

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited

April 2016 Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the April Chapter meeting it was exciting to see the large turnout to hear USA's Men's Fly Fishing Team member Scott Enloe's presentation on how to catch more fish using the high stick competition method. At the end of the meeting, everyone was looking for a 10ft-2wt rod combination and a 20 ft leader to improve their catch rate. Great information was shared and made many of us think on how we can improve our fly presentations. Thanks to Scott and all who attended the Chapter meeting.

A new exciting women's program is beginning for our Chapter under the leadership of Jackie Greene and Holly Cole. The TU Women's Initiative goal is to attract more women as TU members and to add diversity to our Chapter. Nationally, TU has a membership of 94 % men 6% women and statistics indicate 26% of all anglers in the US are women. After meeting with these ladies, the excitement and enthusiasm they share to introduce more women to fly fishing is amazing. Look for more information later in this newsletter and please share with as many women as you can.

Now that you have been practicing your casting, you may have noticed something going on in your loops when they form... you call it a wind knot but there is no wind. Maybe this will help from Mac Brown, Bryson City. It takes only five seconds to say "begin slow, and smoothly accelerate toward a sudden stop with the rod high." Acceleration means starting slowly and smoothly, and delaying the fast for the very end of the stroke.

Enjoy your time on the water fishing by improving your casting skills.

If you have suggestions or would like to become involved in your Chapter, please contact me at HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com.

Fish Tales... Gary Hogue

MAY MEETING

When: Tuesday, May 17

Where: Elks Lodge in Downtown Hickory
356 Main Avenue NW

Program:

6:00 – 6:15 Meet and Greet/ Raffle Ticket Sales
6:15 - 6:30 Brief Announcements
6:30 - 7:45 Guest speaker/ Program... Q&A
7:45 - 8:00 Raffle/ Door Prizes... Conclusion

Speaker: Jake Rash

Jake Rash is Coldwater Research Coordinator for the Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), where he assists with the coordination of applied research and management of the State's trout resources. He received his BS in Zoology from NC State University and MS in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from Virginia Tech. After graduate school, he worked in freshwater mussels as a Research Specialist at Virginia Tech until he joined NCWRC. Jake will discuss the status of whirling disease and gill lice sampling and detection, and will provide a general update of NCWRC trout management activities. **If you have a topic you would like Mr. Rash to address, please send it in advance of the meeting to Gary Hogue at HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com.**

Pizza, beer, and water will be available at a small price.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Many go fishing all their lives without knowing it is not fish that they are after."

- Henry David Thoreau

NC HATCH CHART

Wilson, Toe, Fr.Broad	Dec	Jan	February	Mar	Apr	May
BWO			16-20 Warm Days	20-24 Cloudy Days		
Sulphers						14-18 Mid to Late-May
Light Hendrickson					12-18 Mid to End-Apr	
Hendrickson				12 Late-Mar		
Dark Hendrickson					12-18 Mid-Apr	12-18
Red Quill/Quill Gordon				14-16 Mid-Mar		
Blue Quill				16-18 Mid-Mar		
March Brown					12-18 Early to Mid-Apr	12-18
Yellow Drake/Cahills						12-20 Late-May
Green Drake						8-12 Late-May
Black Caddis			18-20 Mid-Day	18-20 Mid-Day		
Gray/Brown Caddis					16-20 Early-Apr	16-20
Early Black Stonefly			16-18 Mid-Day	12		
Little Yellow Stonerly					12-18 Late-Apr	12-18
Golden Stonerly						6-10 Late-May
Midges			18-26		18-22	

Hatch Chart developed by anglers fly fishing Wilson Creek, South Toe River and the North Fork French Broad River. Compliments of the TU Rocky River Chapter.

FLY OF THE MONTH



Sulfur Usual

According to the above hatch chart, the sulfur is one of the major hatches in May. If you are lucky enough to be on the river when the hatch takes place, you need to have a few of these in your fly box. Instructions for tying this fly can be found at:

<http://www.orvis.com/flyfishingvideos/fly-tying/how-to-tie-the-sulphur-usual/>

FUTURE MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month from September through June except in December. The June 21st meeting will be by Charlie Mogray of Outdoor Supply on "Choosing a Kayak for Fishing."

