



# Troutlines

### *Special Points of Interest Planned Programs for 2014-15*

- ◆ Two handed casting
- ◆ Salmon fishing in Newfoundland
- ◆ Angus Boezeman NE Guide
- ◆ Great Bay Estuary
- ◆ North Country Streams

### **Chapter Meetings**

**October 2014  
Chapter Meeting  
Thursday, October,16**

Angus Boezeman, noted north country guide and salmon angler, joins us for his assessment of the 2014 season and glimpses as best he can for 2015. Angus, a regular on the Margaree, will share with us another of his trips this one on the Gaspé. Join us for refreshments and conversation and a chapter update

### **Inside this issue:**

<i>Presidential Commentary</i>	2
<i>Editor's Soapbox</i>	3
<i>Parson Ponders</i>	4
<i>Fieldwork/Volunteers</i>	5

## **News from the Annual Meeting in Santé Fe, NM**

The NH Council Chair, Tom Ives, and the NH NLC (National Leadership Council) representative, March McCubrey, returned from the Annual Meeting of TU in Sante Fe, NM excited and energized about the overall strength of TU as an effective organization for cold water conservation. At the meeting we learned how TU has experienced tremendous growth in the past 5 years where almost every other comparable conservation group had either minimal growth or lost ground. There is tremendous work ahead for all but we are well positioned to be the leaders for protecting, reconnecting and restoring our cold water habitats which will be critical in order to mitigate the effects of climate change in a warming world.

The annual meeting of Trout Unlimited took place in Santé Fe during the first week of September. It was very well attended with TU Council Chairs, NLC representatives and chapter members from across the country. Tom and I met our counterparts from other states and were exposed to the many issues facing cold water conservation and habitat restoration. We have many issues to tackle in the Granite State from stream passage, habitat loss and the impact of global warming. However, the further away from home I get the more I appreciate how lucky we are here in NH not to have the major water issues that plague the Southwestern states. We are fortunate to have abundant water resources and the key for our success is to ensure that they remain abundant, cold and healthy.

The story of trout in the southwest is one of fire, drought and water rights. We learned about the struggle to preserve the Gila trout and how one major fire nearly wiped them out. Other fisheries are threatened by lack of water caused by

## **A Keeper ! The Fisherman**



The legend of Jim Timmins long preceded my relatively recent introduction to him. Often asked, "Do you know Jim Timmins; he is a great fisherman?" Little did I know how good he really is. Atlantic salmon on two handed fly rods is Jim's current passion. Asked how he did for Atlantic salmon on the Gaspé this summer he replied "I got a couple". What he did not say was that only 24 had been caught so far that season and he had two. Later this fall he returned to a lesser known river in Quebec and landed 3 of the seasons 25 salmon caught. These are staggering results particularly for a non resident . Add to that the photos that filter north each winter showing snook and redfish in his clutches, the discreet tales of his remote trout pond successes and you begin to get a picture of a remarkable all around fisherman. He is so good he was recently out practicing his spey casting on the low water Soucook River and he took two trout. He fishes as a hunter stalks searching out and studying the water long before he fishes it.

New Hampshire waters no longer require his study. He knows them. Jim is Loudon, NH born and raised and a with his wife Maureen a lifelong resident. Educated at New Hampshire Tech; he left New Hampshire to serve on the navy aircraft super carrier Forrestal, returning home to make a career contribution at Public Service of New Hampshire and the NH Army National Guard. Not many folks can get that many New Hampshire's in their

## Presidential Commentary — George Embley



The forested areas surrounding the lake where I live are starting to show off their fall colors – prior to their annual strip show. And fall fishing is approaching its peak right now. The fishing may continue to be good but in wooded areas the leaves that start blanketing the water will make it more of a challenge, particularly for those of us who like to fish a dry fly.

I was able to take advantage of the fall hatches by making use of the guided trip I won at our chapter's annual fundraising banquet last year—My winning bid entitled me to one full day of guided fishing with Marla Blair. The river of choice was the Farmington in Connecticut, and Marla proved to be as accomplished as her reputation promised. There were a few fish rising and, thanks to Marla, I seemed to be in the right place with the right fly most of the day. The fact that other people on the

river did not seem to be hooking up confirmed her skill.

The Farmington is a tailwater release stream, creating water conditions that are conducive to a very healthy fishery. As one of the few classic trout streams within two hours of several large metropolitan areas, it is heavily pounded and the fish are wary. So for the first time I fished with 7x tippet (2 pound test). I even tried 8x, however the trout I hooked broke the tippet when he started shaking with laughter. Bottom line: the Farmington is well worth the visit and if you are looking for a guided trip on the Farmington or any other southern New England stream, I would not hesitate to recommend Marla- an excellent guide and fun to be with. And her contribution of the guided trip to our fundraising banquet last year was much appreciated.

