

July 2020

In 2019, TU "National" changed to a new fiscal year. I won't bore you with the details but I did want you to know that the change in fiscal year is the reason this report covers a period of eighteen months (10/1/18 – 3/31/19) instead of the customary twelve.

Thanks to your extraordinary generosity, net proceeds from the two annual banquets that were held during the reporting period (3/16 /19 and 3/12/20) totaled \$17,711 (our largest source of income).

Believe it or not, our second largest source of income comes from charitable gaming. NH State law requires that any facility operating "games of chance" must donate 35% of its gross revenues to charitable organizations. For over ten years our chapter has worked with the Lakes Region Casino in Belmont (10 days per year) and has received many thousands of dollars; this reporting period we "earned" \$8,635. When we include the revenue from our chapter meeting raffles, we can add another \$729 to the pot.

We went into the reporting period well positioned financially with a total of \$35, 998 in our checking and savings account at Citizens Bank.

So what did we do with your money??

For starters, we made a \$10,000 donation to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire's Forests to help them acquire 257 acres in Bethlehem, NH that includes over a mile of frontage on the Ammonoosuc River. The land also hosts a rich array of wetlands, uplands, beaver flowages and riparian habitat.

We made a second \$10,000 donation to the Newbury, NH Conservation Commission towards purchase of 86 acres of land in the Warner River Headwaters. The property includes frontage on a perennial brook that provides some of the best brook trout habitat in the watershed –and is adjacent to over 26,000 acres of conserved land including Mount Sunapee State Park. The property is listed in the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan as "highest ranked habitat in the biological region".

We donated \$2000 to Hope on the Rise, a nonprofit that offers free weekend fly fishing retreats to women with cancer; \$500 to provide a scholarship for a deserving individual to attend the NH Youth Trout Camp; \$1500 for two aquarium chillers enabling NH Fish and Game to expand its Trout in the Classroom program to over 80 schools throughout the State. Your donations also supported our 2019 Youth Fishing Day, an extraordinarily popular event held annually (with the exception of this year). In 2019 over 100 kids participated (despite a steady rain). Their smiles and cheers were worth 100 times the \$400 it cost the Chapter to run it.

I would be remiss if I ended this summary without noting that members of your Basil Woods Board donated almost 2500 hours of their time to a seemingly endless number of projects. The Warner River project, led by Board Member George Embley, is of particular note. Since 2012, George and his team of member volunteers in concert with NH Fish and Game and the Warner Conservation Commission have dedicated thousands of volunteer hours to surveying streams in the watershed for the presence of

brook trout, sampling water quality and inventorying aquatic insects. Upon learning that 2/3 of the streams in the Warner River watershed contained wild brook trout, the Warner Conservation Commission led an effort to have the Warner River added to the list of only seventeen other rivers in the NH River's Management and Protection Program. In 2017, the completed nomination was submitted to NH Department of Environmental Services and on August 18, 2018 (just prior to the beginning of this reporting period), Governor Sununu signed a bill to include the Warner River in the Rivers Management and Protection Program into law, an extraordinary accomplishment for everyone involved in the project.

Thanks again for your support and please keep in mind that your Board of Directors is always looking for conservation projects. Please submit project ideas to Mike Bartlett at michael_bartlett@comcast.net