

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited

November 2016 Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to give a "BIG" thank you to all of you who supported our annual fundraiser in support of TU's conservation programs and especially to the Event Planning Committee who organized and executed a very successful event for the chapter.

Joel Miller and I attended the fall retreat for Casting Carolinas and had a most memorable day being river guides where we had the opportunity to teach our fishing partners basic skills for fly fishing the West Fork of the Pigeon River. My partner had never held a fly rod before the retreat but ended the morning with a 14 inch brown trout in the net. Her first trout ever and I will never forget the beautiful smile that came with the catch. Casting Carolinas is a wonderful program for women and deserves the support of Hickory TU.

We are looking for chapter members who may have an interest in serving on the Board of Directors for Hickory TU. If you have a desire to get involved or know someone who you would like to nominate please let me know at hkynctupres@gmail.com. If you nominate someone, please get their permission first.

We need rain... all of our streams have low water and the trout are beginning to feel the stress. Be careful not to add to their stress by releasing in a proper way.

Remember to Clean, Inspect, and Dry.... Fish Tales...
Gary

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Trout fishing is the perfect environment for getting to know your children, since there is seldom cell service at the river."Chick Woodward

NOVEMBER MEETING

When: Tuesday, November 15

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

Topic: Planning An Alaska Fly-In Adventure

Speaker: Chick Woodward

Chick will be making a presentation on the various items that are often forgotten when you are flying into the wilderness for a fly fishing adventure. Once you are there you can't run down to the local shop to get them, you just make do without. There will be many photos from his recent trip to Intricate Bay Lodge on Lake Iliamna.

FUTURE MEETINGS

There will be meeting no in December because it is so close to Christmas. We are beginning plans for meetings in 2017. If you have a topic you would like to have presented or if you have a topic you would like to present, please contact us.

January: Essentials of Fly Casting

2016 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

What a success! Our new chapter's first annual BBQ and Film Festival was held October 22, and the

early reviews indicate everybody had a great evening. A pre-event party sponsored by Casters with free craft beer from Appalachian Mountain Brewery! Great food!, tons of great giveaways, wonderful silent auction loot, and highly sought-after live auction items. All topped off by the *Orvis Down the Hatch* film collection. If you didn't have a great time, it's because you weren't there!



Of course, all this didn't just fall out of the sky. Preparing for and staging this event took hundreds of hours of hard work by scores of devoted members. First, Prez Gary Hogue herded all the cats and kept us on task. As fundraising chairman, my job was made easy by the enthusiasm and diligence of all the great team. A loud shout-out goes out to all the committee chairs for the event:



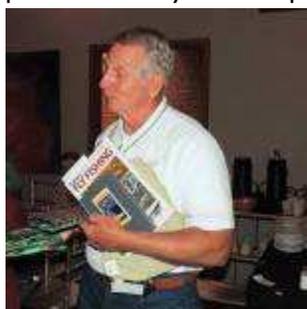
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- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ticket Sales | Skip Pearce |
| Communications | Chick Woodward and Clay Ford |
| Prizes | Jackie Greene |
| Venue Setup and Event Management | Bill Koop and Bryant Kirkland |
| Sponsor Recruitment | Gary Hogue, Steve Mull, Joel Miller |

There were hosts of helpers in all these areas. At the great risk of leaving someone out, I'll toss out special thanks to Gail Garrison, who was instrumental in prize procurement and display; Steve Anderson, who pitched in anytime help



was needed; Joe Giovannini, masterminding Trout Bingo; and Bill Elliott, who was willing and able at every turn. Chick and Clay get extra high marks for making a glitch-filled AV system at the venue show a great film series. Thanks a million to



the many others who made it all work!

Oh, by the way, we raised a trove for the chapter's conservation and service projects. That's what we were shooting for all along!

