



# Troutlines

### *Special Points of Interest*

- Trout in the Classroom Growing & Working
- 2012 National Meeting

### **Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar**

**November Chapter Meeting**  
Thursday, November 15

No December Meeting

**January Chapter Meeting**  
Thursday, January 17

*See Calendar on page 6 for more information.*

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## **TU National Meeting in the Blue Ridge**

by Paul Doscher

The Trout Unlimited national Annual Meeting took place this year September 12 through 15 in Asheville, North Carolina. As Basil Woods Chapter member Richard Kingston knows, from personal experience, there are thousands of miles of good trout water in western North Carolina, and the meeting started with a day of hosted fishing on some of those rivers. The reports were varied, but I was able to fish with the NLC representative from Minnesota and a volunteer guide just over the border in Elizabethton, Tennessee on the Watauga River. Lots of nice rainbows were caught, (see photo) including one that was chased to the boat by a monstrous striped bass. (Yes, the reservoirs down south are often stocked with stripers that swim up into the tribs in the fall).



The conservation tour took a large group on two tour busses to a location where TU has helped secure the purchase of key inholding in the Pisgah National Forest on the North Mills River. Had the land not been secured with the help of TU land protection staffer Damon Hearne, and donations

*Blue Ridge Meeting, continued on page 6*

## **Two More Schools Added to Chapter's Trout in the Classroom Program**

by George Embley

At the October 2012 Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved the purchase of two chillers to support Trout-In-The-Classroom (TIC) programs in two additional schools – Effingham Elementary School and Deerfield Community School. TIC is a nationwide program that gives school children the opportunity to raise trout from eggs to fry and to release them into local streams. As a result, the students become better connected to their local environment, learn about watershed health and water quality, and gain an appreciation for the importance of maintaining native fish populations - both for ecological and recreational reasons. The most expensive piece of equipment required for TIC is the chiller (current cost around \$700), which maintains water temperature at the low temperatures (~40F) needed for egg development. Without support from organizations like TU, many schools would not be able to initiate a TIC program.

At Effingham, teacher Kyra Dumage will make use of their TIC program to help approximately twenty 5th and 6th grade students understand how changes in environmental conditions can affect the survival of individual organisms and even an entire species. Students will learn how to use tools such as thermometers, probes, and computers to gather and evaluate data in life sciences.

At the Deerfield school, 7th and 8th

*Trout-in-the-Classroom, continued on page 4*

## Presidential Commentary - Dan Stickney

Tough things can be the most rewarding, at times.

Our guest speaker last month was our Webmaster and Director, Gordon Riedesel. He spoke to us about netmaking, one facet of his greater hobby of working with wood. I was left with the understanding that the work isn't hard, but the devil is in the details, as in so many other things.

The task of making a net seems fairly approachable for most of us with the interest and a modicum of skill; it seems that most of the work can be done with readily available or homemade tools, and evidently the greatest challenge lies in holding oneself to a high degree of accuracy over the course of the many steps in the process.

That's a road map to doing anything well, whether it be tying flies, perfecting a tricky cast, balancing a checkbook, or volunteering for your TU Chapter.

Taking many small, solid steps along the way to a greater goal really adds up.

One year someone steps up to help out at Youth Fishing Day. That's fun, so they show up again to do some stream sampling, or tie flies at an event. Maybe that leads to joining the banquet committee, or even taking a leadership role in the chapter, and it all arose from taking an interest in that first step, doing it well, and moving on to the next.

If you (unfortunately, because it was great) missed Gordon's presentation, maybe your next step will happen at this month's membership meeting. I hope to see you there.

All best ~

Dan

## Editor's Soapbox - Gordon Riedesel

The photo on the front of this month's Troutlines of a fine rainbow caught by Paul Doscher got me to thinking. The rainbow is a good sized catch, perfect fins, and healthy. If you know Paul, you are aware he is on the tall side and in this photo, his arms are extended towards the camera so we can share his good luck. Most of us would be happy anglers to bring such a fine trout to the net. By contrast, I managed a few pictures of this year's catches but somehow, they don't stack up to Paul's. I wondered if this contrast has something to do with the Renaissance.

Renaissance? Let me explain. Although linear perspective has been found in drawings as early as the 5<sup>th</sup> Century BCE, it wasn't until the Renaissance that this way of drawing got traction. By incorporating vanishing points,

artists could represent in two dimensions what we expect in three. The technique of foreshortening enabled talented artists to show distance and preserve scale. Contrast this with paintings from the Egyptian pyramids where people's faces look like they were drawn by the Picasso of the Nile with both eyes on one side of the head. Important people were drawn larger and in front of smaller, lesser figures. But there was no vanishing point other than the collapse of a particular line of Pharaohs. As perspective drawing became the norm in the Renaissance, we came to expect art to trick our brains into thinking that we see three dimensions in that painting from 1514.

