



Troutlines

Special Points of Interest

February Meeting Fishing Report - with Tom Cormier

New Chapter Members Welcome!

Don't Forget to Send in Your Chapter Raffle Tickets! Drawing April 19th

Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar

Annual Conservation Banquet

Saturday, March 8, 2014
Grappone Center

April Chapter Meeting
Thursday, April 17

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

Trout Pond Opening Day
Saturday, April 26

May Chapter Meeting & Picnic
May 15

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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Upcoming Conservation Banquet

A sure sign of Spring's imminent arrival is the annual conservation banquet. After this Winter, any hint of warmer days - or at least a thaw - is most welcome.

This year's banquet is Saturday, March 8th at the Grappone Center in Concord. There is usually space available for last-minute sign ups. The event begins at 5:30 and if you haven't yet signed up, you still can. Raffle tickets for this year's large prizes: a CZ 20 Gauge Over-Under shotgun and a 12' Angler Kayak will be sold on the floor until all 100 tickets for each are gone.

The banquet committee has been meeting Monday nights since the first of the year preparing for this year's banquet. It's the 26th year and it appears that the committee's work will once again make for a fun and enjoyable evening.

If you have never attended we start with a social hour for both chatting, enjoying drinks and appetizers, bidding on silent auction items, and tossing tickets in buckets for a chance to win some great gear in the infamous "bucket raffles". The committee has received some great items for the silent auction - many handmade: jewelry, custom flies, folk art, and a diamond willow walking staff. Silent auctions are a fun way to bid on items, compete with others, and raise money for chapter programs.

Where the silent auction is slow-paced, the live auction is lively with competitors strategically trying to be top bidder. Our auctioneer is chapter

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February Chapter Meeting by George Cummings

Those who attended our February membership meeting were treated to a presentation by Tom Cormier, a fly tier, fisherman, and Trout Unlimited member, who has visited places we would all love to cast a fly. He took us on a virtual week of fly fishing on the South Fork Flathead River in the Bob Marshall Wilderness in northwest Montana. Tom has also had the good fortune to fish in Argentina, Chile, Slovenia, Canada and nearly everywhere in the US.



Tom Cormier of Eldredge Brothers Fly Shop and a fat Rainbow acquaintance. *Photo courtesy Great Bay TU, Wendy Nixon.*

The Bob Marshall Wilderness area is a special place with only non-motorized access. To get to the starting point for a week-long downstream fishing drift you walk or ride a horse. (If you ride, you best do some riding before the trip.)

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Presidential Commentary - George Embley



Tomorrow (March 5), I plan to attend a hearing by the NH Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Senate Bill 325 – An act relative to oil spill preparedness and response. This bill creates a New Hampshire oil pollution control fund which will provide for containment, removal or corrective measures necessary as a result of an oil spill. As president of this chapter, my interest in this bill lies in our responsibility to conserve and protect coldwater fisheries. There is a real possibility that an existing pipeline in the North Country will be used to transport tar sands oil from Montreal, Canada to Portland, Maine. I believe this threat is also a major reason this bill is being introduced – to provide funds for mitigation in case a failure of this pipeline were to occur.

The pipeline in question is an 18-inch-diameter pipe owned by the Portland Pipe Line Company (PPLC) and is currently unused. Along with a companion 24-inch pipeline used to transport crude from Portland to Montreal, the 18-inch pipe runs along a right-of-way which roughly parallels U.S. Route 2 and has more than 70 stream and wetland crossings including the Connecticut and Androscoggin rivers. If the 18-inch line were to be reactivated to carry “dilbit” (diluted bitumen, or tar sands oil), a release of dilbit could be much more damaging to a stream than one of crude oil. The volatile elements of dilbit are likely to evaporate during a spill, leaving the heavier bitumen, which sinks and would coat the bottom of the waterway. (Crude, on the other hand, floats.) And this is a 60 + year old pipeline, similar to much of the pipeline throughout the country, which does have periodic failures.

It is worth noting that the IRS has ruled that dilbit is not crude oil and is therefore exempt from an excise tax that supports the federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (which provides money to help clean up oil spills). At least, on a state level, SB 325, if passed, would assess oil pipeline facilities a small fee to help pay to clean up the mess that would result from an existing or future pipeline accident.

Both the State Council and other TU chapters in New Hampshire have raised concerns about transport of tar sands oil through New Hampshire. The Ammonoosuc chapter has played a particularly active role in opposing use of the PPLC pipeline for tar sands oil and you can find more information on their website (ammotu.org).

