



Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter
Trout Unlimited

Troutlines

www.concordtu.org

March 2016

Chapter Meeting
Basil W. Woods Jr.
Next Chapter Meeting
Is
April 21, 2016

Warner Watershed
Project
Progress and Plans

No Meeting in March due
to the Banquet.

Put the
Basil Woods Jr. Picnic
on your Calendar

May 19 2016

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By now you have your tickets and your calendars should be marked to join us at the banquet. It is the harbinger of spring that we all wait for. Snow banks are ebbing, and that special smell of departing snow fills the nose even if a few cold showers both rain and snow remain ahead of us.

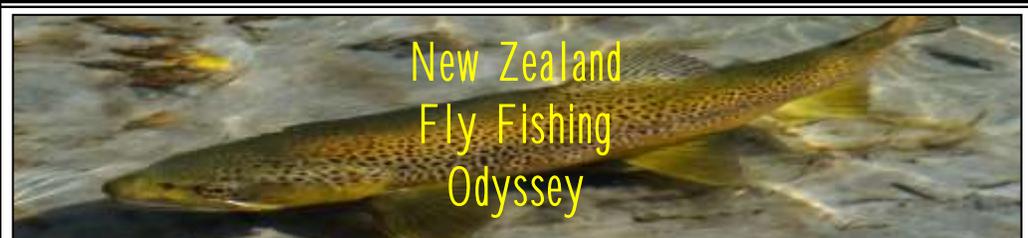
But, Saturday night it will be warm and bright as we anticipate the coming season on the water. There will be gear to get, flies to buy, trips to bid on even a fishing kayak to be won. Art work, pottery, quilts, spirits, and a handsome double barreled shot gun add to the auction and raffle booty.

TU's and Concord's Keith Curley will pass along some great conservation updates; and Mike Little will guide us through the live auction .

Be there at 5:30 and take some time to catch up with old friends swap some stories and warm the cockles of your heart with a glass of **your favorite toddy or wine Hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 and dinner at 6:30**

It all for a great cause. Your bids, winnings and purchases help fund Basil Woods Jr. and all its programs for the upcoming year. It is greatly appreciated. It is our big fund raiser.

Forgot to send in your tickets? Come anyway and we will find you a spot. Bring a friend too.



Jessie and Rich Tichko joined our TU chapter members and a group of their local admirers in the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest conference room to share with all a fishing and cultural excursion to the south island of New Zealand. These local fishing and hunting enthusiasts did it right. After enduring

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Presidential Commentary – Alex Hicks



Hi Folks,

It's March! Another month has gone by and the weather has remained as unusual as ever. While I would have loved a winter that was a **little more like winter, I'm really** looking forward to spring. March is one of my favorite months, when the arc of the sun is a little higher and the days are longer. I can even live with **changing the clocks....**

I was able to swing by the Fly Tying class last week. The crew there looked to be having a **great time. I don't know where you'll find a class** with a lower student to instructor ratio. I know that there are plenty of fly tying classes around, but I have to tell you – these guys do a great job! **If you haven't had a chance to fit the class in** your schedule, let us know what might work for you. **If you'd like to see some fly tying action, we** have an open demo scheduled on March 19th from 9:00-1:00AM at MainStreet Bookends in Warner. **Drop us a line if you're interested.... We'd love to see you there!**

Speaking of seeing you, were you at the last chapter meeting? Jessie and Rich Tichko gave their presentation on Trout Fishing in New Zealand. **I couldn't believe the crowd that they drew – one of the biggest we've seen in a long time.** It was nice to have a little social time before hand, too. While the presentations still start at 7:00, **we've been able to offer a little social time before** that. You can find us at the Society for the Protection of NH Forests building as early as 6:00PM – come on by for snack and fish stories. Some of the folks even brought their gear to tie a quick fly or two. Our next chapter meeting is in April when George Embley will bring us up to speed on the Warner River Project. Everyone is welcome – **we'd love to see you there!**

While there is no regular chapter meeting scheduled for March, we do have the Conservation Banquet. The banquet is a great opportuni-

ty to get together with like-minded friends, enjoy a meal, and have fun bidding on some of the auction items. TU exec and Concord resident Keith Curley will share recent New England and east coast conservation success stories. This evening is one of our major fundraisers and largest gatherings of the year. **We'd love to see you there! (Are you sensing a theme?)**

That leads us to April, with even more opportunities to come out and visit. On April 2nd **we'll be at the Trinity Sportsman's' Show.** On April 16th **we'll be at Wild New Hampshire day and we'll have a big crew over at the children's fishing pond in East Concord** for our Youth Fishing Day event, too. On April 21st, **we'll have our chapter meeting, back at SPNHF.** **We'll find more detail for you on those events, soon. You know where I'm going with this by now though... We'd love to see you there!**

