



Troutlines

Special Points of Interest

- Trout in the Classroom
- Horse Shows and Fishing
- Bamboo Rod Making Report

Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar

October Chapter Meeting
Thursday, Oct 18

November Chapter Meeting
Thursday, November 15

See Calendar on page 6 for more information.

Inside this issue:

Presidential Commentary	2
Editor's Soapbox	2
Bob Ives	3
Bamboo Rod Making	4

Trout in the Classroom

This season's Trout in the Classroom projects are gearing up for another big year. New volunteers and teachers have gone through TIC training, NH Fish & Game continues to expand its educational outreach, and TU chapters are sending volunteers and funds to this important program.

As Judy Tumosa's report from last season shows, TIC is something all involved TU chapters should be proud of.

The Fish are Free . . .

by Judy Tumosa, NH F&G Watershed Education Specialist

Dateline: May, 2012

In the words of one of my students, *it has been a "fintastic" year* for the Trout in the Classroom program. All 50 schools, 1200 students, and 40 volunteers for grades K-12 have had excellent success in their brook trout survival rates and have really enjoyed watching the eggs develop. One kindergarten student was surprised but delighted to see them grow into "real" fish, I'm not sure what else he was expecting. The students are now stocking their fingerlings in the local rivers and celebrating the year with watershed congresses and river field days. They wanted me to say "thank you" to the hatchery staffs at Berlin, New Hampton and Powder Mill for providing such healthy eggs and helpful assistance with tank care and fish culture questions. Thank you also to the fisheries biologists for being classroom liaisons and sharing

Trout in the Classroom, continued page 5

Next TU Generation

Former chapter president March McCubrey sent this picture of his 5-year old son Grant and some beautiful brookies he caught on his dad's fly rod. They were trolling streamers this spring in a White Mountain pond. Chapter members have seen Grant casting a spinning rod at Fred Osgood's Hot Hole Pond spring picnic when he was much younger. March says that Grant only wants to fish with flies and is after Dad to teach him how to cast.



This budding outdoorsman likes to keep and eat a few. According to March he likes them fried and eats the tail "like a potato chip".

Presidential Commentary - Dan Stickney

Happy October!

TU is essentially a grassroots volunteer organization - we all know that.

We have something on the order of 150,000 members nationwide; that's potentially a lot of effort to be applied to projects, and we're pretty good at getting boots on the ground when a task comes up, which is something to be proud of in a time when everyone's busier today than they were yesterday.

That said, I'm going to ask for more from you.

Our Chapter has had a number of projects in the works during the last year: Trout in the Classroom, stream surveying, Youth Fishing Day, and a few events where we've been asked to tie flies or teach folks to cast come to mind.

These are all things that we feel are important as an organization- of that I'm sure. Kids are conservationists in the making, most of us have run into someone interested in learning to cast a fly rod, and tying flies looks like magic to lots of folks.

We have a wide variety of life experiences and skills to tap into in this Chapter, and many of us step up to share those skills, but it tends to be the same group of people most of the time. Every organization has a solid core of folks who do the lion's

share of the work - that's a given, and it's fine.

I'd like to expand that group within our Chapter, but I'm not sure how to do it.

I think that a place to start is to build a list of folks who have some time and/or skills to share. To that end, if you read this note and it strikes a chord with you, please send a short e-mail to concordtu@yahoo.com letting us know that you're available and interested in getting more involved.

I'm not looking for someone to commit to every event that we do over the course of the year - though that'd certainly be welcome. I'd just love to have a few folks to call on who have a little time to give a couple of times a year, because there have been events that we've had to decline because we haven't been able to come up with volunteers to sit at a table or hold a flyrod or just chat with people about what makes TU special. I'd like to change that.

Don't expect that someone else will speak up and not do so yourself; it's like voting: it works best when we all get involved.

Thanks for thinking about it, and I hope to hear from some of you.

