



Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter
Trout Unlimited

Troutlines

www.concordtu.org

November 2016

**Chapter Meeting
Basil W. Woods Jr.
Next Chapter Meeting
Is
November 17, 2016**

Inside the North Country

See below

:Officers

President
Alex Hicks
Vice President
March McCubrey
Secretary:
Nancy May
Treasurer:
Richard Kingston

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Bill Hall
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Tim Pease
Bob Ives
Steven Lowe
Ken Welch
Charlie Stumb
George Embley
Peter Denoncourt

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Mr. Colles Stowell of One Fish Foundation in Falmouth Maine. piqued our interest last month with tell tales from the sea that bear remembering for consumer and environmentalist alike; a caution to inspect the sustainable label for adverse outcomes caused not only by harvesting but also by transportation, a wary eye towards collateral damage to species and ecosystems in harvesting too. Who can forget the dolphin damage in the tuna catch of days past. And while farming the sea offers tantalizing opportunities it is burdened with the need for managing the fallout of concentrated waste and the proliferation of drugs used to promote fish health and growth.

It is reassuring to have One Fish with its focus raising public awareness on these issues often overlooked in traditional reporting

Inside the North Country

Bill Thompson North Country Angler proprietor and guide shares stories and some of the “lesser known” of the Saco and Androscoggin watersheds interwoven with some stories of one of the longest running Fly-fishing emporiums in the state.

Join Bill at the TU meeting Wednesday night November 17, 2016. Come early for the social at 6pm Bill starts at 7PM.. Enjoy



Maine Atlantic Salmon Restoration

I recently returned from a cruise up the Rhine river and so doing came to realize that it was once prior to 1950 a significant Salmon River. Alas industrialization and incumbent pollutants have rendered it a

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Presidential Commentary — Alex Hicks



Hi Folks,

The leaves are rapidly falling from the trees and the lakes are pretty quiet. Most of the docks are out and the wood is starting to come in. If you're like me, you've been hunting for all of the cold weather gear that helps with the seasonal transition from pleasantly cool to crisp and refreshing. I'm looking for my mittens with the flip-over covers for my fingers.... With any luck, I'll find them before the water gets hard.

This season has been tough on our cold-water friends. Last year's mild winter, combined with limited rainfall certainly challenged the fish to find their refuge places during the warm weather. Some of our favorite ponds and streams saw their lowest levels in a very long time. I hope that this winter provides opportunities for watersheds to recover a bit and set them up for what is likely a long process of rejuvenation. Mother Nature can do some amazing things - let's hope she's up to the task on this one. All over the state, TU chapters are working to help. You can find volunteers working on everything from education outreach to "hands in the water" stream restoration projects. This chapter is no different and we can help you find ways to help, too. If you have some time to spare, please let us know.

If you haven't heard – our chapter has a new treasurer. Brad Towle, our previous treasurer, has headed off on a new great adventure in his life that takes him away from opportunities to help us. We wish him well and welcome Richard Kingston as the new chapter treasurer. Richard is a long-time chapter member and if you've been to a chapter banquet, you've seen him there as the MC. Richard has been the chapter treasurer before and we're glad (and lucky!) to have him volunteer his time and take on the role of treasurer again.

The State Council has been working to get next summer's Trout Camp setup. They've welcomed a new director – Phil Donovan. Phil is a long-time member of our chapter and has a

background that makes him a great choice as the new Trout Camp director. We'll have more to share on this later – in the meantime, be thinking of children between the ages of 13 and 16 that might enjoy a week at trout camp this summer. We'll have Parker Richardson in at the November meeting to speak a bit about his trip to camp last summer. If you're looking to hear what Trout Camp is all about, he can answer your questions.

In this issue of Troutlines, Paul Doscher bring us news from this year's TU National Annual Meeting in Bozeman Montana. It sounds like it was a great meeting and that there was plenty of information to bring back. Check out what Paul has to say here and then head to www.TU.org to find the video of Chris Wood's State of TU - 2016 speech. While you're there, you might notice all of the information that they have to share - TU's website is well worth the visit!

