



Troutlines

Special Points of Interest

Fishing the Driftless Area

Websites for Winter

Don't Forget to Send in Your Chapter Raffle Tickets!

Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar

January Chapter Meeting
Thursday, January 16.
Matt Carpenter, NH F&G
Fisheries Biologist

February Chapter Meeting
Thursday, February 20.
Tom Cormier, Eldredge
Brothers Fly Shop

Annual Conservation Banquet
Saturday, March 8, 2014
Grappone Center

Youth Fishing Day Raffle Drawing
Discover Wild NH Day
Saturday, April 19

Trout Pond Opening Day
Saturday, April 26

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

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On a Winter's Day

The term, "sorting the wheat from the chaff" is an old one, dating to at least Biblical times. Unlike Biblical times, the Internet has changed the way we gather information – which is kind of like gathering wheat on steroids but with limited guidance on what's wheat and what's chaff. One thing for sure is the overabundance of chaff in the Internet Age. The following are some gleanings from the Web that are mostly grain and little chaff. So as we slowly work our way to Spring and fishable flowing waters, poking around some of these websites may help you constructively pass the time.

New Hampshire Fish and Game

www.wildlife.state.nh.us
www.wildnh.com

Where else would you start looking for information about fishing, hunting, and other great outdoor activities in New Hampshire? For an underfunded state agency, NH Fish & Game does a spectacular job. You might enjoy exploring not only coldwater fisheries but all the other activities led by NH Fish & Game. They are the "guardians of state's fish, wildlife, and marine resources." Read up on the educational programs, including Trout in the Classroom which our chapter strongly supports.

US Geological Survey Real Time Water Data

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt>

Here you can find real time water flows for major and selected streams. Click on the state and a dot map opens. Roll your cursor over a dot and it will give you the river name and flow. For more information, click on the dot. Dots are color coded broken into seven percentile groupings. This is particularly helpful if you must decide between hip waders, chest waders, kayak or canoe, or an ark.

Fishing the Driftless Area of Wisconsin

by Paul Doscher

One of TU's major stream restoration areas is the Driftless Area of Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota. It is called the Driftless, because it lacks glacial deposits known as "drift" to earth scientists. This large area was not smothered with ice in the last period of glaciation, which ended about 12,000 years ago. Because of this, the landscape is not covered with the 'till' of glacial boulders, and mixed subsoils that we are so familiar with here in New England. Instead the area features limestone ridges and valleys that create hundreds of small 'spring creeks' that flow through very productive farmland and woodland.



Before our European ancestors settled this area, it was a mosaic of grass prairies and oak savannas. Cold water streams with vibrant populations of native eastern brook trout flowed out of the limestone hillsides through open prairies, populated by large herbivores like deer, elk and bison. It looked almost entirely unlike it does today.

The TU national meeting was held in Madison, Wisconsin this past fall and prior to the meeting I had the good

Presidential Commentary - George Embley



The year is off to a great start, with Dan Stickney's news that our 2013 sponsorship of charitable gaming at the Lakes Region Casino at Belmont has netted us well over \$8000. Dan deserves a great deal of credit for the work he has put into making this event happen for the past few years. Thanks also to George Cummings and Jim Timmins who helped out with some of the required trips to the casino on our event days this year. Over the past 4 or 5 years our partnership with the Lakes Region Casino has been very successful—raising thousands of dollars which we have been able to use to further our conservation, education, and outreach efforts.

And now that the holiday break is over and one of the busiest parts of our year begins, banquet preparations and the fly tying courses are the first order of business. The beginner's fly tying course, set to begin on January 7, filled up quickly. A lot of volunteers signed up to help with this course, so the students should be able to pick up plenty of tips from the experts. The first fly to be tied in the class is the Mickey Finn, a bucktail fly that no one should be without. The fly was given its name by Canadian outdoor writer Greg Clark who, after fishing it during the 1930's, pronounced it to be as dangerous as the Mickey Finn knockout drink. (Prior to this observation, the fly was known as "The Assassin".) Another famous fly to be taught later in the course is the ubiquitous Woolly Bugger -- likely to be in every fly fisherman's arsenal because it is so effective and easy to tie. A couple of things have puzzled me about this fly. Firstly, is it spelled wooly or woolly, or even wooley? Secondly, why is it called a *woolly bugger* since the pattern contains no wool? This is an easier question to answer since the fly is a variant of the woolly worm -- which was probably named for the woolly bear caterpillar.