We would like to thank everyone that provided us with donations to the 2016 fundraising program:

- Appalachian Mountain Brewery**
- BILL Elliott**
- Bill Kopp, DMD**
- Brookside Guides**
- Cafe Rule**
- Caldwell Appliance and TV**
- Capital Concepts Financial Group**
- Casters Fly Shop**
- Catawba County Club**
- Cathy Starnes**
- Century Furniture**
- Chick & Carolyn Woodward**
- Coldwell Banker Boyd & Hassel**
- Commscope**
- David & Pat Jones**
- Dickson Sporting Goods**
- Dr. Tom Warren**
- Fence Pro**
- Gary and Mary Hogue**
- Hart Square Foundation**
- Hickory Museum of Art**
- Hops and Grapes**
- Jackie Greene**
- Jenny's Gifts**
- John Grey**
- John Teeter**
- Mike Johnson Hickory Toyota**
- NC Fly Fishing Guide Service**
- Neill Grading & Construction**
- Outdoor Supply**
- Pepsi**
- Professional Cleaners**
- Shurtape**
- Snyder & Gail Garrison**
- Spa Athletic Club**
- Steve Anderson**
- Steve Mull**
- Table Rock Outfitters**
- Transportation Services, LLC**
- United Beverages of NC, LLC**
- Vesco**

**Watauga River Lodge
Weichert Realty-Steve Boyd
Wes Starnes, Attorney
Wesley Hall Furniture
Zan Thompson**

Phil Bracewell Inducted into Hall of Fame

Phil H. Bracewell, Sr. - Inducted posthumously in the Conservation category for his years of dedication to the sport as a founding member of the original NC chapter of TU and as a volunteer conservation leader who served numerous terms as a TU national director. He was the fundraising leader of the Northwestern Chapter of TU which set numerous national banquet records.

Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians
Hall of Fame Inductions 2016

Phil H. Bracewell, Sr. (1918-2011), who lived in Hickory, North Carolina, was a founding director of Trout Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited NC, founding trustee of NC Nature Conservancy, and founder of Bracewell Furniture Company. His favorite local trout stream was the South Toe River. Few have given more time and energy to conservation in the Southern Appalachians. His activism extended to a national level from the early 1950s until 2001. Phil was appointed by Governor Jim Martin as the state's Sedimentation Control Commissioner and later served on the Duke Power Environmental Advisory Council. Phil became active in the Catawba County Wildlife Club and a lifelong member of the NC Wildlife Federation in the early 1950s, where he served as the Northwestern president and a term as president of the state federation. He served as a NC national delegate on the Wildlife Federation's National Affairs Committee for 16 years. In 1974 he was recognized as Conservationist of the Year, and in 1977 he was inducted into the NC Wildlife Hall of Fame. In 1990 he became the founding trustee for the Catawba County Wildlife Education Committee, where he combed through hundreds of applications seeking four-year degrees in marine biology over a period of 22 years. Phil was a founder and served 12 years as a trustee on the NC Wildlife Education Committee. In 1964 Phil became one of the eight founding fathers of the initial TU chapters in NC and founded the Northwestern Chapter (now Hickory NC Chapter). NWTU membership dwindled but was revitalized in 1986 through a membership drive-the chapter was awarded the TU National Gold Trout Award, the highest recognition from TU National, for this effort. The chapter demonstrated extraordinary fundraising ability, leading the nation for over 10 years and setting the record for the highest net dollar TU banquet. "Phil Bracewell led the way for the NWTU Chapter to become one of the most successful Trout

Unlimited chapters in the nation," said Steve Mull, past NWTU president. As a lifelong member of TU, Phil was a national director for over 16 years and chairman of the Awards Committee for 14 years. In 1984 he was awarded a special Distinguished Service Award from TU National. The NWTU-Philip H. Bracewell, Sr. Conservation Education Endowment was established in his honor. Phil was deeply involved in other organizations including the National Rifle Association, Safari Club International, National Wild Turkey Federation, NC Rifle and Pistol Association, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Izaak Walton League, Ruffed Grouse Society, and Boy Scouts of America Troop #1 at Corinth Reform Church. Phil's exhibit is now on display in the museum.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM



The students at River Bend Middle School got to see a successful hatch this month. One of the fish must have come from better stock as the way he darted around the tank he was given the name Speedy.