October's presentation at the chapter meeting by Colles Stowell from One Fish Foundation was great. Tim sums up the presentation nicely on page one of this newsletter. Some of the statistics that Colles had were startling, as are some of the practices used to make sure we have easy access to the seafood that we enjoy. The take-away was to make sure to consider all aspects of how a sustainable product is produced and not to be afraid to ask questions about where your food comes from (and how it got to your plate). If you have a chance, click on over to www.onefishfoundation.org and see some of the information there about One Fish Foundation and their education outreach programs. Be sure to save the date for November's meeting (the 17th) when we'll have another great presenter in. We meet the third Thursday of most months at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire forests building at 54 Portsmouth Street in Concord. We're there at 6:00 for a bit of social time and guest speakers and programs start at 7:00. Hope to see you there!

Tight lines,
~Alex

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relic. The trip coincided with what was previously the season for catching the brood stock salmon associated with the now defunct federally supported Atlantic Salmon Restoration project. My funk led me to remember an article sent to me by Jim Timmins from the May edition of Fly Fisherman magazine. Most of what is below is excerpted directly from that article. Perhaps there is yet hope for these great fish.

It seems that Mr. Peter Gray had successfully reintroduced salmon stocks to the river Tyne and was in the process turning his efforts to returning salmon to the Machias river in Maine when he passed away suddenly in 2012—the same year that first batch of 80,000 eggs were hatched at the facility that now bears his name. Hanging on the wall of the facility just above the feeding tanks is a wooden plaque that says merely “raising athletes.” The newly hatched eggs went straight into incubation boxes designed by Peter Gray. The Kielder substrate incubator isn’t just a bare box of aerated water, it contains artificial gravel that simulates the habitat that would nurture the alevins in the wild.

“Peter’s box allows the individual fish to swim out when they want, and when they are ready, rather than when the hatchery manager visually determines they are ready and



Orri Vigfússon, chairman of the North Atlantic Salmon

dumps them all into the feeding tank,” says Shaw. “That one step in the process produces much healthier fish going into the next stage.” It takes four to six weeks in the incubator for the alevins to dissolve their yolk. In the wild, when the yolk is gone the alevins swim up out of the river cobble just when the insect life is developing to feed them.

The newly built Peter Gray Hatchery is a flow-through streamside hatchery—just like the Kielder Hatchery on the Tyne.

“Our water is not coming out of a well or pond like so many other hatcheries, it’s coming from the East Machias River so we are re-

lying on 10,000 years of evolutionary connection between the fish and their river to raise wild fish and preserve their genetic legacy,” says Shaw. “We don’t filter the water so there are insects and other and natural variations in water chemistry and temperature coming into the feeding tanks—the hatchery is essentially an extension of the river.”

In most hatcheries the feeding tanks are painted blue to make observation easier for hatchery employees. However, Gray found that observation is an anathema to salmon fry, and in order to hide, they all gathered where the water source entered the tank, using rippled water as cover. That competition for extremely limited space causes excessive fin biting that kills some fry, and leaves the rest with damaged fins that hinder their long-term ability to survive in the wild.

Gray strongly believed that intact fins are a critical part of raising little athletes and he found that when he painted the feeding tanks black, the salmon dispersed evenly throughout the entire feeding tank, preserving the fin quality and enhancing the vitality of the fish.

Timing is Everything

Most of the millions of Atlantic salmon stocked as part of state and federal recovery programs over the past 30 or more years were dumped in the river as salmon fry in the spring after only about a month in a feeding tank. This, according to Peter Gray, is the single most important reason for the hatchery failures of the past. Just a month after dissolving their yolk, the fry are ill-equipped to deal with variable spring/summer flows, escape predators, or to compete with other fish for food and territory.

“Gray believed that 90 percent or more of released hatchery fry died before spending a year in a river,” said Michael Charleston, co-author of *Swimming Against the Tide*. “He was sure that an autumn release of even 1,000 salmon parr would produce more returning adults than 90,000 ready-to-feed fry.

Gray’s primary directive was to keep the fry in the hatchery more than twice as long and to produce larger, healthier, and stronger parr to be released in the fall.

To prepare them for to release, Gray trained them the same way as many other

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Report from the TU National Annual Meeting

Submitted by Paul Doscher

As most of you know, the TU national annual meeting was held this year in late September in Bozeman, Montana. What a great venue for a meeting! There was one day of hosted fishing with local TU members and a record number of attendees took to the streams. I got to spend the day on a spring creek near Livingston and was successful at catching about a dozen nice cuttbows (rainbow and cutthroat hybrids) and a couple browns on tiny midge flies.

