



Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter Trout Unlimited Troutlines

www.concordtu.org

November 2015

Chapter Meeting Basil W. Woods Jr. November 19, 2015 7:00 PM, Fishing the Gaspé' Salmon Rivers

Where, When and How.

Jim Timmins and George Cummings will show you how to have great salmon fishing without getting a second mortgage. Lots of pictures will guide you through the travel, surroundings and the fish of the Matapedia, Bonaventure, Matane Rivers, and others.

Jim and George are long-time members of Trout Unlimited. Jim has decades of experience fishing for Atlantic Salmon in Maine, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Jake Linquata, the young man the Chapter sponsored for Trout Camp this year, will also be joining us to tell of his experiences at camp.

Programs on the 2015-2016 Agenda

January - Jack Noon - Atlantic Salmon restoration effort on the upper Pemi in the late 1800'

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Northern Pass

The information below summarizes NH TU concerns regarding the Northern Pass project as currently proposed. You will find this useful as you discuss this issue with your local NH state legislator

The NH TU Council met in early September and discussed the then recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the controversial Northern Pass power line project. At the time, Northern Pass had announced that it was going to revise its proposed project and bury more of the line, primarily through the White Mountain National Forest. The Council had previously commented on the project during the DEIS scoping phase, asking the Department of Energy to look at the impacts of new above ground power line clearing on cold water streams that the line would cross.

Unfortunately, DOE appears to have failed to look at the concerns of TU. The DEIS makes no mention of the possible impact that clearing new lines through unfragmented forest habitats would have on the many small cold water streams that the line would cross. After review-

ing the DEIS, the Council decided to write a letter to DOE commenting on the failure to even consider cold water resource impacts, but also expressing NH TU's preference that the entire line be buried in existing transportation corridors.

Then, in late September, DOE announced that it was postponing the public hearings on the project and extending the comment period so it could go back and review the new plan proposed by Northern Pass.

This is unlikely to change TU's position on the project as the new Northern Pass proposal does not substantially address TU's concerns in the northern portions of the state where our best cold water fishery resources are found.

The following is the letter prepared by the Council. It was reviewed and endorsed by TU's New England staff, Eastern Conservation Vice President Keith Curley and TU's chief scientist, Dr. Jack Williams.

Proposed comments from NH TU Council (approved by the Council, September 3, 2015)

The NH State Council of Trout Unlimited (TU), is pleased to offer comments and our recommendations related to the Northern Pass Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

TU is the nations largest cold-water conservation organization, with 155,000 members nationwide and more than 1600 members in New Hampshire. TU's Mission is to protect, restore, reconnect and sustain the nations cold water fisheries and employs over 200 staff in locations across the nation who work on habitat projects in collaboration with federal, state and local government, businesses and private landowners. Our members volunteer more than 615,000 hours of time annually in this

Presidential Commentary - Alex Hicks



Hi Folks,

Well, another month has passed by too quickly. I've been raking, pulling the last of the docks, getting ready to wrap up the boats, and generally getting ready for the water to get hard. I've also had some great opportunities. Since our last newsletter, I've met some great people that are working on behalf of the mission of TU, throughout New Hampshire.

The school where I work was fortunate enough to host a Trout in the Classroom training session with Judy Tumosa, NHF&G's Watershed Education Coordinator. It was great to sit with a significant number of teachers and volunteers from around the state as they prepared for the TIC program. This winter looks like it will be a great one for the trout and students alike. Here's an interesting bit – at least five of the attendees were from our chapter, all of us getting ready to help out in classrooms. If you're not familiar with the TIC program, please ask us about it – it's a great way to help children learn about watersheds, water quality, and Eastern Brook Trout.

I've also met with leaders from other chapters. I love being able to meet with like-minded folks. Other chapters are working just as hard as we are – working to protect the cold waters of the state and getting the word out about what we do. They've been doing things like collecting pheasant feathers for fly tying, training for the Let's Go Fishing program, Getting ready for 2016 Trout Camp, and even working on funding for dam removal projects.

Now, here's the cool thing.... Our chapter (YOUR CHAPTER) is working on projects that are just as impressive. I mentioned the TIC program – who doesn't love working with Fish & Game and getting children excited about cold water conservation (and baby trout) – but that's really just the tip of the iceberg. At our last board meeting, we discussed everything from fly tying courses to the annual banquet and a great opportunity to help develop an Embrace a Stream grant. We've also had board members working on building relationships on the state level and on the national level – with direct involvement in leading national discussions.

Speaking of discussions, we'd love to hear from you! Please come to a chapter meeting (and bring a friend). Please reach out to us by email, Facebook, or regular mail. We're doing our best on your behalf, but

input from chapter members helps us make sure that the chapter is working in the right direction.

