



Troutlines

Senate Committee Unanimously Passes Warner River Designation and Recommends 'Ought to Pass'

The NH [Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee](#) held a public hearing on Tuesday, January 16th, for [Bill SB445: Designating the Warner River as a protected river \[within the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program \(RMPP\)\]](#). Over twenty residents and supportive groups, including Basil Woods TU, attended to support the bill. Our [Warner River Watershed Conservation Project](#) for Wild Brook Trout inspired Warner, Bradford, Sutton, Webster and Hopkinton to protect the Warner River. For over two years, we have steadfastly supported their efforts.

Several attendees provided testimony at the hearing including Nancy Martin, (cont p2) Above: The proposed Warner River designated corridor showing the corridor classifications ([click here for the original](#)); Snowmobile trail signs along the Warner River at Dalton Covered Bridge, Warner.



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Upcoming Events

- 1-22-18 Banquet Committee
- 1-29-18 Banquet Committee
- 2-01-18 Board Meeting
- 2-15-18 CHAPTER NIGHT OUT!
- Brookies & Beer at Area 23

BASIL WOODS TROUT UNLIMITED

CHAPTER NIGHT OUT

FEBRUARY 15TH

5:30PM THE AREA 23
254 N STATE ST, CONCORD

Brookies & Beer

PLEASE JOIN US FOR COMPLIMENTARY LITE FARE AND WELL-CRAFTED, LOCAL WATERSHED BEER! LEARN ABOUT STREAM STEWARDSHIP, WATERSHED CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING. FLY TYING DEMONSTRATIONS, RAFFLE AND DART TOURNAMENT AT 7PM

CONCORDTU.ORG

Basil Woods TU Troutlines

Contact Us

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NHTU Council Reps: Paul Doscher; OPEN
TIC: George Embley
Youth Ed Coordinator: Mike Petrun
Youth Fishing Day: Bill Hall
Webmaster/FB/Email: Chris Connors

Email: concordtu@yahoo.com

PO Box 3302, Concord, NH 03302-3302

About Us

We are a passionate group of anglers and conservationists in the Concord area committed to the preservation, conservation, and restoration of North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. We all love to fish - but we also know that good fishing requires viable, healthy ecosystems. Last year our Chapter donated \$6,750 toward these efforts. Members and local volunteers contributed over 2,700 volunteer hours to our local and greater NH watersheds. Read more about us and what we do [here](#).

President's Letter



Greetings Basil Woods Chapter Members!

Well, here we are. It's 2018 and we've just been through sub-zero weather with lots of snow. I usually try to get on a stream in January but not so far this year! Anything below 35 degrees and my fingers and toes don't work so well, not to mention my reel. So that first trip will have to wait for some warmer weather.

This coming year harbors lots of exciting activities and possibilities for our chapter. Your Board of Directors is hard at work, meeting each month, planning activities, but it needs your help! We currently have two openings on the board and would love to have some new members and new ideas join us.

With the New Year comes the tradition of making a New Year's resolution and yes, I do partake. Mine is, and has been for several years, "take more trips". Every year about this time I say to myself, you're a year older and what about those trips you keep promising to take?

Now I can't complain too much, as there have been a few trips this past year - but not nearly enough. Starting last May, building a new house made time for fishing real low on the priority list. Looking back on the

year, I realize that not making the effort, not taking the time to do what I really enjoy and what energizes me, was a mistake. So this year will be different. I will honor my resolution and I will get out there sometimes with like-minded friends and sometimes in solitary bliss. I encourage all of you to do the same, whether it be a local trip or one to distant places, it's all good.

So please join us at our chapter meetings, participate in our volunteer activities, and above all "take more trips"!

Screaming reels!

