



Troutlines

Special Points of Interest

- Blue Ridge Trout
- Annual Treasurer's Report
- Call for Volunteers - Wild Trout Census

Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar

24th Annual Conservation Banquet
Saturday, March 10, 2012

Chapter Meeting,
April 19, 2012
Mark Foley on Argentina Fly Fishing

Youth Fishing Day and Wild NH Day, April 21, 2012

Final Chapter Meeting of the Season May 17, 2012

See Calendar on page 6 for more information.

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From NH to NC: Trout Fishing in North Carolina's Blue Ridge

At February's chapter meeting, Richard Kingston took everyone on a fly fishing trip to the trout waters of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. While on a trip to North Carolina a few years ago, Richard went looking for a side trip to get in some trout fishing. He found plenty of opportunities in the western mountains of North Carolina.

It didn't take long to find a fly shop and guiding outfit. Tucked into the North Toe River Valley in the small town of Spruce Pine (near the Blue Ridge Parkway between Asheville and Boone) Richard found himself at Rivers Edge Outfitters. Soon he was casting in the private trophy waters of Rock Creek hoping to hook up with one of its large rainbows or browns - some that hit 30". And he did. But as he soon found out, there are not hundreds, but thousands of miles of productive trout water in North Carolina. Private waters may hold some very large fish, but public water can too. Thanks to the state's three coldwater hatcheries that annually produce over half a million brookies, browns, and rainbows anglers can find fish in 26 counties.

Richard reported that North Carolina has seven categories of regulated trout water: Hatchery Supported; Delayed Harvest; Wild; Wild - Natural Bait; Catch and Release - artificial lures only; Catch and Release - fly fishing only; and Special. Stream designation is well marked and the maps produced by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission - both in atlas form and on-line make planning an outing uncomplicated. Depending on how you want to fish, you just go to the appropriate water. The Hatchery Supported and Delayed Harvest streams are the only ones with a closed season.

Another distinction between New Hampshire and North Carolina is that stocking dates and places are published beforehand. This information is available online as well. Click on the county map and up pops the stocking schedule. In some streams up to 4,000 fish per mile are stocked over a four month period. The North Toe that flows through Spruce Pine had over 19,000 trout stocked over a 2.3 mile run. Others may be as "low" as 400 per mile but in either case, that's a lot of trout. If you would like to see for yourself, go to www.ncwildlife.org and look for the coldwater stocking on the county maps.

Licenses are not expensive. The basic 10 day inland non-resident fishing license costs \$20. If you are there for the delayed harvest streams, it is only \$5. The annual non-resident license is \$40.

Just west of Brevard lies the famous Davidson River which is one of the top 100 trout streams in the country according to Trout Unlimited. Most of the Davidson is designated catch and release, fly fishing only. Hefty and strong wild browns and rainbows inhabit the middle reaches but to catch them you need tip-pets no larger than 7X and midges size 20 and down. It was a fun challenge for

Blue Ridge, continued on page 6



Chapter member Dan Davidson and a nice North Carolina Rainbow.

Presidential Commentary - Dan Stickney

I've been thinking about our Chapter activities for the year; we've been busy, and there's more to come!

Ben Nugent, a state Fisheries Biologist, spoke to us back in September; that meeting has yielded the opportunity for our chapter members to get out and do some local stream sampling - we'll have dates to release soon on that, and it should be a great chance to get out and learn a bit about the critters that swim in some of our local waters.

Our resident rockstar, Angus Boezeman, spoke to us about some of his stream strategies, and he even shared some of his favorite patterns with us that night - information worth WAY more than the cost of your annual membership, if you fish for trout on the Upper Connecticut! If you haven't heard him speak, you owe it to yourself to make it to one of his presentations - he really knows his stuff, and his willingness to share some of it is beyond generous.

Our January guest speaker was Ed Mitchell; the turnout was exceptional! We had well over a hundred attendees, and the information that Ed had to offer was both useful and entertaining. I had the pleasure of sharing dinner at the Red Blazer with him and a few other Directors. He's truly a stand-up guy with a lot of information to share.

Our own Richard Kingston spoke about fishing in North Carolina at the February meeting; if you were there you saw some amazing trout in a really pretty spot, and you'll have a chance to enjoy that fishing yourself if you show up

at our annual Conservation Banquet this year, because we have arranged for another package trip to the same spot that Richard spoke of in his presentation. Bring your wallets, because this trip is well worth whatever price it brings at auction!

