



Troutlines

Special Points of Interest

National Award for Doscher
Fly Tying Classes!

Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar

Last Day for Designated Trout Ponds - Tuesday October 15

October Chapter Meeting
Angus Boezeman
Thursday, October 17

November Chapter Meeting
Marla Blair
Thursday, November 21

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Chapter's Paul Doscher Receives National Volunteer Leadership Award

From TU.org September 30, 2013

Longtime TU volunteer and outgoing trustee Paul Doscher is this year's winner of the prestigious Ray Mortensen Award for Volunteer Leadership, which is given annually to the volunteer who makes an extraordinary contribution to local coldwater fisheries conservation efforts.



Paul Doscher and TU President Chris Wood at TU's annual meeting last week in Madison, Wisconsin. Photo by Heidi Oberstadt

Doscher has served TU at every level, volunteering as a chapter leader for his Basil Woods Chapter in his home state of New Hampshire, and on the New Hampshire state council. He served as New Hampshire's representative on the National Leadership Council and he just concluded his service on TU's board of trustees.

In recent years, Paul has helped TU make unparalleled progress in its

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Winter Fly Tying Classes Returning

The chapter fly tying classes are soon to be up and running. We will be offering our time-tested fly tying courses beginning Tuesday, January 7th, 2014.



The six-week beginner's class is open to anyone - no experience is required. The chapter is supplying in-class materials and vises for up to 15 participants. Some of the beginner flies include: Streamers: Mickey Finn and Black Ghost; Nymphs: Leadwing Coachman and Hare's Ear Nymph; Dry Fly: Light Cahill; and the infamous Woolly Bugger. The fee for the beginner class is \$50.

The intermediate class begins February 18th and runs for 5 weeks. Participants who have some experience, want a refresher, or complete the beginner's class will enjoy the intermediate course. As in the beginner class, in-class materials and vises for up to 15 participants will be provided. Typical patterns for the intermediate course include: Zonkers; Hornburg; Muddler; Deceiver; Nine-Three Streamer; Adams; the Glitter Bug; classic Go-To Dries - Elk Hair Caddis and the gorgeous Royal Wulff; and finally, the locally famous Merrimack Salmon Fly. The fee for the intermediate class is \$75.

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Presidential Commentary - George Embley



I enjoyed our first meeting of the year. It was good time to renew acquaintances and talk about the year ahead. Tom Ives, former president of our chapter, talked about his plans as newly elected chairman of the NH TU State Council. We also discussed the trout survey work done on the Warner River this summer and viewed an episode of the Trout Unlimited TV program that described the conservation work on the Connecticut River - featuring Jim Norton, Diane Timmins and our own Angus Boezeman. And by the way, at our October 17th meeting, Angus will entertain us with fishing tales and techniques. Anyone who has heard Angus present looks forward to the next time. He is energetic, funny, and informative. If you haven't been to a chapter meeting, or if it has been a while, please consider a visit to the Forest Society HQ for this one. George Cumming is lining up some good programs for the rest of the year and VP March McCubrey is making sure there are good raffle prizes at each meeting. In November Marla Blair, a well known guide

and fly fishing instructor, will present a program entitled "Hatch and Body language of trout".

I just finished an excellent book by Mark Reisner entitled *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water*. There was not a lot about the effect of the West's water crisis on fish but he did discuss the negative impact of western dams and diversions on Pacific Salmon, ending with the conclusion: "That is the sometimes fatal weakness of anadromous fish: By insisting on spawning in rivers and estuaries, they are like an army trapped in a mountain cul-de-sac, easy pickings for forces, natural or unnatural (which is to say human) that are far beyond their control." He also noted in passing that by the time the Grand Coulee Dam was built in 1942 - ending the greatest salmon run in the world - Atlantic salmon had almost been wiped out in the East. This was due in large part to overfishing, but the kiss of death was the loss of spawning habitat due to dams.

In recent years, efforts have been made to restore populations of Atlantic salmon in Maine rivers, and in the Connecticut and the Merrimack. But a year ago the Connecticut River Salmon Restoration Program was ended. And, as many of you know by now, at a meeting of the Merrimack River Policy Committee held on September 5, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a press release stating that the 38 year-old Merrimack River Restoration Program would end this year. While they provided a lot of "scientific" reasons for the decision, they also admitted that declining budgets had hastened it.

One obvious factor driving the decision was the very low return of adult salmon this year - only 22 fish. The USFWS noted that in both the Connecticut and the Merrimack, the salmon returns have been limited due to poor marine survival, in-river habitat degradation, and dams that impede fish migration. In my mind, the most important factor is the marked lack of success in mitigating the harmful effect of dams. This failure has caused even many of the most ardent supporters of the Connecticut and Merrimack river salmon restoration programs to lose faith.