Richard Kingston

Warner Designation (cont)

Nomination Committee Chair; Rep. Clyde Carson, Warner Selectman; Ray Martin, Warner Village Water District; and Ann Eldrige, Bradford Conservation Commission Chair, who also spoke on behalf of Bradford Selectmen. John Warren, owner of the Davisville Dam property also spoke in favor. Sam Durfee, Central NH Regional Planning Commission, Tracie Sales, NHDES Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, and Michele Tremblay, speaking on behalf of the [Rivers Management Advisory Committee](#), and the [NH Rivers Council](#), also provided supportive testimony. As part of her testimony, Chris Connors, Basil Woods TU representative to the nomination committee delivered 100 additional signatures of support collected at local outreach events. Rep. Natalie Wells spoke against the bill, repeating known concerns previously expressed by a few dam owners. *The full Senate is likely to take up this bill on or prior to February 1st.*

Please join us in support of SB445, by contacting [your state legislators](#) and cc your letter/email to SB445 Primary Sponsor, [Senator Dan Feltes](#), and co-sponsors [Senator Ruth Ward](#), [Senator Jeb Bradley](#) and [Senator Martha Fuller Clark](#), [Rep. Clyde Carson](#), [Rep. John Mullen](#), [Rep. Suzanne Smith](#), [Rep. David Luneau](#), and [Rep. Mel Myler](#). Thank you in advance for supporting these communities!

(Next: **RMPP Designation 101**, p3)

The Tyer's Bench: Pheasant Tail Nymph



Greetings folks and welcome to The Tyer's Bench, Troutlines' new fly tying section. I hope you will join me each month as we fill our fly boxes with productive flies we tied ourselves!

We will start off by tying what Trout Unlimited calls their "Expert Flies." These are the thirteen flies you get as a new member. There is a very good reason Trout Unlimited chose these thirteen flies- they all work very well and cover many of the situations you will encounter in your quest to fool the wily trout. Learn to tie these patterns, tie them in various sizes and colors and you will be armed with boxes full of flies that will help you catch trout virtually anywhere you go.

This month's fly is TU's Expert Fly #1, the Pheasant Tail Nymph. According to the description that accompanies TU's Expert Fly selection, "This is the essential mayfly nymph pattern- and is most effective wherever blue wing olives live. Add split shot on your leader to keep this fly low."

Material List:

Hook: 2XL Nymph, such as Mustad S82-3906B, size #12-24 (Most popular sizes #12-18)

Thread: Danville's Flymaster 6/0 in Tobacco Brown or 8/0 Rusty Brown Uni-thread

Tail: Pheasant tail fibers

Body (Abdomen): Pheasant tail fibers

Rib: Copper Ultra Wire, size SM

Thorax: Peacock herl

Wing Case/Legs: Pheasant tail fibers

Secure the hook in the tying vise. Attach the thread to the hook shank, beginning one eye length behind the hook eye; secure with several wraps of thread, trim the tag end and let the bobbin hang. Cut a six inch piece of copper wire and use the tying

thread to secure one end to the near side of the hook shank. Wrap the thread evenly over the hook shank and wire to the start of the hook bend, being careful to keep the wire on the near side of the hook shank. Let the thread hang at the bend while you prepare for the next step (Figure 1).



Figure 1

Select five or six fibers from a nice pheasant tail feather and pull them straight out from the center quill to align their tips. Then, while carefully pinching the fibers to keep their tips aligned, either pull or cut them from the quill. These fibers will be used to create the tail and the abdomen of the fly. To form the tail, hold the still-aligned tips against the hook shank to measure them; you want the tail to be one half to three quarters of the hook shank long. Pick up the thread bobbin where you left it hanging in the previous step and hold the tail fibers in place with one or two wraps of the tying thread. Let the bobbin hang- how is the tail length? Adjust if necessary and secure with one or two more close wraps. (Hint: you will find it easier to adjust if you tie the tail fibers in a bit long and gently pull them to the correct length.) Next, lift the butt ends of the tail fibers up and out of the way and wrap the thread forward to about two thirds of the hook shank. While still holding the tail fiber butts up and out of the way, run the tying thread back and forth a few times from the tail to the two thirds point, building a slight taper as you go. You don't need too much; the Pheasant Tail is not



Figure 2

RMPP Designation 101

According to the introduction on [NH DES's website](#), NH's RMPP 'was established in 1988 with the passage of RSA 483 to protect certain rivers, called Designated Rivers for their outstanding natural and cultural resources.' There are currently 18 NH Designated Rivers.

