



## Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter Trout Unlimited

# Troutlines

www.concordtu.org

March 2015

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

- ◆ TU Banquet
- ◆ TU Kids Fishing Day
- ◆ North Country Streams with Angus Boezeman
- ◆ TU Picnic

### Chapter Meeting

**February 19, 2015**

- ◇ There is no chapter meeting in March. We will see you at the Banquet.
- ◇ Next Chapter meeting is April 16, 2015 and will feature Angus Boezeman guiding us towards the 2015 north country fishing season.
- ◇ Basil Woods Jr. last 2014- 2015 Meeting is the Picnic on May 28

### Inside this issue:

<b>Presidential Commentary</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Fish and Game</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Editor's Soapbox</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Parson Weems</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Member Benefits</b>	<b>6</b>

### LaPoile Traditions



At our last chapter meeting we were welcomed into a family fishing tradition of grand adventure, pristine wilderness, crystal clear rivers, Atlantic salmon and a fading way of life. Chapter member Jim Staples and his brother Russ of the North Conway chapter teamed up to share their annual fishing trip to the south shores of Newfoundland. For the last 35 years they have traveled first to northern reaches of Cape Breton embarking from Sidney, Nova Scotia by commercial ferry and disembarking at Port aux Basques Newfoundland transferring to a smaller craft to make their way east north east up the coast to the fishing village of LaPoile. Trekking overland walking along the boulder strewn river bed followed by their tractored gear they arrive miles upriver at their camp situated not surprisingly on the Camp Pool of the LaPoile river.

Of course the camp is rustic though improved through the years as evidenced by the photos. Originally built by a gentleman from Sidney who wanted a getaway. This should

Lapoile page 5

### Basil Woods Jr Trout Unlimited Chapter Annual Conservation Banquet

Grappone Center, Concord NH  
March 14, 2015 5:30 PM

Well here we are again. Time for an evening of stories, talks, awards and prizes and auction items. There will be flies and prints and trips up north and guided adventures, fly rods and shotguns, canoes, pottery and fabric art, fine spirits and wine, fly tying materials, classic books, exquisite woodworking items, reels, metallic art, airplane tours, jewelry, leatherwork and basketry and fishing gear too numerous to itemize.

Emcee Richard Kingston and auctioneer supreme George S. Foster III will guide us through the evening lending their patter and commentary to our fine meal, speakers, awards, raffles and auctions.

Look forward to a few words from Thomas Ames Jr. noted and frequently published commercial photographer and author now turned secondary school teacher. Mr. Ames will give us his views on how we can engage our young folk in the outdoor traditions that we so value.

After we have disposed of all the auction items and bucket raffles the Grand Drawing for this year's Remington shotgun and Wenonah Canoe will send us all out into the brisk March evening ready for open water and tight lines.

**Last minute decision ?**  
**Okay! See us at the door**

**Come Early**  
**Get the last Raffle Tickets.**  
**When they are Gone they are Gone**

## Presidential Commentary – George Embley



We are an organization dedicated to the conservation, protection, and restoration of coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. And, in a finite world where our entire economic and survival system is based on continual growth, we have our work cut out for us. Residential, agricultural and industrial development, water withdrawals, deforestation,

energy production and use – they are the lifeblood of our civilization but they all have the potential to irredeemably damage the land and rivers that we, as a nation, depend upon. Right now, energy development seems to be the biggest challenge for two reasons: the degradation of streams and watersheds due to production and transmission of oil, gas, and electricity (such as hydro fracking and use of pipelines) and the longer term impact of climate change (think warmer stream temperatures and more severe weather events).

Renewable energy is not exempt from these concerns. The March 4 issue of the *Concord Monitor* featured an article by chapter member Paul Doscher, in which he describes his mixed feelings about dams and hydropower. He recognizes the key role of dams in supplying our energy needs and also admits to enjoying the fringe benefits associated with trout fishing in the coldwater releases below many of the big dams. But he goes on to point out that, as we all know, dams have also done a lot of damage to our coldwater fisheries – they bear most of the responsibility for the near extinction of Atlantic salmon in New England waters. A more recent egregious example is the massive Hydro-Quebec power projects which have resulted in the loss of wild rivers now covered by millions of acres of reservoirs and, for NH, the likely consequences of enormous transmission lines. (Paul's article, "The Dam Dichotomy" is available online. It's well worth reading.)

