



Troutlines

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

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

Chapter Meeting

January 15, 2015

This month features master craftsman, cane rod builder David Van Burgel and Kathy Scott of Norridgewock, Maine, proprietors of Ardea Bamboo Fly Rods. They will share a story recounted in Kathy's fourth book "Brook Trout Forest." of two rods built by David and put to the test in Labrador on big Brook Trout. Its quite the adventure Check out other texts by Kathy at http://www.aldercreekpublishing.com/kathy_scott.htm.

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Tubes A New Way to Fly

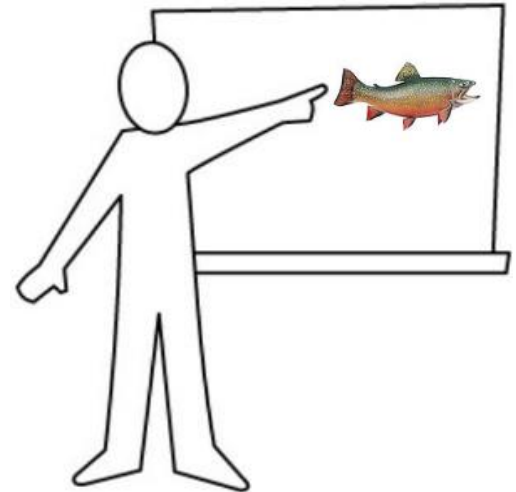


Here is an interesting piece from Jim Timmons our resident Guru on all things Atlantic Salmon.

I became interested in tube flies some time ago through reading articles on Atlantic salmon fishing, and purchased a book titled Tube Flies, A Tying, Fishing & Historical Guide by Mark Mandell & Les Johnson. I tried my hand at it with a makeshift needle to hold the tube that I constructed and making a tube out of a Q Tip. As I recall it was not an ideal situation, but I did end up with a fly that I saw as presenting possibilities. It has only been in recent years that I have developed more interest, and pursued the craft to where I have a very fishable collection.

Tube flies are a product of Europe and have been used there for many years for salmon and sea trout as well as other species. More recently they have quite a following in the Pacific North West in steelhead and salmon fishing. And lately have been showing up in Atlantic Canada

Basil Woods Jr. Trout in the Classroom Engaging the Future



In the December 2014 Troutlines, we provided a brief description of Trout-in-the Classroom (TIC) and an overview of chapter and state wide Trout Unlimited involvement in the program. This month we continue that coverage with feedback from another of the schools we support. From Hanover Street School in Lebanon, Fourth Grade teacher Stephanie Davis sent us the following note:

"The Lebanon School District SAU #88 is fortunate to have continued their partnership with the Basil Wood chapter of Trout Unlimited. Last year was our eighth year raising trout in the classroom and working with members of the Basil Wood team. As always both the teachers and students gained a great deal of support and knowledge from this partnership.

To kick off our year members of the Basil Wood chapter joined us as we visited the New Hampton Fish Hatchery to learn about the life cycle of the brook trout. Our yearlong study of the brook trout and their habitat always be

Presidential Commentary – George Embley



I often make the mistake of writing a few resolutions down at the beginning of the year. . . Most years, I am only moderately unsuccessful in making good on my resolutions. But, when I look back at my 2014 resolutions I find that I was spectacularly unsuccessful. So this year, I have decided upon a resolution that I know I will at least try to keep – fish more than last year.

I am at a point in my life where the acceleration in time has become painfully obvious. I have been retired for over ten years now. Yet my last day on the job seems like yesterday. Why does it seem like every year goes by faster than the year before? One answer may be that, as we get older, most of what we do is increasingly repetitive and eminently forgettable. When we look back at a year that has just passed, its apparent length depends on how many new things we learn and how many of our experiences are memorable. As an example, I find that if I drive somewhere for the first time, the trip out seems to take a lot longer than the trip back. On the trip out everything is new so I am paying attention and making sure I know the way. On the way back I am retracing the same path and there is much less that goes into the memory banks. So my plan to stretch out what time remains is to fill it with as many new experiences as possible. And I cannot think of any better way to fill that need than by fishing; and for me that is fly fishing. Not only does every new stretch of river provide something unique, but any day on the same river is unique – and something that happens that day will likely be memorable. Maybe it will be the excitement of finding a new fly that works or a new technique, or seeing a friend catch the fish of a lifetime, or even just hooking a good fish but slipping, falling in the river, and getting

soaking wet for my trouble. And when I put away the fly rod for the last time, I will have a good store of memories. Fishing has given me so many great memories and I plan to capture a lot more.