So now the Wildlife Service will focus on recovery of endangered Atlantic salmon in Gulf of Maine rivers - where remain the last wild Atlantic salmon in the U.S. While dam removal programs have been more successful there, the other issues remain. One can only hope that declining budgets will not hasten a decision to end that program as well. We (Trout Unlimited) attended the Policy Committee meeting and did object to the Committee's decision to end the Merrimack River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program - noting in particular that they were not even carrying out the scaled-back program they had committed to continue into 2015. Furthermore, as I mentioned in last month's newsletter, there had been recent successes with wild spawning of salmon in the Baker and Souhegan rivers. But at this point, unless something unexpected happens to reverse this decision, the last remaining adult salmon in the Merrimack River watershed will disappear within the next few years.

On another subject, the F&G Commission met last week to reconsider a decision to fund two fisheries biologist

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positions using the fisheries habitat account. The fisheries biologists who work for F&G are dedicated and accomplished professionals whose work is critical to our mission of protecting and restoring coldwater fisheries in the state. The habitat fund was set up to support conservation and preservation of fisheries habitats with the intent that the funds be available when specific conservation opportunities arise, including the acquisition of easements and private land to conserve critical habitat and to provide access. And able professionals are essential to the effective administration of this account. Tom Ives and I commented in favor of the funding decision. We felt that, due to the importance and urgency of the problem, the fisheries habitat account should be used to fund these two positions on a short term basis (no more than two years). But we also agreed with others that paying salaries was not what the habitat account was originally established for, and that the F & G commission needs to quickly find a more permanent solution to funding such positions. After the public hearing, the commission voted in favor of the earlier funding decision. The commissioners also decided to request that the legislature increase license fees by \$5. If F&G is to continue to do the kind of work that we have come to expect and appreciate, I believe a license fee increase is essential.

Editor's Soapbox

Gordon Riedesel

Recently I had the opportunity to go fishing on one of the finer trout streams in the southern Appalachians with Joe Moore who is on the Board of Directors of the Pisgah TU chapter but is better known for his 50+ year knowledge of the river and its browns, rainbows, and brookies. It seems we all know someone like Joe whose angling experience and expertise dwell a quantum leap or two above and beyond our own. Our October speaker, Angus Boezeman, is one of those. And there are others we run into during our fly fishing trials and adventures.

In spite of our own limitations, when we share the love of fly fishing, it doesn't matter if you are the skunk or the skunkee. The Joe's and the Angus's of the world will always be there, and so will you and I at whatever level we find ourselves on a given day. This reminds me of my years of long-distance running when you, a mere mortal, could run in the same race as the wing-footed gods and goddesses who would be crossing the marathon's finish line two hours or more ahead of you. I've been in marathons where true Olympians blazed the trail well ahead of you. Even if they appear and disappear like photons in a high energy collider, you too are part of the race.

I was touched by Joe's generosity that day on the river when he gave me a handful of inch-worm flies he made just for this river in this season. I've been given flies by other anglers – none more memorable than the size 26 baetis nymph that a Connecticut fly fishing couple gave me when I first started fly fishing. I found it incredulous that such a tiny piece of brown thread wrapped on an equally tiny hook could ever catch a trout. But it did the next day. I learned



Drawing courtesy of www.davewhitlock.com

to tie flies as an adult and like most tyers, have enough inventory for about century's worth of fishing. I share my flies with other anglers too – motivated in part by the generosity I've experienced from others. Joe also handed out another bounteous handful of his inch worms to four young men who had been fishing upstream from us that morning.

The sharing spirit that repeats itself in the fly fishing world is a fine tradition. It may even include advice on where to fish, how to fish there, and when to wet your line. Many elite athletes share their insights because they love their sport. And many top-drawer fly anglers will too. It seems best to learn from fishing or hunting preserves for the very wealthy that by exclusion, the sport withers. I need to tie some more flies and be ready to pass them out. Maybe not as abundantly as goodies at Mardi Gras, but in the hope that young and beginning anglers will carry forward what many of us have experienced as we run the race with Olympians.



Searching for Native Brook Trout

by Betsy Janeway - Local Volunteer

The NH Fish and Game Department is working with Trout Unlimited to study the Warner River watershed to find streams with native, wild, brook trout.

On June 20, I waded the Lane River in North Sutton. This brook flows into the Warner River. I was instructed by experienced Webster volunteer, George Embley, to hold one end of a measuring tape to record the width and depth of the river, and then to dance the “twist” while standing in the brook, for precisely thirty seconds, so that my boots would stir up insect larvae that would flow into a net he held. Working underwater with my hands for another thirty seconds, I rubbed the surfaces of stones upstream from the net to free them of insect larvae clinging to them. We repeated this process every fifty feet as we walked up the river, splashing along in hip boots or waders, following the men who scooped up slightly-dazed fish with long-handled nets. A very mild electric charge stuns the fish momentarily so they can be caught and placed gently into a bucket where they recover quickly, and are counted and released back into their brook.

