

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited

June 2017 Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since many of you fly fish more in the summer months, I have a thoughtful question for you... how many flies do you break off or lose in the trees?

Read an article that got me thinking about this subject... Brian Flechsig, Mad River Outfitters in Columbus, Ohio, estimates his clients lose 10-12 flies per outing.. that equates to 3,120-6,240 flies lost per year by their clients... fly fishing is more costly for beginners and those who do not cast well. Examining data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 2011: 33.1 million fresh and saltwater anglers age 16 & older fished a total of 553.8 million days in the US ... 33.1 million are fly fishermen which equates to 71.9 million fly fishing days. Assumption: each angler lost 2 flies per day so that's 143.9 million flies lost per year in the US on a conservative basis. Assumption: each lost fly is a no.16 Pheasant Tail in weight (.2 grams) multiplied by 143.9 million flies equals over 30 tons of lost, discarded and abandoned flies or the equivalent in weight to roughly 2 million empty beer cans. Something to think about when it rains and the water is chocolate milk.

The next chapter meeting is September 19th and I look forward to seeing you there.

Be safe and remember to clean, inspect and dry.

Fish Tales... Gary

Next MEETING

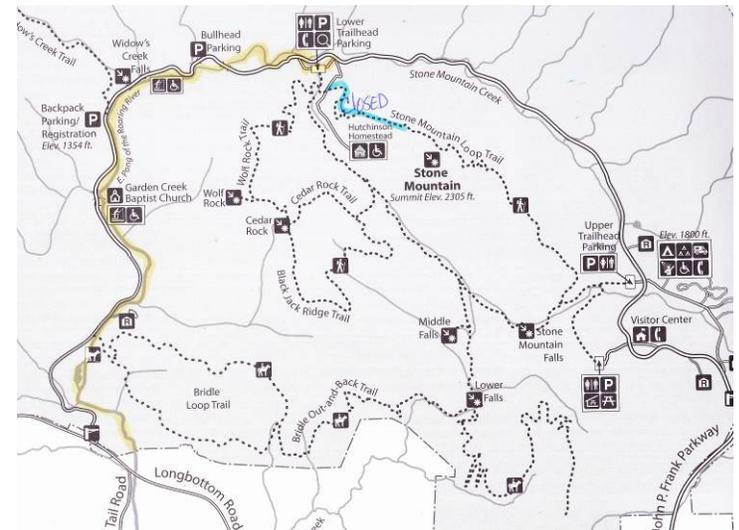
The chapter is now on summer break. The next meeting will be held on September 19. That program has been declared "Ladies Night". Our guest speaker for the evening is Simmons Welter coming to us from Spartanburg SC. Simmons grew up in Statesville NC and graduated from Clemson. She has been a professional guide for 11 years and is currently with Brookings Anglers in Cashiers NC. Simmons was recently featured in the March 8th. edition of Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine. The article titled "Fly Females : Six Women Who are Revolutionizing the World Of Fly Fishing". Her topic will be Reading the Water and the Drift.

Stone Mountain State Park



Stone Mountain State Park is located about 1-1/2 hours north of Hickory. The park has an excellent and easily accessible delayed harvest stream.

There are actually two streams that make up the delayed



harvest in the park. The upper stretch is on the Stone Mountain River and the lower stretch on the East Prong of the Roaring River.

The Stone Mountain River is a rather small headwaters river. The starting point of delayed harvest begins at the



Wilkes County sign located just east of the Lower Trailhead parking lot. Fishing is tight with quite a bit of overgrowth to deal with. It's definitely a stream for a

fishermen skilled in roll casting. It is quite fishable, and has several good access points along the park road. Near the

point where Stone Mountain River runs into the Roaring Fork, is Bullhead Creek. For years this has been a Special Permit stream where you could reserve one of the beats along the stream for a fee. I tried it once and



had little success, but I've been told that the first two beats where I had fished were not that good. Above there the river becomes quite steep. I was told by the Park Ranger



that as of August 17 will be designated as Wild Trout Waters. At the bottom of the stream is what is currently a practice pond to be used only by registered fishermen. After August 17 it might be a good place to stop and check out, but remember it is single hook artificial lures only and you may not even have live bait in your possession. As a point of interest: I had always wondered how Bullhead Creek got its name. I grew up fishing bullhead in the Midwest, but didn't think it was likely they lived in a coldwater creek. I spoke to the ranger about it and learned that Bullhead Creek begins on Bullhead mountain and that is how it was named. I didn't pursue how the mountain got its name.