In a Troutlines article printed two years ago, our former treasurer Richard Kingston mused about why his past resolutions to take more fishing trips had not always met with success. He had many of the same reasons I do and expressed them very eloquently. He also talked about why a renewed passion to make the time for these trips was so important to him and why he was going to reorder his priorities. Well, time has passed and Richard is still a strong supporter of the chapter, but we don't see as much of him as we used to and now you know why. I plan to follow his example and I hope you do to. If you missed that article, I recommend that you go back to the January 2013 edition of Troutlines and read it.**

Our January 15 chapter meeting will feature David Van Burgel and Kathy Scott of Norridgewock, Maine where they are the proprietors of Ardea Bamboo Fly Rods. David is a noted master craftsman in the art of bamboo rod making and Kathy is a well known author of books about outdoors and fishing. Both are also very active in Trout Unlimited -- Kathy as the vice-chair of the Maine TU Council and David as Maine's National Leadership Council (NLC) representative. They will share a journey to Labrador where they tested themselves and their hand-made bamboo rods on big brook trout. And they will tell us how they made those rods. Hope you can join us.

Happy New Year! I wish you all good fishing in 2015.

George



Basil Woods Jr
Concord, New Hampshire

Basil Woods Jr. finds Facebook



Remember, you can now find us on Facebook. Facebook users can use the Facebook search tool for "ConcordTU" or "Trout Unlimited, Concord NH." We will use Facebook as another method to share information about what is happening regarding chapter and important cold water conservation activities - maybe even a few fish stories, too!

Not a Facebook user but still want to check out the page? Here's the direct link: <https://www.facebook.com/ConcordTU>.

Questions? Ask Alex Hicks, our Webmaster – ConcordTU@yahoo.com

TU Banquet Support

Our Chapter's annual fund-raising banquet is right around the corner - March 14th. With your help we have already acquired our big ticket items for the major banquet raffles. .

Perhaps now you could help us find other items that our banquet attendees might enjoy bidding on and acquiring . Any crafts, pottery, jewelry, Aart, trips, fishing gear, fly tying stuff, books, dinners , food baskets would all be great items. Maybe you don't have any items yourself but you know someone who would like to promote their product, or service and would find the opportunity to market to our the attractive TU consumer. We will be happy to provide plenty of visibility. Remember all donations provide tax deductions as TU is a registered 501c3 organization..

We are all in this together and whatever you can round up for the auction would be a great help. We look forward to seeing what you come up with.

Contact Tom Ives, Banquet Chairman at 224-0441 and we will turn your contributions into needed conservation projects. See you at the banquet too.

Editors Soapbox

Tim Pease

Book Talk

Here we are entering the functional equivalent of baseball's hot stove season, a time for fly tying, reading and planning for the fishing seasons . Sure when the weather relents we will get few days on the Newfound river, off the docks on the Merrymeeting river when open water shows itself or perhaps between Puagus bay and Lake Winnesquam out behind the Trading Post; but' mostly we will be indoors yearning for those harbingers of fishing like ice out in Alton bay, opening day on ponds and the scattering of stocking tucks..

To talk of flyting or books that is the question? Let's do some of both because for me the best flyting information comes from books so let us call it flyting for the sake of argument.

Today if you want to learn about flies and fly tying just hit www.google.com, search for flies, click on images see the flies you like and look around for the YouTube that describes the materials you need and the techniques you need to tie them. If you are fortunate enough to find a Davey McPhail video pay close attention as he is in my opinion one of the finest most versatile tiers in a long time.

Of course if you go to the Marlboro Flyfishing Exposition you will be able to see some fine fly tyers in person. My personal favorites include Charlie Chute who makes exquisite full dressed salmon flies and does so with an ease that masks his incredible material handling skills. Cast an eye on Dave Brandt's flies and see what it means to craft a catskill fly.

I have not seen Mike Valla tie in person but his work is awe inspiring. I left Mike to last because his books *Tying Catskill-Style Dry Flies*, or *Founding Flies*, are the latest installment in a long line of classic books on fly tying and fly fishing.