Tight lines~
~Alex

An Evening with NHF&G's Finest



Last month at the NHF&G building on Hazen Drive the monthly Basil Woods Chapter meeting had the pleasure of Scott La-crosse's company and the benefit and enjoyment of his presentation. Nominally he regaled us with tales of enforcement richly entertaining not unlike those currently associated with the now popular "Woods" enforcement cable shows. He brought along a truck load exhibit containing the booty collected from some unique adventures in enforcement. It was an evening filled with stories, quips, guffaws and general bonhomie.

Scott delivered more than promised. My sincere apologies for the picture above as this shot does little to convey the warmth, professional knowledge and communication skills he brings while providing a very human and humane face on what is surely a difficult job. His pairing of understanding human nature and the notion of common sense lends much to his appeal.

I have in my years astream encountered more than a few of Scott's brethren and I must say on reflection the feeling of dread that is my immediate reaction comes not from their presence but from my rapid mental accounting of the sins and omission's vis a vis my outdoor behaviors. In the tolling of my chats I can think of no really unpleasant event in spite of my personal sometimes less than stellar compliance performance.

Scott is clearly one of a cadre of special individuals who labor on our behalf; making our woods and streams safe and available to all.

Thanks to Scott and his colleagues for their professional toil and effort.

Editors Soapbox

Tim Pease



It has been a marvelous autumn. We have not had colors like this in many a year and it makes me mindful of the bounty we have here in New Hampshire of mother nature in all her varied guises. Lush green and then vibrant trees, white capped glacial lakes and presidential peaks, myriad miles of mossy bottomed brooks, hemlock glades, stands of pine, craggy kelped shores, and major river thoroughfares so abound in New Hampshire that I sometimes think we take them for granted.

These are, after all, for all of us. They are what we call public goods. At least that is the text book definition of what these resources should be. They are all still there for us visually but time has eroded our access to these jewels. Surrounding development has rendered even our visual access diminished by the clutter of modern life.

We are thankful for those with the foresight to preserve the White Mountains and the general stewardship of the paper companies in the great northern forest even though some of their practices will leave rivers scarred for eons. Their departure portends development and its related signature wounds on the visual and physical natural world.

I live in a small rural town equidistant from two quintessential villages, as though in a New England magazine photograph. Up the road from me is the old center of town with its meeting house, and cemetery. I photograph it often for its beauty and its stark contrast to modern life. The shots can contain no wires no paved roads. Across from the cemetery is a 14 acre field surrounded by grey green rock walls and dotted with collections of stones yet to be laid. It has been for sale since spring and I noted yesterday that the sign said sold.

What will become of this longstanding visual gem. It will not be some garish modern architectural deposit. It is in the middle of the historic district. But, any building will diminish its appeal, at least to me.

I spent the majority of my business career escorting change through the cubbies and floors of insurance companies so I have no illusion that change can or really should be halted. Change should though factor the preservation on our common public goods into its final outcomes.

Too often the focus of most projects is the private interest of the individual or company. The change after all is initiated to benefit the individual. It is the American way. We have come to embrace this approach so dearly that consideration of public good issues have been relegated to the despicable class of socialist ideals. Unaware that the individualism of our capitalist mantra provides no solution to the problem of managing public goods our natural heritage is perpetually eroded and eventually to disappear into some mine shaft or housing development.

Dare I say this is a communal problem and unless we recognize it for what it is and empower and demand our local and state elected official to acknowledge communal values we will continue to chip away at our natural heritage. There are those who will say that this communal interest is political and social heresy. They are wrong. We need to find and elect those who will lead and march on the path to preserving our communal natural assets.

This will mean that private, individual and heretofore sacrosanct projects will need to altered in some way. And those who are managing those changes need to be careful that wholly artificial barriers to change do not arise to diminish the integrity of a more inclusive communal approach.

There is an old farm house on the back road beyond the cemetery that proudly flies the revolutionary flag "Don't Tread on Me". While many today tout this as a personal manifesto it was created for and flown as a United States flag. We would be wise to remember that we will rise and fall as a community together and that the individualism that has been the hallmark our success has its limitations; limitations that we can and should overcome through our aptly led governing bodies.



Fortuitous Funding for Fabulous Fall Fishing



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This little expedition started in a snowstorm.

My brother Russ and I attended the annual fly fishing expo at Eldredge Brothers Fly Shop on Route 1 in Cape Neddick, ME last March 28. It is a terrific show which highlights six or eight of the top rod makers and with a large part of the parking lot set up for casting, you are encouraged to try all of the newest models. This year we noted some of the new models were hollow fiberglass – a blast from the past. Well, in case you don't remember 3/28 was a cold, windy and snowy day, so after trying a few rods I went inside and checked out the booths where various artists, organizations, and outfitters had set up tables. Naturally these were all interesting and the folks were friendly – and there was hot coffee, too. Each of the tables had a raffle for this or that, and I submitted a few as we warmed up.