The East Prong of the Roaring River begins just downstream of Bullhead Creek. I have fished this river several times and always with success. (We all are aware of the poaching that goes on at Wilson Creek, but I believe



that the park rivers have much less poaching because of the constant presence of the park rangers. With less poaching there will be fish in the stream longer after planting.) There are two handicap ramps located on good holes in the upper section of the river. I have never seen these ramps in use, so they are often good places to try out. A bit farther downstream is a steel trestle bridge. This has always been

my favourite spot on the river. There is a very good hole right below the bridge and several other good holes as you work downstream from there. A little beyond the bridge is a horse trailer parking area. The park has been working to improve the stream and has installed some wing dams to create good fishing holes.



This area looks like it will develop to one of the better fishing spots on the stream.

Not too far beyond the horse trailer parking lot is the gate at the back entrance to the park. Since I have always fished the Roaring River, I've found that the quickest access is to the back entrance from Longbottom Road. For your first trip, set your GPS to 12050 Longbottom Road in Traphill, NC and it will get you near the entrance.

Reddies River



This month a bonus river is included for your interest. If you head up to Stone Mountain State Park back entrance from Hickory it will take you through North Wilkesboro. The city there has developed a

greenway along Reddies River that has been designated as Delayed Harvest. The entrance to the greenway is next to the CVS Drug Store on West D Street and you can park in the lot there. If you have a little time on your way up or back, you can dip your line into the creek.

The Delayed Harvest portion of the greenway is about 2/3 of a mile long with a paved path along the whole length



for easy access. The sides of the river are overgrown and rather steep for access, but stairways had been built in a couple places that make the access easy. The water was a bit high and murky from rains

when I stopped to check it out. In the photos in this report wading looks questionable, but I could make out the bottom here and there and it did not seem too deep to wade. It was after June 3 so catch and release had ended and there were no fishermen in the river.



I can't say I would make this one of my major fishing destinations, but if you're looking for a quick trip, it's just a little less than an hour to get there.



HICKORY NC TU LOGO GEAR

The Hickory Chapter now has an account at Lands' End for clothing and other items with our logo.

There are frequent discounts available you can sign up for by going to <https://business.landsend.com/> and signing up. To access the account go to:

<https://business.landsend.com/store/hkynctu/>

We Need Ghillies?

Fishing tournaments and weekend retreats are asking us all the time to volunteer to serve as River Guides or Ghillies. Most of us are new to the term so here is the definition and origin.

Ghillie or **gillie** is a Scots term that refers to a man or a boy who acts as an attendant on a fishing, fly fishing, hunting, or deer stalking expedition, primarily in the Highlands or on a river such as the River Spey. In origin it referred especially to someone who attended on his employer or guests.

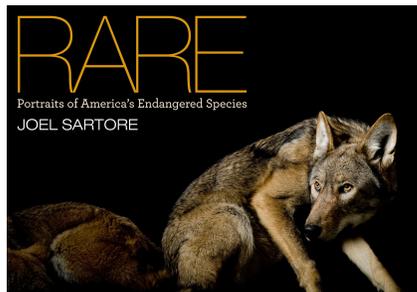
The origin of this word dates from the late 16th century, from the Scottish Gaelic gille, "lad, servant", cognate with the Irish giolla. Historically, the term was used for a Highland chief's attendant. A **ghillie-weetfit**, a term now obsolete (a translation of "gille-caisfliuch", from the Gaelic cos foot/leg and fliuch wet), was the ghillie whose duty it was to carry his master over streams. It became a term of contempt among the Lowlanders for the "tail" (as his attendants were called) of a Highland chief.

Isn't it fortunate that the original task of carrying the fisherman

across the stream is obsolete or not many events would be getting volunteers today.

2017 FLY FISHING FILM TOUR

Plans are being developed to host the annual Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) at our annual fund raiser this fall. The program will be held at the SALT Block in Hickory on Monday, October 23. The program will begin with



refreshments in the Art Museum. You will have a chance to socialize with fellow fly fishermen and to view the special exhibit of Joel Sartore. *Through his images of the Earth's creatures,*

Sartore's artwork illustrates both the beauty and the tragedy of animal species threatened by extinction, demonstrating that photography matters. In the finest documentary tradition, Sartore passionately captures striking artworks to help viewers understand the importance of saving these unique animals, while also ultimately saving ourselves. Sartore writes, "...every species is a

work of art, created over thousands or even millions of years and each is worth saving simply because it is so unique and priceless."

After the reception we will move to the Drendel auditorium for the movie. The film includes a series of shorts on fishing adventures from Kamchatka, Mexico, and all corners of the US.