On another note – at our February meeting, Tom Cormier, talked about his fly – fishing trip to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The short version is that a long horseback ride led to a float trip involving lots of large cutthroats and bull trout. (For more detail, see George Cummings’ article in these pages.) At the same meeting, James Dunbar described his experiences at the Kids’ Trout Camp, sponsored each summer by the NH Trout Unlimited Council. James, a Loudon student who is currently working toward Eagle Scout rank, obviously had a great time at the camp. As you may recall from the November issue of Troutlines, he also placed second in the 2013 TU National Trout Camp essay contest. This year, the Kid’s Trout Camp will take place June 25 -29. If you know a kid who loves the outdoors (or might learn to love the outdoors) let him/her know about this opportunity. Applications are due by April 4, so there is no time to waste. You can find details and an application form on our chapter website.

March being the month of our annual banquet (March 8 - this Saturday), there will be no regular chapter meeting this month. In April our meeting will feature Topher Browne, who will talk about Atlantic Salmon. Topher is an elite-level caster and flycasting instructor and has fished worldwide for Atlantic salmon. His first book, *Atlantic Salmon Magic*, was published in 2011.



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The Bob Marshall is all native fish and lots of action. Between hefty, brawling West Slope Cutthroats and enormous Bull Trout you risk being spoiled for the fishing we have around here. Tom pointed out that the experience is more than the fabulous fishing. The outfitter ensures comfort and great food. The scenery and wildlife viewing is the ultimate wilderness adventure in the lower 48. There is lots of elbow room in this wilderness area of more than a million acres. Tom told us that they saw only a few other people during the week because the number of visitors is limited.

If you'd like more information about fishing the "Bob" contact Tom at Eldredge Brothers Fly Shop US Rt 1, Cape Neddick, Maine. Phone: 207-363-9269 Website: eldredgeflyshop.com



Drawings courtesy of www.davehitcock.com

Editor's Soapbox

Gordon Riedesel

Recently in the science news there have been articles about the possibility of bringing back extinct animals such as the woolly mammoth or passenger pigeon through DNA reconstruction techniques. And we have all seen movies about time travel such as *Back to the Future*. So I got to wondering, what would happen if Sir Isaac Walton walked into a fly shop today. His fishing classic from 1653, *The Compleat Angler* raised fishing to an art as well as provided an



excuse to ramble on in 17th Century English prose about all sorts of things. And when you think about it, fly anglers today widely view their piscatorial pursuits as an art form (or wish they did) and are, as a group, particularly good at rambling on about fishing and related topics.

Sir Isaak walks into Honest Abe's Fly Shop drawn by the promise on the sign: "We tell the truth about where the fish are lying."

Honest Abe: "Good morning."

Sir Isaak: "And a fine day 'tis."

Honest Abe: "Welcome to Honest Abe's. Please look around and I will be happy to answer any questions. What sort of fishing do you do?"

Sir Isaak: "Perchance you refer to angling for Trouts - then you have read me well. My methods are sure as the worm turns, which are one of my favorites when seeking Trouts."

Honest Abe: "Do you mean the San Juan Worm?"

Sir Isaak: "I do not know of a San Juan Worm for there are no Trouts to my knowledge in the Spanish country to the south. Angle worms are special and I have my servants dig for them."

Honest Abe to himself: "*Servants! This guy must be loaded!*"

Sir Isaak: "I see your shoppe sells not angle worms. I see fur of beasts and feathers of fowl and sewing threads. Are these of silk? But there are many things I know not of and colours that run counter to God's creation except for the rising sun."

Honest Abe being polite says "Sir" to Sir Isaak not aware that "Sir" is part of his title.

Honest Abe: "Well Sir, some customers haven't been fly fishing for many years (in Sir Isaak's case, about 350 years) so many of the new synthetics come as a shock. But chartreuse, pink, purple, orange, and the rainbow colors of Crystal Flash® are very effective in our coldwater fisheries. And now we have chicken breeds that produce feathers for dries, nymphs, and streamers.

Sir Isaak: "Dries, nymphs, and streamers? These must be new names for fishing flies. How do anglers dress such flies?"

Honest Abe: "See these hooks in the packages?"

Sir Isaak: "These packages are clear like window glass but they are soft."

Honest Abe: "We take the hooks out of the plastic package and tie on feathers, fur, and synthetics

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Sir Isaac, continued from page 3

making well-known patterns. Every area has certain fly patterns that work well locally, but may not work elsewhere. Of course there are the classics such as the Adams, Hare's Ear Nymph, Pheasant Tail Nymph, and Black Ghost."

