



Troutlines

Special Points of Interest

- Youth Trout Camp - 2013
- Summer Volunteering
- Miramichi Salmon Classic

Chapter Meetings and Events Calendar

- First Chapter Meeting
Thursday, September 19
- National Hunting & Fishing
Day Expo - NH Fish & Game
Saturday, September 21
- October Chapter Meeting
Thursday, October 17

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Summer Volunteering

by Tom Ives



This summer I signed up to help Ben Nugent of New Hampshire Fish and Game check out the tributaries of the Warner River in and around Warner. We met in front of the town offices in Warner around 8:30 AM and from there Ben would lead us on a road trip into the back country. He knew every little stream in the area and where we could get to it. Some of us would measure a section of a stream 200 feet long and place a mark every 50 followed by other volunteers who would climb into the stream with nets and buckets to catch aquatic insects at each tag. The stream survey group started with Ben and some Fish and Game personnel, volunteers from TU, members of the Warner Conservation Commission, and just interested people from area towns. George Embley, our chapter president and volunteer coordinator, made calls and set-up the schedule.

On my volunteer days it was cloudy and at midday it rained pretty hard. Standing in a stream fishing for trout in the rain is one thing, but just standing in a stream with a bug net kicking up sediment, you just get wet. I helped with the bug collecting and identification. (I've helped Judy Tumosa of NH Fish and Game catch and identify macroinvertebrates during Lebanon's Trout in the Classroom outing). In the meantime George would measure stream temperature, pH, acidity and

2013 TU Youth Trout Camp

July 24-28

In spite of the late July date, both the fishing gods and weather gods smiled down on this year's TU Youth Trout Camp. And as far as the counselors were concerned, the enthusiasm of the good-natured campers and their ability to make friends with each other and the staff was a bonus.

Trout Camp headquarters were once again at the Magalloway Lodge on First Connecticut Lake. With nine campers and over a dozen counselors there was still plenty of room for fly tying, featured talks, eating, knot tying, casting practice, and sleeping (even though that was in short supply).

Most expeditions from Magalloway were to the Trophy Stretch of the upper Connecticut River or in the tailwaters of Lake Francis below Murphy Dam. We fished, one-on-one with the campers and hit the water twice a day on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. On Sunday we had an optional fishing outing leaving at 5:30 AM. According to camp director, Yvonne Nanasi as well as comments from long-term counselors, fishing this year was some of the best of any camp. No stocking was done given that camp started on July 24th and all stocking for the year was completed in June. Every camper landed trout and all three species were netted. A few landlocked salmon, including a sizeable 18 incher hooked and landed by James from Concord, were detained before being released. Our sole female camper, Amanda landed a hefty, football-shaped brookie at the Carr-Ridge Road (Bridge) Pool taking honors for the largest brookie.

Presidential Commentary - George Embley



A couple of days ago, I walked down to swim in the lake we live on and spotted rises in all directions, mostly sunfish but with evidence of a few larger fish – maybe bass or trout. So many rises seemed unusual early in an August evening but the reason soon became obvious. Once I got into the water I could see that the

surface was littered with winged ants and that there were two types - little black ones and larger red ones. With over two hundred acres in view, that is a lot of ants. Every once in a while one would fly by and, like an airplane with a bad engine, it would falter and drop into the water. With a little more ambition, I might have grabbed a fly rod and a canoe, but I didn't. I have only seen one other ant fall like this – on the West Canada Creek in New York. It was frustrating because it took a while to figure out what was going on and, as I recall, the ant imitation I had was not the best - but the trout still took it. Since that time I have always had a few winged ant imitations on hand when I fish. For this summer, with all the heavy rain, the hot days that followed, and other commitments thinking about fishing was as close as I got to doing it.

I did, however, spend time on streams this summer. For the second year, our chapter assisted fisheries biologist Ben Nugent in a survey of the Warner River Watershed. This year we concentrated on the Lane River Watershed, which extends from the Warner River in Warner over 17 miles to the other end of Messer Pond in New London. While the Lane River itself did not harbor many trout, almost all of the tributaries had wild trout. One of the volunteers for this effort has written about his experience in this edition of the Troutlines. The one thing that stands out is that it was fun. Along with local residents, seven volunteers from our chapter participated in this year's effort. We expect future conservation work on this watershed and we could use your help.