Back some forty years ago Arnold Gingrich wrote a book called *The Fishing in Print* cataloging the relevant literature on fly fishing and fly tying up through Hewitt and projecting the works of Preston Jennings into the then seeable future. By stopping with Hewit he left out much to come later

Start with Ernst Schwiebert's brilliant *Matching the Hatch*. Up till then dry fly fishing meant fan wing royal coachmen, adams' wulffs, bivisibles and variants. Read Bergmans *Trout* full of lithograph plates of hand painted fly pictures to gain an appreciation of Schwiebert's leap from *Trout* (1938) to *Matching the Hatch* (1955) complete with his carefully hand inked line drawings. . He is the great grand dad of technical dry fly fishing. If any one prior to Ernie knew what the bugs were they failed to mention them.. *Matching* has complete eastern and western hatching charts and recommended patterns for nymphs, emergers (wets) and dries for each species. The insect taxonomy may have changed but not the game he gave us. Mr. Schwiebert then reprieved the Bergman classic title in his two volume *Trout* (1978) a veritable tour de force on fly fishing at and for its time and before. .

Messers. Liesenring and Hidy (*The Art of Tying the Wet Fly & Fishing the Flymph* and Mr. Art Flick 's (*Streamside Guide*) contributed companion texts to *Matching* that lifted trout fishing above and below the water from the mundane to the sublime. Mr Valla draws on Flick's tradition while Sylvester Nemes has surrounded Liesenrings' central text on soft hackle flies with his encyclopedic review of the genre.

Caucci and Nastasi *Hatches* (1975) draw directly for the spring of the Au Sable in the Adirondacks extemporizing their no hackle flies from Fran Better's renown Usual/ Haystack flies, However, without the legacy of *Matching the Hatch* the need for all the comparaduns and sidewinders would have been unnecessary.

Leaving behind the Delaware watershed for a moment and sojourn northeast a bit. Consider Mr. Joe Bates' *Streamer Fly Tying and Fishing*. Written in 1950 and updated in 1966 his book promotes the streamer into every corner of North American fishing both fresh and salt, reserving his treatment of Atlantic Salmon and their flies to his 1970 *Atlantic Salmon Flies and Fishing*. Younger readers no doubt have perused his subsequent tomes *The Art of the Atlantic Salmon Fly* and *Fishing Atlantic Salmon*. Both texts take ample advantage of Mr. Bates' collections of original flies, the handiwork of some extremely talented tiers and the wonders of the then emerging digital photography to create informative and stunningly beautiful books.

Mr. Bates was not a fly tier, or innovator but rather a brilliant writer and cataloger of streamers, salmon flies and their creators. A contemporary of Carrie Stevens he did much to publicize her, her flies and the classic Maine streamers that seemed to follow in the wake of her Rangeley boat. He popularized the streamers of Lew Oatman and Keith Fulsher and provided the first compendium of east and west coast saltwater and steelhead flies. His *Streamer Fly Tying and Fishing's* 8 color plates and almost 150 pages of detailed patterns were the epitome of art and teaching for its time.

Polly Roseborough's *Tying and Fishing the Fuzzy Nymphs* (1965) and Schwiebert's densely written *Nymphs* (1973) are some of the early contribution for getting your arms around the crawly denizens of the streambed. Randal Kaukman's *American Nymph Fly Tying Manual* (1975) though manualesque as the title suggests provided a great pattern guide with over 200 entries.

Keith Fulsher and Charlie Krom probably gave us the first broad presentation on today's salmon flies, *Hair Wing Atlantic Salmon Flies* (1981); with 1st rate photography and 70 pages of patterns. We waited until 1991 for the steelhead opus *Steelhead Fly Fishing* from Trey Coombs. Mr. Coombs to is an aggregator who painstakingly compiled personal accounts, photography and fly patterns to document the renown rivers, fanatic anglers and accomplished fly tiers that are the pacific steelhead fishery.

