missing from a lot of folks' lives today.

I'm going to do my best to be sure that Elliott is as fortunate as I am to have a lifelong distraction to cherish; I hope that for him it's trout too, but whatever it is, I want to be sure it's there - right below the surface - when he needs it.

We have some great stuff planned for the rest of the year, from speakers to the Banquet - please come out and join us; it's a lot of work to pull these events together, and it's a lot more satisfying if others enjoy them too.

See you at the meetings; for now I need to look for a can of swirled paint on eBay...

All best~

Dan

## Editor's Soapbox - Gordon Riedesel

Since 2013 is an odd year, I thought some odd fly fishing terms were in order.

*Wet Fly* - what all flies become without treatment.

*Fishing Hole* - where most of your recreation budget goes.

*Waders* - people who go out on a stream with the appearance of fly fishing.

*Mending* - what waders (see above) do to their stocking foats after forgetting their wading boots but went fishing anyway.

*Bait and Switch* - what happened to fly anglers when they converted

from worms and minnows to fur and feathers.

*Dry Fly Hook* - the psychological result of catching trout on a dry fly and believing thereafter that fishing dry flies is the only noble way to fish.

*Floatant* - the principle excuse by waders (see above) for frequently ordering extra large fries and super-sized burgers.

*Inspiration after a fishless day* - "My rod and my staff, they comfort me."

*Roll Cast* - a fly fishing activity in search of a corporate baking sponsor.

*Head Cement* - only helpful when fishing in a hail storm.

*Fly Tying* - an advanced art form that results in complex, intricate and untieable knots - all done with fine monofilament and controlled by the quantum physics of an artificial fly modified by a graphite control rod.



## Take More Trips.....

by Richard Kingston



Well, it is the time for those new year's resolutions. But looking back, how have they worked out for you? For me, not so good. Many have been made, all with good intentions and a will to succeed, but most have not been fulfilled. But this year it will be different, not because my intentions are any better or my will any stronger, but because of my friend Dave.

Many of us, if not most, in our group of fly fishers, are shall I say getting long in the tooth. Forgive my veterinary analogy, but I am a retired veterinarian. I've been retired for a little over five years and so you say (and I admit I do ask myself) what's your problem? You have nothing to do (not true) and plenty of time or at least an additional 10 hours a day not to mention the ability to pick the days you want to go fishing. True, but it just doesn't seem to work out that way. Why, is the question. I ask myself that every year as it draws to a close. Another year has passed and yes, I did get to go fishing a fair amount, but not as much, nor did I travel as much, nor did I read as much, and so on and so on, as I had resolved to do last January.

It really hit me when I turned 60; wow 60 - how is that possible?! Now I'm almost 67 and it's WOW, really WOW. Most things in this aging body work ok, but some balk when I try to get going. I'm definitely not as steady in the stream as I once was, can't see those tiny flies and tie those tiny knots as I once did, and I certainly can't hike as long or as fast as I used to.

So how many more "good" years do I have left? Years where I will be able to make that perfect 50 foot cast, wade that fast water, or hike that 3 miles into that remote hot spot and still have enough left when I get there? That's the question we all ask ourselves as we hit those golden years - believe me it is something I think about a lot.

I bet my friend Dave did not think about it, he was only in his early 50s. Strong, healthy, at the prime of his business career, and with a big smile on his face, I fished with Dave on the 18th and 19th of May this past year. We were stripper fishing in a salt pond in Rhode Island and we had a blast. Lots of fish were landed, most were released and one was shared at our parting supper the last day. It was a trip with

great fishing, great eating, and great company. We parted with anticipation of our next trip together. It wasn't to be.

Dave died one week later, a massive stroke ended his future of stripper fishing, trout fishing, Atlantic salmon fishing, and everything else he had planned or not even yet thought of. Early 50s, wow.

Many of us I suspect, have lost friends or relatives in their 70s, 80s, and beyond, but also one or a few far too young and far too quickly. Every loss makes me think - when will I make that last cast? Most of us don't get the chance to know that and I guess I wouldn't want to know even if I could. But 2013 does bring me one year closer to that time.

So as I look back at 2012 and think about the great trips I took and try to remember all the things, some important and many not, that interfered with my plans, I will rearrange my priorities. At my age, 2014 will be here before I care to greet it. My abilities and my body will have eroded a bit more and that end point will be closer. So for 2013 my New Year's Resolution is: TAKE MORE TRIPS. I hope you do too, because in the end most of that other stuff just doesn't matter.

