



# Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter Trout Unlimited

## Troutlines

www.concordtu.org

December 2015

**Chapter Meeting  
Basil W. Woods Jr.  
No Meeting in  
December  
Next Chapter Meeting  
January 21, 2016**

**Jack Noon -  
Atlantic Salmon  
restoration effort on  
the upper Pemi in the  
late 1800's**

### Programs on the 2015-2016 Agenda

- Jessie and Rich Tichko-  
Trout Fishing in New  
Zealand
- Warner river Progress  
and Beyond

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## Fly Tying Classes



Basil Woods Fly Tying classes start Tuesday, January 5th, 2016. Don't miss your chance to get a seat at the table. Maybe your son, daughter, spouse, grand-child, or best buddy would like to come too. These classes make great gifts for the holiday.

You will take home flies that catch fish and the skills and techniques to create flies for a lifetime. Our veteran staff of tiers will teach you and work with you personally to hone your skills. Fly Tying is not magic, just a few techniques that you probably already know how to do. A whole bunch of fishing knowledge comes along in the process too.

These are great nights out for the dead of winter. We meet at the Passaconaway Club in Concord complete with knotty pine paneling and fire place. Classes run from 7 - 9 PM.

The six-week beginner's class is open to all 14 or over - no experience is required. Your fee covers all materials and tools for the class. We will also make recommendations for acquiring tools and materials for you at home. In just 6 weeks you will learn how to make streamers, dry flies, wet flies and nymphs.

The intermediate class begins February 16th and runs for 5 consecutive weeks. If you have some tying experience, want a refresher, or completed the beginner's class, you will get a lot from the intermediate course. Basil Woods again provides the tools and materials to tie two (2) new England favorite flies each session. The fee for the intermediate class is \$75.

If you are not a TU member and take the Basil Woods Jr Fly Tying class you get a free (\$35 value) one year membership to Trout Unlimited .

A Registration form is below. Fill it out. Send it in or contact us through the Basil Woods Jr Trout Unlimited website, <http://concordtu.org/> Facebook , <https://www.facebook.com/ConcordTU>. or email us [concordtu@yahoo.com](mailto:concordtu@yahoo.com)

### Winter Fly Tying Class Registration - 2016

Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter Trout Unlimited

Tuesday Evenings: 7 - 9 PM, January 5 - February 9, Beginner's Class - 6 weeks \*

Tuesday Evenings: 7 - 9 PM, February 16 - March 15, Intermediate class - 5 weeks \*

Passaconaway Club - Garvins Falls Road, Concord NH

Name:

Address:

Phone and e-mail:

Check the Class or Classes you are signing up for.

Beginner's Class January 5 - February 9 - \$ 50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Intermediate Class February 16 - March 15 - \$ 75 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

I have never been a TU member  I am a TU member

Send registration and payment to: Basil W. Woods Chapter TU

PO Box 3302

Concord NH 03302 - 3302

Please photocopy this form if you need extras.

Questions? e-mail us at: [concordtu@yahoo.com](mailto:concordtu@yahoo.com)

\* Schedule may be interrupted due to

**Presidential Commentary** — Alex Hicks

Hi Folks,

Yet another month has passed too quickly. The leaves have been taken care of and (likely) the wood is in. I've had the opportunity to sit down with family and friends for meals and remembrances. I hope you have, too. The signs of winter are all around us, now. Most evident for me - the pond that I walk past on the way to my classroom has skimmed over with ice. I appreciate that Mother Nature has held off on the snow, at least for now. Since our last newsletter, and as always, your chapter has been working hard to help meet our mission.

November's meeting was great fun! George Cummings and Jim Timmins gave a great presentation on fishing north of our border. I have to tell you, I've seen some big fish caught on a fly rod – but these guys know how to find the monsters! Some of them had fangs, honest. They shared their secrets, as well as tips on where to stay comfortably and get everything taken care of on a budget. Another great thing about the meeting – we were able to meet a couple of new chapter members! Thanks for coming!

The word from Fish and Game for TIC folks is that the eggs at the hatchery are doing well. Our TU chapter, NHF&G, and teachers across our chapter's area have been working hard on the Trout in the Classroom program. Students are brushing up on lifecycle and watershed lessons while the hatchery folks make sure that the eggs are well cared for are will be available to move into classroom chillers in January. George Embley, Steve Lowe, and others from the chapter, are making sure that the chillers are working and in the hands of those that need them.

You should know that we have a great Embrace-a-Stream grant application in the works as part of a Warner River Watershed Conservation Project.

George Embley and his crew of amazing volunteers, along with New Hampshire Fish and Game and a number of other conservation minded folks, have been working since at least 2012 in this area to build

a concrete understanding of the watershed and its challenges. We'll keep you updated on its progress. If things work out, it will certainly help to maintain the momentum that they've been building over the last couple of years.