Jim Timmins maintains a volunteer list for our chapter which we use to enlist help for our own projects as well as those of our partners (e.g., other TU Chapters and NH Fish & Game). Besides conservation work, there are plenty of other volunteer opportunities. You will be hearing more about a winter fly tying course,

our annual banquet in March, support of local schools through trout-in-the-classroom, and Youth Fishing Day in April. If you can help on any of these, please let us know through the Chapter website and we will add you to the volunteer list. Or better yet, sign up at our September 19 meeting at the Forest Society headquarters.

As I am writing this, the future of the 38 year old Merrimack River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program is being decided. Six federal and state agencies, including NH Fish & Game, administer this program through two committees. One of these, the Policy Committee for Anadromous Fishery Management of the Merrimack River, is meeting on September 5 to decide whether to continue the program another two years. There have been recent successes on the Baker and Souhegan rivers with wild natural reproduction of Atlantic salmon and it would be unfortunate if the program were to end now. Our chapter and the NH TU State Council will be at the Policy Committee meeting to support continuation of the program and we will update you on the results at our September meeting.

On a final somber note, our chapter recently lost a good friend. Harry Perkins passed away in late August. I had only known Harry since I joined the chapter a few years ago. But when you are the "new guy on the block", you remember the people who first opened the door. And that was Harry. He was always supportive of anyone with a new idea or project (but he didn't mind telling you if he disagreed – in a nice way). He was a highly respected judge in the NH court system, but in some circles, he was equally well respected for his ability to wield a fly rod and for the classic salmon flies that he loved to tie. And he was generous with both his time and those flies - donating both to support our chapter and cold water conservation. He will be greatly missed.

Editor's Soapbox Gordon Riedesel



Although it has been quite a while since I had to gear up, turn my head around, and get ready for school again, there is something that is long-term normal about needing to get to my desk and get some work done such as pulling together the first of the season's Troutlines. Whether or not you have missed Troutlines over the summer, this edition

Harry Perkins' Legacy

Long-time TU member, chapter director, and fly-tying mentor, died August 23, 2013 following a period of failing health. Harry was one of the key founders of the Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter and played a major role in its growth and current vitality.

Many active members of the chapter first met Harry when they took one of our fly tying classes. Anyone fortunate enough to learn to tie flies under Harry's guidance learned from the best. Harry admitted that he was often impatient with people in his professional life and could "cut to the chase" through many complicated issues and human foibles. But when it came to fly tying, his patience and teaching were boundless. Although Harry was a master salmon fly tyer – an artist, as many of the best are – it seems in hindsight that he first and foremost got the most enjoyment and satisfaction from teaching fly tying. For Harry, teaching the first fly – usually the Mickey Finn – was as rewarding as creating a full-dress Jock Scott Atlantic Salmon fly.

Thoughts from chapter members who knew Harry noted his commitment to TU, his life-long love of trout and salmon fishing, his cherished get-away in the Rangeley Lakes area, his no-nonsense ways (honesty), and his many contributions to our chapter. Harry's first love was fishing for Atlantic Salmon – whether on the Miramichi, the Matapedia, or other classic water. He once said he would rather catch one Atlantic Salmon than 100 trout. But his devotion to all coldwater fisheries was unquestioned. A board member said that he only wished he had known Harry earlier, and I agree. When Harry's health made it impossible for him to stay on the board of directors, he graciously agreed to step aside so that something he truly loved could continue. But the smile that came over his face when asked if he would stay on as a chapter advisor sums up what TU meant to him.

We will miss Harry's good counsel and passion for TU. We know he ignited in many people the same love for TU and all it stands for that he had. Although his contributions and commitment cannot be duplicated, it seems all but certain that those he touched through all he did for the chapter over many decades has and will have a lasting and very positive impact. Here's a toast of the finest single malt Scotch to Harry!



Summer Volunteering, continued from page 1

dissolved oxygen and then help with bug ID.

Ben and the Fish and Game guys had the fun job. They did the electro-fishing of 300 meter stretches. Two people would follow along netting every fish, frog, salamander and anything else that floated to the surface after being temporarily stunned by their "Ghost Busters pack". On one site we caught 67 fish, mostly trout. That's in 300 meters of a stream no more than six feet wide and eighteen inch deep. In the two days I worked we were able to catch fish in every stream we surveyed. Overall the water system that feeds the Warner River looks healthy. We found macroinvertebrates in all the streams, as well as different species of fish. If Ben continues the survey next year I'll be there and think you should try it out too. If you contact George Embley, I sure he will keep you in mind for next year and give you more information on the survey. It's very important that we understand the cause and effect of what's going on in our own back yard and Ben's survey will show whether we have a sustainable fishery or not.