The Banquet Committee will be meeting weekly starting Monday, January 13 and will continue working right up to the date of the event on March 8. This is our major fundraising and social event of the year, and the committee works hard to find worthy prizes for the raffles and auctions that take place. Their efforts always pay off. Tom Ives is chairing the committee again this year and would be happy to see new participants at the Monday meetings. So if you would like to help out, or if you have a suggestion for the banquet, let us know. You can contact Tom through the chapter website (concordtu@yahoo.com), or you can give me a call at 456-2315.

Two or three other volunteer opportunities are becoming more urgent. Dan Davidson will be stepping down as treasurer after our April elections and we are looking for a replacement. This is an essential position and I am hopeful that we can have a candidate in place before the April chapter elections. While Dan is a CPA, this is not a requirement for the position. If anyone has an interest in being treasurer, please contact me either by phone or email (gembley@tds.net).

Gordon Riedesel has bought a second home in North Carolina (he may even be down there fishing as I write this) and is planning to move later this year. Gordon has been editing this newsletter for the last three years and also maintains the chapter web site that he initiated several years ago. So, we are looking for both a newsletter editor and a webmaster. If you are interested in either (or both) of these positions, please let me or Gordon know (concordtu@yahoo.com) Anyone who steps up now would also have the opportunity to work with Gordon while he is still in the area. He has done a great job editing Troutlines and he is a good teacher.

You won't want to miss this month's chapter meeting on January 16. Matt Carpenter, a NH Fish & Game fisheries biologist, will be talking about the Merrimack River Anadromous Fish Restoration Program. He will discuss the status of the program for eels, shad, and river herring and also provide a summary of the Atlantic salmon program, which is being discontinued. And in February, Tom Cormier of Eldridge Brother's Fly Shop will present a program on fishing the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana.

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Presidential, continued from page 2

For Christmas, my wife gave me a small book of quotes by and about fishermen with quotes ranging all the way from Ovid to a recent T-shirt (“I fish, therefore I lie”). My favorite was one by Ed Zern, from a book he wrote in 1945 (the year after Dewey lost to Roosevelt for President) —“*Every once in a while a fisherman catches a trout on a trout fly, and he thinks it proves something. It doesn't. Trout eat mayflies, burnt matches, small pieces of inner tube, each other, caddis worms, Dewey buttons, crickets, lima beans, Colorado spinners ... Hell they're not blind, they just want to see how it tastes.*” Anyone who has ever had a trout come up and try to inhale their bobber strike indicator knows there is some truth in this. But it is also true that a trout is a lot more likely to sample a woolly bugger than a Dewey button.

Editor's Soapbox

Gordon Riedesel

Sometimes thinking about an upcoming project is worse than actually doing it. I am sure all of us have, at one time or another, felt we were up against a brick wall. Writers have their blocks, public speakers have their fears of talking to groups larger than one, runners stepping to the starting line of a road race hit the wall before even starting, or anglers who decide to face the terror that is an unsorted fly box.

There are those who seem to never know a looming wall, even at deadline. My father ran a weekly newspaper for over 40 years and I never recall him being concerned about the next paper other than was it going to be an 8 - or 12 - pager. He worked very hard, but the paper was always out by 2PM Wednesday. I've marveled at students I've known who wait until the absolute last minute to write a paper - some of them were pretty good (and some of the papers would have been better left blank). Don't you admire articulate people who can stand up and speak like they have been professionally trained just for that event - but aren't?