Anyone can nominate a NH river into this program by writing a nomination document that demonstrates the river's outstanding natural and cultural resources worthy of state recognition and protection. The nomination also identifies the specific RMPP corridor, assigns Natural, Rural, Rural Community and/or Community classifications to the corridor that reflect the specific characteristics and uses along the river. Each classification has specific criteria. Rural and Rural Community segments, for example, allow new dams to be built within six years, while Community segments allow for dam redevelopment into perpetuity. The nomination must also document outreach to the communities and residents along the river and demonstrate the support of municipal officials and residents.

If successfully Designated into the RMPP, the Warner River watershed communities will benefit from a Local Advisory Committee (LAC) of community members who will develop and implement a River's Management Plan 'so that the outstanding qualities of the river may be protected for future generations. The LAC also coordinates activities affecting the river on a regional basis. A typical plan identifies management goals and recommends actions that may be taken to protect the resources identified in the nomination. At the state level, the NHDES assists with the development and implementation of the management plan and enforces regulations concerning the quality and quantity of flow in protected river segments.' Visit [the Warner River Nomination website](#) for more.

(Next: **Designated River Instream Flow Protection** p4)

Basil Woods TU's 2018 Fly Tying Class Update

Most unfortunately, our Beginner's Fly Tying Classes were cancelled due to pipes bursting at the Passaconoway Club and a limited number of signups, despite many expressing earlier interest. Accordingly we have cancelled both the Beginner's and Intermediate classes and are in the process of organizing other options. We will let you know when and where these events will be as soon as they are formalized.

In the meantime, please let us know if you would like to be on our fly tying class email list. We apologize for the inconvenience. Thank you for your patience.



GET OUTDOORS
LEARN THE SPORT OF FLY FISHING
Venturing is the young adult division of the Boy Scouts of America for youth ages 14-20
NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
LEARN HOW TO TIE FLIES
GO FLY FISHING
FLY FISHING VENTURING CREW
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
STARTING JANUARY 3
WEDNESDAYS
7:00 - 8:30 PM
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH
21 CENTRE STREET
CONCORD, NH
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
PHIL DONOVAN | P.DONOVANNH@GMAIL.COM | (603) 225-2511

Reminder: Fly Fishing Venturing Crew Program

Last month we let you know that NH TU Kids' Trout Camp Director, Phil Donovan, started this new fly fishing program for young adults ages 14-20. We hear that the group is off to a great start, but wanted to remind everyone that this program is ongoing, year-round, and anyone interested in joining is welcome anytime. Please contact Phil at pdonovan@gmail.com or at 225-2511.

The Tyer's Bench: Pheasant Tail Nymph (cont)

supposed to be a bulky nymph (Figure 2).

Next, grasp the tail fiber butts and wrap them, with touching (but not overlapping) turns, forward to the two thirds point. Do your best to cover the thread turns holding the tail fibers in place with your first wrap. Secure with a few wraps of thread and trim the excess fiber butts away. Now take the copper wire rib and counter-wrap it forward over the pheasant tail fibers using evenly spaced turns. Secure the wire at the two thirds point and, while holding tension on the thread, break the excess wire off. Leave the thread hanging at the two thirds point. (Figure 3)



Figure 3

For the wing case/legs, you will need ten to twelve pheasant tail fibers, which amounts to about a quarter inch wide section if you prefer eyeballing to counting fibers. As we did with the tail, you will want to pull these fibers straight out from the quill to align their tips, then pull or cut them free, being careful to keep the tips aligned. Measure these fibers to be about one eye length short of a hook length long and tie them in, directly on top of the hook shank and with tips pointing toward the hook bend, at the two thirds point. Length is important here; we will be bending and tying these fibers forward over the thorax to create a wing case and back again for the legs with no second chance to adjust for length. Secure these fibers on top of the hook shank and directly in front of the abdomen with



Figure 4

several even turns of thread, wrapping towards the hook eye. Stop wrapping a couple turns shy of the eye and trim the fiber butts flush. Return the thread back to the two thirds point. (Figure 4)

Select two or three peacock herls. Snip a bit from the tips to even them up and remove the very thin part. Tie them in by the tips at the two thirds point. Create a thorax by wrapping the peacock herl towards the eye using adjacent wraps, stopping a bit more than one eye length shy of the eye. Secure and trim the herl, leaving the thread hanging in front of the herl. Grasp the pheasant tail fibers and pull them forward over the top of the herl, holding them in place with one or two wraps of thread. Flatten the fibers a bit to form a wing case, then secure by making additional thread wraps over them; stop one or two wraps before the eye. Done correctly, the pheasant tail fiber tips should be sticking out beyond the hook eye. (Figure 5)