Soapbox, continued from page 2

marks the beginning of the chapter's active season. We hope you have been on the water from time to time, even though we would all like to have a few more fishing outings under our belts than we actually can claim. At least some of the best fishing lies ahead as summer shifts into the crisp fall days we love.

The first agenda for the board of directors showed up in my in-box last week and it looks like the chapter has lots of things going on. Our agenda had twelve items ranging from the Warner River Stream Survey project, Trout in the Classroom, secretary and treasurer reports, a proposed fly tying course, and several other items. This edition covers some of the activities we've been involved with which have been rewarding in many ways.

While it takes time to put together chapter programs, there are going to be some good ones including renowned guide and speaker Marla Blair in November. Thanks to all who check the chapter website – and you will see more frequent updates and breaking news as we gear up for the 2013-2014 season. And if you have any comments or questions, please drop us a note through the chapter website and we'll get back as soon as possible. Should you have the urge, we welcome any stories, letters to the editor, or photos for either Troutlines or the website. This is your newsletter and we welcome your contributions.

Trout Camp, continued from page 1

One of the great features of Youth Trout Camp is getting to fish with one counselor at a time and having them rotate for different outings. Several of our counselors are registered NH Fishing Guides which raises the quality of the camper's experience. And those of us who are not licensed NH Fishing Guides, we still offer plenty of ideas and perspectives that many campers appreciate. Several campers had some fly fishing background and all had some angling familiarity. But as most of us know, fly fishing's challenge is to try and figure out what to use, how to approach a given stretch of water, and observe what is going on in the environment around you. For example, Al Karg made sure we noticed the activities of the Cedar Waxwings below Murphy Dam. When they are flying and catching insects above the river – you have a better idea of what the insects in the water are up to. And your job is to fish accordingly. Although not taught directly, the importance of observation and awareness was absorbed by all campers.

Part of Youth Trout Camp is participate in discussions and presentations by professionals such as Conservation Officer, Chris Egan; NH Guide and Upper Connecticut aficionado, Angus Boezeman; NH Fish and Game Biologist, Diane Timmins, and Joe Norton who runs TU's Indian Stream and Nulhegan River (Vermont) Conservation Programs. This year the new operator at Murphy Dam gave the campers a tour of the dam spillway house built in 1939. As in past years, the campers have a conservation project and Joe had them plant more willows on an unstable road cut bank above Indian Stream. Electrofishing with Diane remains one of the most popular activities at Trout Camp. Campers learn what is in the river – and there is a lot!

At camp's end, casting contests were held for accuracy and for distance and for best flies by beginners and experienced tyers. Special recognition goes to Ron and Helen Sowa who met the challenge of feeding hungry teenagers and counselors three meals per day. Ron is president of the Merrimack Valley TU chapter and he and his wife Helen cater part-time. What a job. Mary Weiss spent hours putting together this year's video. You can see it on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZi1kJXMVhY>

If the responses by this year's campers is any measure of the future health of TU and what we stand for, we are in great shape. One camper wrote a long thank-you that shows how the week's experience guaranteed his future role in coldwater fisheries and conservation. The best comment from another camper was: **"NH Kid's Trout Camp is awesome, can I attend again next year?"**

8th Annual Miramichi Salmon Classic

by Jim Timmins

On July 14 – 17 George Cummings, Ron Kelley, and I attended the 8th Annual Miramichi Salmon Classic in New Brunswick. This event is sponsored by the Miramichi Salmon Association to introduce anglers to the Miramichi River system, and to promote its salmon fishing.

The four-day event got underway Sunday evening on the 14th with a gala banquet at the Rodd Miramichi Hotel. This was an opportunity to put away some great food, participate in a live and silent auctions, bucket raffles, and to talk with many of the participants and organizers. Each participant was given a packet with information on the pools one would be fishing, your guide's name, meeting locations, and detailed maps of the area. Everyone received a distinctive MSA hat to wear in order to be identified by your guide as a Salmon Classic participant.