On the way to the auditorium you will have a chance to enter the silent auction for many fly fishing related items. We are currently gathering items for the auction and if you have something you would like to offer, please contact Joel Miller at hkynctu@gmail.com.

PLEASE SEND YOUR FISHING PHOTOS. We will have a photo slide show again this year at our fund raiser. We will include photos of all our events, but would like to include all of your great fishing photos from this year as well. The ladies have been doing quite well sending in photos, but the guys need to get in gear and send theirs in. Please send your photos to hkynctu@gmail.com.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Summer has arrived and the Delayed Harvest is closed until October. So what do you do with your summer? Hook up some panfish. If you have a



TROUT FISHERMAN WHO SHALL REMAIN UNNAMED MOVES TO THE DARK SIDE TO ENJOY SOME SUMMER FLY FISHING.

boat or Kayak launch it, if not, work the shoreline from public access. Bluegill and bass cruise the shorelines in the morning and evening and are suckers for a popper. The most successful have been white with a black or red tail, but you might consider adding a dark colored dropper. Some have also had luck with an indicator and a squirmy. The biggest bluegill hang near shady shores with a quick drop off.

HICKORY HIGH FLY FISHING CLUB

Please welcome the Hickory High School Fly Fishing Club and visit their very impressive website at:

www.hhsflyfishingclub.com

The club is teaching fly casting and fly tying to its members, but is drastically short of equipment. If you have fly fishing or fly tying equipment and supplies that you can donate to the club, please contact Lisa Barron at hhsflyfishingclub@gmail.com or call 828-234-3956, drop them off at the HHS front desk, or bring them to the monthly meeting and we will see that they get them.

TU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

Hickory TU Women;s Tennessee Trip.

The Hickory TU girls will be hosting a weekend trip at "The Ledges". The Ledges is a home located on the Watauga River in the little Village of Watauga just outside of Elizabethton Tennessee. The Ledges is a farm with a one mile walking track along the river and around the farm. You can walk the bank and fish 1/4 mile in both directions. Most importantly you can fish what is known as the best fishing hole on the trophy section of the Watauga from the bank.

I bought the weekend as a fund raiser for Casting Carolinas. Starr Noland, Gail Garrison and Tammy Neal are all experienced fisher women who have signed up among others. The cost is \$200.00 for the weekend, July 28th. thru 30th. You will need to buy a 3 day Tennessee fishing license.

It should be a fun, no stress weekend away fishing with the girls. Availability is limited so please call Jackie Greene 828-310-6805 for more information.

Sorry Guys, this one's for the girls.....Jackie Greene

FLY FISHING CLASSES

Fly Fishing Orvis 201 (They also have a 101 class that I did not include)

The 201 school is also collaboration between DRO and Orvis. Once you have completed the 101 class or have a little bit of experience, join us for a 201 outing. This three hour long class is designed to build on your casting skills, teach you the basics of fly selection and knot tying and then get you out on the water for an hour of fishing with some of our guides. This class is designed to deepen your fundamental skills in fly fishing. This class has a \$30 fee and is open to anyone age 10 and older. Participants under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Each participant will receive a coupon for 15% off of any purchase which can be applied to your new fishing gear. Class size is limited to 12 participants call toll free 888-861-0111 or email info@davidsonflyfishing.com to reserve your spot in the next class.

2017 DATES, All 201 classes are from 1pm-4pm
July 8; July 23; August 20; and September 10.

The Pisgah National Forrest Education Center is located about an hour SW of Asheville. They offer several classes on fly tying, fly fishing, and Tenkara. Most of these classes are free. Visit the following website to make your arrangements:

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Education-Centers/Pisgah/Event-Registration>

FLY FISHING MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS

PRESS RELEASE **** FLY FISHING MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS

Bryson City, North Carolina – The Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians Hall of Fame announces the second class of inductees to be recognized at our annual museum luncheon event. The second annual Museum Hall of Fame inductions will be conducted on August 26, 2017 at the Southwestern Community College Swain Center located at 60 Almond School Road, Bryson City, NC 28713, west of Bryson City on US 19/74. From the downtown Bryson City, drive approximately 7 miles west. The old almond school is on your right.

Museum Hall of Fame nomination forms may be obtained electronically from Alen Baker alenandscottie@aol.com or picked up as hard copy at the museum. The Museum seeks to recognize those who have made outstanding and unique contributions to the art, science and sport of fly fishing. We encourage you to nominate those who meet the nomination criteria and are deserving of such recognition.

Our 2017 Museum Hall of Fame Inductees are Lefty Kreh, Mac Brown, Jimmy Jacobs, Steve Moore, Joe Messinger, Sr. and Starr Nolan.

