



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
- ◆ Maine Cane Fly Rods

Chapter Meetings

Thursday,
November 20, 2014

President
George Embley Chapter
Briefs and Business

Scott Warren
Estuaries & Saltmarshes

Meet the Basil Woods Jr.
sponsored young
men from the TU Fish
Camp in Pittsburg

Refreshments

Raffle

Insightful discourse

Fish Stories

No Meeting in December

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Estuary & Saltmarsh Eco-Impact

Join us at our chapter meeting **November 20, 2014** for an evening with Scott Warren and learn how saltmarshes contribute to the welfare of our ecosystem.

Mr. Warren is the Jean Tempel '65 Professor Emeritus of Botany at Connecticut College. He has studied and co-authored several studies on various aspects of salt marsh plant ecology, in particular environmental factors driving species distribution and vegetation change in relation to sea level rise.

He has been an associate editor for the journals WETLANDS and ESTUARIES & COASTS. Scott has also served on numerous state and federal advisory committees and review panels and as president of both the New England Estuarine Research Society and the North East Chapter of the American Society of Plant Physiologists

His geographically diverse research includes Long Island Sound, tideland restoration in the Pacific Northwest; and closer to home he and colleagues from the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, and Louisiana State University have been studying impacts of nitrogen loading on salt marshes in the Plum Island Sound estuary in Massachusetts.

Join us for a very informative evening. Bring your enquiring mind and your questions.



Old stone arch culvert on Frazier Brook
(Kearsarge Mtn. Rd in Warner)

Road-Stream Crossing Assessments in Warner

Our chapter's conservation efforts wrapped up for the year in early October when we finished our last culvert assessments in the Lower Warner River Watershed. This year, working with Ben Nugent and other NH F&G personnel, twenty chapter and local volunteers collected data for 80 road/stream crossings and contributed almost 400 man-hours. Our thanks go to all of these volunteers:

Richard Bartlett (TU)	Peter Ellinwood (TU)	Susan Towle (TU)
George Embley (TU)	Sally Embley	Rebecca Herman
Rob Freitas	Bob Ives (TU)	Tom Ives (Ives)
True Kelley	Jared Lamy	Tim Pease (TU)
Ken Reznicek (TU)	Deb Reznicek	Susan Roman
Jon Shuttle (TU)	Brenda Shuttle (TU)	Jim Timmins (TU)
Gary Thorn	Brad Towle (TU)	

All of these volunteers devoted at least one day to this work and many showed up multiple times. George Embley coordinated the volunteer work. Bob Ives helped with purchase of equipment and donated a level and tripod to the effort. And special thanks go to Jon Shut-

Presidential Commentary — George Embley



A few weeks ago, I was tying some flies for my annual trip to the San Juan River in New Mexico. I wanted to see how one of the small emergers (size 22 hook) looked to a trout. So I filled a plastic container with water, threw the fly in, and held it up to the light to get a trout's eye view. It looked great and floated well in the surface film. Just one problem – a giant (relatively speaking) hook hanging down from the bottom of the fly. How could a trout possibly mistake anything like that for something natural? But apparently they do. So knowing that, in our computer age, there is almost no question that hasn't already been asked, I looked it up on Google. The answer was found in an article by John Merwin in an on-line magazine called MidCurrent. In short, research indicates that during an intense hatch, trout develop a searching image that selects their food based on a series of positive matches – right shape, right size, right color, etc. That image, as Merwin puts it, “does not for the most part depend on negative matches. A hook, something that's not supposed to be there, would be a negative match. The

natural insects on which the trout has rapidly learned to selectively feed don't have hooks. Hooks are not part of the trout's developed searching or matching image. Therefore, in grossly oversimplified form, trout don't care about the hook.”

Having reassured myself that the flies I was tying might work after all, I completed my tying project with more confidence. Finding the answer to this question won't change my success rate, but it did give me a new insight into trout behavior, and getting such insights is what makes this sport so attractive to many of us.

I experienced good fishing once again on my annual sojourn to the San Juan River in New Mexico, but I did have one unpleasant surprise. The part of the river I had enjoyed the most the year before had been the victim of a major rainstorm a couple of weeks before I arrived. So much sand and sediment had been deposited over a mile stretch of the river that the guide boats didn't even bother stopping to fish. I walked about a half-mile below the wash where the sediment had entered the river and I didn't stop to fish either. What I saw looked more like an ocean flats than a river. The only difference was that, with the exception of one lone fisherman stubbornly rejecting reality, there was no sign of life. All the holes and depressions were filled in, and in a portion of the river that would normally contain thousands of trout, not one was in evidence. And the reason was pretty clear too. There was no sign of the prolific midge hatch that occurs on this river. Basically, with the sediment smothering the river bottom, there were no insects. Storms like the one that caused this are rare. So chances are Mother Nature will fix the problem within a year or two. But the lesson is clear. If there are special places you like to fish, don't wait too long to take advantage of them. You never know when things will change.