There is always a conservation tour at the annual meeting, and this year it focused on partnerships to protect wetlands, water and streams. Right in the city of Bozeman, TU collaborated with the city and the Trust for Public Land to acquire some critical wetlands and riparian lands along Bozeman Creek, a tributary to the East Gallatin River. Also visited was a diversion 'ditch' along the Madison River that was recently restored into a small but very productive 'spring creek' stream.

The meetings consisted of sessions for the general membership on various issues with a particular focus on public lands. As many of you know, some in Congress have been pushing legislation that would 'transfer' to the states massive amounts of National Forest land, for the states to do with as they please. TU has taken a strong position in favor of protecting these lands that are the birthright of all Americans, and in many places hold the headwaters of our best cold water streams and rivers.

The National Leadership Council work groups met for two days and then had it's annual meeting. March McCubrey, (Basil Woods member) NH NLC representative was unable to attend so Art Greene of the Ammonoosuc Chapter filled in for him. Also attending from NH was Ammo Chapter chair Ron Oulette who filled in for our Council Chair Tom Ives who was unable to make the trip.

Art and Ron commented at our recent NH

Council meeting that they were very impressed with the various work sessions and seminars and especially pleased to be able to connect with great TU volunteers from all across the country.

The meeting heard from both CEO/President Chris Wood who had his usual inspiring report on just a few of the huge number of great projects being advanced by TU staff and volunteers around the country. NLC Chair Mick McCorcle talked about the "State of the Grassroots" and picked a few highlights of chapters that have become highly engaged in their communities and expanded the outreach of TU through their work. One of his examples was the great work of the Ammo Chapter over the past year.

Many were pleased to hear that after a year of some financial challenges, the National financial picture is back in sound territory. The recent fiscal year ended in balance and the coming year budget is projecting an appropriate surplus. New financial controls and policies are in place to reflect the recent growth of the organization and Matt Renaud, our new CFO was complimented on his work in this area.

As the Secretary of the National Leadership Council, I had an interesting challenge keeping notes of the annual meeting of the NLC. Most of the agenda was typical of the meeting: electing officers (Mick and I were reelected as chair and secretary) hearing work group reports and revising the National Conservation Agenda (you can see it on the TU web site). There was a thoughtful and substantive discussion about the new statement on climate change proposed by the Climate Change Work Group, with some members expressing reluctance to approve it because of some concern that it would effect some chapters relationships with members who work in the fossil fuel industry. But the discussion was respectful and the statement was eventually approved overwhelmingly, after it was endorsed by Chief Scientist Jack Williams and VP for Policy Steve Moyer.

The new statement is:

Statement on Cold-Water Conservation by

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the Climate Change Work Group
Passed by the NLC, September 30, 2016

Trout Unlimited's (TU) conservation approach of "protect, reconnect, restore and sustain" is ingrained into the fabric and policies of TU and is a unifying force of the organization. This conservation mission, instituted to protect and enhance cold-water habitats and the creatures that live within them, is consistent with an "adaptive" response to climate change. TU's NLC Climate Change Work Group supports this policy. Habitat improvements at the core of TU's mission are the same habitat improvement needed to moderate the negative impacts of a changing climate on cold-water ecosystems. It is almost as if TU's long-standing conservation platform was designed in response to climate change adaptation.

However, there are additional responses to a changing climate that are outside TU's normal adaptive responses; namely to 'mitigate' the forces driving climate change, particularly those forces of human origin that humans can potentially alter. By lessening the negative potential of a changing climate through mitigation, adaptation will have a greater likelihood of maintaining and enhancing the cold-water habitats at the core of TU's mission. TU's support for carbon policies and renewable energy systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the TU Energy Policy is a mitigation strategy to hasten the shift to low-carbon energy sources and conservation of resources.

There are multiple policy options to encour-

age movement to lower-carbon emissions. TU should seek opportunities to encourage the use of the suite of policy options to discourage continued use of high-carbon fossil fuels and other intensive greenhouse gas producing processes and to encourage low-carbon, low-greenhouse gas options, including energy conservation. TU is not specifying the design of such a policy, but recognizes the potential benefits of climate change mitigation and encourages consideration of all policy options, including market systems that place a fee or limit on the emissions of greenhouse gases.

