



# 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**

**September 2014  
Chapter Meeting  
Thursday, September 18**

This months meeting will begin at Merrill Park in East Concord at 6pm for a casting demonstration and adjourn at 7:00 PM, to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord

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### **Basil Woods Jr Chapter Undertakes Major Watershed Survey**



This spring, our chapter took on a project to survey road-stream crossings in the Warner River watershed. This project is part of a larger cooperative effort between Trout Unlimited, NH F&G, other state agencies and local communities and is focused on reconnecting trout habitat that has been fragmented by impassable stream crossings. The first step in the process to reconnect is this survey which will identify and prioritize stream crossings that are a total or partial barrier to fish passage. Not only will this work benefit fish habitat, it will also identify, prioritize and fix stream crossings that pose the greatest risk of flood damage to public and private property.

In May 2014, chapter directors entertained a proposal from Colin Lawson *New England Culvert Project Coordinator at Trout Unlimited* to participate in a funded culvert survey of the Contoocook watershed. Unfortunately funding for the project proved unavailable. Undaunted the chapter forged ahead. Chapter president George Embley worked closely with NH Fish and

### **March McCubrey New Hampshire National Leadership Council**

Mr. McCubrey will assume the responsibilities of the retired Burr Tupper as New Hampshire's Trout Unlimited National Leadership Council representative. In that capacity he will represent the New Hampshire Council and participate in setting and executing Trout Unlimited's national agenda.

March is current Director and Vice President and former President of the Basil Woods Jr chapter and has provided his myriad services to the chapter since 1999. In 2004 he represented the state council at the national level gaining a comprehensive picture of TU organizational structures, capabilities and projects. In his three year tenure as chapter President he guided the course of the chapters involvement in the West Henniker Dam removal, the Dead Diamond watershed radio tagging project and created fund raising opportunities for the chapter.

March is founder of and executive for two local businesses. and an avid outdoorsman. As a student he wrote and studied extensively the Maine sporting camp business and culture. He bring his highest level of attention to his family; enjoying the field, stream and camp life



with his wife and two sons all of whom can be found at and contributing to chapter events. Congratulations March and Thank You

## Presidential Commentary - George Embley



As you can read elsewhere in this letter, it has been a busy summer. In May, chapter members helped out with the Lebanon fourth grade watershed conference. We also held our annual Chapter picnic in mid-May. There were a lot of the regulars in attendance, but we were particularly pleased to welcome several new members. And in June, we got started in earnest on our latest conservation effort – a survey of road-stream crossings to evaluate fish passage in the Warner River Watershed. This effort continued through the summer.

As Tim Pease points out in the article on the stream crossing assessment, we have made considerable progress toward our goal of completing an assessment of all crossings in the town of Warner. While NH F&G will be doing a detailed evaluation of the data, it seems clear that there a fair number of crossings where fish passage is difficult or impossible – where culverts are perched over a foot above the pool below the culvert exit for example. So there is plenty of room for improvement- if we can find the opportunities to make it happen. Almost as a by-product, we (the volunteers) are also learning a lot about the wild-life in the watershed. We have seen wild trout inhabiting the head-waters, and one team even made the acquaintance of a four foot long black racer – an uncommon find which is on state threatened species list (My only encounter so far has been a leech that attached itself to my waders).

One of the most interesting things to me, as an engineer, is the diversity in the crossings that we are seeing. Many are “traditional” culverts (circular or elliptical pipe made out of corrugated steel, plastic, or concrete), and these are often the most troublesome with respect to obstruction of fish passage. Relatively new are the open structures such as cast concrete arches that allow a natural stream bottom (and facilitate fish passage). But we have also found a lot of dry-fit stone culverts with vertical stone sidewalls spanned by a series of rock slabs, and there is at least one example of a stone arch culvert. These structures are probably over 100 years old and their construction required skills in stone fitting that are rare today. Most have also been altered in some way. Recently we found 3-foot diameter concrete pipes at the entrance and exit of a culvert. But hidden underground, in the middle of the culvert, there was an old stone box culvert. At some point, the original road had been widened, and possibly paved, and instead of replacing the stone culvert, they just added concrete pipe on each end!

I have been involved in the majority of these field trips and I can tell you that the volunteers not only worked hard but they also enjoyed doing it. We have a good mix of local and chapter volunteers who are getting to know each other. There is a lot of discussion about where and how to find trout, and new friendships and fishing partnerships have been formed. My thanks go to all the volunteers, but I am particularly grateful to the small core of dedicated volunteers who have shown up time and time again.