Our Chapter hosted a fundraiser in February to benefit the State Council's Trout in the Classroom program. Michael Hackney, The Eclectic Angler, assisted sixteen folks in making ported aluminum fly reels from one of his kits. The reel is a classy looking piece of equipment. Space for the event was provided, once again, by the Shaker Road School. Its Trout in the Classroom chillers were set up for a first-hand look at the benefits provided by the program. Trout in the Classroom really is an amazing program, and we did well to help support it; as an added bonus, every participant left with a functioning reel this year, though we all had some final finishing homework!

I suppose I've spent such time writing all this because I want folks to know how much we really accomplish as a Chapter, and the energy is building. We still have plenty of events coming up this active season- here's hoping that you've been enticed by this note to come out and enjoy some of them.

See you there~

Dan

Editor's Soapbox - Gordon Riedesel

With the stars in alignment and an important task ahead, three of us from the banquet committee "had" to take a field trip to the Opechee Trading Post in Laconia at the tip of Winnepesaukee's Opechee Bay. Our primary mission was to purchase some fly fishing and fly tying necessities for the bucket raffles at the March 10th conservation banquet. Opechee's proprietor, Jim Makris was both helpful and generous to the chapter. As one after another fly shops close around the country it just seems right to support our increasingly scarce local fly shops.

When we travel to fish new waters, one of the first things we do is visit the local fly shop. As we all know, local knowledge of local waters is the best - and where else can you get it but from the community fly shop? Running a fly shop is a tough way to make a living, or try to. Each of us

can probably count several shops that are no longer in business. Spending even \$20 may just help keep a small fly shop above water - sort of like a parachute Adams in rough water.

Not unexpectedly, our trio decided to bring our fishing gear just in case there was some open water on Opechee Bay - which is fishable this time of year for rainbows. The day was partly sunny, mild for February, and the water in liquid form. Jim told us what flies had been working recently (cone-headed wooly buggers in olive and in black). Once our business was done, we suited up and happily waded into the 36 degree water. I've never fished in February before but my companions had so I figured they knew what they were doing.

I realized a few things. 1) Neoprene waders are a good idea. Better get a pair. 2) Casting a line after a few

months off never loses its luster even if the wind chill suggests you are insane. 3) Wading thigh deep in 36 degree water would be an insane thing to do unless you are fishing. 4) Not hooking a fish in very cold water is still better than a good day in a warm office. 5) The ice forming on your guides is a reminder that blood sucking insects are not a problem now.

As with the growing movement to shop locally, we can do the same in the fly fishing world whether we are hitting nearby waters or are on a fly fishing trip. We are all in this together whether it's June or January. The local shops need us and we need them.



From the Treasurer

by Richard Kingston

Well, FY11 has come and gone and I'm glad to report that your chapter is in great financial shape. Our total income for the year was \$20,645 while our expenses (including \$12,445 in donations) were \$28,533 leaving a deficit of \$6,758 for the year. How can a year - end deficit equate to "great financial shape" ? Let me explain. We ended the fiscal year (9/30/2011) with \$30,649 in our checking account and we did not participate in charitable gaming during FY 2011. We were unable to secure gaming dates during FY 2011 but did participate in charitable gaming in October 2011 which is in FY2012. We earned \$8,187 from this which will appear as income in FY2012. This activity resulted in a balance of \$38,424 in the chapters checking account as of November 30, 2011.

Our revenues were derived from four primary sources: #1 is our association with the NH Racing and Charitable Gaming Commission (not this FY!); #2 the annual banquet (March 2011) where our net proceeds were \$8,438; #3 merchandise sold - \$296; #4 fly-tying classes - \$200. For FY 2011 the annual banquet was our "main event".

Donations made on behalf of the Chapter include: Casting for Recovery - \$1,000; NH F&G Barry Camp - \$3,890; Society for the Protection of NH Forests - \$500; the TU Youth Fish Camp -\$1,450; Sebago TU fish tracking project \$1,250; Trout in the Classroom \$1,554; Piscataquog Eastern Brook Trout project - \$2,800. An additional \$861 was spent on the Youth Fishing Day that we sponsor each April.

The Chapter owes many thanks to numerous people who help make all of this work: the folks on the Board of Directors who spend hours making our chapter run smoothly; the banquet committee who likewise puts in the time to ensure a fun and entertaining banquet; two fly-tyers extraordinaire, Ken Welch and Harry Perkins, spend numerous nights each winter teaching many of us with five thumbs how to tie flies.