In partnership with NH Fish & Game, we are continuing the culvert survey in the Lower Warner River Watershed and should finish that part of the Warner River Watershed this fall. So far, we have completed over 70 stream crossing assessments. In September, we tackled some of the culverts on feeder streams that run under I-89 and Rte 103. These were more difficult to access and also more likely to pose significant barriers to fish passage. In fact, one culvert on Silver Creek, which goes under both lanes of I-89, seems to possess all of the features that would discourage trout from even trying. Imagine a six-inch trout trying to swim against a steady current for 300 feet without any breakpoint to rest. To scale that up to human size, it would be like swimming against a strong current non-stop for over half a mile. Yet there are wild trout above the culvert. And because they are isolated from the rest of the watershed, any local catastrophe such as a year of drought could wipe them out permanently.

Once the fisheries experts have looked at this crossing data together with results of the electro-fishing surveys, we should have a pretty good idea of what might be done to protect what we have and maybe even improve upon it. Next year, our chapter will be looking for conservation opportunities in the Warner River watershed and elsewhere. Any suggestions you have could help a lot. If you have something you would like us to consider, contact me or conservation chairman Tim Pease through the chapter website.

Our September chapter meeting featured a casting demonstration by William Ciaurro, who is an FFF-certified instructor. William proved to be fluent in all forms of casting and equally able to explain the whys and hows. Given the quality of his presentation, it seems a shame that the attendance was light –fewer than 15 people.

The chapter board is exploring the possibility of William offering a course in two-handed casting this fall. Let us know through the chapter website if you have an interest.

On September 20, our chapter and the NH Council of Trout Unlimited manned a booth at the National Hunting & Fishing Day Expo held at NH Fish & Game. The Expo attendance was down this year but it was still a good crowd. Hopefully, we picked up some new members and there was definitely interest in the NH Trout Unlimited Kids' Trout Camp, which will be offered for ages 13 to 16 again this year from June 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> (check out the new brochure on the chapter website)

On Saturday, September 27, the NH State Council of Trout Unlimited held its annual meeting at Shaker Road School. It was a small but select group – with representatives from three chapters in attendance. We had some good discussions and came away with new ideas for conservation projects, fundraising, and outreach – and Council Chair Tom Ives provided a hearty lunch. All agreed the meeting was worthwhile and that this type of meeting should become an annual event – possibly sponsored by a different chapter each year. Our next chapter meeting, on October 16, will feature accomplished New Hampshire fishing guide Angus Boezeman. Hope to see you there.

George

Basil



Woods Jr

## Basil Woods Jr. finds Facebook



Concord, New Hampshire

Did you know you can now find us on Facebook? Facebook users can use the Facebook search tool for "ConcordTU" or "Trout Unlimited, Concord NH." We will use Facebook as another method to share information about what is happening regarding chapter and important cold water conservation activities - maybe even a few fish stories, too!

Not a Facebook user but still want to check out the page? Here's the direct link: <https://www.facebook.com/ConcordTU>

Questions? Ask Alex Hicks, our Webmaster – [ConcordTU@yahoo.com](mailto:ConcordTU@yahoo.com)

## Editor's Soapbox

*Tim Pease*

### To be Guided or Not

I have met many great guides and a whole bunch who could barely fog a mirror. There are some places where the law says you must have a guide. In my experience those places tend to accumulate the "can't fog a mirror" types. It is welfare passed on to the sports who want to fish that spot. You are trumped. Just fish. For me I think it is the process that I object to.

The popular wisdom says get a guide when you don't know the water. I get it, but it still seems a little like hunting on enclosed land over food plots. I worked with a guy once who used to tell of his prowess for deer hunting. Seems he shot them from a tower as they grazed corn from a bushel basket. Zounds!

Part of the sport is finding them and figuring out how to approach them and making sure you don't spook them at the same time. When the guide does all that for me I find the sport fairly diminished. By the way I am not a trolling guy either unless it's my boat; since the boat person does all the figuring out of where, how fast, in what direction and a lot of what depth to fish. Today he would use electronics to do a lot of that for him. I have never relished the role of designated reel cranker.

Back to the stream; aren't we supposed to cannily and safely wade the stream, read the water, figure out the bugs in all their infinite stages, find the best fly, craft the leader, lash the fly on with the knot de jour, cast it softly to the bubble line, sense the take, lift the rod gently at just the right moment, let the fish run, land him firmly but kindly for his own sake, remove the hook and revive the fish, and finally take a deep breath and marvel at what just happened?

Pray tell, how does that relate to an angler(sic) planted mid-stream, using a stiff arm cast to lob a stoutly guide attached fly some 15 feet upstream with the clear direction from the guide to watch the indicator and if it

goes under to reel the fish in? The guide nets the fish at varying distances from the sport depending on his reeling skills, removes the hook, hands him the fish, and snaps the picture just before the fish drops from shoulder high into the water. There are myriad other silly things that happen in this time frame, but space does not permit a full cataloging. You know the drill. The sport then waits for the guide to disentangle the birds nest from the net while thinking "this isn't so hard".