Congratulations to Chapter Vice President March McCubrey who was recently elected to the position of National Leadership Council (NLC) Representative. I have known March since 2007 when I joined this chapter and he was president. He clearly has the commitment and strong record of accomplishment as a TU volunteer that the NLC position requires. March is currently attending the Annual Meeting of Trout Unlimited in Santa Fe along with chapter members Tom Ives, who is chairman of the NH State Council of TU, and Paul Doscher, who has returned to the Board of Trustees of Trout Unlimited as Interim Secretary of the NLC. March will be sharing highlights of the meeting at our September chapter meeting.

Our first monthly chapter meeting will be on **Thursday, September 18**. Program chairman George Cummings has arranged for a casting demonstration by William Ciaurro who is an FFF-certified instructor. The presentation will be casting with rods from short and light to long two-handed rods. This program will begin at Merrill Park at 6:00 PM (so we can get an hour or so of daylight). We will then move up the road to the Forest Society and have a short business meeting and announcements.

Please also mark your calendar for two other upcoming events. On **September 20**, our chapter and the NH Council of Trout Unlimited will be manning a booth at the National Hunting & Fishing Day Expo held at NH Fish & Game. Plan on attending this popular outdoor event and stop by at our exhibit. On **Saturday, September 27**, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, the NH State Council of Trout Unlimited will hold its annual meeting at Shaker Road School. This meeting is open to any chapter member interested in learning more about

## Through the Summer

**Basil Woods Jr Annual Picnic**

At the Passaconaway club overlooking a bend in the Merrimack river, the Basil Woods Jr. Chapter held its annual May picnic; It was a rousing success as veteran and four new chapter members, old friends and families gathered for burgers, dogs, fishing stories and sundry related discussions demonstrating once again the breadth and depth of the chapters constituent commitment to fisheries conservation here in NH.

**Bristol Bay Pebble Mine**

The EPA this summer ruled that the mine project could **not** go forward. However mine proponents continue to lobby Congress and have several court cases pending to remind us that continued vigilance will be necessary for the protection of these precious salmon habitats. Because the EPA direction is often a reflection of political interests it will be important to energize support for and elect those who will continue to support this recent decision. Once these habitats disappear it will be difficult if not impossible to recapture them.

**Lebanon Schools Fourth Grade Trout in the Classroom Events**

In May, for the sixth straight year, our chapter supported the Lebanon School District 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Watershed Conference. This is the final event in their trout in the classroom program, where the entire 4<sup>th</sup> grade spends a day at Great Brook in Lebanon learning about all aspects of the watershed and its associated wildlife. Chapter members George Embley, Bill Hall, Tom Ives, and Jim Timmins were present to teach spin casting, demonstrate fly tying and help with electroshocking and macroinvertebrate collection. Usually, the kids get into the water to collect macros, but the water was high and only the adults collected. In spite of the high water, students, instructors, parents and teachers all had a great time.

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## Editor's Soapbox

*Tim Pease*

You know I fished for a long time and studied economics in my youth and you would think I would have figured out in one context or the other some of the difficulties that we face as conservationists. But it is only within the time of my TU involvement that I have given it any real thought. It's a pretty big puzzle.

First, it doesn't seem likely that we will ever see the times of the colonists, Lewis and Clark, Thoreau, TR, Theodore Gordon, John Muir or Carrie Stevens again. Too many folks. too few resources; just too much water under bridge. We seem to be left with erasing some old scars and carving out outdoor theme parks from the remainder of our holdings.

Carving out the parts to "save" is an interesting trick. I came across a few trout savers who are not interested in the loon savers. Seems like loons eat trout. Elk savers don't like wolf savers. Ditto on the wolves and elk. Bison are no ones friend, disease you know; and coyotes and coy dogs here in the east are persona non grata, seems like, to everybody.

What about transplanted species. Should we retain only native species and native as of when, pre-

Columbian, pre Lewis and Clark, pre whirling disease?

It is also the "our holding" part that is tricky. Is ours the owner to use as he sees fit (like divert the water or mine the resources and leave a pit) or us the rural Americans to use for our private recreation, or us the state of (put your state in here), or us the US citizens or us the citizens that can afford the use fees and travel cost to use it?

Is it really conservation to preserve the resource with all of the flora and fauna of the past and then let no one see or use it; think Ted Turner.

Plus there is the whole time thing. Should we preserve something because we like it; even though nature might change it otherwise. Think the old man and the mountain. What if our preservation choices are not the futures choices. Do we really think that future land owners should be bound by current easements.

I have now a whole bunch more questions and fewer answers. Maybe I need to stop thinking about this stuff start fixing a few things and enjoy the result and realize that in the end what will be will be but it is still a puzzle



## 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*

### It Goes to Show You

The 2015 TU calendar made it to my upcountry PO box early last month and if it was not for the family Beck you'd think all trout were west of the Mississippi. It's good cuz it keep folks from stomping on my favorite pools but it ain't right.