WILSON CREEK ENTOMOLOGY



Little Winter Black Stonefly

In this month's newsletter we will continue to discuss what insects the trout in Wilson Creek eat and what we need to cast to fool them into biting. There are five primary groups of insects in Wilson Creek:

- Midges
- Mayflies
- Stoneflies
- Caddis
- Terrestrials

In last month's newsletter we discussed the Midge. This month we will discuss a lesser, but still important insect, the stonefly.

Stoneflies (Plecoptera)

Stoneflies are a predominant species in many western streams, but in NC are far less important than mayflies and caddis. We have two significant species of stoneflies in North Carolina, the common stonefly and the little winter black stonefly.

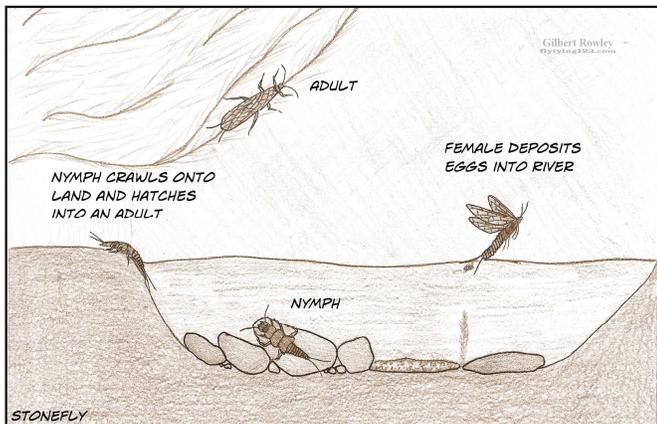


Common Stonefly

Both species have the same life cycle. The stonefly is different than most other insects in that it does not emerge at the water surface and fly away. The stonefly nymph crawls up the bank of the river and hatches on land.



Stonefly Nymph



The common stonefly hatches in late spring and early summer. As mentioned above they crawl up the bank and hatch at the surface, usually after dark. They may live on land for up to 30 days. After mating the female will fly to the water to lay eggs around mid day.



Stimulator

Some may drop their eggs from above the water, but many will skitter along the surface to lay the eggs. This behavior can cause trout to aggressively attack the fly. According to Dave Hise at Casters Fly shop, the stimulator is the best option to imitate the adult.

The caddis nymph is in the stream year around. There are many good imitations to use, but most importantly, the fly you use should match the size and color of what is in the stream so it is good to turn over a few rocks to see what is there. It is also best to use a weighted fly with a bead head or lead to keep it close to the bottom.



Stonefly Nymph Pattern

North Georgia and Southwestern North Carolina Hatch Chart Presented by Members of TU 692 January

<u>Insect</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Fly</u>
Stoneflies	All Month	All Day	18 Little Black Stonefly 18 Bead Head Black Stonefly

February

<u>Insect</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Fly</u>
Stoneflies	All Month	Late AM to Mid PM	18 Little Black Stonefly 18 Bead Head Black Stonefly 16-18 Montana Stone 16 Early Black Stone

March

<u>Insect</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Fly</u>
Stoneflies	All Month	Late AM to Mid PM	18 Little Black Stonefly 18 Bead Head Black Stonefly 16-18 Montana Stone 16 Early Black Stone

April

<u>Insect</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Fly</u>
Stoneflies	All Month	Late AM to Mid PM	18 Little Black Stonefly 18 Bead Head Black Stonefly 16-18 Montana Stone 16 Early Black Stone
Yellow Stonefly	Late	Early to Late AM	14-16 Yellow Stimulator 14-16 Elk Hair Caddis (Yellow)

		Late PM to Dark	14-16 Yellow Stonefly Nymph

May

<u>Insect</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Fly</u>
Golden Stonefly	Mid to Late	Early to Late AM	14-16 Yellow Stimulator 14-16 Elk Hair Caddis (Yellow)
		Late PM to Dark	14-16 Yellow Stonefly Nymph
Giant Black Stonefly	All Month	Early AM	4-8 Black Stonefly Nymph 8 Dark Stone Nymph
Yellow Stonefly	All Month	Early to Late AM	14-16 Yellow Stimulator 14-16 Elk Hair Caddis (Yellow)
		Late PM to Dark	14-16 Yellow Stonefly Nymph