I suppose there needs to be a rookie league for the uninitiated but some buddy work and trial and error on home waters in some relatively unobtrusive manner would be a lot more elegant at least to me. My word, the idea of me in my youth fishing hallowed waters boggles the mind. Even today it's a little scary. I guess if you buy your SAT scores from a tutor you can buy your fishing chops from a guide but it is not right in either case.

What does the casual fisherman do? He flounders. What do hackers do at Pebble Beach? By the way if you go there you won't get a guide. Come to think of it, I don't like caddies much either.

Lastly there is the service part of the guide's job that is frequently abused and often by the most egregious sports at that. These gentlepersons (sic) are entitled to their fish (many and large), are demanding of prompt attention to both fishing and personal needs; while all the time lamenting the unfortunate demise of indentured servitude. Guides say it doesn't happen. They are supposed to say that. It is their business; but I have seen this treatment far too many times for my comfort. I get the willies whenever it happens.

You have probably figured out by now that if you see me with a guide, it's the law.



## Parson Ponders

*Parson Weems, north woods guide savant, periodically leaves his cabin and campfire to offer a few words and insights that can only come from a dark sky view of Orion's Belt on a clear New England night*

### Parson copped out and went fishing so I offer the following Autumn Ponderable

I have fond remembrances as a sophomore in high school of shuffling through dried leaves on the sidewalk contemplating how I was going to ask the cute girl in Latin to the Halloween dance. Just seems like Fall and those things go together. And so it is for thousands of hook jawed trout and salmon as they escort their ladies upstream for fun and fall frolic. Love struck neither boy nor girl eats much but they sure are territorial staking out nesting spots and insuring that they can proceed upstream at their discretion. When you are wading they will practically knock you over if you get in the way. Mother nature only trusts the best of breed to spawn so these fish are typically large and stout capable of snapping 5x tippetts in a skinny minute. These frisky fellows congregate in the bays that run out from streams and from seemingly insignificant brooks. In streams they pass through the lower stretches heading for the best gravel usually at the headwaters. Streams are often low at this time of year are clogged with the vestiges of August weeds, littered with crimson and yellow maple leaves, and sporting a white foam that forms as the sugars of summer are released into the water. It is a maze for fish and fisherman. Sadly, in New Hampshire, only a few of the most frequented streams have spawning areas conducive to propagation and but you got to love the fish's effort.

And when the fish come, anglers abound. Bright colored, oversized streamers and woolybuggers crash the waters accompanied by cries of anguish as swirls go unconnected to flies, or some mating pair ignores the offering altogether. The veteran anglers sight fish; casting smaller feathered morsels in the direction of suspended fish hoping that in a quiet place they can induce a fit of pique and a hook up. Some wade, some ply the banks sure that wading spooks the fish. Low water and big fish adds the dimension of seeing the fish move even if you are not sight fishing. Many a neophyte has cast in the wake of fish long gone upstream. Persistence pays off but not in the way you think. The fall fish seems to take flies in spurts, active for short periods of time followed by longer periods of ennui. If you can wait out the down times and capitalize on the taking times you will be successful.

An interesting revelation occurs in these take and wait cycles. In anticipation of the taking times fishermen rummage through fly boxes divining just the right fly, bright, dull, fluffy, compact, nymph or streamer. Desultory casting of your choicest fly eventually results in a hook up and then another from your casting neighbor and so it goes around the pools and along the stream. But guess what, you took a fish on a Woolybugger, the next guy a Maynard's Marvel the next guy Prince Nymph and the fourth a Hornberg. It just doesn't matter what you use. When they take they take and when they don't they don't; super special fly be damned. Now that will put a crimp in our next fly tying class dissertation.

For the most part here in New Hampshire the

spawning runs go on long after the season is closed for angling. It could be better but it is not. That's a sad topic for another day. Even with the current seasons, catching the fall runs is great sport leaving a fond memory to cast forward to the next ice out.



### NLC Santé Fe

excessive water removal. It's hard for this New Hampshire Yankee to fathom rivers running dry and especially when the cause is from municipal and agricultural use. During the conservation tour in the mountains above Los Alamos our host made special note of an unassuming structure as we crossed the Rio Grande River. It was at that spot that water allocations were made for New Mexico, Texas and Mexico. Water is a very valuable commodity and that one gauge decides the fate of citizens, farmers and fish in three states and a foreign country – very frightening to think of and the fish are last on the list. This realization was humbling and renewed my commitment to protecting our tremendous resource here at home.

