



Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter Trout Unlimited

Troutlines

www.concordtu.org

September 2015

Chapter Meeting Basil W. Woods Jr. September 17 2015

7:00 PM,

Society for the Protection of
New Hampshire Forests, 54
Portsmouth Street,

NHF&G's John Magee
Nash Stream & other North
country improvements

Programs on the 2015-2016 Agenda

- October - Sgt Scott Lacrosse NHFG - Law Enforcement astream and afield.
- November - Some 2015 Atlantic Salmon highlights. From some storied members.
- January - Jack Noon - Atlantic Salmon restoration effort on the upper Pemi in the late 1800'
- More to follow

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Alex Hicks

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The Things We Carry Our Stuff In

I was on the river a few weeks ago and got to jawing about fishing vests with a fellow from Vermont. Since mine is the second of two Orvis vests that I have owned I was bragging on it; with the caveat that its sole downside was that it allowed me to carry too much. The Vermonter jumped all over that with an "I noticed". Then, the other day I cast a jaundiced eye about my den and tallied an ungodly array of things to keep things in.

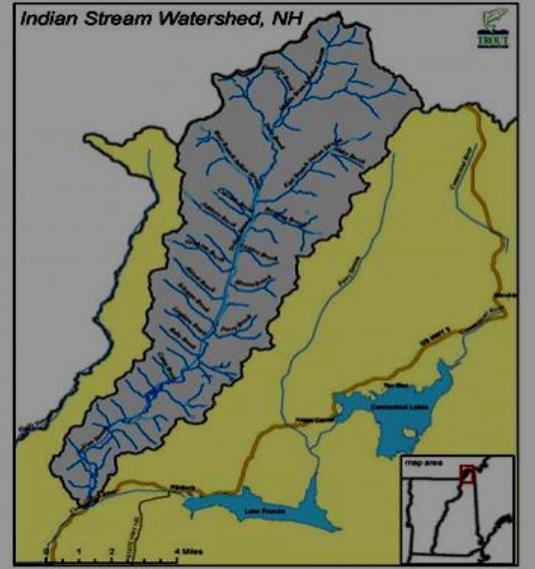
That oft taken picture of a fly rod lying streamside with a single box of delicate flies belies reality. Lets see the back office of that picture, at the boxes and containers that makes it all come together.

We are trout and salmon folks so lets skip the tack box stuff and see what gets us to the river.

A noticeable thing in my vest are the weight's. Contained poorly and always to heavy. I guess they are supposed to be heavy. The twist on ones in cardboard get wet with predictable results on the cardboard, Those little tubes seemed like a good idea , you know the ones where you turn the top to reveal a hole to let the shot out. Trouble is the tops come off and the shot rolls around in your vest. The old favorite is the round dispenser that requires the dexterity of one without arthritis to open and the catching skill of Jacky Bradly Jr. to grab the escaping shot. The little plastic packages are ok but take up space and belie any attempt at organization.

Fly sink and floatant; as a gas,

Basil Woods Jr. Jointly Funds Indian Stream Success Story



(excerpted from TU Blog)

Since 2008, TU has been working throughout Indian Stream with its restoration partners – the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, land managers LandVest Timberland, and landowners The Forestland Group (under the Connecticut Lakes Timber Company HFF VI ownership).

The project founders were Orvis, Basil Woods TU Chapter, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, and the Upper Connecticut Mitigation and Enhancement Fund.

John Magee, fish habitat biologist for New Hampshire Fish and Game, praised the effort.

"Thanks to the efforts of all our

Presidential Commentary — Alex Hicks

Hi folks,

It's hard to believe, but it's already September. It seems like it was just the other day when the ice was moving away from shore and we were making those first eager casts into our favorite waters. Now, with surface temperatures of the lakes hovering in the mid-70's, the streams looking pretty small, and the occasional red tinted maple leaf making its way to the ground, it's time to start making plans for the "off-season." I hope the spring and summer were good to you and yours – as I've been catching up with the Board members, it's great to hear about all of the work that they've been doing on behalf of the chapter and its mission. They've done (along with many others) great work all summer long. We have a lot of work to do this fall and winter and there's no time like the present to get started.