By comparison, getting Troutlines ready nine times a year pales to the tasks others face for far more complex jobs. Yet there is always that feeling, what am I going to do this month, there is nothing to write about. I once had a professional photography friend who asked himself every Monday, what am I going to do this week? But he said that or over 25 years, the work always showed up in spite of his Monday morning fretting.

And that is how putting together Troutlines is. George Embley's Presidential Commentaries come in as regularly as the sun rises. Chapter events such as monthly meetings, Youth Fishing Day, and the annual Banquet are stories to be told. Having spent some time in retail it isn't all that different to pull a

story out of a fellow board member than it is to see a customer pull out his wallet. And many people are just waiting to be asked. There are plenty of great stories waiting to see the light of day.

In many ways, doing Troutlines is like an on-going conversation. I think when you read stories like Paul Doscher's *Fishing the Driftless Area of Wisconsin*, catch up on what one of our chapter meeting speakers had to say, followed projects like Trout in the Classroom or the Warner River Brook Trout survey - it really is a chat between all our members. Of course there is ample room for creativity and tall tales - see Bob Ives' work in Troutlines.

As George notes in this month's Presidential Commentary, this is our busy season. It is even busier with the return of our chapter sponsored fly tying classes. The beginner's class filled up - but there is room still in the intermediate section. These classes are part of a long tradition with which its founders would be pleased. The upcoming annual conservation banquet marks its 26th year - and planning has begun in earnest. Youth Fishing Day is April 19 and it is also the day for our Raffle Drawings. The Board of Directors works hard to keep the chapter running with both old and new activities.

For a volunteer organization, our TU chapter does a good job of not only maintaining the important basic functions of a TU chapter, but of adding activities or modifying how we do things. We have over 350 members making us the second largest chapter in the state. And to fret that there is a brick wall ahead and nothing to write about is without foundation. Type that first sentence, start running with the report of the starter's pistol, or just start organizing that fly box. Just remember, bad weather looks worse from the inside of a window.



Driftless, continued from page 1

fortune to spend two days fishing in the Driftless with three TU friends from New Mexico. Suffice to say that for all of us, this was fishing territory that looked entirely unfamiliar!

Well, not entirely. In many places of the Driftless, forests have invaded the valley bottoms after generations of farming and fire control. Where there were once small cold streams running through grass prairie, today there are hardwood forests dominated by the ever present box elder tree, which rapidly colonizes stream banks that are not grazed.

Unlike here in the northeast, habitat restoration in the Driftless involves removing the trees from the riparian zone along streams, and then removing the high banks of fine sediment that have eroded from past poor farming practices and been deposited in the flood plain. An un-restored Driftless stream can be an 8 foot wide ribbon of water flowing through tall banks of rich topsoil, sometimes a 6 to 8 foot high vertical wall along the stream side. Sometimes there is grass, 5 or 6 feet high on top of the banks, making wading in such a stream feel like walking through a slot canyon of grass and mud. Getting into an un-restored stream involves sliding down the mud on your butt. Climbing out can be an even more interesting challenge.

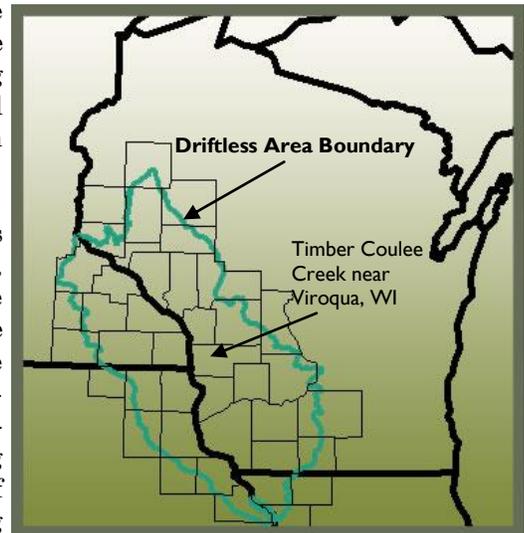


Image courtesy: www.driftlessconservancy.org

In the past few decades, TU has partnered with the state and other conservation organizations to restore hundreds of miles of Driftless streams to a state resembling their original condition. A restored stream boasts open banks of grass sloping gently down to a gravel bottom channel, often with installed structure in the form of logs, rocks and “lunker structures”. Lunker structures are artificially created undercut banks where trout, sometimes large, can find cover and deep water.