We are already working on our two most important fundraising efforts. In the next week or two, you will be receiving our annual raffle tickets. If you buy tickets this year you will get another crack at winning a Trophy 126 Kayak. Even if you miss on this one, there are plenty of other worthwhile prizes, including a 5 weight Winston Nexus rod. Tom Ives has taken on the job of banquet chairman again this year and the first meeting of the committee will be in early December. We made over \$3500 on last year's effort but we would like to improve on this. Many of the faces we see each year belong to people who have already accumulated enough fly fishing materials, equipment, and artwork that their interest in acquiring more through auctions or raffles may be starting to wane. And that can translate to lower income even if the attendance is good (and it does appear to be dropping a little). So, we will be looking for ways to increase the number of attendees through better advertising or changes in the venue to broaden interest. Your help and ideas on this are welcome – and needed. So if you have a suggestion or would like to serve on the banquet committee, let us know. And set aside the March 18 date for the banquet now. Even better, recruit some friends or relatives to go with you. It's always fun.

Our next chapter meeting, on November 20, will feature Scott Warren of Warner who will do a program on estuaries, particularly Great Bay and its associated fisheries. Dr. Warren is an outspoken advocate for wetland and tidal marsh preservation and has done extensive research on the wetlands and marshes of New England. A former botany professor at Connecticut College, he has given countless print and broadcast media interviews as an authority on estuarine ecology. It should be a fascinating program.

George

Basil



Woods Jr

Basil Woods Jr. finds Facebook



Concord ,New Hampshire

Remember, 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>

Editor's Soapbox

Tim Pease

Of Feathers, Furs and Iron Fly Tying

The announcement of Basil Woods Jr.'s annual fly tying classes has sent me into my usual reverie on fly tying.

For me it began as 10"x14" box under the Christmas tree in the winter of 1964. My word, it is fifty years ago. In the box was a vise of sorts, tinsel, chenille, buck tail, hooks et al.. Dad's buddy Lee was a tier and he made sure that Dad bought a good bobbin; the red one with the screw on the side. Still got it. I set up in the cellar and began a lifetime of fiddling with feathers.

Today, I have a roomful of stuff and its upstairs too. I probably enjoy tying as much if not more than I do the fishing. You see. you can fish all winter when you tie.

In each soft hackle tied you get to see the bulging water and feel the jolting tug of the fish.

A Grey Ghost conjures up not only a stripped fly halted midstream by a leaping salmon; but the graceful outlines of the now defunct Upper Dam ; and a image of women who looked like my Aunt Peg and crafted, without a vise, some of the most beautiful flies anyone has ever seen.

Finishing parachute sulphur duns comes with the fog created by cold water and the warm summer air of late June evenings. Sometimes the fog is so dense you cannot see your fly and yet if you fish it cross stream the trout will ignore it for a natural. Feed out your line dead downstream watch the fly

disappear into the mist then listen for the splash to tighten your line. Yes, when you tie you can do this in January.

Nothing aborts a long winter like a few well crafted Hendricksons. No matter the final choice you make from an infinite number of dun hackle shades you will recall the delicate sip of a trout that often turns out larger than his take. And better yet, you think of the timeless essay from Ernst Schwiebert "A Time for Hendricksons". I finally fished the Horse Brook run below Hendrickson's pool on the Beaverkill where Schwiebert describes taking two browns over 18 inches on delicate Hendricksons. No trout for me, It did not matter. The fly will take me there again anytime I want to go .

Tie a low water blue charm and be transported to the Cairnton pool on the River Dee and watch A. H. E. Woods fish ,for the first time , a fly in he surface on a dry line for Atlantic salmon. Admire a sparking Silver Rat and visit the Restigouche, or an Undertaker and join Warren Duncan on the Miramichi .

Closer to home, craft a Jim Warner Winnepesaukee Smelt and put yourself on the docks at Alton bay come April 1st. Perhaps wind on a heron fly streamer and recall the elegant Nick Lambrou seducing trout and landlocked from any New England water he chose.