June

<u>Insect</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Fly</u>
Yellow Stonefly	Early	Early to Late AM	14-16 Yellow Stimulator 14-16 Elk Hair Caddis (Yellow)
		Late PM to Dark	14-16 Yellow Stonefly Nymph
Giant Black Stonefly	All Month	Dawn to Early AM	4-8 Black Stonefly Nymph 8 Dark Stone Nymph
Brown Stonefly	All Month	Early to Mid AM	10-12 Brown Stonefly Nymph 10-14 Brown Stimulator
Golden Stonefly	All Month	Early AM	14-16 Yellow Stimulator

			14-16 Elk Hair Caddis (Yellow)
			14-16 Yellow Stonefly Nymph

July

<u>Insect</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Fly</u>
Brown Stonefly	All Month	Early to Mid AM	10-14 Brown Stimulator 10-12 Brown Stonefly Nymph
Golden Stonefly	All Month	Early AM	8-12 Ginger Stimulator 14-16 Elk Hair Caddis (Yellow) 16-18 Little Yellow Stonefly Nymph

August

<u>Insect</u>	<u>Time of Month</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Suggested Fly</u>
Small Dun Caddis	All Month	Mid AM	16-18 Brown Elk or Deer Hair Caddis 16-18 Gray Caddis Pupa
Brown Stonefly	All Month	Early to Mid AM	10-14 Brown Stimulator 10-12 Brown Stonefly Nymph
Golden Stonefly	All Month	Early AM	8-12 Ginger Stimulator 6-10 Golden Stonefly Nymph

No Hatches September - December

If you have ever been fishing in mid winter and see little black flies on a snowbank, it is most likely a hatch of little winter black stoneflies. The little winter black



Oliver Edward Stone

stonefly hatch is one of the winter highlights to trout fishing in the southern Appalachians. The trout love them as nymphs in the stream and migrating up the bank to hatch. They love the adults as they fly to the stream to lay their eggs. Dave's recommendations are the Oliver Edward stone for the nymph and the elk hair

caddis for the adult. The elk hair caddis should be tied with a black body and black or gray wing. I particularly like this one tied with a little antron to make it more visible on the water. These flies are quite small and patterns should be tied in a range from 16-20.



Elk Hair Caddis

For additional reading on stoneflies, check out the following:

<https://jeffwilkinsflyfishingblog.wordpress.com/2013/01/09/little-winter-black-stoneflies/>

<http://www.troutnut.com/hatch/13/Insect-Plecoptera-Stoneflies>

<http://www.fieldandstream.com/articles/fishing/2014/01/winter-trout-flies-hatching-stoneflies>

<http://www.flycraftangling.com/index.asp?p=124>

TU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

If any women anglers are interested in attending any of these events, they need to join the Women on the Fly meet-up group and RSVP. These events are a great opportunity for first time or experience anglers. Equipment is not required. For more information Contact Holly Cole at 828-639-1689 or hc1958@charter.net.

WINE WOMEN & WADERS EVENT OCT 29

The river was crystal clear, low, and barely moving. The fish were there, but exceedingly picky. The weather was unseasonably warm. But the ladies who attended were ready for some kick back-relaxing time away from their usual routine. Our *Wine Women & Waders* weekend on Wilson Creek was a roaring success.



Arriving Friday afternoon, the ladies settled in for our evening of food and drink around the campfire. Then on Saturday morning we fished with

three guides; Gary Hogue and Chick Woodward from Hickory TU and Lance Mitchell from Rocky River TU. Having the guides there was great because



most of the ladies present have only fished a couple of times and only a few had ever fished Wilson Creek.

At noon the group gathered at the Wilson Creek Welcome Center for good food and to listen to the Bear Hollow band. We began gearing up for teaching casting lessons in the field at one o'clock and to our surprise we had a crowd ready and waiting to learn. Also there was a reporter from the Lenoir News-Topic wanting to know why we were doing this. He wrote a nice article about us in the paper.