So as I see it, we had a great year! We had another great banquet, taught a bunch of folks how to tie flies, donated to some great causes and saw some really excited little kids catch their first trout. Plus, I got to go fishing a lot and hope that you did too!

Tight Lines,

Richard Kingston
Treasurer

Heads Up! Chapter Conservation Project in June

by George Embley

In June, our chapter will be assisting NH Fish & Game in doing a brook trout survey in the Lower Warner River watershed. This watershed flows through Sutton, Warner, Salisbury, Webster, and Hopkinton. There is currently very little information to describe the status of brook trout within those boundaries. We will need your help to complete this work.

Ben Nugent, of NH F&G, estimates that there will be about twenty to twenty-five survey locations. One crew, consisting of two fisheries biologists and two to five volunteers can survey three to four locations in a day. Electrofishing will be used to characterize the brook trout population and a qualitative assessment of the habitat will be done (e.g., land use, stream type, and macroinvertebrates present). Results will be used to identify intact populations of wild brook trout and prime habitat locations and to recommend actions to protect these populations.

Ben has set aside time in June to do this work. If you have an interest in helping with this project, please contact George Embley at 456-2315 (email gembley@tds.net). This is a great opportunity to learn more about our local watersheds and to help protect the wild brook trout that inhabit them.



Drawing courtesy of www.davewhitlock.com

Coming in April – Mark Foley on Fly Fishing in Argentina

Tired of winter and can't wait until spring to wet the line? A flight south to Argentina and you'll find summer weather and wild fish eager to take your fly! Mark Foley of *First Cast Fly Fishing* will present fly fishing in Argentina. His presentation will encompass fishing in northern Argentina for Golden Dorado and in Patagonia for trout and salmon. In addition to all the fishy advice, he will provide "how to" details, ranging from fly fishing lodges to do-it-yourself trips.