Paul was a member of National TU's Board of Trustees when the Trout Unlimited (National) energy policy was being developed. This policy was adopted by TU in February 2014 and provides guidance for conservation activities related to energy development, production, transmission and transportation. It is not a policy of "no to everything." It recognizes that our basic energy needs must be met but in ways that minimize impact on our coldwater resources. In addressing environmental concerns associated with energy production and use, TU relies on knowing the science and maintaining awareness for new potential threats. The preferred approach is a collaborative one where TU, at the appropriate level (national, council, chapter), works with all the stakeholders to ensure that all reasonable efforts are made to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts on coldwater fisheries.

The policy also clearly recognizes the "powerful connections between our Nation's energy choices and climate change" and states that TU will support policies and actions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, harmful effects of climate change are already occurring; therefore, TU's primary focus will be on approaches that make coldwater fisheries and their watersheds "more resilient" in the face of climate change. (To read the full policy, go to [www.TU.org](http://www.TU.org))

There are a lot of things that we do at the state and chapter level that address energy development and support our conservation goals. Last year, the State Council, along with a number of supporting national conservation organizations, endorsed a letter to President Obama in support of common-sense efforts to address the threat of climate change. Both the State Council and individual NH TU chapters have also raised concerns about transporting tar sands oil through New Hampshire. And a couple of years ago, the Council submit

President p.6

## HEARINGS ON BILLS AFFECTING FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT'S FUTURE on FEBRUARY 5, 2015

### Outcome

Hearings on two bills relative to funding and status of the N.H. Fish and Game Department took place on Thursday, February 5, 2015, before the House Fish, Game and Marine Resources Committee.

HB518 – as recommended by the Legislative Fish and Game Sustainability Commission – would grant the Department, with the consent of the Fish and Game Commission, the authority to set license the amount of hunting and fishing license fees. The Fish and Game Commission and the Department support this bill. **Recommended to move forward**

HB663 would merge the Fish and Game Department into the Department of Safety. The Fish and Game Commission and the Department do NOT support this bill. This hearing will take place at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Legislative Office Building (LOB). **Not recommended to move forward**

Follow the status of these and other bills of interest to Fish and Game at <http://wildnh.com/Legislative/bills>.

Learn more about the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's funding situation at <http://wildnh.com/funding>.

**Check out the links for details**



Basil Woods Jr  
Concord New Hampshire



Remember, you can now find us on Facebook. Facebook users can use the Facebook search tool for “Concord TU” 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](mailto:ConcordTU@yahoo.com)

## Editors Soapbox

*Tim Pease*

### Cabin Fever Redux

The last fishing show will be history as this goes to print. All the major catalogs have arrived and are quickly becoming dog eared. The sporting clubs designed to get us through the New England winters with a modicum of frozen water angst are now planning their spring dinners and banquets. Lines are cleaned, reels oiled, ferules waxed, waders patched, trips planned, deposits made, trip kitties primed, flies tied and fly boxes shuffled but you still cannot fish.

Well, you might be able to if the Newfound River or the open water behind the Opeechee Trading Post was producing but they are not. The seacoast rivers quit after December. What to do?

You either go south, lots of bucks, and not too many fish this year or so the reports coming back north suggest or you continue to proxy fish on TV even though its mostly bass fishing or saltwater somewhere warm but not really accessible except to the relatively rich and famous.

Speaking of the rich and famous one of the recent shows had a beautiful episode showcasing the Restigouche River Lodge. It was a beautiful show with big fish and wonderful scenery. I did get a kick out of the lodge owner explaining how they conceived the lodge as an alternative to the very expensive cost of access to the river at only around \$ 6000/week. It is all relative I guess. It still looked great once I pulled the curtains to get the snow glare off my TV screen.

The last out that I have tried is to make believe that it is actually time to fish when in fact it isn't. When Zach was younger he and I would circumnavigate Lake Winnepesaukee at the first hard rain looking for incoming brooks, holes in the ice, et all. The

trip, driving slowly through the ground fog, took forever which was good. We brought all the gear just in case, tramped through the rotting snow to the shore and peered hopefully into any moving water we could find. Of course nothing fishy came of it but Zach usually got lunch out and we had our first mini trip of the year. I miss those little circles

I also tried fishing the open water (sic) of the Contoocook River in March a couple of time. Always a wading challenge even in the best of conditions I never the less waded to mid stream stood on a rock for relative safety and comfort, made a few casts till the guides froze and considered my options. I abandon the rock carefully made my way to shore and back to the warmth of the fire. Prudent, but too late as I was rewarded with a week out of the office and a doozey of a cold.