Fishing Buddy Program

Looking for a fishing partner? Send us your name and phone number at HkyNCTU@gmail.com and we will put your name on our register. The list will be shared with anyone expressing interest.

FLY FISHING ETIQUETTE

I have found over my many years of fishing that fly fishermen are typically a very courteous breed. Very seldom have I been pushed out of my fishing spot and have rarely seen littering, cursing or other offensive acts. That said, there are some unwritten rules and guidelines that we should all be aware of. I have researched these on the internet and will share a few each month in the newsletter.

Who has the right of way?

According to several articles on the internet, the person working upstream has the right-of-way over the person working downstream. If you encounter someone working upstream, you should get out of the river and walk around below him, staying far enough away from the stream so as not to spook the fish.

An angler fighting a fish has the right of way. Reel in your line and try to stay out of their way while they fight their fish. Many times the angler with the fish on is trying very hard to keep out of your space but sometimes circumstances won't allow it. It's totally appropriate to ask the angler with the fish on if they would like you to net the fish for them. Many new friendships have started this way.

Wilson Creek Survey

If you spend much time fishing Wilson Creek, especially on weekends, you know that it is getting a lot of pressure. The Hickory NC TU chapter is developing a survey to determine how we can improve the fishing experience there. We will be using the results of the survey to talk with the NCDNR about how to improve the Delayed Harvest fishing area to support the ever growing number of fly fishers. The survey will be coming to you soon via email. When it does, please take the time to respond to help us help you.

TU Women's Initiative

As mentioned in the president's message, Jacqueline Greene and Holly Cole have taken the lead on establishing a women's initiative in the Hickory TU Chapter. The following events are planned:

On Thursday, May 19 at 6:00 PM, there will be a meet and greet at the Henry River park in Longview just off I-40. At that time we hope to discuss what the Ladies are interested in and what they are looking for. Bring your own sack lunch/dinner and bring along your fly rod for a little casting practice. You don't have to be a fisherman to be a part of the women's group. We can help teach you. Or you might want to be a part of the group and not fish at all. Thats okay too.

Casting Carolinas is looking for River Helpers for the May 27-29 and October 14-16 retreats. We are a not for profit group to support - educate- teach fly fishing to any female cancer survivor in North and South Carolina. Casting Carolinas is also raising money with the Tie One On Tournament on the Davidson River on November 6th. For more information go online and check out our website www.castingcarolinias.com

For more information on the Hickory TU Chapter Women's Initiative contact Jacqueline or Holly at the following:

Jacqueline Greene 828-310-6805
Holly Cole 828-639-1689
HkyNCTUWomen@gmail.com

Chapter Website

The Hickory NC TU Chapter website is now up and running. It's still under development, but we would love to have you take a look and give us any input on how we can make it better for you. Visit www.HkyNCTU.org Our thanks to Clay Ford for his efforts in the development of the site. If you have suggestions for improving our website, please contact Clay at HkyNCTUveep@gmail.com

Knotweed Cleanup



On Saturday, April 21, Hickory TU sent section members to the Wilson Creek Visitor Center to spray the knotweed along the banks of the creek. The weeds have become so thick that visitors are unable to get to the creek in front of the center. Our thanks to Bill Elliot for coordinating the effort, and to Bill Koop, David Houck, and Gary Hogue for joining in to help with the spraying.

Sponsors Welcomed

As part of our fundraising, we invite you to post an advertisement in our monthly newsletters and on our section website. For \$100, we will post your business card on both locations for twelve months. For more information, please contact us at HkyNCTU@gmail.com.

Newsletter Contributors Welcome

Send us a photo of your fishing trip, an article you'd like published, or just a topic you would like us to write about. HkyNCTU@gmail.com

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited Officers

Gary Hogue... Pres

HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com

Clay Ford... VP

HkyNCTUveep@gmail.com

Skip Pearce... Sec/Trea

HkyNCTUtreas@gmail.com

Chick Woodward... Newsletter

HkyNCTU@gmail.com

Jackie Greene & Holly Cole Women in TU

HkyNCTUWomen@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Bill Elliott

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Bryant Kirkland

Bill Koop

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Special thanks to David Hise for his support of our chapter.



www.castersonlineflyshop.com

David Hise

Owner/Manager

828.304.2400

casters@castersflyshop.com

2427 North Center St.
Hickory, NC 28601