After a while we moved on to Brunswick for a brief visit with an old fishing buddy and then on to Freeport for the annual Atlantic Salmon Federation dinner. We found some old friends there too, and with some encouragement I managed to outbid the competition for the first live auction item – 8 bottles of Scotch. Now my motives were purely charitable as I know that the tone of a live auction can be set by the bidding on the first item offered, but when I got the call from Eldredge

Brothers a week or so later, it was fortunate I was able to set aside a 15 year old Macallan.

The call was to inform me I'd won a stay at the venerable Tim Pond Camps in Eustis, Maine. Two nights and three days with accommodations, meals, and the use of a boat and motor. When I called I was told that the early season fishing dates were pretty well booked, but September worked for me so I booked 9/23-25 and asked my brother to join me. We planned to leave Eustis on Friday and drive across Maine to my place on Love Lake in Crawford for some late season bass fishing over the weekend.

A few weeks later I found myself at the annual dinner/auction for the North Country TU chapter my brother attends. When I saw the silent auction was getting off to a slow start (remember, I'm charitable) I placed bids on each of the items to prime the pump. Item #1 was an Orvis Superfine Carbon rod, 4pc, 2oz, 7'6" for 3wt line. Now I didn't need that rod, and couldn't imagine what fishing could be done with such a teeny little thing. Most of my fly fishing in recent years has been for Atlantic salmon, and that needs a 6 or 7 weight at least. But though I bid only one more time (topping someone who had annoyed me earlier in the evening) I found myself going home with the 3 wt. And spending a few dollars more setting it up for Tim Pond.

Tim Pond Camps is the oldest continuous run Sporting Camp in New England. The property is currently owned, I'm told, by Yale university and leased to Harvey Calden and his wife Betty. They are experienced outfitters with a history in Labrador and Harvey is an accomplished bush pilot. You can drive in to the camps on a well maintained dirt road about 8 or 10 miles off the pavement or ask to be flown in (for an extra fee). The rest of the staff (some family) is friendly, talented and engaging. They take very good care of the guests. And when I was making the reservation I was told that I would be in company of some regulars of many years who would help me to learn the lake.

And that is just what we found. Before the first day was over two of the staff, Harvey and Bill, had each penciled in rocks, spring holes, and drop-off locations on the lake map that served as placemat in the dining room. And we had words of encouragement from the other guests as well. Our boat was assigned (#5) and whenever we got to the dock there was a staff member on hand to assist with the launch or the return and to give advice about the fishing. The boats are a fiberglass rendition of the Rangeley boat and equipped with dependable Mercury 4-stroke motors.

We fished the afternoon after a lunch of sandwiches and chips. There was dessert and coffee and cookies were always on hand in the dining room. The

effort.

There are 6 chapters of Trout Unlimited in New Hampshire and the State Council acts as the coordinating body for the chapters and addresses issues of statewide significance to our cold-water fisheries. Angling is a major form of outdoor recreation in New Hampshire, and TU regularly works with New Hampshire Fish and Game to both promote responsible angling and improve habitat for our cold water species.

Comments on the Northern Pass DEIS:

TU's principle concern regarding Northern Pass is the potential impact native and wild Eastern Brook Trout (EBT), a species of special concern in the NH Wildlife Action Plan. The EBT has also been a focal species for extensive inter-agency and NGO research (See the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. <http://easternbrooktrout.org>) because of its dramatic declines throughout its original range. While EBT has been eliminated through much of its range, northern New England remains a relative stronghold for this fish and an area where habitat protection and restoration are deemed especially important.

TU employs a scientific staff that has done extensive research on the impacts of climate change on cold-water species, including EBT. It is now clear that as the climate warms, trout are especially at risk because of their temperature limited habitat requirements. For example, EBT are known to become temperature stressed at levels exceeding 65 degrees F, and mortality can result when temperatures remain above 70 degrees F for any extended period.

The DEIS appears to make no mention of the potential impacts to EBT from above ground transmission corridors that cross small, cold-water tributaries of our major streams. Recent research by NHFG, the White Mountain National Forest and others has demonstrated that these cold-water streams are critical cold-water refuges for EBT and other species during hot summer periods, when larger stream temperatures exceed the requirements of EBT. These small streams often remain cold primarily because of complete canopy cover from the forested landscape. Where canopy cover is eliminated, on warm sunny days, solar radiation can create stream temperatures that exceed that needed for EBT. This can have two negative impacts: First the sun exposed streambed and stream water become too warm for EBT survival. Second, this "pulse" of warm water travels downstream making additional dis-

tances of stream habitat too warm for EBT survival. This can result in both mortality of small "young of year" EBT and prevent larger fish from travelling upstream to colder water refuges.