The NLC Climate Change Work Group encourages TU, through TU leadership at all levels, to act, whether alone or with other organizations, to encourage implementation of policies for carbon reduction as soon as possible to minimize the cold-water impacts of climate disruption. This action will help achieve the goals of TU's central mission consistent with the existing policy, mitigate climate disruption, and complement the adaptation efforts of the current conservation agenda.

TU members are urged to take personal responsibility for their own fossil fuel energy usage and carbon emissions at their homes and businesses in recognition of need for all of us to maximize conservation, energy efficiency and the use of renewables whenever possible to help mitigate climate change

Check out the presentations if you like

<https://vimeo.com/187208795>

<https://vimeo.com/188840554>

Basil Woods



Fly Tying Class

Professional fly tiers Ken Welch and Jeddy Waterman will lead the 2017 classes for both beginning and intermediate tiers. Beginning January 10, 2017 weekly instruction will take place in the cozy confines of the Passaconaway Club on Garvins Falls Rd. in Concord. Six weeks /6 flies (\$50) for the beginners and five weeks and 10 flies (\$75) for the intermediates . **All tools and materials are provided for the class.** There is no better way to pass the cold winter nights than tying flies reliving last years catches and planning for the spring opening. Nothing matches the satisfaction of catching fish on flies you have tied. Maybe your sons, daughters and grand kids should come too. It is a hobby for a lifetime.

Look for sign up sheets in the December issue of TroutLines or contact Ken Welch earlier by leaving a message on <http://concordtu.org>. Contact Us. Stay on your toes for this one It is likely we have a waiting list this year

athletes—making them swim on a treadmill (of sorts).

“To produce little athletes, you need to keep them moving constantly, so what we do is increase the water velocity gradually over time as the fish are growing, so we are training the fish to constantly fight that current,” said Shaw. “It’s not something you usually see in a hatchery but it helps our fish stay sleek and toned. They come out with beautiful fins and are really wild looking.”

In 2012 the hatchery started with 80,000 eggs, and stocked 52,000 fall parr. The goal is to stock nearly half a million fall parr annually, and every year, the national fish hatchery has been providing more and more eggs. In 2013, 2014, and 2015, the DSF stocked 77,568, 149,815, and 192,032 fall parr respectively, but Shaw wants to stock many more.

“We have not yet stocked the density we’re after, we’d like to stock 400,000 annually. Bringing salmon back to the East Machias is really a numbers game, we’re not talking about the California condor with one egg every four years, we’re talking about an animal with incredible fecundity,” said Shaw “What we’re attempting to do is to quadruple the stocking rate, but to do that we need more hatchery capacity and more eggs.”

The East Machias project is now in its fourth year of a five-year contract with the NASF. In the summer of 2016 they expect to see the first results of the first parr stocking, with adult salmon hatched at the Peter Gray Hatchery returning to the East Machias.

“In 2015 the total number of salmon redds in the river was only seven, so the population of wild Atlantic salmon in the river is on the brink of extinction,” said Shaw. “If we can get that number of redds to start moving up the scale instead of down, we have accomplished something much different than what has been done in the past 100 years. It’ll take some time to get to where we want to go, the first step is just moving forward in the right direction.”

If the DSF can perfect Peter Gray’s stocking methodology on the East Machias, and get that river on the road to recovery, it could be implemented on all the former salmon rivers of Maine.

“My hope is that the hatchery techniques we are experimenting with in Maine will work on the East Machias as it worked on the River Tyne,” said Vigfússon. “In ten years I’d be thrilled if we had a self-sustaining run on the East Machias, and hatcheries using the same methodology on several other rivers in Maine.”

Let’s all hope that Vigfússon’s dream comes true, because if it doesn’t work, we could be witnessing the final days of wild Atlantic salmon in the United States. For more information, or to make donations to NASF or its Maine Restoration project please contact Orri at nasf@vortex.is. Atlantic Salmon Hatchery

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

November 17, 2016 **Chapter Meeting**

January 10, 2017 **Flyt Tying begins**

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