Unless you have not been in bookstore for many years you are acutely aware that these are but a few of the many books that continue to provides us with words and pictures on flies and fly tying. Amazon has over 100 pages of books listed under fly tying. These seminal texts above have been followed by notables volumes like David Hughes' *Trout Flies, The Tiers Reference* and *Wet Flies*, Stewart and Lee-man's *Trolling Flies for Trout and Salmon*, David Klausmeyer's *Freshwater Streamers*, John Shewey's and Bob Veverka, *Spey Flies & Dee Flies: Their History & Construction*, and *Spey Flies & How to Tie Them* respectively are great extensions of Bates and Coombs. And while I have not perused it Michael Radencich's *Classic Salmon Fly Patterns: Over 1700 Patterns from the Golden Age of Tying* appears to be the primo modern text for full dressed

classics. Relying on illustrations rather than photography Chris Mann brings us *The Complete Illustrated Directory of Salmon & Steelhead Flies* an even wider cast of fur feather and floss creations for anadromous fish.

No doubt I have failed to mention some favorite of yours and for this I am sorry for there are surely many readable and informative books left out. This is but a measure of the bounty at hand. I will note that our great state of New Hampshire has surely made significant contributions. Dick Talleur long a resident has two pages in Amazon of his books and I think I have his first book on my shelf somewhere. Dick Stewart and Farrow Allen then of North Conway supplied the widely popular "Flies for" *Trout, Salmon, Steelhead* series and Dick Stewart provided *Universal Fly Tying Guide*. You will find Dick Stewart's name here many times and in fact you will find some of is originals at the fly tying exhibit at the University of New Hampshire Library. Check it out!

Even the most cursory book review on fly tying must include the spectacular 3 volume set brought to us by defacto curator Paul Schmookler and is photographer wife Ingrid Sils. The first two offerings are *Rare and Unusual Fly Tying Materials A Natural History* volume 1 Birds and Volume 2 Birds and Mammals. While they may be rare and unusual they cover nearly every natural material including tinsels and floss. and each material is exhibited in flies ties especially to illustrate that material. These flies are crafted by some of the best fly tiers of our day. They humble all of us fumble fingered wannabees.

The text show all the materials we as tiers have been substituting for. So if you ever really wanted to know what Kori Bustard, or Ibis or Land Rail really looks like and what the flies are that used them this is set for you. The final volume *Forgotten Flies* brings us two distinct offerings. The first are presentations of actual flies tied by the likes Preston Jennings, Charles Defeo and Carrie Stevens. These are taken from Mr. Schmookler's collection and presented exquisitely by Ms. Sils. Patterns are provided for all the flies. The wonderful array of flies originally presented in Bergmans *Trout* and Mary Orvis Marbury's *Favorite Flies and Their Histories* are retied by Don Bastian and Paul Rossman respectively and photographed by Ms Sils. You will marvel at the art and skill. Finally there is checklist of Straemers and Bucktails that showcases every streamer and bucktail you have ever heard of; freshly tied and presented for your visual stimulation and enjoyment. If you find these volumes and your checkbook seems hearty, buy them you wont be disappointed.

I hope this will get your mind going when you stroll by the antique and modern booksellers at the Marlboro Fly Fishing Exposition in a couple of weeks. See you there.

Tim Pease

Tubes page 1

on salmon rivers in greater numbers.

Some of the advantages of tube flies that are often bantered about, and some that have been realized by me are as follows:

- **More control** over the weight of the fly. The flies are constructed of tubes made of various plastics, aluminum, and brass. This gives a great range of depths that can be fished based on the weight of the fly. In my own experience only plastic has been used as weighted flies are not allowed in Atlantic salmon fishing in Canada, and that is what I have used them for to date.
- **Easily change** the profile of the fly. Tube size can be used to construct wider and longer flies with ease.
- Landing more fish. Not proven by me, but the theory of the fly detaching from the hook and sliding up the tippet presents less mass for the fish to thrash about and throw the hook.
- **Adaptability and versatility.** Hook size and type can be changed at will. This allows for increasing or decreasing the weight of the fly by hook selection, or using an offset hook, or a stinger hook for hooking improvement. Using a large fly with a smaller hook can also improve casting characteristics. Tubes can be used for casting, trolling, fresh and saltwater use.
- **Less expensive.** This may be debatable, perhaps on the same level as tying your own flies is. However, the costs of tubes is relatively inexpensive, especially the plastic ones, compared to modern salmon hooks. And one always has to have multiple sizes so I consider this a valid point. If you have ever dropped a back cast on a rock or ledge with a salmon hook you have probable experienced a broken hook point, and a discarded fly. With a tube simply change the hook. In my own situation I sometimes fish for salmon where barbless hooks are required, and using tube flies solves the problem for me. In cases where a hook must be left in a released fish tubes offer the advantage of leaving just the hook, and saving the fly.