After the casting lessons, Lance Mitchell accompanied the ladies back to the campground for an excellent talk about the different flies and what beginners should have in their fly boxes. Sunday morning some of the ladies fished again before heading home.

All in all, *Wine Women & Waders* was great fun for everyone who attended. And the ladies would like to say a big Thanks-So-Much to the guys who helped us.

"Tie One On" for Casting Carolinas Davidson River Team Challenge

Casting Carolinas and Kevin Howell with Davidson River Outfitters will host a fishing tournament on the private waters of the Davidson River in Brevard, N.C. on Sunday, November 6th. This team challenge tournament is one of our annual fundraising events. The tournament is designed to be challenging... and fun. Teams of two anglers compete in professional, amateur and alumnae categories for cash prizes and other really cool fly fishing gear. There will also be opportunities to win other prizes through our raffle. Each participant will receive a free t-shirt and lunch. To sign up go to CastingCarolinas.com to register in one of the following categories:

- PRO Division: Professional fly fishers compete for \$1750 in cash prizes. \$250/team.
- Amateur Division: Amateur fly fishers compete for some really cool prizes. \$250/team.
- Alumnae Mini Tournament: Teams of Casting Carolinas alumnae (along with a professional guide) compete for prizes like gift cards from Hunter Banks. Fee is \$100/team.

If you just want to volunteer for the tournament, no fishing experience required, we have a job for you. Please go to CastingCarolinas.com to complete a volunteer form and specify tournament on the form. You may also contact Holly Cole at hc1958@charter.net who can inform you of the many areas volunteers are needed.

For more information please contact Tournament Director, Josh Garris at josh@castingcarolinas.com.

FLY FISHING 101

Every Sunday thru November 27th at 2:00 PM
South Mountains State Park

Get Hooked! Cast your line in one of the state's most pristine mountain trout streams at South Mountains State Park. Whether you want to learn how to tie flies, develop your casting skills, or discover the joy and challenges of fly fishing for the first time, join anglers Jeff Newton at the Visitor Center at 2:00 pm for an introductory class on fly fishing. Jeff is an instructor with Project Healing Waters and are members of Trout Unlimited. All class materials will be provided free, and there will be optional fishing time in the Jacob Fork afterwards. Classes may vary based on interest and skill level of the participants. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission fishing regulations still apply.

FLY TYING DEMONSTRATIONS

The Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians (Now in Bryson City) will host fly fishing demonstrations on Nov. 4 & 5. For more information visit: <https://flyfishingmuseum.org/events.html>

PROJECT HEALING WATERS EVENT

November 12, 2016 - Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing "HEALING SATURDAY" Join us at Jesse Brown's - Sharon Corners at South Park 4732 Sharon Rd. Suite 2M, Charlotte NC Fundraiser to fund monthly Fly Fishing outings and Supplies. Support your local Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Program. Make a Difference in Disabled Veterans' Lives. Fly Fishing and Fly Tying helps Veterans deal with PTSD. Celebrate Veterans Day with Heroes BBQ, Fly Casting, Fly Tying, Raffles, Giveaways Saturday – 11 am to 3 pm Admission is Free Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. (PHWFF) Is dedicated to the Physical and Emotional rehabilitation of Disabled active military service

personnel and veterans Through fly fishing and fly tying education and outings www.projecthealingwaters.org

FLY FISHING EXPO

The 2016 WNC Fly Fishing Expo is scheduled for December 2 & 3 at the WNC Agricultural center in Asheville. For more information visit:

<http://wncflyfishingexpo.com/>

LEGENDS OF THE FLY

On February 3rd 2017 at The Fly Fishing Show in Atlanta, Georgia, a ceremony will be held to officially induct six grandfathered in anglers and announce six additional inductees chosen by online balloting. You can vote on the additional six (including several NC fly fishermen) at:

<http://www.southerntrout.com/hall-of-fame/>

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 we improving our website, please contact Clay at HkyNCTUveep@gmail.com

SPONSORS INVITED

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. Please send your business card and a check for \$100 to:

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited
PO Box 9401
Hickory, NC 28603

For more information, please contact us at HkyNCTU@gmail.com.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS INVITED

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

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



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