Paul fishing in a tributary of Timber Coulee Creek with classic Driftless hills in the background. His friend Frank landed a 14” Brown here.

I fished for two days in Timber Coulee Creek and its tributaries near Viroqua, Wisconsin. My partner was Frank Weisbarth, NLC representative from New Mexico, and an obvious expert on fishing small streams for spooky trout. We had two days of fishing both restored, grassy streams and un-restored forested waters. There were wild brown trout, literally everywhere. At one point I joked to Frank that in two days I’d seen more trout that I couldn’t catch than anywhere I’d ever fished. That might have been an exaggeration, but we saw hundreds if not thousands of wild browns (and a few brook trout), and it seemed all of them were wary. That said, we did catch about a dozen each, with the best fish caught on a hopper dropper rig.

One of the fun things about fishing in unfamiliar waters is trying to figure things out. We got better at identifying where fish were lying, what they were eating and how to avoid spooking them. I also wondered how, on these grassy

banked streams, the invasive box elder trees were kept at bay. That question was answered when a small harem of dairy cows and their bull wandered by just behind me. No, the farmers don’t allow their cows to indiscriminately inhabit the streams, but instead practice rotational grazing, so a brief burst of occasional browsing in the stream corridor knocks back the trees and keeps the grass vigorous. All of this is done in close collaboration with both farm and fishery advisors. Very often, the farmers that adopt this new approach to farming also welcome anglers to enjoy the streams that have been restored on their land.

Many thanks must go to the great TU volunteers who have given new life to so many Wisconsin trout streams. It’s worth a trip to see what they have done, and advisable to connect with some local TU members to learn about the best places to wet a line.

Winter's Day, continued from page 1

National Weather Service Forecast Office

www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx/

This link is for the Grey, Maine office which is responsible for Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. You can get the latest forecasts and full discussions by staff meteorologists as well as maps. This is the primary source of weather information used by most TV and radio forecasters. Forecasts for all parts of the country can be accessed by typing in the nearest city. The forecasters discussions can be amusing and each one's personality shows through. It is clear these meteorologists love their work.

John's New Hampshire Weather

www.johnsnhweather.com

If you fish, hunt, or camp in northern New Hampshire you really need to know about John's NH Weather. Based in Pittsburg, he's got it all and more. John has been doing this since October, 2005 and he will make his own weather predictions alongside those from the National Weather Service. There is a fishing page as well as about 75 other links and pathways worth exploring. If you are a weather junkie, you will be in heaven. With over 2 million hits in the last 8 years, he must be on to something.

eNature.com

A great source of searchable information on wildlife and plants – over 5,500 in all. eNature.com uses the same data sets as the Audubon Field Guides. The content is reviewed and vetted by professional scientists. It is particularly good for birders. In the insect world you can search Hairstreaks and Elfin butterflies, Seasquirts at the seashore, and schools of fresh and saltwater fish.

New Hampshire Guides Association

www.nhguidesassociation.com

You probably know some of the members of the New Hampshire Guides Association – at least the fly fishing guides. The Guides Association website reflects its member guides: fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreation. Several Basil W. Woods chapter members belong to the New Hampshire Guides Association. See who you know – or should.