I bet Dave would agree.

*Richard Kingston served as Chapter Treasurer through May, 2012.*



*"... many anglers miss the chance to take a trout by lifting their flies too quickly. Many fishermen seem to think that it is absolutely necessary to get in as many casts per hour as possible, that the number of casts made will determine the size of the catch. This does not work out in practice, because a desire to make casts rapidly tends to make the angler slight the actual fishing of the flies, which, after all, is the thing that catches the trout. Fish out each cast completely. Flies will not catch fish while they are in the air."*

Ray Bergman "TROUT"

*Warner River, continued from page 1*

The lead story in the September, 2012 edition of Troutlines was about the work undertaken and some early findings. Key findings were that two-thirds of the streams surveyed had brook trout. And since these tributaries to the Warner River are not nor have been stocked, and because the fish are young and small, they are wild fish. If this year's findings reported on the genetic testing of brook trout in the Swift Diamond, Dead Diamond, and Magalloway watersheds hold true, these central New Hampshire fish may be not only wild, but native. We are sure Ben will have some comments on that issue.

If you were able to hear Ben's presentation in September, 2011 you know that this long-term project has uncovered an abundance of valuable data on one of this chapter's favorite fish. The 20-plus volunteers included several chapter members who either helped with electro-fishing or inventorying aquatic macro-invertebrates.

Ben has been busy analyzing the data collected from this year's field work. Not only will he help us understand the nature of brook trout populations in the Lower Warner River watershed, but can show us how this study area fits into the broader picture of wild brook trout in New Hampshire as well as the entire range of brook trout in the eastern US.

The chapter meeting is at 7:00 PM, January 17th at the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord.

*Mentors, continued from page 1*

The Board of Directors asks that you consider becoming a Basil W. Woods chapter Fishing Mentor. Each mentor decides when and where they will go fishing with a "mentee". We would love to get this program started soon and all we need from you is the basic information. Since we publish Troutlines from September through May and always have the website up and current, you can get your name on or off the list quickly.

To sign up drop us a note with your name, contact information and any restrictions to:

**Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter TU**  
**Fishing Mentors**  
 PO Box 3302  
 Concord NH 03302

e-mail: [concordtu@yahoo.com](mailto:concordtu@yahoo.com)

**Troutlines**

January, 2013

### For Your Winter Fly Tying: Angus' Red and Black Nymph



Hook: Sizes 12 - 18, standard wet fly hook  
 Thread: Black  
 Body: Red and Black Ultra Wire, SM  
 Thorax: Ice Dub Olive Brown, Peacock, or Black  
 Collar: Grizzly Hen

Wrap the thread from just behind the eye to just above the point. Tie in the red and black wires. Wrap towards the bend. Wrap the thread towards front. Neatly wrap the red and black wires together towards the front - about 2/3 of shank. Tie off. Dub a small amount of Ice Dub and create a nice thorax. Tie off. Select a proportional sized grizzly hen feather. Tie in and make 2 - 3 wraps pushing hackles towards the rear. Tie off. Finish with a neat head. Seal with head cement. (Can also be tied in green and black - good in larger sizes to mimic Caddis nymphs.) *Pattern by Angus Boezeman.*



## Product Review Veevus Thread

by Jim Timmins

I have recently learned of a new tying thread that is produced in Denmark by Veevus. It is promoted as being much stronger as compared to other manufacturer's threads of similar size. It is advertised in sizes 6/0, 8/0, 10/0, 12/0, 14/0, and 16/0, and is as many as 19 colors depending on size. They also make a product called Stomach Thread which Veevus claims to be an alternative to antron yarn and floss.

Always looking for a "better mousetrap" I purchased a couple of spools in 10/0 and 14/0 based on a couple of reviews that I read. I normally use Danville 6/0 and Uni 8/0 for much of my tying, and started with the Veevus 10/0 for a comparison. I was able to tie without breaking the thread from the start so switched to the 14/0 with similar results.

I haven't tied a lot of flies with it, but so far I am impressed with the strength to size, and satisfied with the results to the point that I have purchased a variety of colors. I have been using the 14/0 almost exclusively. I purchased a spool of 16/0 and hope to tie with it soon.

The thread is a spun variety and flattens fairly well. It can be split for dubbing purposes, but I have not tried that application yet. The Veevus is an unwaxed thread that may not suit all tiers. It is a little slippery, but I have not found that to be a problem so far. A pull through the wax would solve any problem. Many manufacturers are switching to the denier standard for sizing which I was getting used to, and think it is a more accurate sizing method for comparison. I doubt I will discontinue using Danville 6/0 for most of my salmon flies, but I think the Veevus will replace my small thread needs. Give it a Google, and check it out.