Chapter meeting start again this month – we'll be meeting in the same place, at the same time (insert Bat-Channel joke here). The Forrest Society building remains a great place to meet – the third Thursday of the month @ 7:00PM. We'll have some interesting programs for you as well as the usual opportunities to catch up with friends and trade stories. If you have a project or concern to share, that's a great place to share it – we'd love to know what you are thinking about.

September also brings with it the start of school. While I've been setting up my classroom, I've also been working on setting up our two fourth grade teachers for another year with Trout in the Classroom. Many teachers across the State have embraced this great opportunity. If you don't know about the TIC program, you should check it out. NH TU chapters & NH Fish & Game continue to work together supporting this engaging watershed education curriculum. It's more than just the fish (although they are often the star of the show). I'm

sure our TIC coordinator will have details for you soon.

While we're planning ahead, don't forget about fly-tying classes. The folks that run the show are already making plans for those classes, too. If you're interested, be sure to watch for sign-ups. The classes seem to fill up faster and faster every year.

Soon after the Fly-tying classes will be the Annual Banquet – another great opportunity to support the conservation and outreach programs that the chapter helps with. The funds raised there help with everything from the aforementioned programs to many others – like Warner River stream & road crossing surveys and making sure we can help some our future leaders get to "camp."

After the banquet, we'll be looking for that ice to move out again. Hopefully by then we'll have taken care of our local concerns, as well as addressed some larger ones. Northern Pass and The Tennessee Gas Pipeline project will remain on our radar all year long. It will be interesting to see how (if) energy programs and conservation concerns can work together as they should. We'll be watching national concerns, too – like how the Animas River will turn out after the spill and how the wild fires in the west will affect habitat and streams. Disasters, natural or man-made, will likely be unavoidable events demanding our attention.

In the meantime, let's focus on the upbeat. Reach out to us with your thoughts and stories! Come to a chapter meeting, send us an email (concordtu@yahoo.com), visit the chapter website (www.concordtu.org), or friend us on Facebook – We'd love to hear from you !

Kind regards,
~Alex

Pittsburg Anglers Association



This brand new LLC is dedicated to enhancing the fishing on the Upper Connecticut, improving angling opportunities through conservation, selective stocking, and regulatory advocacy. These guys look serious. Check them out and see at. <http://pittsburganglers.com/>



Basil Woods Jr
Concord New Hampshire



Remember, you can now find us on Facebook. Facebook users can use the Facebook search tool for “Concord TU” 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

Editors Soapbox

Tim Pease

When last we spoke the New Hampshire legislature and the governor were locked in their budget two step. Our particular interest was of course in the NHF&G general budget contribution presented, after years of continuing reduction, at \$750,000. Naturally, the dance step was one back and \$600,000 was provided on an interim funding basis as no budget was enacted. It certainly seems a travesty that a state that represents itself as an “outdoor recreational destination” would so underfund a critical resource like Fish and Game.

This is the point in the story where we usually rant on about how other departments are using Fish and Game funds and the legislature is just bowing to other unworthy departments’ unrealistic demands on the state revenue pot at Fish and Game’s expense. Well sad to say that does not appear to be the case.

The pot grows very slowly based on current revenue sources. Further NHF&G makes up very little of the total budget and the general fund contribution makes up very little of the total NHF&G budget.

So either there needs to be an increase in general fund or federal revenues or the general fund contribution will remain a diminishing part of Fish and Games revenue. No department in State government is flush with funds. There is not a department that is grossly inefficient. Though there are some that already burden folks relatively adversely probably worse than Fish and Game.