Troutlines

March, 2012

Salmon Quest 2011

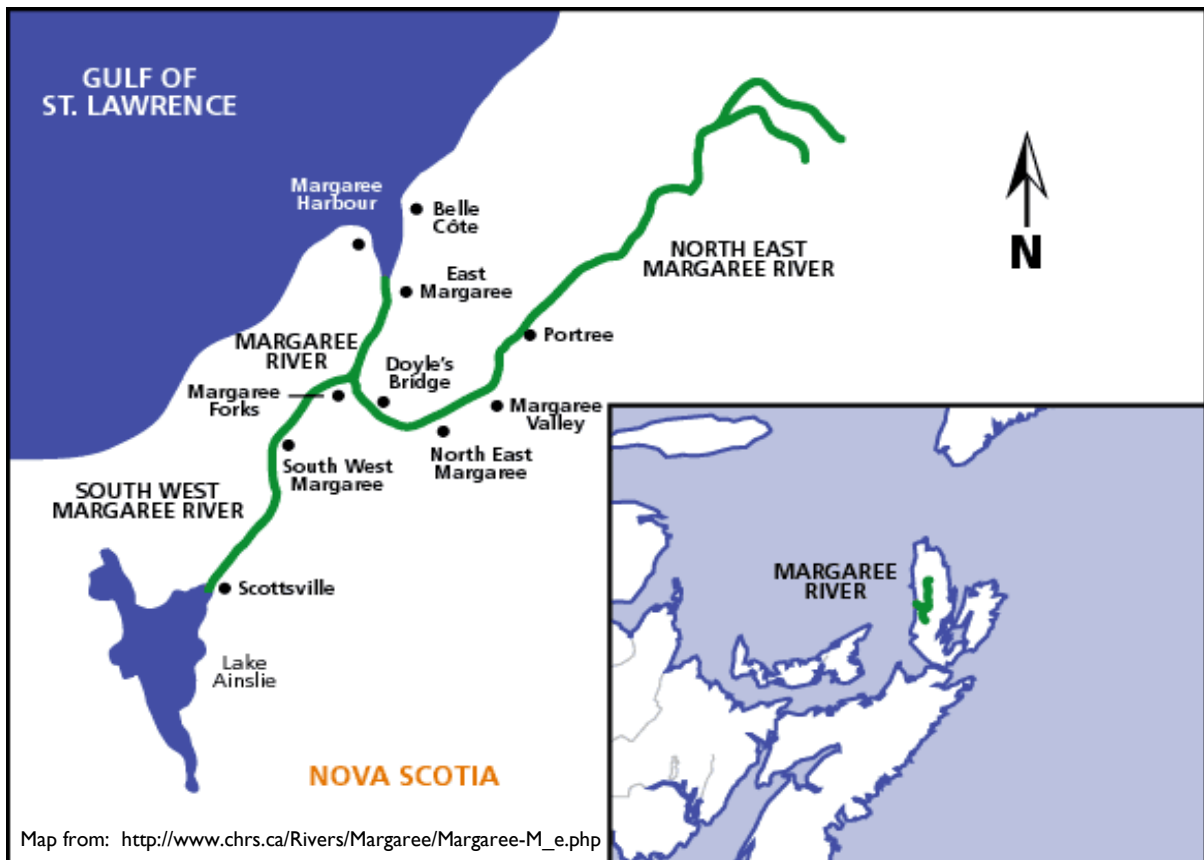
by Bob Ives

Tom and I left at noon on Thursday October 13th on our journey to the Margaree River on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Enroute, we were drawn, like a moth to a flame, to the Cabela's store in Scarborough, Maine where I was forced to purchase a new switch rod. We met up with Angus, Dave Poole and a new friend Henry in Bangor for dinner. We continued on and caught up with Richard at his camp on Horseshoe Lake in Maine. Friday we fished at Grand Lake Stream for Landlocked Salmon. Tom caught three. I did a lot of casting, eventually throwing everything in my fly box at the water while everyone around me caught fish. Back at Richard's camp we ate our dinner and packed up for the final leg to the famous Margaree River.

Having been to the Margaree River in 2010 and seeing the devastating floods they experienced last winter with entire bridges washed out and houses torn from their foundations, I had no idea what to expect. Would the pools we fished last year be filled in or washed out? Would the salmon return to their home river to spawn? I checked several sources before we left and surprisingly found that the salmon were returning in numbers not seen in several years. The Penobscot, the Kennebec, the Merrimack, the Miramichi (New Brunswick) and our destination - the Margaree all had record returns of the "Fish of 1,000 Casts". Knowing that I had made at least 948 casts in 2010 before hooking my first salmon, I knew my chances were good if the fish were in the river. The anticipation was like waiting for Santa Clause to slip down the chimney.

We found our accommodations in Belle Cote and settled in for the night with visions of salmon jumping in our heads. The first morning on the water was uneventful with no fish rolling. But I knew that if I made the perfect cast to the right spot with an accurate 45 degree swing no salmon - even the Margaree salmon - could resist the beautifully tied Blue Charms fly which I had spent the entire winter fussing with. Eight hours later, defeated, we returned to Belle Cote for a good night's rest. I thought that the first day I must have been too tired from the trip, I must not have been paying attention, my casts were off target, my presentation was sloppy. I knew tomorrow would be the day, I was sure of it.

Tuesday came. A bright, clear, warm, and beautiful day, "this is the day" I confidently thought. Our little band of fishers separated after breakfast, each going to the pool that they knew would be holding fish.



My brother Tom and I headed for Syke Lodge. The pool had changed, the river now swept away from the near bank into a deep hole. I pondered, "there is no way I can get a good swing through the deep pool."

Tom was first in working his way down through the pool. He rolls a fish - **they are here!!!** After the first day on this famous but finicky water I felt discouraged with my Blue Charms and switch to a huge ugly bomber in natural deer hair with a white calf tail wing and tail. Like Tom, I started at the head of the pool but made awkward cast after awkward cast. Finally I made a great cast and wrapped the line around the butt of my rod. Great! As I fumbled around unwrapping my line and Tom decided to yell **FISH!** - and he meant it. Somehow I got unwrapped just in time to feel a huge surge. The fish was, without a doubt, on.

I wish I had seen the take but am probably lucky that I didn't because I would have more than likely pulled the fly away from the fish in sheer, exhilarating terror. My mind racing as the salmon plunged into the depths of the pool taking line fast, "don't panic now" (did I set the drag?) The battle was on I turned the fish and he powered back down the pool. I gracefully stumbled over the shingle after him. "Please, please stop before the rapids at the tail of the pool" I pleaded to myself. In my complete ignorance I lifted the rod up but by some miracle the fish changed direction and once again dove back to the deeper part of the pool. Tom, my official time keeper said it had been 15 minutes since I hooked this Margaree native. I started to feel the fish tiring - his head shakes less overpowering of my new Cabela's rod. I knew I was now in control. Wading into the pool up to my knees I glimpsed Tom snapping a few pictures before tailing the fish. The fish was now close. I could almost feel the cool silvery beauty cradled in my arms for Tom to take photo after photo to recall this moment forever. Tom now reached for the fish as I pulled steadily to bring the fish within his grasp. Suddenly, nothing, no strain: the line limp, the fish lost and only the memory remaining to be treasured.