I have decided in my dotage to just wait it out and be grateful that I have so much to look forward to each year ice out, open water, rushing streams, silver bait fish and bugs of all variety. I now give thanks to our scale less denizens of the clear water and bide my time.

But, I will still take any suggestion you may have to beat the season. Ps. I am apposed to trolling bob houses, or Robert Homes as they are know in the up-scale coves of Wolfeboro proper, too slow, too noisy.

See you on the water. Soon I hope

## Parson Ponders

*Parson Weems, north woods guide savant, periodically leaves his cabin and campfire to offer a few words and insights that can only come from a dark sky view of Orion's Belt on a clear north country night*

Guiding trout fishermen is like getting every fishin catalog from every rod and tackle guy delivered on the stream every year. I see more gear and new gear than I would ever have thought possible. I try to keep up cuz it makes the sports feel like they have somebody who knows and cares about their off season buyin.

While it seems like the tackle and gear guys change stuff far more than they need to; the changes are quite spectacular. Everything's lighter, stronger, smaller more compact for traveling, and as near as I can tell considerably higher priced too. I worry sometimes like I got to take a fee hair cut to pay for the this years gear. That being the case I like last years stuff better.

There is more than a touch of too much here too. Sure back when bamboo and double tapered lines were king you had to know how to time your rod and double haul to cast any distance, and it did help if the rod was attached to a 30 year old shoulder. First you learn that you really don't need to cast that far that often. Plus these new rods in the hands of nimrods don't go very far neither.

The fellas that moved from caned to fiberglass did not wear their arms out so much; but, any stiff breeze still made want to throw the whole rig not just the fly; and them metal ferules made the early ones feel like an oak sapling. The ones after were much better feelin but still needed oomph.

Mr. Fenwick took his fiberglass rod and made a graphite rod. It was both light and had guts. It weren't perfect but near as I can tell all we got today came from that. Most nobody fished with a anything smaller than a 5 wt. then, so, the fact that it too was pretty stiff was ok. But the best was yet to come though the price gonna be high.

Bamboo and fiberglass were around together for a long time; but with graphite coming on, bamboo drifted away and less Leonard's, Pezon Michels and Orvis cane rods showed up in camp each year. Some of those old makers tried their hand at graphite but failed others just wandered off. Seems like some of the old cane makers died off too. Now what I see are good rods built by guys you don't hear about so much. Still a lot of craftsmanship but not what it used to be. The sports treat the new ones different too; all coddled and fussed over afraid to get um wet and dirty.

Course the graphite guys have been on a tare. They been inventin smaller diameter quicker lighter for lines weight down to 0 . God know what for but

folks bring em along all puffed out till the wind blows or the flies they throw are big enough to be seen. Them rod guys went through a period of making things stiffer and faster thinking I guess ,that every fish was 90 feet away and the wind was blowing a gale. Those poles went a long way but they broke a lot of tippets and keel hauled a lot trout smaller 'en 15 inches.

Seems like they figured it out now and they got feel and distance both. The real new ones go darned straight too. Point them an let um fly and in the hands of any pretty good caster they hit the target spot on.

Nothins free! One of them new poles is more n I paid for my cabin in "67". Two things bother me now one is that the high price of rods not sayin anythin about reels is keeping folks playing golf or dubbin with worms for bluegills . Average guy cant afford this high end stuff. Lucky there are some new makers who are providing good stuff cheap. The new rods are so good at the top that even the middle and lower end graphite poles are great by comparison. Also fancy and regular fiberglass rods are now back up in pick ups coming up here agin.

My other bugaboo is this. Aint no rod gonna make a fisherman/caster out of guy who aint practiced or won't listen to instruction. These rods don 't get fish; fishermen do. If you don't think so just follow the next old coot with a bamboo fly rod around for a day and see how he does.

It's real nice today that we got choices and most of um are pretty sweet.



*Parson Weems*

## Bug Nights

If you've ever wondered which caddisflies or mayflies are common in the Upper Merrimack River watershed or what does a Baetidae nymph aka blue winged olive look like, you should come to Bug Nights at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH from 6 pm to 9pm every Wednesday. Go to [http://merrimackriver.org/\\_data/meetthebeetles.pdf](http://merrimackriver.org/_data/meetthebeetles.pdf) for more info & directions



## A Legend Passes Jim Warner



If you have been in downtown Wolfeboro you won't have any trouble identifying this long ago picture of Jim Warner's Sportsman's Center; right where the river hits the bay. Jim, a fixture on lake Winnepesaukee for most of his life, died this month and his loss will be hard to fill.