Fast forward to the surrealist painters who rebelled against the natural perspective and finally to photography and the invention of

the fish-eye lens that creates a cone of vision similar to a trout's view of the world above. Now when you combine our predisposition for linear perspective, with fish-eye lenses (not to mention photo editing software) our fine catches can all look like Paul's. Some might point to the Renaissance alone for our susceptibility to manipulated images today, but I think there is plenty of blame to go around. So, Paul how big was that trout and where did you get that camera?



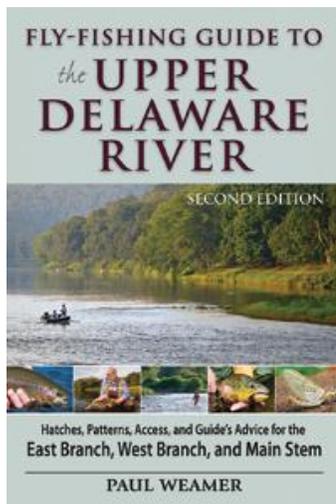
## Book Review: Fly Fishing Guide to the Upper Delaware River

by Jim Timmins

A river system that is on my places-to-fish Bucket List is the Upper Delaware River where it runs through New York and Pennsylvania. Having read and heard much about it, and because it is relatively close to home, I decided to do a little research to help keep the fire burning.

A Google search turned up much information about the local outfitters, guide services, fly shops, fishing reports, flow tables, etc. Being unfamiliar with the area there was a great deal to navigate in order to get a good idea about it all.

During my search I found a promising book - the *Fly Fishing Guide to the Upper Delaware River*, Second Edition, by Paul Weamer, Stackpole Books, 2011. It is available through local bookstores and online sources. Because the reviews were good, I thought this would be a great asset in my search to learn all I could about the Upper Delaware River.



As soon as it arrived, I scanned its well-done chapters to see what I might quickly learn about the system. A thorough reading could come later. I was impressed with the history of the creation of the reservoir system of the Delaware River which was built to supply drinking water for New York City. Anglers have benefited from the Pepacton Reservoir on the East Branch, and the Cannonsville Reservoir on the West Branch. These dams are bottom release dams (cold water) which support a year-round fishery of large, wild, and highly selective (mostly brown and rainbow) trout, coupled with prolific hatches.

The Upper Delaware system consists of approximately 78 miles of identified trout waters, not including feeder creeks and its largest tributary, the famous Beaverkill. The system comprises three distinct rivers: the West Branch, the East Branch, and the Main Stem. Weamer treats each branch with a separate chapter that includes charts and descriptions of floats, distances, and duration; flows; and fishing regulations. The float charts also give a brief description of the float, and the flow charts indicate which flows are suitable for wading, drift boats, pontoons, and canoes. Each branch also includes detailed maps of its upper and lower sections with well-marked fishing areas, named riffles, and pools. The chapter also gives directions to access points and parking with GPS coordinates as well as a brief description of the river up and down from the access point, both public and on private land.

The *Fly Fishing Guide to the Upper Delaware River* includes chapters on: 1) fish, and how to catch them including equipment, dry fly fishing, nymph and wet fly fishing, streamer fishing, night fishing, and etiquette; 2) Spring hatches: mayflies, caddisflies, and stoneflies; 3) Summer hatches, Fall hatches, and Winter fly fishing. These three chapters contain great photographs of proven fly patterns with recipes for same. Hatch tables list the appropriate fly size with the normal start-end dates of specific hatches. Also included are photographs of the area-specific insects with fly size and recipe for the various life cycle stages.

Chapter 8: "Understanding and Protecting the Resource", addresses the subject of navigable public highways and the high water-mark. As there is much, probably mostly, private land along the river's edge this designation means the public has certain rights associated with these rivers, and assures every angler the right to travel and fish along these rivers as long as they stay within the high-water mark. This chapter explains where this water-mark is.

The second edition includes a chapter with guide and outfitter interviews. These interviews are with some of the area's most knowledgeable fishermen, and reveal many different techniques that have made them successful.

An appendix of resources is an added plus and can be extremely helpful to the unfamiliar angler who is

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*Upper Delaware, continued from page 3*

planning a trip. It includes contact information for hotels and motels, B&Bs, cabin rentals, campgrounds, all types of restaurants, fly shops, license information, guide services, drift boat and canoe rentals, shuttle services, river conditions, and more.