It was mid summer and I was out to check some favorite water when I found a fella knee deep looking into his fly box. He was decked out in all the new fangled gear but he wasn't waving his rod, he was just looking at the water and his flies.

I coughed a little to get his attention and struck up a conversation. Seems as though this fella had fished here before. He said that just at dusk he had some luck on big fish but you had to look real close to see um to cast to. He said I could fish with him if I wanted, but I had never had much luck there; better for me a couple a pools below. There, I took fish earlier in the week, and many summers ago a rainbow big enough to hold in the crook of your arm. So I wandered down to my spot.

A couple of hours later as the sun slunk below the hills and the alders darkened the water? I had a few small ones but nothing at all to brag about. I push my way upstream and again found my new friend in about the same spot. He had a few too, but now he had returned to his watching. I moved a few yards downstream and put on my favorite streamer as it was way too dark for me to put on a dry. No luck for me but some ten minutes later I saw a fly line move down stream past me and a "fish on" warning sounded for above. The fish was into his backing and he carefully made his way downstream to play and land the fish. He knew what he was doing and did not seem to need my help. He made his way back to his spot and told me he'd had a 3-4 lb rainbow below.

Peering again into a twilight, as dark as the inside of your hat, he waited and made one more cast and was again on a tight line. To my surprise he said it felt bigger than the one a minute ago. The fish did not run but slugged it out in the pool and after the usual struggle, it came to the netting. This time it seemed that a hand would be needed so I moved closer. Two passes only showed how small the net was. Finally it folded into the twines and he shone a light on it. I tried to put my hands around it. No luck. It was easily 27 inches long and 8 inches deep with a 3 inch wide red band.

I went back a few days after to see what was special about the spot and learned a few things. In the 4 yards of water above the edge of the pool the flow was almost stopped. A drifting fly wobbled slowly surrounded by fast water. What a spot for large trout in the pool to feed effortlessly at dusk.

If we were all as good as that fisherman we would never need to worry if all the trout were west of the Mississippi.

I heard at the store that the same fella took a 6 lb. brown out of my favorite downstream pool three weeks later.

Humbling!

It goes to show you that even though darkness made a calendar picture impossible we have the fishermen and the fish here in the north country.

## *Parson Weems*



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### **NH Trout Unlimited Kids' Trout Camp**



Ben McManus  
of Contoocook



Jadon Rienstra  
of Concord

Basil Woods Jr sponsored trout campers

Ben and Jadon attend NH Trout Unlimited Kids' Trout Camp from June 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>. It is an experience that they and the 6 other campers will never forget. "After Kids' Trout Camp, I can fish anywhere, find fish and cast a good line to draw fish to the right fly", according to Ben, a 2014 student. This year, Jay who had never fished before caught his first fish, a brown trout below Murphy Dam in Pittsburg, NH with help from his Fishing Guide, Patrick Ard. According to Jay, "I tied my first fly and caught my first fish. Seeing that trout jump was a super moment that will always be with me."

Each year, 8 youths who are 13-16 years old are selected based on their essay and the recommendation of a teacher, guidance counselor or community mentor. For 5 days each summer, the camp is based at Bear Tree Properties' Metallak Lodge on 1<sup>st</sup> Connecticut Lake in Pittsburg, NH, where casting, fly tying, knots and bug identification sessions are conducted by certified NH Let's Go Fishing Instructors. NH Trout Unlimited Kids' Trout Camp is conducted by the NH Trout Unlimited State Council with an all-volunteer staff. The camp teaches the art and science of fly fishing and the value of environmental stewardship.

This year's camp featured group and individual

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*Watershed survey page*

Game fisheries biologist Ben Nugent to organize an effort to survey the Warner river watershed. In early June, two training sessions were held for almost 20 volunteers—led by instructors John Magee of NH F&G and Colin Lawson of Trout Unlimited. Following training, pilot surveys were done in early June to understand and refine the process. Subsequently, survey equipment was purchased or donated, maps collected and sites identified, and volunteer teams assembled. The teams were made up of TU and local volunteers under the guidance of a trained site survey leader. The early teams had Fish and Game support but, as time wore on, the chapter teams took on full responsibility.

Assembled in the quaint village of Warner the teams drove to local sites collecting data on 3 to 4 culverts a trip. These field trips proved to be as much fun as they were work. Who doesn't like to splash around in brooks and play with survey gear. The steep banks, poison ivy, and assorted bugs were no more intolerable than they would be when you are fishing. And following the work, the veterans frequented the local ice cream parlor while others may have found more traditional post-outdoor watering holes. A good and useful time was had by all.