He made his living on the lake and with it friends, admiration and accolades that can be found in countless books, articles and photographs telling of his service to sportsmen as outfitter, guide and fly tier. Sadder too is the recognition that Jim joins a long line including Hank Northridge, Bill Catherwood, Wendell Folkins, Dick Talleur, and Nick Lambrou of past fishing notables. How great has our tradition been. Jim you will be missed.

Below are a couple of Jim Warner patterns tied by some of Jim's admirers. Enjoy! He surely would want you to.



Fish on! Camp Pool on the LaPoile

Lapille page 1

boggle the mind for anyone who has seen how sparsely populated Cape Breton is to begin with. In any case Jim and Russ's dad met the original owner and after some time he was given the opportunity to own a weeks timeshare on the cabin and so began the annual trip.

The brothers begin their photo montage slender, robust with dark beards and end and come up to date seemingly more prosperous in figure and gray in beard. We learn during the course of the transformation of a love affair with the river the fish and beauty of the LaPoile River. We come to sense the bonds of family, long invited friends, intermittent anglers, and guides encased in the traditions of the trips and the and the landmarks of the river pools and the surrounding hills.

The guided side trips evidence the long adventures of their youth to distant unfished pools and are thoroughly populated with stories of grilse caught, vanishing pools and the memories of past and present fiends.

No Atlantic salmon tradition is complete without a rendition of flies used and the special guide flies that somehow find all the fish. We were not disappointed on that ground either as Jim and Russ brought sample flies for our avid fondling and admiration.

The trip back followed somewhat different ground as high water precluded the easy way back, reminding us of how difficult these remote locations can be and the care needed for safe travel.

Photographically back in the village we saw the sad demise of a once vigorous fishing industry crippled by the cessation of cod fishing in the North Atlantic; fish factories closed, jobs gone, schools shrunk and homes abandoned in the wake of the failing offshore fishery. It was unfortunately a segue into the observation that the LaPoile though well populated with Salmon smolt was essentially devoid of salmon and experienced only a falling run of grilse in recent years. All that could be concluded was that whatever is occurring to the North Atlantic fish stocks was not good. Possible culprits are many but actual causes and solutions are not at hand.

It was an fine evening on a cold night and we thank Jim and Russ for giving us a glimpse of their summers on the LaPoile.

President p.2

ted comments on the Environmental Impact Statement for Northern Pass that noted possible detrimental impacts on numerous tributaries to the Upper Connecticut and other rivers

At the chapter level, work that we do -- characterizing wild fish populations, improving stream habitat and stream-road crossings, and supporting acquisition of land easements -- will (in the policy's words) "improve resilience" against the impact of climate change. On the individual level, we can all work to reduce our own energy use and save some money in the process. If we notice some land use change or evidence of water pollution that could be degrading a local stream or watershed, we should call attention to it. In other words, stay informed, get involved, and take action.

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Tom Ives and the banquet committee are wrapping up the preparations for our March 14 banquet, and we expect a good turnout. The registration deadline is past, but we can usually accommodate a few last-minute guests. If you missed the deadline and still want to attend, shoot an email to [concordtu@yahoo.com](mailto:concordtu@yahoo.com) or call me at 456-2315.

## New Member Benefits

As you may know, TU has long offered [discounts for hotel and car rentals, including Alamo, Avis, Budget, Hertz, National and the Choice Hotel chains](#). Now, through new partnerships, we're expanding to offer the following:

- Hotel Discounts – up to 20 percent off at Wyndham, 15 percent off at Red Roof Inns, and 10 percent off at Motel 6
- Office Depot Discounts – between 1 and 80 percent off on over 90,000 items in store or online, as well as FREE next day delivery for online purchases over \$50
- Online Shopping – between 1 and 20 percent cash back as well as unadvertised/exclusive discounts from fly fishing and other retailers from provider Azigo
- Flyassortments.com – discounts on fly assortments, fly boxes and tools
- Free admission to the American Museum of Fly Fishing upon presentation of your active TU member card

Want to learn more? [Visit our member benefits page](#) to get more information and to take advantage of

### 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

<b>March 14 ,2015</b>	<b>TU Conservation Banquet</b>
<b>April 16, 2015 7 PM</b>	<b>Chapter Meeting</b>
<b>April 18, 2015</b>	<b>Youth Fishing Day</b>
<b>May 28,2015</b>	<b>Chapter Picnic</b>

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