See you at the meetings ~ Dan

Editor's Soapbox - Gordon Riedesel

While drifting size 20 midge nymphs with 7X tippets in the clear, trout-filled mountain waters of the Davidson River in western North Carolina last month, I had time to watch a local angler actually catch some of that river's famously difficult-to-catch rainbows and browns. The fish in this stretch of river are abundant, large, muscular, wild, and very, very picky. I told him as I was leaving that it was fun to watch him succeed. Turns out he is an active member of the Pisgah TU chapter.

We chatted about what flies work, large fish caught, the beautiful hole which always holds 200 sizeable trout and why that spot is known as the "H" hole: Humility Hole; Humble Hole; or Hell Hole - it's your pick. Freshly humbled, I asked about what the Pisgah TU Chapter was doing. It turns out they have about 300 members, just a bit smaller than the Basil Woods Chapter. They recently had completed 900 feet of spilt rail fencing along the most active portion of the Davidson, had built an accessible platform, and put

together some great information at the kiosk next to the parking area which included actual flies that are used in that stretch. It was great for anglers, curious visitors, and the overall experience. TU Chapters matter and it was great to see what our colleagues from other chapters do.



Why I Go to Weekend Horse Shows by Bob Ives

I finally found a way to enjoy my daughter's horse show events. There was a show at the Cheshire fairgrounds in the Keene area in July. I happened to stop at a local sporting goods store that just happened to sell fishing gear. As I was describing the finer points of horse shows to the fellow next to me at the fly selection counter, he mentioned Cold Brook. Having immediately demanded directions, I proceeded to the fairgrounds to feign interest in the wonderful event and to share my wife and daughter's horse enthusiasm. And so with a quick kiss I was off to find the legendary Cold Brook.

The Cold Brook I found was no perfect trout haven. The water was extremely low, a disappointing mere trickle. As I followed the trickle down stream I was stunned by the its confluence with the Connecticut where these mighty rivers join forces. At some recent point, Cold Brook must have been a raging torrent. There at the confluence, Cold Brook was Amazon-like – having pushed a delta two thirds of the way across the Connecticut River. On the far bank flows a deep swift run that has to be seen to be believed.

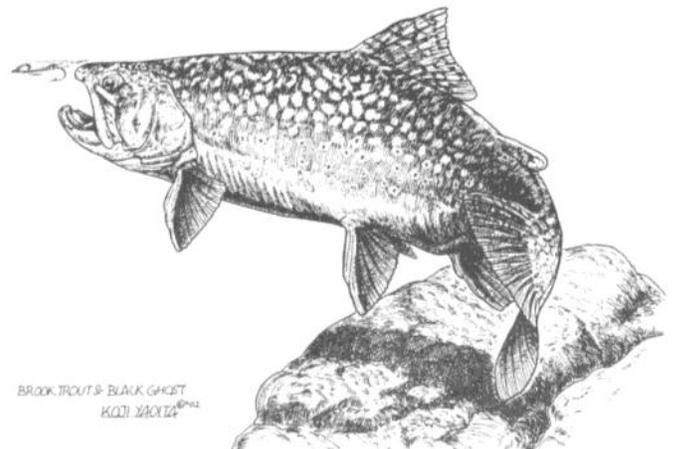
I could see trout rolling and nearly killed myself on the slippery cobble delta getting to a place where I could offer my fly to these ravenously feeding fish. My offerings went intentionally unnoticed by the fish for cast after cast. Finally in desperation, I crawled on my hands and knees searching for the source of their desire to leap from the water as they fed with abandon.

I finally found what I thought was the answer to my frantic search when a delightful little Blue Winged Olive landed on my nose. Thankfully, I had procured several BWOs from the sporting goods store. Now I precisely casted a perfect, stealthy drift. As expected, a trout in the 16 inch range came forth to view my offering. This was looking real good. But then it backed off, gave me the fin and leaped clear of

the water right over my fly line. After several more impotent attempts I left dejected but satisfied knowing that I will return to do battle again at next year's horse show – which, by the way, I really look forward to.