Sir Isaac: "Pray, can you show me these classic flies?"

Honest Abe: "Sure can." He takes Sir Isaac to the fly trays.

Sir Isaac: "I have seen such a hoarde of flies by ye stream but these moveth not. How do you cast to the Trouts?"

Honest Abe: Going to the top-end rod display. "This is a nine foot, five weight Winston rod and here is perfectly matched Islander reel. And I would put one of Scientific American's newest, high-tech lines with it. Hit the stream with this baby and you'll catch fish all day."

Sir Isaac: Somewhat overwhelmed. "How can such a fine willow branch suffice to catch a large Trout? And the reel looks like the works of a fine clock. And how can a horse tail obtain such a bright daffodil color? This is how you fish?"

Honest Abe: "Yes Sir. Today fly fishing is an art. And fine art requires the best tools. Oh, and you'll need waders, boots, vest, net, fly boxes, leaders, tip-pet, floatant, shot, forceps, a thermometer, polarized sunglasses, nippers, hat, gloves, sunscreen, bug-spray, and of course, a license. You should probably hire a guide too. Your servant can help carry your goods out to your car."

Sir Isaac: "I have much to learn of today's fly angling. After all you have shown me I must ponder these many notions and fanciful items. I believe I will go the stream with my willow rod, line, hook and worm so that I can think over what it means to be a compleat angler."



Landlocked Salmon in Snow.

Photo by Angus Boezeman

Energy Policy is a Real Grassroots Effort

Burr Tupper, NH NLC rep

About 24 months ago the TU National Leadership Council (NLC) members from several of the Mid-Atlantic States expressed concern regarding the impact on coldwater fisheries in their states by the petroleum industry's method of extracting natural gas using fracking techniques. This concern led to the formation of a Responsible Energy Committee composed of members of the NLC from around the country. This group after many meetings and much discussion formulated a list of concerns that were presented to NLC members at the annual meeting in Wisconsin. A resolution was passed that included not only the development of petroleum products, but the transportation of those products. This resolution was presented to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees formed a group of TU staff, NLC reps and Grassroots members and tasked them to draft a TU energy policy.

The energy policy received a unanimous vote at the recent Board of Trustees meeting held in early February of 2014. In summary, the policy states that TU will work to ensure that energy projects, and related energy transportation projects and facilities in North America are designed, sited, constructed, operated and decommissioned in a manner that protects coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. In addition, the policy includes a position on the link between climate change due to greenhouse gas emissions and their impact on coldwater fisheries. TU supports the policies and market mechanisms that reduce these harmful effects.

This policy now gives TU Grassroots members support in their effort to mitigate the effects of petroleum development and transportation of products such as tar sands oil through areas of northern New England.

Trout-in-the-Classroom

This week the message many science teachers and their anxious students were waiting for went out from New Hampshire Fish and Game: “The trout eggs are ready for pick-up.” Judy Tumosa who is NH Fish and Game’s Trout-in-the-Classroom coordinator, manager, and head of aquatic education sent word that the trout eggs were ready to be placed into the cold waters of classroom aquariums around the state. The temperature of the Powder Mill Hatchery’s water was 39 degrees – and had to be matched by the classroom aquariums.

In order to participate as a Trout-in-the-Classroom school, every teacher must go through special classes and training. There are protocols that each classroom must follow to properly handle and raise trout eggs. There is the development index which teachers consult to determine where in the maturation process the trout eggs are. Temperature is critical. Slightly warmer water speeds up development, colder temperatures delays it. This is critical because it is important to try and parallel Mother Nature so that the fry can be released into the wild at the right time. It is like the story of the three bears: not too hot, not too cold, just right.

Hands-on learning is central to the Trout-in-the-Classroom program. Student involvement and ownership is always high and this leads to greater attention to the science behind the process. Math, ecology, environmental awareness, and observation skills are no longer abstract but very real – right there in the tank!

Our chapter has been involved with Trout-in-the-Classroom for several years. We support schools by providing the chillers that are necessary to the program, chiller maintenance, and participate at the fish hatcheries when busloads of students visit in the fall. We own chillers and lend them to schools. We purchase additional chillers or lend existing systems to other schools depending on need and availability.

The value of the Trout-in-the-Classroom program is highlighted by the following letter. Although it was published last year, its message is loud and clear.

It appeared in the February 16, 2013 edition of the Conway Daily Sun thanking both the Basil W. Woods, Jr. and Saco Valley Anglers TU chapters for their important contributions to local Trout-in-the-Classroom programs. The author of the letter, Eric Senecal is the program director for the Green Moun-

tain Conservation Group. Here are a few excerpts from his letter.