Each day was divided into two fishing sessions, 7 to 11 AM and 6 to 9 PM. Sessions were rotated with different pools and guides each time out. The rivers fished were the Little Southwest Miramichi, Main Southwest Miramichi, Dungarvon, Renouse, and many other tributaries to the system. Pools were all pre-assigned, however water conditions dictated some changes for some anglers. We had the opportunity to fish private water at the Renouse Salmon Club, and a private pool on the Main Southwest.

The guides all volunteered their time for the event - some were professional guides and others were members graciously volunteering their time. Most of our five guides had considerable experience, and one had been in the business for some 50 years. Regardless of years under their wading belts, all attempted to give us quality experiences at the Miramichi Salmon Classic.

After the morning's fishing, everyone gathered at a designated location to be treated to a great lunch, and to share the day's experience with others. If one left hungry it was their fault. This allowed little time for a nap, and to get refreshed for the evening's fishing.

On the last day of the event, after the half day fishing, all gathered at the salmon hatchery which also serves as the MSA's headquarters for a final lunch, fishing lies and goodbyes. Already packed, we started the lengthy journey home.

The cost of this event was \$350 Canadian that

included a 3 day catch & release license, guiding, the banquet, and all noon meals. A non-fishing participant could attend the banquet for \$50 Canadian. Lodging and other meals were on one's own, and we were able to rent a nice housekeeping cottage on the river. I consider it a great opportunity for anyone new to Atlantic Salmon fishing as well as experienced salmon anglers looking for a great deal. Many of the participants have attended the event in previous years, and some for many. We met folks from New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Canada.

And now you want to know about the fishing. Well, everyone knows what the weather was like during mid-July. The first day we fished it was about 93 degrees, and water temperatures were over 75 degrees at times. This was a time to practice casting, and not catching. We did not see a salmon in any of the pools we had an opportunity to fish, and only saw salmon, stacked up, in what was designated as cold water pools with an influx of cooler water from some source. There are many such pools in the river's system, and these designated pools were shut down to fishing on the second day of our trip by Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). If a salmon is ever hooked in high temperatures it must be broken off to allow it to survive.

That's salmon fishing, and not new to me. One of our senior guides said he is often asked "When is the best time to come salmon fishing?", and his standard answer is "The three days before you come, and the three days after you leave." I could agree. Even though the fishing was off it was great to revisit pools that each of us had fished long ago, and to experience the area's wildlife and people.

For anyone that may be interested in future Salmon Classics visit www.miramichisalmon.ca. Click on Events, and MSA Salmon Classic. Also one can contact Nola Chiasson at nola@miramichisalmon.ca.

Jtimmins2@aol.com



Chapter support for Project Healing Waters

This summer the board of directors was asked by Project Healing Waters for a contribution for an Atlantic Salmon fishing outing in August hosted by they Restigouche River Lodge on the famed Matapedia above Campbellton, New Brunswick. The board, by e-mail vote, agreed to send \$100 for the wounded veterans' outing. The board unanimously agreed and it appears the event was a great one. The entire report can be read at: www.jimrusher.com, August 2013 issue.

Calendar

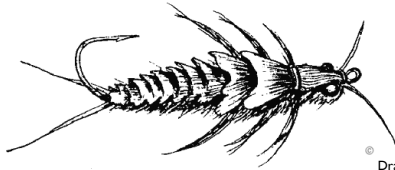
Board of Directors Meetings. First Thursday of the month. 6 PM Szechuan Garden, Penacook

Chapter Meetings. Thursday, September 19
 Thursday, October 17
 Thursday, November 21 - Marla Blair, Presenter

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

Saturday, September 21 NH Fish & Game, National Hunting and Fishing Day Expo. 10 AM - 2 PM. Fish & Game Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord.

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



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Other Happenings

Hope on the Rise - Retreats for women with any type of cancer. Next event:
 September 6-8, 2013
 Lake Mansfield Trout Club
 Stowe, VT
<http://www.hopeontherise.org/>

Welcome New Members

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting you soon.

Yasin Alsaidi	Barb Lynch
Kim Baron	Paul Nakis
Richard Bartlett	Robert O'Brien
Ed Carlisle	Edward Sankey
Roland Genest	Maureen Sherback
Jim Heath	Mariana Thorne
David Huntley	Nate Vandersea
Kathleen Landry	Michael Warren

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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