Bob Ives is a frequent contributor of fine fishing literature to TROUTLINES. He is an advisor to the board of directors and former director. His fishing stories always contain an element of truth.



Troutlines

October, 2012

Cane and Able

by Gordon Riedesel

I know there are many out there who take working vacations. It is just so easy these days to work while away from the office, store, field, or slave galley. I guess iron ball and chains have been replaced by their digital equivalents which make gravity look puny compared to the pull of that bleeping e-mail, text message, or call.

I am fortunate to be in that generation where technology is not a barrier – in fact, it's part of our lives. But growing up when telephones shared party lines, the vacuum tubes in black and white televisions had to be replaced by your dad every few months, and when typewriters didn't need to be plugged in means that we know life can be lived without today's high technology. All generations have to discover their own ways to balance life from the past with that of the present.

As part of a long overdue vacation, my wife and I headed to the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky mountains of North Carolina. Tucked away in the far western corner – just north of Georgia and just east of Tennessee – is the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC. It was founded in 1925 as a place where local arts, crafts, and culture could be maintained, preserved and promoted. It flourishes today offering weeklong and weekend classes in blacksmithing, carving, pottery, quilting, storytelling, nature studies, jewelry making, traditional music, instrument making, folk dancing, cooking, etc, etc, etc. I was drawn to the bamboo fly rod making class taught by Doug Hall of Decatur, Georgia. Doug teaches bamboo rod making four times each year at Campbell and limits the class to 6 participants. Although away from home and work, the five days at Campbell qualified as a working vacation. Making a pre-graphite, pre-fiberglass flyrod was like stepping back in time when high tech was mechanical, not digital.

Although woodworking skills proved helpful, making a two-piece bamboo fly rod for the first time was a challenge. When Doug pulled out

dial indicators and vernier calipers, I knew this wasn't going to be a bird house project. The six of us were eager students and, fortunately for us, Doug was an excellent and experienced teacher. He had the tools, the supplies, experience, and ability to walk us through the many and precise steps required to make a bamboo fly rod.

Cane. Tonkin Cane is not your ordinary bamboo. Fly rod bamboo grows in an area in China the size on one New Hampshire town. It grows straight, strong, is dense, and flexible. What the fly rod maker has to do is to size it down to six, perfect 60 degree wedges that precisely taper for a specific fly rod design.

First, the seasoned bamboo is split into ½ inch mated strips, then shaped by a special router jig to approximate 60 degree strips. We wrapped the six pieces of the butt section together then heat treated them for seven minutes in Doug's bamboo tempering oven at 350 degrees. It smelled a bit like popcorn.

A two-piece bamboo fly rod requires six perfectly mated strips for the butt section and six for the tip section. With three matching pairs for each section you set up your planing form. The planing form consists of two parallel square rods joined every five inches with a pull and push screws. The center has been milled to form a 60 degree tapering slot between the two square rods. One side of the form is for shaping the butt section, the other for the tip. With a dial indicator you set up the exact depth at each five inch measuring point. If all goes well, when you plane the six bamboo strips, they will be identical. Did I mention you use vernier calipers to check the thickness of each strip to an accuracy of .001 inches? The smallest section of the rod tip measures .068" when finished – requiring a single strip to be half that – or .034". I almost felt like junior machinist at one point before reality set in. Frequent sharpening of the block plane, several band-aids (cane is very sharp), repeatedly checking dimensions, and help from Doug and his accurate planing forms meant all of us managed to make properly tapering bamboo strips with 60 degree interior angles.

Glue-up was a kindergartener's dream. We set up our mated strips so they would lie across from one another in the final rod. Some masking tape and an assistant held the strips in place as we spread DAP plastic resin glue over the six strips. When fully coated, the bundle was re-joined to its near final form. There was lots of squeeze out (a kindergarten dream).