A rising tide of revenue should raise all boats so to speak. If the general public will not take on additional revenue responsibilities then Fish and Game will need to run on its earmarked funds generated from license sales et al. This is not a trivial sum around \$13 million dollars but still only about 1/4 of

%1 of the total state revenue. Even if we had all of the general fund contributions past, the Fish and Game budget would still be a really small portion of the state budget and with little leverage.

This is a difficult conversation to have in our tax averse state. Only 6 states have a lower tax burden than we do. We are good at what we do; and, that is we don’t pay taxes. The Fish and Game situation however is unlikely to resolve itself absent some new revenue sources. As usual we get what we pay for.

We anglers and hunters are a generally conservative lot and usually in the forefront of “tax me not” policies. But we need to be careful that we don’t become wrong headed. Those folks with eating disorders started out eating less in order to look and feel better and get healthy; but they wound up with serious unintended consequences. Let’s not let that be us. No one wants to part with his hard earned dues but you still get what you pay for.

As open political season rounds into form perhaps we need to consider how we should proceed and whom we want to represent us as we head off into the future. Its going to be tightrope walk at best.

**October only
New Meeting Place for
Monthly Meeting
Check your October Newsletter for
New One Time Location Change**

Psg 1

liquid or solid wrapped in plastic, glass and steel with application tools , in a squeeze bottle, or a shaker, as and aerosol or in a spritzer all in our vests at one time or another and likely all at once. Ditto with fly dope. Once they know they got us the hits just keep on coming.

Fly storage ad nauseum! Leather and faux leather wallets abound with felt or plastic pockets. Boxes of foam, clear plastic boxes with good and bad hinges that yellow and scar, heavy wood and aluminum boxes priced to insure you of their quality. In these we find lidded and unlidded compartments a variety of sized clips, foam sheets and waves, slots, and nubby tacks (sic). All of these boxes rely on a myriad of pressure latches that ultimately fail. When it dawns on you that you posses most the permutations and combinations of these characteristics in your vest you just get tired .

On vests Lee Wulff would be appalled horizontal vertical overstuffed over zippered. See mine! Now we have chest packs and waist packs and back packs and slings and the Brits ubiquitous fishing bag is still with us too. Egad!

Psg 5

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 north country night

\Rummagin through my winter closet last month ilookin for a clean hat ,when an old pair of waders broke its rotted suspenders and tumbled into a ball of rubber in the corner. No felt, rubber boots, canvas top, no loops and they weighed as much as an August watermelon . The canvas was stained brown; by what I wasn't sure until the bitter smell of Woodman's fly dope found its way to the back of my throat.

That's what we called sport in the old days. Not sure going back is such a good idea. Dope today works better and smells better; don't matter if it's the chemical or the natural stuff. And waders, I saw some with a zipper in em, for all the obvious reasons, and they still keep the water out.. They don't weigh nothin and you don't git wet trousers when the water's colder that you are. Ain't progress grand!

Course, some stuff don't change, like all those flies in my vest. Even though I only use flies with pheasant tail, hares ear, beaver, partridge, deer tail, peacock and brown, gray and grizzly feathers; I have an god awful mess of bright glittery stuff that takes more in half my vest pockets.

Every winter I say "be smart" but those pretty flies git me every time and I cant seem to leave back at the cabin neither. I do kinda like that krystal stuff and the pearly tinsel but the rest is in that bucket of stuff they say "if they make it

I 'll try it" Good thing there are fewer and fewer places to git the stuff cuz I'd need a new room on the cabin else-wise.

Orvis and the like don't help much neither. I got a collection of catalogs go back quite I few years and if look at em they got new killer flies every year. Must be the fellas buyin from those books cant remember from year to year. Lots of them flies winds up in the puckerbrush anyhow. And god knows you gotta have a new fly on every time you lose one. Though in truth, for some of these fellas, with or without don't seem to matter.

I would like to thank the guy came up with them bobbers we use for nymphs. First of all a lot of good fisherman seem to really profit from those beauties and catch em like there's no tomorrow. Sometimes too many maybe.