One final thought – If you are looking for a way to help out, please remember that we have volunteer opportunities coming up during the spring and summer. If you would like to help out with your boots on the ground, please let us know. George Embley is our volunteer coordinator and can help best direct **your efforts. We're also looking for someone to help with our newsletter and may have a seat on the board of directors.** **If you feel you're interested in either, please let us know.** You can reach us by mail, email, or through Facebook. Let us know how things are going – if you **can't swing by one of the events, send us a message – the next best thing to seeing you in person :-)**

Kind regards,

~Alex



Editors Soapbox

Tim Pease

I just hate these lingering months of winter. No open water, not much going on and so little to discuss. Most folks are off figuring out who their favorite politician should be.

So lets talk about some fun stuff cane, fiberglass or graphite ?

There was a time of course when all we had was cane (bamboo); it replaced things like lancewood, and greenheart but lets not go there. Though I got to tell you that I have no idea how they landed atlantic salmon on those early rigs, and by all accounts they landed and killed a bunch of fish along the way.

No matter cane ruled from the late nineteenth century to mid 20th century. You take big pieces of bamboo cut them into tapered strips then glue them back together and voila you have a rod blank. Cut it up attach some hardware and go fishing. Cane rods are pretty nice to fish with they have an easy casting stroke handle light tippetts well and with the properly designed tapers cast 60 feet of line in to even a stiff breeze. They are heavy though and a 6wt flinging steamers all day will wear you out in a hurry. Labor intensive to build they were very expensive and attempts to machine make them were terrible failures. Keep every good one you can find in line weights less than 6

Modern fiberglass birthed in the 30s came of age in the 40s and was crafted into all kinds of industrial and commercial goods

and specifically fly rods. Sheets of fiberglass were rolled onto tapered mandrels heated and cured, to form blanks that were cut and outfitted as the cane rods were. The continued implementation of metal ferrules carried over from cane left many of the early rods stiff and wooden feeling. Glass rods lighter and dramatically cheaper than cane did however capture a growing number of fishermen. The implementation of glass ferrules made these rods much better casting machines and they serve today an important niche in the smaller finesse rod category. Heavy line glass rods never cast well an have generally been abandoned. Stay clear

HMG the major provider of Glass in the 70s advanced a graphite rod that drew great acclaims. Fashioned like fiberglass from sheets on mandrels it proved to be the penultimate material for flyrods. Fiberglass and Boron have been added to create small variations in graphite properties and much work has been done on graphite fiber strength and arrangement but the basics remain. The result is a highly variable product offering a range of flexibility and strength to meet the demands of almost all fishing conditions and situations. They have in general reduced weight and improved casting accuracy across the board.

Find the best graphite rods you can afford in wts 3 5 & 7 or 4,6,&8 and you will be able to comfortably and efficiently fish for most any species.

MainStreet BookEnds and Basil Woods Team Up for Fly-Tying

www.mainstreetbookends.com/event/learn-fly-tying

On Saturday, March 19, the Basil Woods Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be offering free fly-tying demos and instruction at MainStreet BookEnds in Warner, NH from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Necessary materials will be supplied free of charge and experienced fly tyers will be on hand to provide hands-on instruction. Kids are welcome. Registration is not required, but advance notice would ensure that sufficient supplies will be available. For more information, email concordtu@yahoo.com or call George Embley at 456-2315.

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

Looks like this mild winter is gonna mean and early ice out and likely a few extra weeks of early season fishin. Them salmon will be chasin smelt before you know it. Before I got allergic to the cold some few years ago I couldn't wait to get after them big hungry fish. Now it need a little sunshine to get me goin and truth be told a little warmin helps the fishin along this time a year **That's my story and I am stickin to it.**

So I begun tyin a few flies for them sports that always seem to have lost their last fly just **the day before they come to camp. It's always the same guys and I kinda wonder who gave em that last fly to lose.**

Anyway it comes with the guidin job so I set down to lash a few together only to find I couldn't **decide whether I wanted bucktails or streamers;** you know hair or feather wings.

Lot to be said for those feather wings not the least of which is how beautiful they look specialy if you get them fancy jungle cock eyes on em. They do a lot of catchin some fish and lots a fishermen. If I was tyin to just to sell flies it would be a no brainer. Them feather wings would be money in your pocket.

Course when your guiding these are freebies **for the sports so there's other considerations like** how many of them beauties are gonna be decoratin the puckerbrush. If I could go round later and collect em up it would be ok but they get em **in the darndest place and I don't shinny like I used to.** Also them feather wings can get hung in the leader and if you tie em a titch to long or leave out the hair what props em up them beautiful feathers just wrap around the hook and spin in the water. Course no sport ever sees it they just gripe about not catchin fish.