Gluing up the six tapered strips.

The bundle was snugly wrapped with strong upholstery thread. If there was a bend or curve in the rod at this point, you rolled the rod as you would bread sticks until it was straight and true. The glued and bundled rod butt sections were hung to dry and cure overnight. The next day, the thread was unwrapped and the exterior sanded free of glue. The beginning of a real cane rod was emerging. The process was repeated for the tip section. But tip sections are so much smaller that you really had to concentrate to make sure you didn't break one or mess it up.

The nickel silver ferrules were next. They required shaping as did the attachment points for a snug fit. After all the work making strips, it came as no surprise that the male and female

ferrules didn't fit together. We had to get them to size so that they would be just loose enough to fit together but come apart with a pop. Only a few hours with coarse steel wool was required for that job. The week was coming to an end and Campbell's show-and-tell gathering was imminent. We selected our cork handles and reel seats and dry fit them. It was off to the gathering where we saw the wonderful creativity of the Folk School. At this point, the rods were about 85 percent complete and looked like the real deal. Doug offers a weekend class to finish the rods where you varnish them, wrap the guides with silk, and attach the handle and reel seat. Although I couldn't stay I am doing that in my own workshop now. I think it will be quite a rod to own and fish and pass down someday. This was a great working vacation and I found out where there was cane, I was able.

For information on Bamboo Rod Making and other great classes at the John C. Campbell Folk School, visit: www.folkschool.org

Trout in the Classroom, continued from page 1

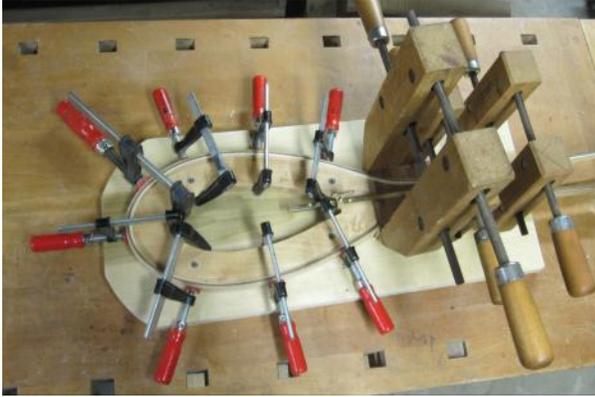
knowledge about the Eastern brook trout. Our partners at Trout Unlimited continue to be very generous as well with their time and resources.

I recently made a presentation with two of the north country teachers at the Ammonoosuc Chapter Trout Unlimited meeting. I wish you could have seen the quality of the watershed curricula that they have developed for their elementary and middle school students, all centered around the trout eggs they had in their care. The trout provide the focus for the students to make them really care about the health of their water and you are a part of that message. As the elementary school principal remarked, "The students really get it, the connection between them, the fish, and their own neighborhood and how their actions go beyond just themselves". That is the greatest testament to success that we can achieve. The schools are already looking forward to next year and so am I.

October 2012 Chapter Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 7:00 PM

Forest Society, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord



Making Catch and Release Nets will be October's presentation. Chapter member Gordon Riedesel will discuss the process of making Catch and Release Nets. He has been making fine furniture since 1981 and decided to combine woodshop fun with angling fun by attempting to make a simple net. There will be samples of finished nets, nets in progress, tools, wood, custom tools and forms.

Calendar

Thursday, October 4. TU Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, October 18. Chapter Meeting. 7:00 PM, Society for the Protection of NH Forests, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord.

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.

Always check the chapter website for news and updates.
www.concordtu.org

Welcome New Members

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

Griffin Nyhan

Ethan Stockman



Trout Unlimited is dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and protection of North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

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.

Basil Woods Jr. Chapter TU
PO Box 3302
Concord NH 03302-3302

www.concordtu.org

e-mail: concordtu@yahoo.com