If such clearings are temporary, and trees are permitted to re-grow and provide shade, the impact can be short term (measured in years), but if power line corridors are frequently cut to keep vegetation low, the impact can be permanent, resulting in the loss of both upstream and downstream EBT habitat.

We do not know if this concern will affect many or only a few streams in the Northern Pass project, as the DEIS fails to discuss it at all. In fact, the DEIS says: (Alternative 2) "Impacts to aquatic species could result from direct mortality or injury to individuals and sensory disturbance. With implementation of the APMs (Applicant Proposed Measures) listed in Appendix H, such as the implementation of a SWPPP (Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan), avoidance of in-stream disturbance, and restoration of aquatic habitat following construction impacts to aquatic species as a whole would be minimized"

TU feels that this is a substantial missing component in the DEIS and wonders whether DOE even considered this impact in the preparation of the DEIS. This issue is neither mentioned in any of the evaluations of the alternatives nor is it listed among the issues dismissed from consideration.

TU's Preferred Alternative:

It is clear that any construction alternative has the potential to create short term impacts on EBT and other cold-water species. Storm events that overwhelm the SWPPP measures are not uncommon and climate change has increased the frequency of such events in the past few decades.

Because any construction poses short term impacts, TU is primarily concerned that whatever Alternative is chosen, that Best Management Practices not only be proposed, but diligently adhered to at every stage of construction.

Our concern about longer term impacts is greatest for the above ground Alternatives. We specifically note that the DEIS shows that the amount of land area that would be impacted by the project is greatest for the applicants preferred alternative, Alternative 2.

For example, in the Northern Section, (where EBT populations are strongest and currently the highest quality EBT habitat in NH is found) the DEIS states:

"... removal of 64 acres (26 ha) of various forest types, including conifer, deciduous and mixed

hard/softwood forests, within 100 feet (30 m) of a stream would result in secondary impacts to surface waters."

Underground alternatives, have considerably lower long term impacts on surface waters, and in most cases

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(except where roads are not used) would occur in already disturbed areas. The underground alternatives clearly pose a lower long term threat to cold-water fisheries, given the much smaller area of watershed that would be affected by construction.

In light of the above concerns, the NH TU Council strongly urges the DOE to select one of alternatives 4a, b, c, 6a or 6b as the preferred alternative. Further we oppose the construction of the proposed above ground transmission line anywhere in Coos County where the impacts to existing wild and native EBT populations are most robust and where above ground construction has the greatest potential to negatively effect this species of special concern.

Sincerely,

Tom Ives, TU NH Council Chair
On behalf of the NH TU Council

Thanks to Paul Doscher for reporting the circumstances around Tom's letter

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were eager to take and good fighters. And they were in full spawning colors so very beautiful to see. Russ did land one that might have been 14 inches but we didn't measure as we were getting them back into the water as soon as possible.

Thursday was much the same as Wednesday as far as fishing and meals. Tim Pond Camps provides excellent meals featuring homemade bread and deserts, their own wine, and generous portions of well cooked meals. Russ and I fished after breakfast, but it was a bit windy. We learned from the staff that no one fishes by wading and we wondered about that as much of the action was near the shore. We found the fish again in the twilight and had a second evening of fun.

It was well below freezing Friday morning so we opted to stoke the woodstove and stay in bed rather than fish before breakfast (served from 7 to 8). The stove heated the cabin well, and though it was an aged log construction with uneven floors, it was clean and comfortable and had a full modern bathroom. The power is on from 5AM to 10 PM with exception of a couple of hours in the afternoon, but cabins are equipped with oil lamps as well as cribbage boards and rockers on the porch.

As it was windy again after breakfast, we checked out and drove across to Love Lake in time to fish around the lake before dinner. Accommodations there were also fine, with lobster for dinner Friday night and fresh bass fillets for lunch on Saturday.

I think I'll get a nice hard case for that 3wt so I can keep it in the car ready for action.

Jim Staples

weather was unseasonably warm and sunny for September and we found no trout until after dinner (spaghetti and meat balls). But then we were in trout fishing heaven. The native brookies (Tim Pond has never been stocked) were hungry and rising all over the cove we were in. With 320 acres to spread out, we were pretty much alone and casting to the rising trout was quite effective. The 3wt Orvis rod was easy to cast and though the flies were smaller than what I am accustomed to tossing around, I found luck first with a mayfly pattern and then a Royal Wulff while Russ used a Hornberg and then a tiny grasshopper. The trout weren't large, mostly 6 to 8 inches but they

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.

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Calendar

November 19 2015

Chapter Meeting
At the usual place

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