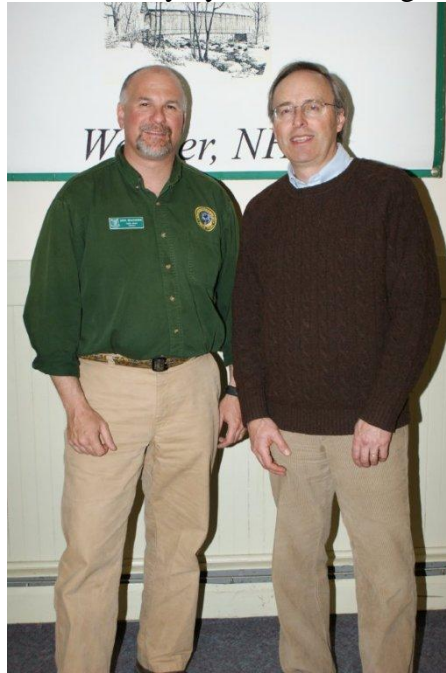


## WARNER MEN'S CLUB HEARS REEL STORY

### AND THAT AIN'T NO FISH TAIL

photo and story by Richard Dahlgren



(L TO R) MARK BEAUCHESNE, NH FISH & GAME AND RICK DAVIES, WMC PRESIDENT

Fishing was the topic of the program at the March 29, 2010 meeting of the Warner Men's Club. Mark Beauchesne, a Public Affairs Department representative and a 30 year fishing expert, spoke about the workings of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. He is the Outdoor Education Coordinator for the Department and has been a licensed fishing guide since 1995. He is also a licensed boat captain. Beauchesne has been fortunate to have clients from all over the United States and Japan. Mark presented some interesting tidbits: that there are over 300 bodies of water in New Hampshire for fishing; that only trout and salmon are stocked; and that the northern pike is the state's largest fish.

Despite his success as an angler, Mark's preference is to share his skills and techniques with friends and guide clients. Through this experience, he has become highly accomplished in teaching the art of fishing. In his opinion, "a guide should teach the client about the fishery and help improve their skills. This goes above and beyond just bringing someone to a pond and putting them onto fish."

Beauchesne indicated that the NH Fish & Game Department was formed in 1935 and is involved in fish and wildlife management, wildlife restoration and maintenance of fish hatcheries. He said that the interest in hunting and fishing is declining across the state. The Department is funded by licenses for hunting, fishing, snowmobiles, and fees and fines for violations pertaining to those listed above. Hunting and fishing licenses are also taxed. At the present time there are 98 employees of the Fish and Game, 42 of whom are officers who enforce the laws of the Department.

Mark indicated that the Department is promoting hunting education in middle schools as a way of teaching the youth about firearms and their use. In addition, an archery program has been introduced as part of the school's Physical Education program.