New England winters are long and cold; but tie a few flies and see how the cold vanishes and spring comes quicker. It works for me and it will you too. See you at the January Marlboro Fly Fishing Show and for you beginners at the Basil Woods fly tying classes.



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

Northeast Guide Conclave & Related Musings

Fit nicely between the winding down of fishing and the run up for hunting, the North East Curmudgeon /Whippersnapper Guides met for their annual conclave at the Four Chimneys Inn in Bennington Vermont. It was a bit upscale for this woody crowd but it was central to all and even with the foliage long gone a spectacular setting.

The boys, and a few gals, came in from all over; the Gaspé, the Maritimes, the Maine and New Hampshire north woods, the Vermont northeast kingdom, central and upper New York, a most unique blend of traditional LL Bean wools, plaids and suspenders accented with the latest in Simms and Patagonia light sculpted offerings each fit to the appropriate age and body type; a potpourri of style and dialect.

The parking lot showcased pickups and SUVs on steroids liberally appointed with racks and trailer hitches, most still muddy but a few spiffed up for the event. Nothing low slung either, all were jacked to safely pass an oil pan over an 4" rock on an 8" rut. A couple of generous clients in September helped Old Parse make it down on his Ford banger 4X4 pick up sporting one mud flap, an oil change and new tires; the latter the first in 4 years.

After a few adult beverages as befitting attending age and gender, a crisp aproned waitress chaperoned the guides to a white linen table bright with silver and crystal. The fare included venison and salmon, scalloped potatoes, biscuits and roasted winter veggies. The meal was consummated in bread pudding, coffee and cognac. A mellow beginning to the discussion to come next.

The Inn had offered one of the four chimneys for the evening talk and so they gather around the fire in arm chairs with wings, in brocade or leather. More chairs were lugged in from the dining area. Some sat conventional some straddled the backs.

Pierre from the Gaspé opened lamenting the sparse salmon run and grasping for explanations that would ensure that this was but a passing fancy and some assurance that the picture would be brighter next year. All Margaree Mack wanted was some water. Even the technical youngsters could not provide what they wanted. Too many changing variables to predict: temperature changes, overfishing, new rainfall patterns, adverse outcomes from fish farming. Quebec was thinking of giving preference to farmed salmon over wild salmon. Sacré Bleu!!! Too dark, lets move on.

Burt from Grand Lake Stream had some cheerier news. He knew why fishing was so bad, the d— —d power company messed up the water flow so the fish needed legs in September to crawl around in the trickle that was left. At least they did not shut the water off all together said Harry from over Kokadjo way. We had to pick up the fish from the Roach and carry them to the lake and probably lost two year classes in spite of the work.. Who did it? The AMC, go figure, just the turn of the screw.

Pittsburg Pete was fighting to keep out rafters. After years of trying to get enough flow to fish they now needed to make sure that there was not too much water. Plus, all the big trout were being pilfered by winter bait fishermen. Pete says bring on the slot limit.

Driftboat Donny from Altmar anchored the conversation with his discussion of the smallest king salmon run in recent memory and its likely impact on the steelhead runs that count on salmon eggs for food. Not hardly upbeat but he got less better. Seems that public access on the Salmon river continues to dwindle. Last year the Schoolhouse pool was removed from the public domain. The Douglaston Run, already private will continue to become more restricted and more expensive; and competing with the DSR for access to the lower river is the current sale and likely removal of a 29 acre parcel that contains the Joss Hole.

Bright penny reports came from Ed Bartles and Bob James from the Delaware drainage. Both were wearing felts for the first time in 5 years. Seems that rock snot is not transplanted by transport on shoes and waders; but is rather a cyclical phenomenon unrelated to the folly of man. Farmington Fanny and Lamoille Lenny both spoke of a great year on the water with steady flows predictable hatches, and plentiful catches. It is nice to know we did not mess up everything.

The Parse wrapped it up on following observation. Maybe he and his companions were in some way their own worst enemy not directly of course but by accident. So good have they and the equipment vendors been at promoting fishing that the resulting flood of fishermen and the continuing general population growth (200 to 300 million in his lifetime) have overtaxed the natural resource and that no amount of fiddling on the supply side will overcome the massive demand for not just fish but the supporting resources that propagate fish.

On that note drinks were drained and the folks trundled off to their canopied beds to ponder these tribulations.

Parson Weems



The Autumn Travesty

Below the bridge that links the Jones Recreation parking lot and the homage to Fenway Park Little League field lie spawning landlocked salmon. If you come here after Thanksgiving you will find the Merrymeeting river from the bay to the dam in Alton full of salmon. Do they spawn successfully? No, not really and that issue should be addressed. For it is likely that they can.

