



Troutlines

Special Points of Interest

Saco River Angling
25th Conservation Banquet
Report on TU

Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar

25th Annual Conservation Banquet
Saturday, March 9

Youth Fishing Day
Saturday, April 20

Trout Pond Opening Day
Saturday, April 27

See Calendar on page 6 for more information.

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Fly Fishing the Saco River Watershed: An insider's guide to the "other North Country"

The region generally known as the Mt. Washington Valley is more properly the Saco River Valley. The eastern slope of Mt. Washington forms the headwaters of the Saco River. The region includes Crawford Notch, Bartlett, Attitash, Glen, Jackson, North Conway and Conway. In the waters of the Saco Valley are brookies, rainbows, and brown trout. And they are well worth giving chase to according to our February speaker, Bill Thompson of the North Country Angler.

The Saco is the largest stream and its major tributaries include the Ellis, the Wildcat, and the Swift. Mountain Pond offers excellent stillwater fishing.

Although Conway and North Conway are widely known for outlet shopping, rock climbing, skiing, and the Conway Scenic Railroad, the Fly Fishing Only section of the Saco River in Conway is the best kept secret. The Saco is not a self-sustaining trout stream. Stocking by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department with additional stocking by the Saco Valley Anglers TU chapter make it an exciting place to fly fish. Each year the Saco Valley Anglers TU chapter stocks about 150 sizeable brookies and browns in the FFO stretch. Paying \$7 - \$14 per fish weighing 2 - 3 pounds, it is a large outlay for a small chapter, but the rewards for anglers and conservation awareness are worth it, according to Bill Thompson.

Saco, Continued on Page 5

There is Still Time if You Hurry 25th Anniversary Conservation Banquet

If you haven't sent in your conservation banquet registration or filled out the raffle forms for some great items, there is a narrow window still open. The 25th annual conservation banquet is Saturday, March 9th starting at 5:30 at the Grappone Center in Concord.

The banquet mailing went out on February 12th and the registration forms are all online at the chapter website as well. If you want to come, grab those forms, fill them out, and mail them as soon as you are done reading this article. Ready? Go!

In last month's TROUTLINES we outlined what was coming at this benchmark banquet. But we didn't tell you all that will be offered at the auctions. Here is a short list:

- Koji Yaoita Banquet Poster
- Pittsburg Get-away
- 10k white gold and diamond bracelet
- Great wildlife prints
- Custom Flies by top-notch tyers
- The Famous Case of Coke
- Artisan-made items
- Guided Western NC Fishing Trip
- Gift Certificates
- HMH Vise
- 5 Wt Fly Rod and Reel
- Bucket Raffles

Come help us celebrate 25 years of chapter banquets.

Troutlines

March, 2013

Presidential Commentary - Dan Stickney

Last month I teased a bit about the Case o' Coke and the banquet. This month I'd like to approach it a bit more seriously, and explain what we do with the funds raised there. Hopefully, after reading that bit my appeal for you to open your wallets will make more sense and be a little easier to take.

The back-slapping, run-your-buddy-up-on-his-bids social bit aside, the banquet is a major part of our fundraising efforts every year in addition to being our major chapter get-together. As a rule, your registration fees cover the hall, meals, and waitstaff for the event - any monies that we make on the evening come from the various raffles, games, and auctions held throughout the night.

The Banquet Committee works hard to stretch the budget as far as we can, seeking donations and discounts from within and outside of our club membership - many folks make and donate some really great hand crafted goods, and some local businesses help out a great deal with either discounts on goods that we purchase or outright donations - as an aside, please remember these folks when you have a need that they may be able to fill, and if you think of it, let them know you're there because of their help with the banquet; most of the businesses are small, and they'll appreciate your kindness and dollars.

We try to make money in order to spend it.

The programs that we support are many - you can read about most of them in the newsletters during the year, but in part, they are Youth Trout Camp, Trout in the Classroom, Youth Fishing Day, a cabin at the

Barry Conservation Camp, various conservation works, either through actual dollars or with volunteer hours, and healing organizations, such as Hope on the Rise or Casting for Recovery.

We love to spend money to do good work, but that requires us to bring cash into the coffers; that's where you folks come in.