There is those that like marabou feathers for the wings and they seem to attract attention but not smelty to my way of thinkin and they always look messy in the fly wallet, take up a lotta space too. They got their followers but I not one of em ceptin if you do that one where you wrap the marabou around the hook. Stays nice and slim and easy to tie and cheap enough to let em litter the alders with em.

But for me you can't beat the old bucktail. It is easy to make sinks good doesn't foul and a few **them long cast to the other side that don't come back** wont break the bank neither. I know a fella ties up some of them his own way with that craft hair too; real tough and wiggley stuff. Swears by em.

The old brookie standards, Edson Tiger light and dark, Red and White, Mickey Finn Wardens Worry and Royal Coachman all still work good specially on sunlit days and best for brookies. They are a bit bright for me day in day out. But they do have that warm feelin thing that make the sports give up their hand warmers.

Give me a black nosed dace or lake erie shiner and I really like em when you put em up in that Thunder Creek way. I use stick on eyes cuz **I don't paint eyes real good so that make em a bit pricey.** There are a millions of them Thunder Creek patterns but you only need a few like the silver shiner and the lake erie tied up that way.

I m getting a little winded here so I'll just get to tyin though I m still kinda quizzical on which ones to make. Can't have too many I guess. See you first bright day after ice out.

Parson Weems



the long flight to Kiwi land they stayed a while to take in not only the fishing but the sights sound culture and food offered on this beautiful island nation.

Jessie and Rich found great fishing in two diverse ecosystems one alpine and the other a meadow agricultural environment. Below are some pictures of each ecosystem and some of the wonderful trout that the wily Tichkos lured to hand.

As you would imagine the alpine streams were less fertile and harbored fewer fish per mile but as you can tell from the photos it did not stifle Rich's fishing prowess in the least. Check out the pace of the water behind him.



North of this alpine system lies a large stretch of agricultural plain with more fertile and populated streams . The photo below was one of several boasting of the floral beauty of the area. Note that fishing expertise resides on both sides of this family.



The gin (what other clarity would there be if you are from the British Empire) clear water evidenced behind Jessie is everywhere; just not as obvious in the faster alpine streams. That kind of water means that stealth, and casting accuracy are paramount skills for any angler. To insure best results guides stalk the streams ahead of the anglers spotting trout and gauging false casts for distance to avoid lining or otherwise spooking these large wary trout.

The Tichkos caught both rainbow and brown trout. The browns are the most prized catch. Neither species is native to New Zealand but they and the Chinook Salmon transplanted by **the British in the late 1800's early 1900s have established them selves. Other species were tried too but failed; notably atlantic salmon and brook and lake trout.**

While it is clear that New Zealand has been spared the ravages of population growth and development they too have achieved a notable success in the creation of a world class fishery. New Zealand protects these fisheries with a jaundiced eye to invasive species. Though given the original foreign nature of the now protected species one wonders how best to pick and choose your poison.

Fly Tying Classes



Fly Tying class are underway and much has been learned. We are two classes in and can say that our small group, hands on instruction has been well received. The beginners are cranking out flies that will surely nab a few trout this spring. They will be taking on a streamer next session under the tutelage of the renown Angus Boezeman.

The intermediate group have taken on some fairly tricky ties and have come through with flying colors. These are pretty handy fellows. This week will be a test as they take on a Marabou Muddler under the instruction of Ken Welch. The guy is magician with feathers and thread.

Should any one new wish to audit a session I am sure we could accommodate you; Two more weeks Tuesday night at 7 PM at the Passaconaway Club, Garvins Falls Rd., Concord NH

More than a few slides shared the culture and beauty of the South Island. Few large cities, great food, both inland and coastal scenery, and warm generous people showed up often in the discussion. No one spoke of income, but prices seemed a bit steep. However the standard of living exhibited looked really attractive. Looks like a great place fish and visit. Sign me up!



The Pittsburg Anglers Association is planning it's annual spring stocking of the Trophy Stretch of the Connecticut River again for 2016. They will be stocking nearly 500 healthy rainbow and brown trout in early to mid May to get our fishing season off to a good start. Funding is accomplished through business and individual memberships and donations, and they hope to expand their list of members this year. Whether you love fishing the famous pools or swiftly flowing pocket water of the Trophy Stretch, they hope you consider a donation to their organization in 2016

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.

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Calendar

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| March 12, 2016 | Conservation Banquet |
| April 21, 2016 | Chapter Meeting |
| April 16, 2016 | Youth Fishing Day |
| May 19, 2016 | Basil Woods Jr. Picnic |

All chapter meetings start at 6:00 PM, Social and Flytying 7 PM Program At the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord unless posted otherwise