Global climate change has been added to the major list of the most important issues facing TU today. A new workgroup was added last year to address how TU would combat this issue. I was impressed with spirit which TU is bringing to this issue. The son of former Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Rich Rusk, was present at the meeting and explained how his father had challenged him on his death bed to take on Global Climate Change and Warming with the same vigor that his generation used to take on the Soviet Union. Rich Rusk is a compelling spokesman with political skills of his father's generation combined with humor and a real sense of what total commitment to the issue will look like - he used every venue at the meeting to speak to his cause. The take away message from this workshop was not doom and gloom but rather a renewed commitment to reconnecting our fragmented watersheds and repairing damaged riparian zones to provide shade and access to the coolest possible water within a connected watershed during times of extreme weather events to enable the fish to survive. An intact watershed is the best possible gift we can give to the next generation.

I look forward to serving TU on Chapter, Council and National levels. We are fortunate to have a very strong New England contingent and one of my goals in the next few years will be to invite representatives from surrounding states to our meetings to encourage a regional approach. As they repeated many times in Sante Fe we are **One TU** working toward the same goal.

Tight Lines;

March O. McCubrey  
NH NLC Representative  
VP Basil W. Woods Jr., Chapter TU

## Two Handed Fly Casting

The September Chapter Meeting opened early at 6PM with a two handed casting demonstration by William



Ciaurro an FFF certified instructor. As any of you who have tried casting heavy flies for steelhead and salmon know, launching those large glittering feathery objects can be quite a chore. And even if you do it well you wear your shoulder out after a day of casting. Not to mention that for even the most accomplished those 80 foot casts with conventional rods need at least 50 feet of back cast room.

Along comes the two hander. Well it not all that novel, they have been using it in Europe for eons; but it has hit home here on in the last 5 years or so. They are long (11 to 16 feet) and while you can use a two handed overhead cast, most freshwater fishermen use them to roll cast. The roll cast handles the back casting problem and the power of the long rod handles the large flies and distance issues Fighting large fish with the additional leverage of the long, strong butted rods is a top benefit too.

Buying one of these rods is step one, trying to get it to perform properly needs technique and practice.

Our demonstrator last month sure had the technique and seemed a more than apt teacher. We are indeed fortunate to have made his acquaintance as he is but one of 15 instructors of this caliber nationwide. Mr. Ciaurro will be conducting a casting class on October 18,2014. Look for the details on Facebook , or contact us through the website . He is also available for individual or small group instruction at the initial rate of \$75 for a two hour session.



The chapter will again be offering Beginner's and Intermediate fly tying classes starting in early January. This is a great idea for a Christmas gift for those interested. The classes will be held at the Passaconaway Club in Concord with the Beginner's class running for 6 weeks, and an Intermediate class continuing for 5 weeks. Cost will be \$50 and \$75 respectively with all materials and tools supplied. Some different flies will be offered this session. Watch for signup details in the next newsletter

resume. Twice he has served in Red Cross emergencies; volunteering in Louisiana and New Jersey in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Sandy.

No dilettante Jim! He learned his fishing from the stream bottom up; first catching frogs with bits of red yarn, pickerel with a cane pole from an old flat bottom boat before graduating to worms for native trout. When he got the fly fishing itch he taught himself to tie flies. He says he is a poor one handed caster (color me skeptical) so he took up the two handed rod. Woe to fish everywhere.

Not only is Jim a practicing fisherman, but also a continuously contributing conservationist. He is a founding member and the 3rd President of the Basil Woods Jr. TU chapter and an oft time council member. Frequently recognized in the 1990's for his many chapter contributions he was certainly entitled to retire on his laurels. Not Jim, he is truly one who keeps on giving. Although he is officially a chapter advisor, fry stocking, culvert surveys and stream shocking were his this summers' contribution. He is a "Let's Go Fishing" instructor. In recent years Jim has been the behind the scenes guy in the successful Basil Woods' fly tying classes. He wrote the book, complete with drawings, bought and catalogued the materials and guided the instructors. He would have been the instructor too had he not been in Florida plaguing the sea trout, redfish and largemouth bass found there. Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside just took a leadership position responsible for managing the growth and health of the chapter membership. We are lucky he retired from his day job.

Should you get a chance to fish with Jim or listen in on his Yankee fishing tales and conservation insights, just enjoy. He is a delightful gift.

## Field Work Snapshots



Nash Stream



Beck Brook

Under the guidance of John McGee of NH Fish and Game volunteers from the Basil Woods Jr. and other NH TU chapters participated in two field projects last month on Nash Stream in the north country and on Beck brook in the Sunapee region. While results are not all in yet, preliminary analysis indicates that Nash Stream continues to recover and that Beck brook has some fish but some serious stream deficiencies too.

This fieldwork constitutes the core of TU contributions to stream quality. Thanks to all for your continuing help

### 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 the 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

October 16

Chapter Meeting

March 14, 2015

TU Banquet—save the date

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