### Thread Breaking Strength Comparison (As published by Veevus)

Danville 6/0 = around 450g  
Gudebrod 6/0 = around 920g  
UNI 6/0 = around 930g  
Veevus 6/0 = above 1kg

UNI 8/0 = around 450g  
Gudebrod 8/0 = around 450g  
UTC 140 = around 935g  
Veevus 8/0 = above 1kg

Gudebrod 10/0 = around 270g  
UTC 70 = around 453g  
Benecchi 10/0 = around 680g  
Veevus 10/0 = around 800g

Benecchi 12/0 = around 450g  
Veevus 12/0 = around 530g

Griffiths 14/0 = around 450g  
Veevus 14/0 = around 520g

UNI 17/0 = around 114g  
Danville 16/0 Spider Web = around 141g  
Veevus 16/0 = around 430g

### Denier Comparisons from the Editor

A rule of thumb is that the larger the denier number of thread, the heavier and stronger it is. The smaller the denier number, the thinner and less strong it is. But strength is not always a function of thickness as Jim's review of Veevus threads points out.

#### Danville

Type	Denier	Material
Spiderweb 18/0	30	Monofilament
Flymaster 6/0	70	Nylon
Flymaster 3/0	116	Nylon
Flymaster Plus	210	Nylon
Flat Waxed Nylon	210	Nylon

#### UNI

Type	Denier	Material
Uni 17/0	40	Polyester
Uni 8/0	72	Polyester
Uni 6/0	135	Polyester
Uni 3/0	180	Polyester
Uni Cord 12/0	50	Gel Spun Polyethylene

#### Ultra Thread (UTC)

Type	Denier	Material
Ultra Thread GSP 50	50	Gel Spun Polyethylene
Ultra Thread 70	70	Nylon
Ultra Thread GSP 100	100	Gel Spun Polyethylene
Ultra Thread 140	140	Nylon
Ultra Thread GSP 200	200	Gel Spun Polyethylene
Ultra Thread Kevlar	200	Kevlar
Ultra Tread 210	210	Nylon
Ultra Thread 280	280	Nylon

*Jim Timmins is a frequent contributor to Troutlines. He is an advisor to Board of Directors, is constantly working on chapter projects and is a perpetual fount of information on tackle, tying, and fishing tips.*

Chart courtesy of Wapsi Fly, Inc. [www.wapsifly.com](http://www.wapsifly.com)

## Calendar through May, 2013

**Thursday January 3, 2013** Board of Directors Meeting.

**Thursday, January 17, 2013.** Chapter Meeting. Ben Nugent, NH F&G will detail and discuss the “Results of the Lower Warner River Watershed Survey” conducted this summer. Several chapter members participated in this “our backyard” project. This will be a great program.

**Thursday February 7, 2013** Board of Directors Meeting.

**Thursday February 21, 2013.** Bill Thompson of the North Country Angler in North Conway will present “Fly Fishing in the Saco Valley”. This promises to be a good introduction or reminder on this northern NH resource.

**Thursday, March 7, 2013** Board of Directors Meeting.

**Saturday, March 9, 2013** 25th Anniversary Annual Conservation Banquet. Grappone Center, Concord.

**Thursday, April 4, 2013** Board of Directors Meeting.

**Thursday, April 18, 2013** Judy Tumosa, NH F&G and some Trout in the Classroom teachers will share with the chapter this year’s Trout in the Classroom activities. Elections for chapter officers will be held.

**Thursday, May 2, 2013** Board of Directors Meeting

**Thursday, May 16, 2013** Annual chapter picnic. Place and exact date and time to be determined.

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

Always check the chapter website for news and updates. [www.concordtu.org](http://www.concordtu.org)

### Planning for the 25th Anniversary Conservation Banquet

**March 9, 2013 will be the Chapter’s 25th Conservation Banquet. This fun and important annual event requires planning - and if you would like to help out, we’d love to have you. The Banquet Committee meets Monday evenings January through early March. If you would like to help let us know by email [concordtu@yahoo.com](mailto:concordtu@yahoo.com) or drop a note to Basil Woods TU, PO Box 3302, Concord NH 03302**

### Welcome New Members

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

Zachary Curran  
John Dube, Sr.  
Paul Dwyer  
James MacCartney  
Roger Simpson  
Michael Southworth

### 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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