Three weeks ago the shores were lined with fishermen enjoying the opportunity to catch these large spawning fish and the accompanying oversized rainbow and lake trout that follow them into the river to feast on the eggs

It is quiet now as the season is closed. But why, the fish are there, the rules are catch and release on barbless hooks. The fishermen are well mannered, in fact most rules are self enforced by the fishermen on the river. The stream has never been littered with played out mismanaged previously caught fish.

It remains a mystery why the public should be denied this resource in the fall. With the demise of the brood stock Atlantic Salmon program all trout and salmon fishing ends at the end of October. Access to lake salmon officially ends in September unless of course you happen to be fishing for bass and your spinner bait "accidentally" finds landlocks and you need to bring them in to shake them off. Barbless? I doubt it.

It is rumored that lack of enforcement resources requires shutting down the fishing to enforce hunting regulations. Perhaps that is true but I bet that an extended season license fee would be tolerated by the public and go a long way to funding the necessary resources to keep the lakes and streams open longer.

We have in New Hampshire wonderful but, to this author, seemingly undercapitalized and underutilized fishing grounds. Our several deep cold water lakes and their attendant tributaries seem afterthoughts in our fish management plans. These places are fish growing factories and fishing access sites if managed well. Maine somehow manages to have truly remarkable fishing from its cold water lakes and tributaries.

We are missing the boat and we need to do better.. More aggressive and better distributed stocking programs are not the single answer but they seem a likely good start. We need to clean up and energize the tributaries too. And we need to fund enforcement too.

As we interact with our legislators and the Department of Fish and Game lets promote the expansive use of these wonderful resources. Help them understand that while we are not raising taxes we are likely abandoning our fishing heritage. It is a shame to let the our precious fisheries go neglected and underutilized..

Tim Pease

tle, who led field teams when neither Ben nor George was available.

This work will be continued next year. Additional road stream crossing assessments may be conducted in other parts of the Warner River Watershed. Depending on results of the evaluation of this year's data by NHFG, we may also look for possible stream improvement projects. The objective is to improve trout habitat or fix some of the stream crossing problems that contribute to fragmentation of the watershed.

Pictures of some crossings assessed this year are shown above and below:



Volunteers measure bank-full stream width above Corrugated steel elliptical culvert on French Brook. Recently repaired and allows fish passage



Volunteer Jon Shuttle examines old stone box culvert on Colby Brook crossing under Eaton Grange Road



Winter Fly Tying Classes Returning January 6, 2015 –February 17, 2015

The chapter fly tying classes are soon to be up and running. We will be offering our time-tested fly tying courses beginning Tuesday, January 6th, 2015.

The six-week beginner’s class is open to anyone 14 years or older - no experience is required. The chapter is supplying materials and vises for up to 15 participants. The beginner flies include Streamers: Black Nose Dace and Black Ghost; Nymphs: Woolly Bugger, Partridge and Orange, and Hare’s Ear; Dry Fly: Light Cahill. The fee for the beginner class is \$50.

The intermediate class begins February 17th and runs for 5 weeks. Participants, who have some experience, that want a refresher, or have completed the beginner’s class, will enjoy the intermediate course. As in the beginner class, materials and vises for up to 15 participants will be provided. Typical patterns for the intermediate course include: Zonkers, Nine-Three Streamer, Garside Soft Hackle, the Glitter Bug; Maribou Muddler, Hornberg, classic Go-To Dries - Elk Hair Caddis and the Parachute Hendrickson. And finally the gorgeous Royal Wulff. The fee for the intermediate class is \$75.

A **free** one year membership to Trout Unlimited will be given to first time members.

Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter Trout Unlimited **Winter 2015 Fly Tying Class Registration**

Beginner’s Class Tuesday Evenings: 7 - 9 PM, January 6 - February 10,* – 6 weeks
Intermediate class *Tuesday Evenings: 7 - 9 PM, February 17 - March 17,* – 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 6 - February 10 - \$ 50 \$ _____

Intermediate Class February 17 - March 17 - \$ 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 **Questions? e-mail us at: concordtu@yahoo.com**

PO Box 3302
Concord NH 03302

Please print and photocopy this form if you need extras.

◆ Schedule may be interrupted due to storm days.

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.

Basil Woods Jr. Chapter TU
PO Box 3302
Concord NH 03302-3302

Calendar

November 20, 2014 Chapter Meeting

No meeting in December

March 14, 2015 TU Banquet—save the date

January 6, 2015 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