Figure 5

To create legs, bend the pheasant tail fiber tips back over themselves, divide them more or less equally (remember- fish can't count!) and push/hold the divided fibers at a downward angle along the sides of the thorax. A bodkin with a half-hitch hole can be a useful tool here; use the needle end to divide the fibers and the half-hitch hole to help bend them back. While holding the tips in position, wrap thread back over them to about one eye length behind the eye, securing them in their final back and downward leg position. Use a few more thread wraps, if necessary, to form a nice head and whip finish. Apply head cement to the wing case and head and your Pheasant Tail Nymph is ready to go fishing. (Figure 6)

Happy fishing! - Larry Caruso

Designated River InStream Flow Protection

In 1990, the NH legislature created the Instream Flow Protection Program to benefit NH's Designated Rivers. NHDES and the legislature have recently taken steps to improve the program. The Souhegan and Lamprey Rivers were chosen as pilot studies for using new methods that would better protect river flows to serve human, biological and ecological needs. The modernized program studies each Designated River's unique characteristics and needs, identifies surface and groundwater withdrawals, as well as dams that withhold/release flows. A collaborative management plan is then developed with conservation strategies that seek stable flowage conditions for all needs. See the NHDES fact sheet and more program information [here](#). Note the Resources/Links section includes interesting papers on the *Methods for Estimating Instream Flow Requirements for Protection of Aquatic Life*, *The Natural Flow Regime*, and *Ecologically Sustainable Water Management*.

NHDES completed the Souhegan and Lamprey River Water Management Plans in 2013, and a report to the legislature in 2015. Since then, NHDES has held several meetings this last year to gain public input for new program rules. The most recent draft of these rules is available [here](#).

NHDES has also begun to formulate the process for prioritizing the order in which Designated Rivers will be selected for the new Instream Flow Water Management Plan implementation. Based upon the last rule-making meeting, January 10th, priority may begin by studying smaller Designated Rivers that are tributaries to our larger Designated Rivers as the largest rivers' Instream Flow Management Plans would be dependent upon tributary data and management decisions. Designated Rivers experiencing emergency needs related to instream flow may alter the ranking.

(Next: **Designation & Dams** p 6)



Our Renewed Commitment to Barry Camp

At our Basil Woods Board meeting this month, we asked Mark Beauchesne to join us to provide an update on the current needs of Barry Conservation Camp. Several years ago, due to Fish and Game's inability to fund new or maintain existing camp facilities, Mike Normandin of the Belnap County Sportsman's Association spearheaded efforts to coordinate renovations by asking organizations supportive of the Camp's mission to contribute to infrastructure needs. Basil Woods TU, the NH TU Council and several other organizations and individuals stepped forward to assist with the maintenance.

Originally we made a five year commitment (to ourselves) to upgrade and maintain the Bear's Den cabin. Since many years have past, the board felt it was important



Basil Woods members replace siding on Bear's Den Cabin, in May, 2011. Above: Dianne Timmins electrofishing with Fish Camp campers. Photos courtesy of NH Fish and Game.

to get an update from Mark and formally decide whether to renew our commitment to this valuable facility that provides such tremendous opportunity for NH youth. After Mark's presentation, we unanimously voted to spend up to \$500 annually and provide volunteer labor, as needed, for the next five years to ensure that our Bear's Den cabin stays in tiptop shape for campers. We will assess the cabin this spring and let everyone know of future work parties.

Barry Conservation Camp is operated by NH Fish and Game in partnership with 4-H through UNH Cooperative Extension. Programs include education in the shooting sports, hunting, fishing, camping and other outdoor skills. The camp is located in the White Mountain National Forest on the grounds of the Berlin Fish Hatchery. 4-H provides campers' food and prepares their meals. Thanks to a grant from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund, which is providing \$22,500 in matching monies for the dining hall expansion, more campers and volunteers will be accommodated and provide additional covered classroom space.

As part of the summer curriculum, Barry Camp offers a one week Fish Camp Program, similar to our TU Kids Trout Camp that enables youth to participate in many great angling and watershed adventures. Learn more about Barry Conservation Camp on the Fish and Game webpage [here](#). Their 2017 Fish Camp video is [here](#).