Back at Belle Cote, Angus was waiting, I relived the battle fought and then have to tell him that I used a double clinch knot to attach my fly. Angus turns white, then red, and then he shouts "**NEVER! NEVER! NEVER! Use a double clinch knot!**" I have to tell him I forgot how to tie the "no-name knot" that competent salmon anglers all know. For the next hour I feel as if I should be banished from salmon camp. I am instructed several times and acquiesce, practicing no-name knots over and over.

Wednesday was redemption day. Only 400 more casts and I hooked another fish. This time I saw the take and my nerves were steeled. Like an old hand, I waited for the fish to turn and then set the hook. I had tied on a small orange Ally's shrimp with a no-name knot - of

course this time I knew I had complete control of my rod, line, and knot and, I hoped, the silver torpedo at the end of my confidence. The fight went well - until one unexpected airborne jump and the fish flipped free and disappeared back into the magical waters of the Margaree.



Ally's shrimp
www.salmonfly.net

Now it was Tom's turn to work the head of the pool down to an area well below the main pool at the end of the run of fast water. I so wanted him to feel the surge of the take and the tremendous power of the head shake.

Fish On! he yells and I dash down the length of the pool dropping my rod, my fly box and stripping off my vest and hat as I go. Camera in hand I coach him with my vast experience of what not to do. I feel helpless as I watch - quietly willing the fish to come to hand, be photographed, and finally be cradled in Tom's hands. It wasn't to be. After several rolls and runs up and down the pool his Margaree salmon broke loose just as mine did.

We didn't know it at that moment but the rest of the week was anticlimactic to the thrills of connecting with the "Fish of Kings". Heavy rain and a flashy river that can rise two feet overnight left us with little chance to challenge ourselves and our noble quarry. Two other rivers and a nice run with great looking pools were mirages. The water was too high and we were forced to abandon the quest until next year. We quietly believe next year the fish will be bigger and more plentiful. That's why we will replenish our supply of flies, clean and prepare our gear for next year, and will never forget how to tie the no-name knot.



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, Bob's story "Masters at Work" in the January 2012 edition of Troutlines, and, we hope, in future issues.

Blue Ridge, continued from page 1

another chapter member who reported his Davidson experiences to Richard after a May trip. There are wild brookies in headwater streams throughout the mountains. You can fish the delayed harvest waters in the middle of Spruce Pine watching trains run through town as folks in the park watch you fly fish. There are opportunities in abundance for fly fishing in western North Carolina. It is also a beautiful place - five mountains are higher than our Mt. Washington. Mt. Mitchell is the highest mountain in eastern North America at 6,684 feet. The 496 mile Blue Ridge Parkway runs down the spine of western Virginia and North Carolina. Western North Carolina is a center of active outdoor life and it has plenty of art and cultural goings on.

Last year, one of the annual banquet's Live Auction items was a guided two-day trip with Rivers Edge Outfitters to their private trophy waters. Rivers Edge and our chapter are again offering another trip for up to four people with two days on the private waters and one day on public waters. Included is lodging at a restored farmhouse on 190 acres that has frontage on the big trout water. Last year's winners had a good time, a very, very good time. Dan Davidson and one of his big Bows is pictured on the front page.

Numerous guiding outfits dot the mountains of western North Carolina. Hiring a guide for even half a day would be well worth it. As all guides do, they know local waters and can make your fishing trip a success. Richard is going back soon, and now we know why.

Richard Kingston tends to his duties as chapter treasurer except when he's on the water



Calendar

Thursday, March 1, 2012. Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, March 10, 2012. 24th Annual Conservation Banquet, Grappone Center, Concord, NH. 5:30 PM

Thursday, April 19, 2012. Chapter Meeting, At the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord. 7:00 PM Mark Foley on Fly Fishing in Argentina. Election of chapter officers.

Saturday, April 21, 2012. Youth Fishing Day and Wild NH Day

Saturday, April 28. Trout Pond Opening Day

Thursday, May 17, 2012. Final Chapter Meeting of the season. At the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord. 7:00 PM

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.

Jeff Beach

Rosemary Gerbutavich

Richard Watkins

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