Our count of insect larvae was disappointing which may be why no brook trout were found. Fifty-two fish were caught here, half of them common white suckers, plus fallfish, common shiners, a yellow perch and one golden shiner. The insect larvae and nymphs reveal water quality. Stoneflies, dragonflies and hellgrammites thrive in very clean water. In Lane River we found only two stoneflies, some scuds (shrimp-like insects), a hellgrammite (the nymph of a Dobsonfly) and a dragonfly larvae. We found two tiny brown blobs called “water pennies” which are jelly-like and cling to rocks in brown circles, hence their name. Water pennies become beetles.

The next stream we surveyed was heavily shaded, much colder, very shallow, and fast-running. Lyon Brook is in New London, and is part of the Lane River and Warner River watershed. Fifteen little brook trout were caught, admired, photographed. Also netted were seventeen dace, a minnow species. We then hovered over a screen holding all the insect larvae and nymphs we’d netted. We scooped up tiny wriggly larvae in plastic teaspoons, identified them, and put them into marked cups for counting: 11 stonefly nymphs, 10 mayfly nymphs, 2 caddisfly larvae, 2 dragonfly nymphs, plus 3 tiny “fry,” baby fish about half an inch long, probably dace. This stream has 9.9 milligrams of dissolved oxygen per liter of water, excellent for wild brook trout. Perhaps I could be a fish biologist in my next life?

Former Chapter President, Tom Ives, Named New State TU Council Chair



Tom Ives, former President of the Basil W. Woods, Jr. TU chapter was elected Chair of the New Hampshire Trout Unlimited Council. Tom replaces Burr Tupper of the Merrimack Chapter.

Although shifting gears from chapter-level work to a statewide focus is quite a change, we know from Tom’s long-term dedication and commitment to TU that he will serve all New Hampshire chapters well. Having been the “go-to” chapter officer, Tom knows what the opportunities and constraints are of keeping a TU chapter alive and vibrant. Like many positions, there is no Owner’s Manual. But those of us who know and have worked with Tom, are certain that he will make sure that what happens at the state level will be in the best interests of each chapter and of the mission of TU.



Troutlines

October, 2013

Fly Tying, continued from page 1

Classes will be held at the spacious Passaconaway Club on Garvin's Falls Road in Concord and run from 7 - 9 PM. Some of the chapter's better fly tyers will be teaching. Vises can be borrowed between classes with a small security fee.

A fly tying class is a great Holiday or birthday gift. An application form is on the bottom of this page. Sign up now!



Tan Elk Hair Caddis by Ellis Hatch
Size 16

Seeking Fly Donations

The chapter will be holding a benefit raffle this season and we are looking for donations for the famous "Board of Flies". If you can spare a few, please let us know through the chapter e-mail (concordtu@yahoo.com) or bring them to a chapter meeting. In November, raffle ticket sales will begin. Watch the newsletter and website for information. Thanks!

**Winter Fly Tying Class Registration
Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter Trout Unlimited**

Tuesday Evenings: 7 - 9 PM, January 7 - March 18
Passaconaway Club - Garvins Falls Road, Concord NH

Name

Address

Phone

e-mail

Check the Class or Classes you are signing up for.

Beginner's Class January 7 - February 11 \$ 50 \$ _____

Intermediate Class February 18 - March 18 \$ 75 \$ _____

Please make check payable to: Basil W. Woods Chapter TU **Total \$** _____

I am not a TU member I am a TU member

Send registration and payment to: Basil W. Woods Chapter TU
PO Box 3302
Concord NH 03302

Please photocopy this form if you need extras.
Questions? e-mail us at: concordtu@yahoo.com

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efforts to protect quality private land containing quality brook trout habitat in the East by engaging land trusts and helping acquire vital easements that will ensure brookies continue to thrive in areas where their persistence is tenuous.

Paul is a former professor of environmental science, and he is the president for land conservation at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the state's largest land trust and conservation organization. Through his land trust work, he is helping TU on a project that will culminate in the purchase and protection of the Connecticut River Forest, a 2,100-acre tract with five miles of river frontage near the headwaters of the Connecticut River. This project is within the area TU has designated for the Upper Connecticut Home Rivers Initiative and this protection project can become part of the HRI plan. The property is located within the area of New Hampshire identified by the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture as containing the highest amount of "intact" eastern brook trout habitat, and this section of the Connecticut River is a nationally renowned recreational fishery.

Editor's Note: On behalf of the members and the Basil W. Woods, Jr. Board of Directors, we thank Paul for his contributions and calm perseverance on behalf of our coldwater fisheries and natural environment.

Calendar

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| October 3 | Board of Director's Meeting, Szechuan Garden, Penacook | 6:00 PM |
| | Board of Director's meet the first Thursday of the month. | |
| October 15 | Designated Trout Ponds - last open day | |
| October 17 | Chapter Meeting | October Speaker, Angus Boezeman "Secrets of the Upper Connecticut" |
| November 7 | Board of Director's Meeting, Szechuan Garden, Penacook | 6:00 PM |
| November 21 | Chapter Meeting | November Speaker, Marla Blair - Guide, Author, Presenter |
| December 5 | Board of Director's Meeting, Szechuan Garden, Penacook | 6:00 PM |

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

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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