- Chris Connors

Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter Trout Unlimited

PO Box 3302, Concord, NH 03302-3302
concordtu@yahoo.com



Visit us on the web at:

- concordtu.org
- facebook.com/concordtu
- warnerriverwatershedconservationproject.wordpress.com

Newsletter Information

Troutlines is published September through May. Chapter members who have given TU national their email address will receive an email 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 email address listed with TU national or who have made a special request.

Our new electronic newsletter format is in color and has web links embedded within the articles to enrich your reading experience. If you are currently receiving the paper copy and would prefer to read the electronic version on line, drop us a note with your email address or update your membership information with TU national. If you are receiving the email notice and would prefer to be sent a paper copy, drop us a line to either our email or mailing address. Please also contact us if you would like to be on our non-member newsletter email list.

We periodically get returned emails. If your email 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.

2017-2018 Basil Woods TU Calendar

- 1-18-18 CHAPTER Meeting** Geof Day, Sea-Run Brook Trout Coalition
- 2-01-18 Board Meeting**
- 1-22-18 Banquet Committee**
- 1-29-18 Banquet Committee**
- 2-05-18 Banquet Committee**
- 2-12-18 Banquet Committee**
- 2-15-18 CHAPTER NIGHT OUT**
Brookies & Beer, Area 23
- 2-19-18 Banquet Committee**
- 2-26-18 Banquet Committee**

- 3-01-18 Board Meeting**
- 3-05-18 Banquet Committee**
- 3-12-18 Banquet Committee**
- 3-17-18 CONSERVATION BANQUET**

CHAPTER Meetings begin at 6 pm Social Hour, Raffle & Pizza; Program Begins at 7 pm. SPNHF, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, unless posted otherwise. All are welcome!

Board Meetings begin at 6 pm at Szechuan Gardens, 108 Fisherville Rd, Concord. All are welcome!

Warner River Designation & Dams

Early on when developing the Warner River nomination, committee representatives of local dam owners and the Warner Energy Committee expressed concern that the Warner River Designation would complicate future development of hydropower- if the future demonstrated community need. The dams that once operated mills on the Warner River were significant during their time. They were supported by the former railroad, that facilitated some mills to gain world-wide acclaim. Collaboration was required to effectively utilize the river's power. Today, remarkable ruins remain at some of these sites, providing valuable historic record and scenic views.

Classifications assigned to Designated River corridor segments do control whether or not a breached or in-ruins dams can be developed. Rural and Rural Community classifications stipulate a six year time limit for redevelopment. Accordingly the Nomination Committee placed all known dams, except the Davisville Dam, within Community segments which allows all of these dams to be redeveloped should need arise. Here are the criteria for these dam owners:

483:9-b Community Rivers Protection.
– The following protection measures shall apply to rivers or segments designated as a community river:

I. The department may approve permits for the construction of new dams for public water supply, flood control or hydroelectric energy production purposes if such construction is consistent with management and protection of the resources for which the river or segment is designated.

II. The department may approve permits and certificates for the construction, operation, or maintenance of new hydroelectric

power facilities at existing or breached dams provided that:

(a) The operational mode of any proposed facility shall be run-of-the-river, with project outflow equal to project inflow on an instantaneous basis and the project does not significantly alter the natural flow characteristics of the river; and

(b) The proposed facility does not provide for diversion of the river or segment above or below the existing dam for a significant distance; and

(c) The height of the impoundment is constant and, for existing or breached dams, is not raised above the maximum historic level of impoundment at that site; and

(d) The proposed facility provides adequate fish passage as determined by the fish and game department.

The committee kept the Davisville Dam in a Rural segment for several reasons:

- The current dam owner has no interest in redeveloping the dam, and prefers the Rural Classification;
- The Webster landowner across the river from this dam does not favor dam development and prefers the Rural Classification;
- The Webster Conservation Commission prefers the Rural Classification in accordance with their Master Plan (see Appendix B. Webster Con Com Addendum [here](#));
- The Rural Classification on the lower Warner River complements the Rural Classification of the Contoocook River at their confluence.

For more information, please visit [the Warner River nomination website](#).

- Chris Connors