I gathered that one should not travel to the Upper Delaware River system and expect to have the rivers to themselves as it is located within a few hours of major population centers and is heavily fished. The Upper Delaware is a renowned fishery and one of the best in the world according to many. But I was left with the feeling that one can expect some solitude if willing to adventure out from the access points, and fish the lesser known water. Regardless of one's preference to dry fly, nymphing, or swinging streamers there is an opportunity for all of the above, but it appears many venture there specifically for the prolific hatches and dry fly fishing.

Overall, I am impressed with the extensive research and compilation of the material presented in the *Fly Fishing Guide to the Upper Delaware River*. Weamer expresses great concern for the resource, and is critical of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection which he claims is really just the city's water authority that manages the reservoirs and aqueduct system.

It is difficult not to put yourself into the pools while reading as described throughout the book and watch your fly drift for the anticipated take. Although I have not put this valuable resource to the test, but hope to soon. I have no reservations about recommending it to anyone who would be looking for information on the Upper Delaware system. Whether you go or not, it makes for interesting reading in itself.



*Jim Timmins is an advisor to the Board, a long term member of the Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter, and a font of knowledge about fly fishing.*

## **Troutlines**

November, 2012

*Trout-in-the Classroom, continued from page 1*

grade students will raise brook trout from eggs and release them into the Lamprey River. Teacher Ellen O'Donnell will help her students learn about the Lamprey Watershed through maps, GIS, and physical measurements of water quality. This program has substantial breadth – with approximately 80 students involved. Furthermore, they will compare their data with two other schools in the Lamprey watershed and will publicize their results and actions within the local community.

Chapter support of Trout-in-the-Classroom has grown considerably over the past few years. Starting from the initial provision of a chiller to Shaker Road School, we are now supporting seven schools and eight chillers (total investment of over \$5,600). Besides Shaker and the two new schools, we have chillers in Concord High School, Rundlett Middle School in Concord, Belmont Middle School, and Seminary Hill Elementary School in Lebanon. We anticipate continued growth in this program.

In addition to the chapter's financial commitment, members have volunteered their time with maintenance and delivery of equipment, egg delivery, classroom visits, and activities associated with field trips and release of trout. George Embley, Bill Hall, Tom Ives, Richard Kingston, Steven Lowe, and Jim Timmins have been regular participants in these activities. Particular thanks go to Steven Lowe who has saved the day with timely repair of failed chillers and has also spent time supporting the Lebanon schools TIC program. For the last four years, members of this group spent a full day supporting activities at the Lebanon Student Watershed Conference.

Trout and salmon in-the-classroom programs have been very successful in New Hampshire and NH Trout Unlimited has played an important role in this effort. In early 2011 NH reached a peak of 32 schools in the TIC program and 17 in the NH part of the Connecticut River Salmon-In-The-Classroom (SIC) program. Both of these programs have been coordinated by Judy Tumosa of NH F&G. US Fish & Wildlife also administers a SIC program for the Merrimack River. This program brought the total number of TIC/SIC schools in 2010-11 to 65. Unfortunately, in the fall of 2011 the White River Fish Hatchery was severely damaged by Hurricane Irene and the Connecticut River Salmon program was suspended in NH. In spite of this setback, the program has continued to grow and the TIC program will reach a new high of at least 54 schools this year. NH Trout Unlimited (Council and Chapters) has some level of involvement in over 40 of these programs and has spent over \$25,000 to buy chillers.

## Chapter Partners with Lebanon 4th Grade Trout in the Classroom Program

For the past four years, our chapter has provided support for the Lebanon School System fourth grade Trout-In-The-Classroom program. This support has been financial (we provided one chiller and the State Council another) and through chapter volunteers. The program at Lebanon includes six to eight fourth grade classes and is considered one of the most ambitious and successful TIC programs in NH.

This fall a key teacher in the program, Stephanie Davis, sent us this letter thanking us for our help.