Other fun (and social) events are in the works, too. The Fly Tying Course crew has been hard at work gathering materials and making plans. If you haven't signed up for a class yet, you should do so as soon as possible. Details can be found on the chapter website: [www.concordTU.org](http://www.concordTU.org). While there's no member meeting in December, we'll be back at the Forrest Society in January. Please (PLEASE!) join us – and bring a friend! January's program will feature Jack Noon with a presentation on the Atlantic Salmon restoration effort on the upper Pemi in the late 1800's. We have a couple of other surprises in the works too, but you'll only get to find out about them if you come!

As always, we'd love to hear what you think.

Please reach out to us by email, Facebook, or regular mail. We're doing our best on your behalf, but input from chapter members helps us make sure that the chapter is working in the right direction. Your ideas and insight are appreciated.

Tight lines~

~Alex



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](mailto:ConcordTU@yahoo.com)

## Editors Soapbox

*Tim Pease*

I would normally wax serenity, comfort and thanks at this time of the year but, the recent national and international events make it difficult to retreat into our pristine outdoor world of bright days and sparkling waters.

It strikes me as particularly offensive that the hunting/outdoor enthusiasts have been hijacked to support an armed to the teeth society where the harvest in innocent people eclipses the hunt of many seasons afield for most outdoorsmen. This “more guns is better” rationale clearly doesn’t work but creates opportunity and has generated a more fearful not safer society. Please help it stop. This proliferation of guns is not an outdoorsman, frontier, rural lifestyle issue it is lunacy as it is carried out. Make your voice heard for change.

If a man falls in the water we don’t ask his nationality or religion before we extend a hand to pull him out. Could he pull us in and drag us down and both go under. Could he do it on purpose? I guess. but we still lend a hand. We are not afraid!

Yet we hear our perspective leaders spout off about not helping refugees in dire need, “Wouldn’t take a child of 3 years old” said one. “I’d send them all back” said another. Where does this fear come from? We daily face riskier propositions striding forward in life.

We live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. We are a religious, caring nation. Lets act like it and excoriate our leaders who would do otherwise. In dire times a man said “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself”. He got it right!

It is said that a rising tide raises all boats and surely we are about to find out and likely with consequences that have been heretofore unseen. Global warming is here and whether man is the sole con-

tributor or not is likely irrelevant. We are a contributor without a doubt. Holes in the ozone and vast indigestible quantities of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere make a difference and man made both of them.

We in the US pride ourselves on our pioneer attitude and leadership qualities but choose to wait for others to take the lead on such a critical world problem. Short term, narrow self interest and greed seems to trump all other concerns in this matter. Even environmentalist eschew projects that would lessen greenhouse gasses in the name of near term habitat protection. Business sees nothing but a diminution in profits and related share prices and citizens see higher taxes and energy prices. While I guess John Maynard Keynes old maxim is true that “in the long run we are all dead “ he did not suggest that we should act as though there would be no one remaining to inherit what we left behind in our passing. We can and should do better.

In the spirit of joy love and hope of the coming holiday lets us each see where we are and what can be done to relieve us of these trying concerns and exhibit our mantle of courage, wisdom, and morality.

*Tim Pease*

## Basil Woods Jr Chapter Warner River Watershed Survey Strides Forward

*George Embley*

For the fourth year, Basil Woods volunteers worked with NH Fish & Game personnel and local community volunteers to collect data that describe the health of the brook trout that inhabit the Warner River watershed. This summer, 22 volunteers assessed over 50 road-stream crossings in the Lane River sub-watershed, and also spent several days supporting NH F&G electrofishing surveys. George Embley, who led the project for the chapter, worked with fisheries biologist Ben Nugent to plan this work and coordinate volunteer support. Jon Shuttle led many of the survey teams and also stored the survey equipment so that it was available when needed.

Each of the volunteers contributed at least half a day to the project, and some put in much more time. Thanks go to all of these dedicated volunteers (listed below) who have contributed their time this year.

Mike Amaral	Bob Ball
Chris Connors	George Embley
Jack Iacopino	Betsy Janeway
True Kelley	Doran Logston
Nancy Martin	March McCubrey
Grant McCubrey	Tim Pease
Mike Petrun	Susan Roman
Brenda Shuttle	Jon Shuttle
Charlie Stumb	Walt Ryan
Gary Thorn	Jim Timmins
Brad Towle	Susan Towle

Together with our partners, the NH Fish & Game Department and the Warner Conservation Commission, we have been working on this project since 2012, with more than a thousand volunteer hours to date.. The first two years were spent working with NH F&G to complete electrofishing, habitat, and macroinvertebrate surveys throughout the watershed. Results were encouraging, with wild brook trout found at two-thirds of the sites surveyed – along with good water quality and healthy macroinvertebrate populations.

With habitat results in hand, the chapter initiated a stream crossing assessment project throughout the watershed in 2014. This ongoing project evaluates road-stream crossings for their ability to provide upstream movement for fish as well as the crossings' effect on a stream's natural morphology. Stream crossing assessments will be combined with wild brook trout distribution data to help prioritize crossing replacements. This information can also be used by towns to determine which crossings are at risk during high flow events. Two of the four sub-

watersheds of the Warner River have now been completed (over 130 sites evaluated).