But for us guides they are great for the nimrods. They don't got to cast far. I gotta rig em so they don't make a birds nest, of it and once you get em going they will stare at that bobber for hours. Find a good riffle, plunk um in it, rig um up, do a few backward lob casts with em, then stand back with the net. Sure gits a lot of fish even for the new guys. Makes guiding easier and the fish keeps them tips coming too.

Latest new fangled thing is these long rods for trout. Used to be an eight footer was a big rod, course they was that heavy bamboo then. When the new graphite one come in they all had eight and a half footers. Now seems like the new stuff is eleven footers with two hands, I'll be damned!. Lotta old guys use em . Guess it cuts out some of the wear and tear.

Ok, but they cast clear across the stream and now you gotta go get you fly out of alders over there. It was easier behind ya . Plus, you gotta make sure you don't yank them little ones clear out of the water when you set the hook. Not really a fair fight at all. Also getting them big rods down to the river is a bother too. They hang up on every hemlock and hanging leaf on the path. Don't matter if ya point it in front or behind ya. Schools out on this one for me.

It been an ok summer here up nawth. but we sure haven't been overrun with fisherman. And the ones that come git older and older with few young guys startin up. Use to be the Magalloway road bridge was packed when the smelt come in but it seemed light this year course the fishin was a bit spotty too. They say may was dry down south so maybe that kept um from coming up, kind of like the city skiers.

The cool nights are startin to come on and I figure the fall season will pick up soon. A few colors in the leaves will brighten the brookies and the fishermen too. See you up here soon . I got lots of glittery flies if you need em...

Parson Weems



Pgce 4

I have left out those things we use to carry the wee flies in and will abandon for now a glazing diatribe on leader wallets, and tippet organizers: too little space.

On to the macro carriers for rods and reels, and flies. Aluminum, plastic and graphite rod tubes are fitted in brass with inner garbs of course and fine nylon and, cotton, tied with ribbons and Velcro., all encased in the nylon or hard plastic, rod carriers designed to make the luggage handlers job easier. Reel and spool cases in leather, plastic, foam, and nylon fit neatly into reel luggage lined with shapeable compartments and multiple leaves for minutia storage. with pockets for gloves and sunglasses nippers, pliers, and indicators. Extra fly boxes get taken here too. Go figure

Back at the house it is only worse. The fly materials come in shoe boxes, cigar boxes of paper and cedar, cookie tins, big milky plastic boxes with white tops, small plastic containers both square and round, jars and vases stuffed with feathers and the occasional fine liquor cylinder repurposed for some esoteric feather. Stuff these into built in book cases, free standing cupboards, desk made for or repurposed as fly tying stations, small stands, trunks, and the ever present overflow card board box and you get an inventory of the storage containers for the fur, feather and flotsam sequestering our precious tying stuff. .

Then, there are the hooks. We have paper boxes with and without the once neatly folded inner wrapper of waxed paper, the plastic boxes some with tabs for fly shop display, some with intact hinges some without; little plastic envelopes all now missing the hook maker, number and size, some retaining their little magnate Forget not the little plastic tubes of interlocking compartments that contain hooks untethered from the fly shop container, or the magnetic boxes or the ones that help your finger corral the little devils.

I am going to leave out all the stuff we use to house our fly tying tools , too many variations.

Finally the finished flies are stored in what; surely the fly boxes we carry but too the holding boxes in clear and opaque plastic with umpteen compartments, the tobacco and Altoid tins, the reused hook containers and the unimaginable collection of boxes usually designed for some kitchen use and the like that my wife brings home in hopes providing some order to my collections.

And to think that the fish come packaged only in water!