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Winter Fly Tying Class Registration - Intermediate Class

Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter Trout Unlimited

Tuesday Evenings: 7 - 9 PM, February 18 - March 18

Passaconaway Club - Garvins Falls Road, Concord NH

Questions? e-mail us at: concordtu@yahoo.com or
Bob Ives : ivesr@comcast.net

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Intermediate Class February 18 - March 18 \$ 75 \$ _____

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

I am not a TU member I am a TU member

Send registration and payment to: Basil W. Woods Chapter TU
PO Box 3302
Concord NH 03302



Tan Elk Hair Caddis by Ellis Hatch
Size 16

Winter's Day, continued from page 5

Fly Fishing in New Hampshire

www.flyfishinginnh.com

News and discussion forums are the main feature of flyfishinginnh.com. Some of the forum discussions sound just like streamside conversations. Visit a few times and you'll get to recognize the regulars. It's a good venue to follow and see what is or isn't going on. A special forum exists for groups such as TU chapters and other organizations to announce meetings, banquets, raffles, fly tying, etc. Provides a pulse on fly fishing in NH.

Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV)

easternbrooktrout.org/

Rather than a local or even state perspective, the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture provides both comprehensive and specific views of the natural range, the watersheds, and human impacts on our beloved brookie. The summary statement of the organization sums up this effort: "The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) is a unique partnership between state and federal agencies, regional and local governments, businesses, conservation organizations, academia, scientific societies, and private citizens working toward protecting, restoring and enhancing brook trout populations and their habitats across their native range." When on the stream, our focus is on a particular run or pool – yet it is the river proper and the watershed as a whole that allows fly anglers and conservationists to understand the big picture. Research projects like the recent Warner River Brook Trout study are important contributions to the big



Drawing courtesy of
www.davewhitlock.com

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.

Basil Woods Jr. Chapter TU

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www.concordtu.org

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brook trout picture.

Landmark Fly Shop, Step-by-Step Tutorials for Tying Atlantic Salmon Flies

www.nsfa-adventures.com/

ATLANTIC_SALMON_STEP_BY_STEP_FLIES.htm

With 162 illustrated tutorials and step-by-step instructions this is one of the best resources for tying classic Atlantic Salmon Flies. Located at 46 Rue Elie Rochefort Port-Cartier, QC G5B, this is no simple Quebec fly shop. The Atlantic Salmon Flies Tutorials are excellent and the services and products are worth investigating for this north shore family business. Guided trips available on these watersheds: Aux Rochers River, Pentecote River, Trinite River, MacDon-ald River, Saintes Marguerite River (SM3).

Favorite Flies: Mary Orvis Marbury, Atlantic Salmon, Irish Salmon, Spey and Dee, Streamers

www.favoriteflies.net/mikes_site/page/home.htm

This website showed up when searching for streamer patterns. It turns out to be an excellent site for patterns with a special nod to Mary Orvis Marbury's flies. Mary Orvis Marbury was the daughter of Charles Frederick Orvis, founder of Orvis. Her book: Favorite Flies and Their Histories was published in 1892 by Houghton, Mifflin, and Company as a tribute to her father and his passion for fly fishing. The book is available in reprints. The webpages are done by Mike Boyer and Lee Schechter – both fly fishing and fly tying authors. The photos and the flies – all types, are beautifully done. Well worth a look.

Anglers Guide to the Pflueger Medalist Fly Reel

www.flyangersonline.com/features/oldflies/part287.php

Tucked inside the Fly Anglers Online website is this section on the ever popular and enduring Pflueger Medalist reel. Not everyone can talk with chapter reel guru Al Karg (now of Pittsburg) about old and vintage reels so this site is a good alternative – or should we say "Al" ternative? Chances are you know someone who owns one and you might even have one yourself. Today, rods and reels come and go at the speed of high fashion – but the Medalist keeps on. If you have a Medalist, you might be able to date it with the help of this site.

Sexy Loops Fly Tying and Fishing

www.sexyloops.com/contentspage.shtml

This is one of our recent finds and it's a good one. Although they have been on the Web for 10 years already, it's new to us. It is big with between 7,000 and 8,000 pages devoted to fly fishing. It appears to us that there is plenty of good material - just don't get totally lost. Can't think of a better way to get ready for the 2014 fishing season.