You should have received your banquet packet in the mail already. If you haven't returned it yet, why not buy a ticket for one of the big raffles - even if you can't make the event. You needn't be there to win (but it IS more fun), and we have some great gear this year, including a Winston/Abel combo, an Ocean Kayak fishing kayak, and a really nice little 28 gauge Remington pump shotgun. All of these items have limited ticket sales, so your odds are pretty good on any of them, and you're helping the chapter continue doing the good things we do, which is the most important bit of all.

I hope to see many of you at the banquet, but if you can't make it, I'd love to see your checks in the mail anyway - we have to give the stuff to someone, and for the price of a ticket you're way ahead of the game on any of those special raffles....

Thanks for making it to the end of this one, and for helping out in any way that you can.

All best~

Dan

Editor's Soapbox - Gordon Riedesel

In the spirit of Bob Ives' piece on the next page - and for the same reasons - I thought a limerick might spice up the waning days of winter. Not all poets wear turtle-shell glasses and un-ironed khakis. But then, I'm not a poet. Polarized glasses and chest waders form the couture of fly fishing to which few of us are exempt.

As Bob says or hopes: See you in the spring.

A Winter's End Limerick

A man with the finest of gear,
Had a season of superior cheer.
Making the tightest of lines,
Beneath the tall pines,
Until snagging the hook in his ear.



Dateline: New Hampshire, February, 2013

My palms itch. I have a churning feeling in the pit of my stomach my eyes glaze over with each snowflake that falls.

WILL WINTER NEVER END?

I have spent my spare time for the entire winter tying flies in every shape, size and color. I have raced to Stone River for more materials and hooks. I have resorted to inventing new patterns to pass time. I have cast my rod from my deck toward the frozen and snow covered swimming pool. I have changed the backing on all of my reels twice. I have retied all of my nail knots so many times my fly line is now twelve feet long. I needed a new line anyway.

I hate the cold or I would probably beg for crazy Richard Kingston to take me up to the Newfound River to cast at the icebergs.

I no longer trust Punxsutawney Phil. That damn fur ball with the chain saw teeth.

I would rather trust the WMUR weather man who has just predicted a blizzard of mammoth proportions. Oh wait, he has changed it to 8 to 12 inches, no - now is 3 to 7 inches. This guy makes up his mind like I do trying to match the hatch. With all of the technology available you would think that he could decide before the storm is over.

Why is it raining?

Was that thunder?

I think I just saw a Robin on the front lawn. No it was just another Blue Jay.

I think I have a bad case of nofishitis.

My wife just told me there are only six more Saturdays until spring. That would be great if we could eliminate all the days in between the Saturdays.

Am I rambling or just delirious?

That's it I am going back into my mancave to gaze at my posters of leaping fish and tie more flies.

See you in the spring.

Bob Ives

Salmon Fishing in Canada

This past fall the "boys" went on their annual Atlantic Salmon Trip. For the last eight years I have traveled north to Canada to Nova Scotia, "New Scotland". My brother Bob along with Angus Boezeman, Charlie Upham and newcomer David Godine made this year's trip. Cape Breton is home to some of the best Atlantic salmon fishing on the Eastern Seaboard.

The drive passes through very picturesque country as you skirt New Brunswick's seaboard and into Nova Scotia. Going up the eastern side you can drive on highways or if you like the slower pace, the coastal road enables you to stop at some of the small towns along the route.

The Canso Causeway connects Cape Breton from the mainland. For the first timers stopping at the information center is a good idea. The people are friendly and very knowledgeable. Get a few maps and event information to help you plan things while you're there. Travel the Cabot Trail around the edge of Cape Breton and look down dramatic hundred-foot cliffs and see the ocean crash into the coastline as you tour. For history buffs, spend the day in of Baddeck - the summer home of Alexander Graham Bell. The Bell Museum is a good way to spend a quiet, half day. There are things that the whole family can do while the angler is off trying to catch that elusive king of fish.

Atlantic Salmon as large as twenty pounds and thirty inch lengths are not uncommon in Nova Scotia's famed Margaree River. Other rivers such as the Middle and Baddeck have salmon runs as well.