Salmon Magic The Riffing Hitch

Atlantic Salmon Guru Jim Timmins Gives Us this Tip

Two recent salmon fishing excursions to the Gaspé renewed my experiences with the so called riffle hitch, formally known as the Portland Creek Hitch introduced to Lee Wulff, when he first fished there, by guide Arthur Perry of Portland Creek, Newfoundland. It is a method that allows the wet fly to skid across the surface when half hitches are tied behind the head of the fly, and was accepted to be the most successful method of fishing the wet fly at Portland Creek at the time.

It is believed that the method originated years ago when British navy ships anchored off of the mouth of the stream, and its officers came ashore to fish for salmon using old style salmon flies tied with gut eyes. The gut eyes, being somewhat weak by nature were often left behind, and retained by the locals that used them to fish with using rudimentary means. Often the gut eyes would break resulting in lost fish and fly. By tying half hitches around the head of the flies, the locals were able to land salmon without losing the fish or flies. Since that time the riffing hitch has proven successful in many salmon rivers, however it does not seem to be a prevalent method on most.

When I first became interested in salmon fishing in the early sixties I started my ventures on the Machias and Narraguagus Rivers of Maine. I hooked, and lost my very first salmon just below the bridge on the Machias in Whitneyville. I will never forget it. The next year I fished the Narraguagus River in Cherryfield, which drew quite a large assembly of fishermen due to being a river with one of the earliest runs, albeit small. The Cable Pool was the most popular pool on the river, and one might wait 2 plus hours for a rotation through it. I most often would fish the lesser water to avoid the long wait, and one of those times I waded out to a large rock a ways below the Cable Pool. After trying a couple of flies, as I recall, without success I remembered from Wulff's book, *The Atlantic Salmon*, the riffing hitch, and decided to try it. I can't tell you how many casts I made, but at one point a salmon rose to the swing of the waking fly. hitch, and I have used it successfully since, but to be truthful, it is not a method I use with regularity. I remember freezing up, and could not believe my eyes. Being sure to keep the same length of line I nervously cast again, a rise and I was hooked up landing an 8 ½ lb. female. This was my first experience with the riffle

To get back to my opening statement regarding renewed experiences, earlier this year I was fishing the Bonaventure with my son, Andrew where we

Pgce 6

Psge 1

Psge 5

partners, the population of wild brook trout in the East Branch of Indian Stream has been re-connected to its historic trout habitat in Woods Brook,” Magee said.

Joe Norton, project manager for TU’s Upper Connecticut Home Rivers Initiative, was TU’s lead on the effort.

“Indian Stream, with its key location and connection to the Upper Connecticut River’s stunning tailwater fishery below Lake Francis, is the single most important tributary in Trout Unlimited’s Home Rivers Initiative project area,” Norton said. “Simply put, TU’s work in the watershed could not be accomplished without this valuable collaborative partnership. TU and trout fishermen alike owe them a huge debt of gratitude.”

were fishing a small run that rests salmon, but is not a holding pool. We had each fished through it without a take, and Andrew mentioned he saw the flash of a fish. He tried another fly without success, and I suggested a riffle hitched fly. I hitched one up, and on the next couple of casts he was hooked to a healthy grilse.

Recently George Cummings and I fished the Matane River, and on the fifth day without a hookup we were fishing a pool where an occasional dark grilse would bolt out of the water. We fished a few wets and dries without any takers. Resorting to a proven tactic I riffled a fly through the pool, and was soon fast to a grilse that became unbuttoned soon after a reactive jump. A reinforcement to my belief in the method.

When a fly is riffled across the current a V shaped wake is created that is often initiates interest to the salmon. It might be that they are accustomed to seeing skittering bugs during their early lives in the rivers, and relate to it. Who knows, but I know it works at times, and that makes it worth trying especially when fishing is real slow.

A more recent writing on the riffle hitch is by Art Lee entitled Tying and Fishing the Riffing Hitch. The writings by both Art and Lee will provide all the necessary information to learn and use this method. By all means give it a try as it can tighten a line.

Jim Timmins

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

September 17, 2015 Chapter Meeting

October 21 **Chapter meeting (Location to be determined)**

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