Bernard "Lefty" Kreh – Inducted on April 8, 2017 at the Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival in the **Recreation** category for his many contributions to fly fishing as an outdoor writer with 31 books to his credit, innovative fly tyer especially known for his world-renowned Lefty's Deceiver of the late-1950s and as a fly rod designer.

Mac Brown – Inducted in the **Recreation** category for his varied contributions to fly fishing as a fly fishing volunteer of many organizations, guide, book author, instructor, coach and for his regional and national leadership in fly fishing competitions.

Jimmy Jacobs — Inducted in the **Communications** category as the author of numerous fly fishing books and articles, seminar speaker, and photographer.

Stephen Edward Moore — Inducted in the **Conservation** category for his years of dedication to the restoration of brook trout in the Great Smoky Mountains

National Park and his efforts in the discovery of the Southern strain of brook trout.

Joe M. Messinger, Sr.—Inducted in the **Crafts** category as a professional fly tier who is widely recognized for the creativity and wisdom in designing the famed Irresistible pattern as well as other noted creations including the Nitehummer, Messinger Frog or Bucktail Frog, Meadow Frog, Golden Frog, Dogcatcher, Bleeding Bucktail Popper, and Bleeding Hair Frog.

Starr Nolan - Inducted in the **Humanity** category for her contributions to fly fishing as a fly fishing volunteer in many organizations, instructor, educator, clinical coach and for her regional and national leadership in the use of fly fishing as a method of therapy for recovering cancer patients.

The inductions will be held in Bryson City with Museum supporters as well as the family and friends of our inductees in attendance. Fly anglers from across the southeast will celebrate the Second Annual Museum Hall of Fame Inductions.

With limited space, advanced reservations are essential and are currently being taken. E-mail info@greatsmokies.com or call 828-488-3681 to reserve your place. The ticket price of \$35 per person includes admission to the induction ceremony, lunch, and all weekend admission to the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians.

CASTING CAROLINAS

Casting Carolinas needs volunteers to help with their tournament and their retreats. If you can lend a hand please visit their website and sign up to help.

<http://castingcarolinas.com/community/volunteer/>

CHAPTER WEBSITE

The chapter website has been upgraded and revamped with a lot of additional information about our activities. Please check in at www.hkynctu.org and look it over. If there is something you would like to see added, please let us know.

SPONSORS INVITED

As part of our fundraising, we invite you to post an advertisement in our monthly newsletters and on our section website. The newsletter is sent to over 300 people

in the Hickory metro area. 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

Got a great photo or story from a recent fly fishing trip, a new product you think others would love, or any stories to share with other members? We'd love to hear from you and publish you in the next newsletter. Send it to us at HkyNCTU@gmail.com for consideration of publication.

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Trout in the Classroom

1ST ANNUAL WILSON CREEK KID'S DAY

Our first annual Kids' Fly Fishing Day at Wilson Creek turned out to be a great success and a wonderful event. The weather cooperated at its best with sunshine and blue skies. Many kids came out with their parents to learn about fly fishing and our team of volunteers didn't disappoint them. We had people tying bugs and people catching and showing bugs. Others were teaching the kids to tie the bugs on the line and cast them to the trout. Our cooking crew made sure no one went hungry. Clyde Campbell Elementary won the trophy for the most kids attending. Thank you to everyone who attended the event and special thanks to our sponsors and all our volunteers who made it so special.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Kid's Fly-Fishing Day 2017
 Thank you to our sponsors!

		■ Steve & Jane Mull ■	
		■ Holly S. Cole ■	
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Special thanks to David Hise for his support of our chapter.



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2017



EVENTS

APRIL

1st Opening day of Hatchery waters - bring a picnic lunch!

MAY

13th Disc Archery Shoot. Free lessons for kids & adults. Equipment provided. Please no personal bows! Bring a picnic lunch!

JUNE

3rd Opening day of harvest waters. Trout Fishing Event: Children 16 & under invited to fish trout 6 am - Noon & Adults Noon - 3. Lunch Available!

17th Safety Awareness Day. American Red Cross will teach Wilderness First Aid. Bring swimwear & a picnic lunch!

JULY

1st 4th of July Celebration with music by Bear Wallow Band & food by City Cafe

AUG

12th Heritage Day - Collettsville Historical Society on site with old time train music by Hobo Bill & Kristen

SEPT

16th Goodbye to Summer Event with Hobo Bill & Kristen & food by City Cafe

OCT

21st Wilson Creek Festival of Colors with Bear Wallow Band and food by City Cafe

**ALL EVENTS 11 AM - 4PM
& FREE**