*We can't thank you enough for all your support of our program. Your continued support on many levels makes it possible for our students to take part in such a wonderful hands-on place based learning experience. I have written up an overview of our year.*

*Some of the highlights of our year start with our visit to the New Hampton Fish Hatchery where students have the opportunity to see firsthand trout in their natural habitat. They also gain a better understanding of the life cycle of the brook trout through taking part in stripping the eggs and milt from female and male trout, as well as seeing and hearing about the work that happens within the hatchery to support trout in New Hampshire.*

*Thanks to the Basil Woods TU Chapter's generous donation of a chiller we are able to take part in the trout-in-the-classroom program with Judy Tumosa from the NH Fish and Game Department. Our students are able to make daily observations and keep records of the development of trout using the developmental index. This program supports all areas of education for the children. Through learning about the life cycle of the brook trout and their habitat we cover our science curriculum. In math we create charts and graphs as we collect data to keep track of the development of the trout in correspondence with the tank temperature. In language arts the students create books, projects, and PowerPoint presentations to share with our school community. We are also able to talk about our social responsibility of being stewards of the Great Brook where we release the brook trout that we raise in the classroom.*

*Our next phase of this year long project is to have the students take part in a habitat assessment of the Great Brook in Lebanon, which is our release site. This assessment is a great chance to get the students involved in the real life science that is needed to assure a healthy habitat for the brook trout. Once again members of the Basil Woods TU Chapter support our students as we collect Benthic Macro Invertebrates, sketch and assess the health of the riparian zone, and collect temperature, oxygen, and pH readings of the water. At this time we also release our trout into Great Brook.*

*Last, but not least we celebrate our year of study of the brook trout through an annual Lebanon Student Watershed Congress. This past year was our 6th year. Since the start we have been partners with the Basil Woods TU Chapter, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, the NHDOT, New Hampshire Lakes Association, VINS, the Lebanon Conservation Commission, and many local teachers and Lebanon community members. This is an amazing day and one of the highlights of each student's year in fourth grade.*



Chapter member Steve Lowe helps a 4<sup>th</sup> grader strip eggs from a brook trout during the Lebanon School System's annual field trip to the New Hampton Fish Hatchery.



Students in Stephanie Davis' fourth grade class record their observations on trout development. The tank in which eggs develop into fry is well insulated to help maintain water temperature at 40F.

*This year as we venture into our 7th year of this project we look forward to working alongside with some familiar faces as well as meeting many new individuals that share our enthusiasm for connecting students with real life science. Last year a former student of mine who was involved in the First Annual Lebanon Student Watershed Congress worked with my class as a student learning project at Lebanon High School in the area of science and as a final project ran a station with me at the watershed congress. This year a new addition may be students from the Richmond School in Hanover, New Hampshire who will be working with a long time volunteer of the Watershed Congress and a Lebanon resident whose children have taken part in the Congress. His plan is to have his students develop and run stations as part of his curriculum at the middle school level.*

Thank you in advance for everything you do to support our program,

Stephanie

George Embley contributed this article.. He is the Vice President of the chapter and an enthusiastic Trout In the Classroom volunteer.

*Blue Ridge Meeting, continued from page 1*

from the North Carolina Council, it would have been sold for development. The group also visited highly successful habitat restoration projects on the Davidson River and other locations.

The meeting itself featured workshops on every possible TU topic from membership and development, to habitat projects, to land conservation and public policy challenges. At the start of the meeting the entire group heard an inspiring presentation on the successes of the last year by CEO Chris Wood. It's incredible how much good work is done every year across the nation by TU staff and volunteers. One featured project was a restoration effort on tributaries to the South Fork of the Snake River, in Idaho. You can see a presentation about it at the TU web site. Go to [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) and click on the "Restoring Hope" video at the lower left hand corner. It's well worth your time.

Also representing TU in Asheville were Burr Tupper (NH Council Chair) and Mary Weiss (NLC representative). Mary's work to help TU create new initiatives to attract and engage more women was lauded by Chris Wood and many of the other TU leaders present. Both Mary and Burr returned to NH with good ideas for how we can advance the TU mission in the Granite State.

Kudos to the councils of North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee who worked hard to help organize the conservation tour, events and social gatherings. This meeting was attended by the largest number of TU volunteers and members ever, and all agreed that it was well worth it.

*Paul Doscher is a member of the Basil Woods Chapter and a Grassroots Trustee of TU*

### Calendar

**Thursday, November 1.** TU Board of Directors Meeting

**Thursday, November 15.** Chapter Meeting. 7:00 PM, Society for the Protection of NH Forests, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord. Dianne Timmins and Suzanne Kelson on this summer's field work and analysis on Brook Trout migration, genetic diversity, and populations.

**Thursday, December 6.** TU Board of Directors Meeting.

**No Chapter Meeting in December.**

**Thursday, January 17, 2013.** Chapter Meeting. 7:00 PM, Society for the Protection of NH Forests, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord.

Always check the chapter website for news and updates.

[www.concordtu.org](http://www.concordtu.org)



### Welcome New Members

We look forward to hearing from you and all new members and meeting you soon.

William Farnum  
Paul LeCain  
Rick Lessard  
Larry Potter

### 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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