A lot happened this year. Besides completion of stream crossing assessments in the Lane River Watershed (mostly in the towns of Sutton and New London), we supported electrofishing surveys in the Warner River (sorry, no wild trout there), and re-surveyed the trout population in several streams that had been surveyed in the past (still in good shape). To publicize our project, we also manned a booth with NH F&G at the Warner Farmer's market – which was quite popular. And new chapter member Chris Connors is representing us at meetings of the Warner River Nomination Committee (comprised of representatives of the five towns containing portions of the Warner River). This committee is working with the Central NH Regional Planning Commission to nominate the Warner River for special protection and designation under the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program.

Volunteers usually pick the nice days to get out in the field. As an example of what we find, consider the



following. In the first picture above, Brenda Shuttle, Susan Roman and Jim Timmins make measurements below a culvert on a section of Lyons Brook. The next picture shows that this culvert is perched - making it



difficult, if not impossible, for trout to move upstream. We won't know for sure about trout passage potential until Ben Nugent evaluates the data this winter, but steps may be available to help that are short of culvert replacement.

One of the most interesting activities this year was the reintroduction of wild trout into a stream segment that had good habitat but no trout. Silver Brook, which flows into the Warner River has good habitat but is fragmented, with trout passage blocked by two crossings and a dam. So, in July, during the hottest, driest part of the summer, several Basil Woods volunteers accompanied NH F & G fisheries biologists on a trip to move resident wild trout in Silver Brook to a new upstream location that had been electro fished two years in a row, with no trout in evidence.. This was despite good water quality and a healthy macro population.

Ben Nugent and Matt Carpenter (NH F&G fisheries biologists) led the expedition, electrofishing a 600- foot segment of stream between an impassable culvert under I-89 and the Warner river. When we entered near the mouth of the stream it wasn't too promising – the stream bed was, at best, damp and the flow rate was zero. So it was surprising (first picture below) when we retrieved a young-of-the-year trout stranded in a small puddle about an inch or two deep. Then, as we moved upstream, we saw more water (flowing) and more trout. In the end were able to capture a suitable population. After documenting their size and weight, we released the trout a couple of miles upstream, where there was plenty of water to support the new inhabitants. In the second picture, a seven inch trout is accommodating himself to his new home. Next year, this area will be resurveyed to see how well they are doing.

A great deal of information has now been collected about wild trout and their habitat in this 149 square-mile watershed. A report documenting results for 2012 to 2014 can be found on the NH F&G website



**A small trout in a puddle**



**A seven inch trout in its new home**

(<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/fishing/wild-brook-trout.html>) These results indicate a healthy watershed with plenty of wild trout; but one that is also fragmented, with trout passage impeded at many road-stream crossings. Like other streams in our part of the East, these streams will face more development and will be stressed further as the effects of climate change are felt. Our efforts have increased awareness of the value of these streams in the local area, but more is needed. Now that we have a complete set of information for the town of Warner, next year we plan to take that information and reach out to individual landowners and citizens to show them the value of the stream(s) on their property and to encourage them to adopt conservation measures. We hope this can lead to specific projects that landowners and/or TU can undertake to improve and conserve habitat. We will also continue to work toward completion of remaining stream crossing assessments in the watershed.

To keep this project moving forward, we will need your help. Volunteers enjoy the work and are making a real contribution. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the streams in our area and how to protect them. Please consider joining us next year.

## Atlantic Salmon on a Shoestring The Way it Was—The Way it Is

Last month's chapter meeting provided an unusual glimpse into Atlantic Salmon Fishing. George Cummings and Jim Timmins both Basil Woods Jr. board members offered meeting attendees a view of Atlantic Salmon fishing absent expensive lodges, fawning guides, or crowded pools rather a story of well honed fish stalking of fresh salmon taken from



some of the most beautiful wild rivers remaining on the North American continent.. The talk was short on the what flies to use or what tackle to bring but, long on finding the water, then the fish; and finally properly landing and releasing the most prized freshwater gamefish in the world

For these gentlemen the Atlantic Salmon is not only a fish of 1000 casts but, of endless miles driven and countless evenings spent in pretty interesting accommodations for both dining and sleeping.. Both are hardly spring chickens but acquit themselves

like striplings on the water. Their enthusiasm for the sport is unbounded .



Don't confuse their zeal as a substitute for results. These guys catch fish and large ones at that. Take a look at these beauties.



George presented the fishing narrative with his familiar élan followed by Jim's review of helpful tips for fishing on the Gaspee without breaking the bank. Not only did we learn what was possible but how to do it ourselves. Get yourself together and fish like these guys do. You will enjoy it. They obviously do.

### 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

**January 21, 2016-7PM Chapter Meeting**

**January 5, 2016 Fly Tying Classes Begin**

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