If one is already equipped to tie flies just a little more is required in tooling to accomplish the task. A means to hold the tube secure while tying is accomplished with either a specific size mandrel or tapered needle that can be attached to a regular tying vise. Special vises are made for tube tying, but are not required for the average tyer in my opinion. The basic tube fly is constructed of the tube, body and winging material, as used on standard flies, and a selection of hooks. Sometimes junction tubing, used to hold the hook, is required on some tubes depending on the particular hook.

Following are a few web sites that describe and provide tube fly tying tools, materials and patterns. Those interested should look at them for further information on tube flies and tying. Also the Internet is alive with You Tube videos and information on the subject. Dive deeper into the "black hole" by investigating. You may find the possibilities unlimited. www.hmhvises.com, www.eumertube.com www.prosportsfisher.com

TIC page 1

gins at the hatchery to learn about the life cycle of the brook trout.

One of the stations during our visit to the hatchery is with George Embley and Steven Lowe observing and teaching students about the spawning habits of the brook trout in their natural habitat.

Within the classroom the fourth graders of Lebanon receive and raise trout from eggs to study the development of brook trout at the beginning stages of development. All of this has been made possible through to the gracious gift of chillers from the Basis Wood chapter years ago.

"Each spring we conduct a habitat assessment of Great Brook to determine our release site of the trout we've raised. We are lucky enough to also have members of the Basil Wood chapter at this event to share their expertise and help student learn first-hand about assessing water quality. They also help students identify benthic macro invertebrates as one of the key indicators of a healthy habitat. The culmination our study of the brook trout is the annual Lebanon Student Watershed Congress where the fourth grade teachers in Lebanon along with many local and state level agencies share their expertise. For this event many of the members of the Basil Wood chapter again come out and share their time and expertise with the students. This event is held in May each year and involves experts in the field of watersheds, habitats, biology, wildlife management all sharing knowledge with all fourth graders in the Lebanon School District. It is a great ending to an amazing project in part due to our partnership with the members of the Basil Wood chapter of Trout Unlimited."

Trout Unlimited has been supporting the Lebanon 4th grade TIC program since 2006, when the NH Council of TU donated the first chiller to the program. Two years later the Basil Woods chapter provided a chiller for the other Lebanon school in the program and chapter volunteers have actively supported them since then. Speaking for the chapter, our volunteers enjoy their interactions with the staff and students at the two Lebanon schools we support. The teachers have been very supportive of our efforts and the students are enthusiastic and knowledgeable of what they have been taught in the program. We always look forward to returning to help out again the next year.



Winter Fly Tying Classes Underway

Tuesday night cold and clear kicked off the beginning fly tying class. Warmed by the fire 2 ladies and 10 gentlemen embarked on lesson one for tying flies. Ken Welch led the group through fly number one, that's right, the Wolly Bugger. Each student was given a vice, a tool set, a how to book, materials and a personal hands on guide to start the hobby of lifetime. First flies were extremely well done. They will only improve.

Some seats are still available for the intermediate class beginning February 17th and runs for 5 weeks. Participants, who have some experience, that want a refresher, or have completed the beginner's class, will enjoy the intermediate course. As in the beginner class, materials and vises for up to 15 participants will be provided. Typical patterns for the intermediate course include: Zonkers, Nine-Three Streamer, Garside Soft Hackle, the Glitter Bug; Mari-bou Muddler, Hornberg, classic Go-To Dries - Elk Hair Caddis and the Parachute Hendrickson. And finally the gorgeous Royal Wulff. The fee for the intermediate class is \$75.

A **free** one year membership to Trout Unlimited will be given to first time members. Classes will be held at the spacious Passaconaway Club on Garvin's Falls Road in Concord 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.

Beginner's Class January 6 - February 10 - \$ 50 \$ _____

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.

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
PO Box 3302
Concord NH 03302-3302

Calendar

January 15 Chapter meeting

March 14, 2015 TU Banquet—save the date

January 6, 2015 Fly Tying classes begin

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