On behalf of Ms. Dulmage’s fifth grade class at Effingham Elementary and Mrs. Bryant’s fourth grade class at Madison Elementary, the Green Mountain Conservation Group would like to thank the Basil W. Woods, Jr. and Saco Valley Anglers chapters of Trout Unlimited for their generous loans of aquarium chillers. . . . This equipment will enable Madison and Effingham students to join students in Sandwich, Ossipee, and Moultonborough in participating in Trout-in-the-Classroom, a program sponsored by Trout Unlimited and NH Fish and Game. Students will raise hundreds of Eastern Brook Trout eggs in their classrooms and release them in cold water streams in the Ossipee Lake watershed as fry this spring.

Trout Unlimited is a nationwide organization committed to the conservation, protection, and restoration of North America’s cold water fisheries and their watersheds. The Basil W. Woods, Jr. chapter encompasses the south-central region of New Hampshire and the Saco Valley Anglers chapter encompasses the White Mountains and the Saco River region. . . . The chillers that these two chapters donated are an essential part of this program, as each one costs about \$700.

Each year the Basil W. Woods, Jr. chapter’s 300-plus members raise thousands of dollars and donate thousands of volunteer hours to their many projects. . . . To date the chapter has placed eight chillers in seven schools.

The students in Effingham and Madison are very excited and very grateful. Many thanks to Bill Thompson and the Saco Valley Anglers chapter, to George Embley, Steven Lowe, and the Basil W. Woods, Jr. chapter and to Jim Crites of Pet Parade.



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member George S. Foster, III who generously donates his professional time as a licensed NH Auctioneer to our banquet. Live auction items include wildlife art, fishing getaways, guided fly fishing trips, custom flies by top-notch fly tyers, the famous case of Coke (which is auctioned every year and has been on many fishing trips around the country the last 25 years) fishing gear, and other fine items.

During the evening we'll have a deck of cards raffle for a Sage 4 weight, and LL Bean reel, a two-day Lopstick Lodge getaway and a half-day guided trip with Angus Boezeman. Some people might say that the Heads or Tails Raffle is the most fun. You really have to be there to see what we mean.

The chapter makes two awards during the banquet to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the chapter and our efforts. The Silver Trout Award goes to someone who has made an impact and does not have to be a member of the chapter. The Basil W. Woods, Jr. Award goes to a chapter member who has made a difference and whose efforts are worth recognizing with this special award.

The reason the chapter puts on the annual banquet is to raise funds for the chapter's activities. These include sponsoring TU Youth Trout Campers and supporting the camp; providing funds for chillers for the Trout-in-the-Classroom program; helping fund important conservation projects such as easements, land protection, etc; sending volunteers and money to Barry Conservation Camp; supporting Hope on the Rise; organizing and staffing chapter fly tying classes; and local stream survey work - to mention a few. The annual banquet is also an evening when we can gather as a chapter with members and friends to have fun and support the work of the Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter of TU.

Welcome New Members

Keith Ardizzoni	Eric Laflamme	Nancy Parker
Jim Barry	David & Laura LaValley	Dan Perreault
David Briggs	Alphonse Lucas	Dwight Phetteplace
Richard Connolly	James Makris	Jim Robinson
Scott Davis	Ray Matott	Christopher & Mark Sawyer
James Falicon	George Morgan	Derek Tomlinson
Sally Gallerani	William Morrison	Rich Townsend
Stephen Gulick	Steven Olive	Christopher Weeks
Harold Karagozian	William Orr	
Larry Kimball	Carly Oswald	

Newsletter Information

Troutlines is published September through May. Chapter members who have given TU national their e-mail address will receive an e-mail notice from us through the TU national server that the latest newsletter is online at our chapter website. Paper copies are sent to members who don't have an e-mail address listed with TU national.

If you would prefer to receive paper copies of **Troutlines** rather than electronic copies, drop us a line to either our e-mail or mailing address. If you now receive a paper copy and would prefer to read it online, drop us a note and update your membership information with TU national.

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Calendar

March 20,	Spring Begins, the Vernal Equinox, 12:57 PM
April 17	Chapter Meeting, 7:00 PM. Elections and Topher Browne on Atlantic Salmon
April 19	Youth Fishing Day, Merrill Park, Concord Chapter Raffle Drawing Discover Wild NH Day at NH F&G Headquarters, Concord
April 26	Trout Pond Opening Day
May 15	Final Chapter Meeting of the Season

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