Fishing is done in the traditional way, rotating in the pools using only barbless flies. You cast your salmon fly at a forty-five degree angle, take two to three casts, then take a step working your way down the pool. The next person follows leaving fifteen to twenty feet between anglers. The pools are where salmon rest for the day during their upstream migration. They usually move upriver at night. Some pools can be small runs while others stretch for hundreds of feet. The scream of the reel, the heart pounding rush as the fish tears around then flies up into the air makes it, if not the best, then one of the best moments in any angler's life. When some fishermen signs off with "Tight Lines" he or she has or should have had an Atlantic Salmon on the end of that line to really know what that means.

Tom Ives

We recently had a conversation with Paul Doscher who is a member of the Basil Woods Chapter and board advisor. Paul serves as a grassroots member of the national TU Board of Trustees. Grassroots trustees are elected by the National Leadership Council and serve two year terms.

Paul has served for 5 years on the TU Board of Trustees and sits on the Marketing and Communications and Risk Management Committees of the Board. Recently at the Board meeting in Washington, DC Paul attended the meeting of the Development Committee and got a great overview of the national organization's finances and fund-raising.

Troutlines

What are some of the big things to report about TU from your work as a grassroots trustee?

Paul

Volunteer hours are extremely important to our organization. Every year TU tallies more than 650,000 volunteer hours. A large portion of the volunteer hours are spent by chapter boards in managing chapters, organizing events and raising money for a wide variety of projects. The second largest number of hours are those donated by volunteers who "get their feet wet" doing hundreds of habitat restoration and improvement projects in watersheds across the country.

Troutlines

There must be economic benefits that comes from TU volunteers. How does that work?

Paul

Because of the sizeable and significant levels of volunteer activities by TU members, TU is one of the largest grant recipients for habitat projects and fisheries science from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Volunteer hours often serve as the essential "match" requirement for grants. TU is also a major partner with state and federal wildlife and conservation agencies. We certainly have that in New Hampshire.

Troutlines

The last few years have been tough on non-profit organizations as the economy slowed and sputtered. As a non-profit, how has TU fared?

Paul

Overall, the national organization had another year of substantial growth, and now has more than 180 staff. The budget is balanced and while many other non-profits had to tighten their belts and lay off staff during the recession, TU has come through in excellent condition without any reductions in

staff. Clearly, what TU is doing for fisheries, both through its staff and volunteers is capturing the attention of foundations, agencies and private donors.

Troutlines

Sometimes it seems an organization's national-level operations are far removed from the gritty reality of local TU chapters' trying to do what they can. Aside from volunteers like yourself and New Hampshire's National Leadership Council representative, Mary Weiss, are there any paid TU staff in the area?

Paul

In the coming months, chapters may have the opportunity to meet Steve Trafton, Director of the TU Coldwater Conservation Fund. Steve lives in Hopkinton and works from an office at the Conservation Center in Concord. Steve is leading an effort to engage major donors in the work of TU. He is the former Executive Director of the Henry's Fork Foundation in Idaho. Also in the Concord office are Colin Lawson, who directs the New England Culvert Project, and Jim McCartney who has spearheaded the Nash Stream Restoration Project.

Troutlines

Can you briefly explain what you do as a grassroots trustee and how you do it while working full-time?

Paul

I attends three Trustee meetings each year. There are also numerous committee meetings, almost all of which are held as conference calls. Technology is a big help too and the volume of information shared that way is immense. Squeezing in time for TU into a busy schedule is a challenge, but much of that work happens nights and weekends. I feel serving on the Board of TU is more than an honor. There's a lot of work to do, but working with a group of really great people, all of whom have a passion for cold water fishing and conservation, makes it a great experience.



Salmon in Snow by Angus Boezeman

Saco, Continued from Page 1

Over sixty years ago, the Saco was deemed the “best brook trout fishery in the state” by New Hampshire state biologists. That changed when the river was straightened, the watershed heavily logged, and development erased that elevated fishery status. Because the Saco was a warmer river, the state thought that brown trout might do well and that they could co-exist with its Brook Trout population. Today, the FFO section contains nice riffles and pools, and blowdowns and other woody material make for good trout holding areas. The “cornfield pool” and the “golf course pool” offer good water. There are others as well – and the majority of the river is wadeable. Browns have held over with 6 pound fish not uncommon. Reports of 10 pounders suggest that quality fishing exists.

Hurricane Irene’s path across New England at the end of August, 2011 affected the area’s rivers. Bill said the Saco was impacted – in particular it is more prone to flooding now. But the Ellis seemed to take a harder hit.