The survey's objective is to collect data on culverts in the watershed, data that will identify impediments to trout migrations that are critical to long term viability of the population (such as providing access to headwater spawning habitat). Data collected measures water depth and stream breadth and related positioning of the culverts, searching for instances of existing or potential barriers to fish migrations. Both upstream and downstream measurements are taken to assess the potential for worse case flood conditions that would adversely impact the current conditions. Culvert conditions unrelated to habitat fragmentation are also recorded; data that might identify failing culverts for example. Data is recorded on site and is transferred to NH Fish and Game which has taken on the job of entering the data into a state-wide database maintained by NH DES (Department of Environmental Services). The data will be analyzed to identify both actual and potential migration barriers and otherwise failing culverts. All data and findings will be shared with local governments to identify mutual needs and expedite improvements.

This opportunity for local government involvement led to a town by town survey approach within the watershed. Warner NH is town one. Some 80 sites were identified and 5 more surfaced from the field work. To date nearly 40 sites have been surveyed. The town of Warner sites are planned for completion by the end of October. Efforts for the survey of the remainder of the Warner watershed sites, i.e. the other towns, will be developed during the winter of 2014-15. This winter's effort will focus on further

simplifying the fieldwork, identifying possible stream improvement projects, and broadening the chapter and local volunteer base participating in the field work.

This survey allows us to take a broad approach to the headwater related issues in the Warner River watershed. Since we cannot fix what is not know this effort becomes a critical task in the maintenance and protection of our cool headwater environments. The completion of each segment of the survey provides us with the insight to make necessary riparian repair. However the overall health of the watershed will continue to depend on our ability to finish the job. We invite all chapter members to sign up for the field work. It's fun but most of all it is important.

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fly casting lessons from Tom Jutras, FFA certified fly casting instructor. One-on-one on-river fishing instruction was provided by NH Licensed Fishing Guides. Dianne Timmins, NH Fish & Game's Coldwater Fisheries Biologist, conducted a river shocking activity where campers operated the equipment at Bridge Pool near Lake Francis State Park. With Dianne's help, they identified what they found in the river that included crayfish, hornpout, lots of bugs (fish food) and a young native brown trout.

Most of the fishing was conducted in the Connecticut River Headwaters "Trophy Stretch" where youth practiced their skills while catching and releasing salmon, rainbow and brown trout. Fishing below Murphy Dam included a briefing from NH Conservation Officer, Matthew Holmes, and featured a tour of the Dam operations. Jake MacVarish, a 2011 camp participant now attending the Maritime Academy, returned this year as a fishing mentor. He volunteered because "Kids' Trout Camp helped me chart my future. Camp is fun, intense and provides insight into why we must be engaged in preserving our fishing environment."

L.L. Bean and several fishing outfitters, including Lopstick, Tall Timber, North Country Anglers and FlyShack donate materials and equipment. Hannaford Super markets and Oakhurst Dairy contribute food products that Ron & Helen Sowa Catering prepare to keep the crew fueled for fishing. The camp is subsidized by the New Hampshire Trout Unlimited Chapters to maintain tuition at \$425 per student.

*Presidents Message page 2*

our state activities, and lunch is provided. If you are interested in attending, please let me know.

Later in the year, the chapter will again be offering a beginning and an intermediate fly-tying course. The beginning course will start on the first Tuesday in January and run for six weeks. It will be followed by the intermediate course which will run for five weeks. Stay tuned for more details.

One final note. The effectiveness of our chapter in meeting our goals depends on an active committed membership. We have a core group of dedicated volunteers, but we need to conserve and expand that resource. So if you can, please get involved in our chapter activities. Right now we could definitely use some additional volunteers to help us wrap up this year's stream/road crossing assessment in Warner. So check out dates that will be posted on the chapter website and see what dates suit you. There will be plenty of other opportunities throughout the year. We could use more help with youth activities such as Trout in the Classroom and kid's fishing day. New members of our banquet committee would strengthen our fundraising effort. Assistance with the fly-tying course would be welcome (some experience in tying flies would be useful but you don't need to be an expert to help out). In all these endeavors, your help is welcome. No long-term commitment is necessary. If you'd like more information on how to get involved, feel free to contact me at 456-2315 or gembley@tds.net.

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Youths interested in attending camp should contact Yvonne Nanasi, Camp Director, at [yln@comcast.net](mailto:yln@comcast.net) for an application. The 2015 camp will be conducted from June 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> and applications will be accepted until March 5, 2015.

Article provided by

**Yvonne Nanasi**

### **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**

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|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>September 18</b>           | First Chapter Meeting of the 2014-2015 season                             |
| <b>September 20</b>           | National Hunting & Fishing Day Expo held at NH Fish & Game                |
| <b>September 27, 10:00 am</b> | NH State Council of Trout Unlimited Annual meeting at Shaker Road School. |

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