Memorial Day through mid-July is the peak period for the Grey Drake hatch – the only major hatch on the Saco. The Grey Drake is a swimming mayfly nymph that measures about 10-12mm (up to ½ inch). It is easily confused with the Henderson. Bill cautions that you never see the dun – just emergers and spent spinners. So fish accordingly. He suggests Art Flick’s Red Quill in a size 12. For spinners, try a parachute pattern that has a light yellow body, a little brown to represent the secondary wing, and a lighter primary hackle.

The Saco is a multi-use recreational water highway. Tubing, kayaking, canoeing are very popular - so it is best to fish early or late. Be off the water by 9:30 or in the evening after 7:00.

Route 16 north of the Conways follows the Ellis River through Jackson. At the covered bridge is another Fly Fishing Only section. It is a great river for rainbows and brookies. Much of the river is easily accessible since the highway is always nearby. It is a mountain stream that is overall easy to wade – but it has a few tough spots. Here light Cahill emergers produce. Unlike the Saco, the Ellis is a “super Cad-dis” river according to Bill. An apple green CDC Sally is a good choice. Just below the dam at Goodrich Falls is another good spot. Irene created even larger pools below making for better habitat and fishing. Rainbows hold in this area. Back in the 1970s this section sustained a wild rainbow trout population, but that is in the past.

The Wildcat River lies totally within Jackson and is just east of the Ellis. It holds both stock and wild trout. It is a great place to take kids and beginners fly fishing. Nothing huge but plenty of action on a wadeable and beautiful stream.

The Swift River is probably seen by more tourists than even the outlets in North Conway. The Kancamaugus Highway traces this stream of large boulders and open skies from the Kancamaugus Pass. In the spring it fishes pretty well with stockies. But it warms quickly and doesn’t hold fish even though it looks like a great year-round fishery. It is also in the National Forest so it is in a fee area.

Mountain Pond is the best pond for trout in the Saco River Valley. It is stocked only with fingerlings and yet 20” fish can be found. It is only fishable by watercraft – tubes, kayaks, and canoes and requires a hike to get there. But it’s a beautiful pond and it has a hexagenia hatch. Two flies that work well are a marabou Black Ghost and the classic Parmachene Belle. If you take a float tube, wear your waders since the leeches here love bare legged floaters. Mountain Pond fishes well in summer.

Bill Thompson and his wife Janet have run the North Country Angler shop for more than twenty years. Both are registered New Hampshire guides and active TU members. They invite Basil Wood TU members to come up for a few days. Stop by the shop first and they will give you the information you need to know about where to fish, what to fish, and places to stay. The information here is only a fragment of what they can share with the fly angler. We thank Bill and Janet for taking the trip down country to speak with us on the 21st and entice us with what the Saco River Valley has to offer. www.northcountryangler.com



Bill Thompson of the North Country

Calendar through May, 2013

Thursday, March 7 Board of Directors Meeting. 6 PM Szechuan Garden, Penacook

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

Thursday, April 4 Board of Directors Meeting. 6 PM Szechuan Garden, Penacook

Thursday, April 18 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.

Saturday, April 20 Youth Fishing Day, Merrill Park Pond, Eastman Street, Concord

Saturday, April 20 Discover Wild New Hampshire, NH Fish and Game, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord

Saturday, April 27 Trout Pond Opening Day

Thursday, May 2 Board of Directors Meeting. 6 PM Szechuan Garden, Penacook

Thursday, May 16 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

Other Happenings

Fly Fish New Hampshire Show - March 2-3
<http://www.merrimacktu.org/FFNH-Flyer-2013.pdf>

Great Bay TU Canoe Raffle - Drawing April 13
16'9" Old Town West Branch Fishing Canoe
Info and tickets: www.greatbaytu.org/

2013 NH TU Kids' Trout Camp - July 24-28, 1st Connecticut Lake
Applications available at chapter website:
http://www.concordtu.org/news__announcements

Welcome New Members

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting you soon.

Collin Beaulieu
Scott Coen
Jeanne Krukonis
Michelle Pagano
Jeff Perry
Jessie Tichko

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
PO Box 3302
Concord NH 03302-3302

www.concordtu.org

e-mail: concordtu@yahoo.com