

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited November 2017 Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all Hickory TU members...

I would like to thank all of you who attended and supported our 2017 annual fundraiser that provides the financial resources to continue vital TU programs that support the mission of Trout Unlimited. Your support is appreciated.

Our next chapter meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21, 5:30pm, at the Olde Hickory Station. At this meeting the election of officers for 2018 will take place and your attendance is very important. The slate of officers for Hickory TU is Zan Thompson, President; Jackie Greene, Vice-President; Gerry Johnson, Treasurer; Holly Cole, Secretary. Also, a very informative program will be presented by Andy Brown, TU Southern Appalachian Stream Restoration Manager.

Weather is getting colder but don't put you gear away yet. Winter is a great time to fish our NC streams. Remember to dress warmly, have a change of clothes, leave a plan for the day with someone, fish smaller patterns, fish mid day and enjoy your time on the water.

Fish Tales... Gary Hogue

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



"The beauty of fly fishing in the autumn is that all of the beautiful colors that trout come in are also in the trees around you."

.....Chick Woodward

WIN A THOMAS & THOMAS FOR THE CHAPTER

If you haven't signed up for Southern Trout Magazine, you are missing an opportunity for some great articles aimed at our part of the world and now a chance to win a Thomas & Thomas fly rod as a chapter prize. The magazine is a free digital issue and all you have to do is go to www.tushootout.com and sign up to help us win.

NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, November 21

Where: Old Hickory Station
232 Government Ave SW
Across from the Post Office

Program: 5:30 – 6:30 Dinner/ Raffle Ticket Sales
6:30 - 7:30 Guest speaker/ Program... Q&A
7:30 Raffle/ Door Prizes... Conclusion

Speaker: Andy Brown

The program for the evening is "Pisgah/Nantahala National Forest Revised Management Plan" to be presented by Andy Brown, TU Southern Appalachian Stream Restoration Manager. The National Forest Service is reevaluating its programs and priorities and the draft final revised plan is tentatively due out this month. Trout Unlimited is a member of the group reviewing the new plan and Andy will bring us up to date on actions that have been addressed. See the article below regarding the National Park Service Plan Revision so you will be prepared for discussion at this meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS

There will be no December meeting. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 16.



HICKORY NC TU LOGO GEAR

Christmas is coming and it's time to start thinking about that trout fisherman in your life and what would brighten their Christmas morning under the tree. This year you have two opportunities to find that special gift. Our logo products are still available this year at Lands' End. They carry a wide variety of dress and casual products to choose from. But if it's that fishing shirt you're looking for, Peggy Thompson has set up a website at Company Casuals. There

are currently a limited number of items, but it is expanding so continue to check it out.

The Hickory Chapter 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/>. To access the account go to: <https://business.landsend.com/store/hkynctu/>

We now have a second option for logo gear that Zan's wife Peggy has set us up with. Check out the following website: www.companycasuals.com/hickorytrout/start.jsp

Annual Fundraiser/F3T Event

Mother nature didn't smile on us this year. She threw the massive storm at us just before the Monday night event was supposed to begin. In spite of her efforts we were able to move the event to the next



evening. We still had a good turn out and everyone had a great time viewing the photography of Joel Sartore, some fantastic food, and a great movie. The silent auction also turned out to be a great



success and with that and the sponsorships we were able to raise the funds we need to keep our programs going for another year. Thank you to everyone who sponsored, donated, or attended for making this event a success.



Nantahala/Pisgah National Forest Plan

The National Forest Service (NFS) here in western North Carolina is in the process of revising the management plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah national forests. A partnership of over 30 organizations representing a diverse cross-section of public lands interests, including recreation, forest products, cultural heritage, conservation, wildlife, hunting, angling as well as other forest user groups was formed a few years ago to work with the NFS in forming the revised plan. <http://npforestpartnership.org/> Trout Unlimited is a member of the Partnership and is especially concerned since the national forest lands contain or directly contribute to most of the wild trout streams in NC. Recently Andy Brown, TU Southern Appalachian Stream Restoration Manager, has established a task force to solicit input from the chapters. Locally Chick Woodward will be representing our chapter.

The tentative schedule for the revised management plan is draft documents to be put forth by the NFS in early November. November through January a review period with a complete draft issued for review in the spring of 2018. The TU task force recommendations will be compiled and submitted to the Partnership by John Rich who is our representative.

It should be noted that this is the "high level" management plan to provide direction, not details. It is hoped that the Partnership will continue after this plan is released to help with the projects and details that will be developed from the plan. If you have any specific issues you would like to see addressed, please contact Chick.

To learn more about the plan revision, visit:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/home/?cid=stelprdb5397660>

5 Tips for Fall Fly Fishing

by Chad Shmukler - Tuesday, Sep 24th, 2013

Published at <https://www.hatchmag.com/>



Autumn can be a challenging, but beautiful time to hit the water.

Autumn offers a series of distinct challenges to the angler that are specific to the season. Streams and rivers are typically lower and clearer than they are throughout most of the summer. Hatches have tapered off. Leaves blanket the water. Water temperatures change. Sun angles shift. All of these differences and more add up to the angler being faced with a different puzzle, one that requires a change in approach in order to have continued success.

Though there are certainly more ways than what follows via which the fly fisherman can adapt to changing autumn conditions, here are five helpful tips to increase your chances of a good day on the water.

Mind the Sun

The autumn sun is lower in the sky throughout the day when compared to summer. The result is lower sun angles through most of the day, which means longer shadows. This requires the angler to use a stealthier approach, as the ability

for your shadow to spook fish is increased. Pay attention to the sun's position relative to yours, which way your shadow is being cast and how far. You can't catch fish that you've chased off with a lazy, unthoughtful approach.

Mind Your Clothing

The sun isn't the only reason it is easier to spook fish in the autumn. Low and clear water conditions not only make it easier for the trout to see things above the water's surface, they also make them more wary. Clothing is always an important factor in remaining stealthy as an angler, but its importance is paramount in the fall. Wear autumnal colors, or even better, camouflage.

Pay Attention To Water Temperature

Anglers are often accustomed to thinking that early morning and late evening are the best times to catch trout, and by in large, this is true. In many areas of the country, fishermen may even avoid the daytime hours when sun blankets the water, water temperatures rise and trout seek thermal refuge. In the autumn, however, cooling water temps typically result in conditions that make the entire day an opportunity to take feeding fish. As temperatures chill even further, water temperatures can result in trout that are lethargic during the early morning and late evening hours, instead feeding most actively in the sun-warmed water of mid-day. Take note of the temperatures of the stream or river you're headed to fish, and adjust your approach accordingly.

Understand the Trout's Changing Behavior

Brook and Brown trout, both species which spawn in very late summer and/or autumn, are much more agitated and aggressive in the fall. This is a result of behavioral changes related to spawning that create increased territoriality. This is one of the reasons why autumn is a great time to fish with streamers. Aggressive, territorial trout are more likely to chase and hopefully take streamers and other flies that may represent a threat or disturbance to a trout preparing to spawn. Think about fly size, profile and color with the aim of irritating an already cranky fish.

Eggs anyone?

As noted above, fall means spawning and spawning means eggs. Egg patterns -- or god forbid, beads -- it should come as no surprise, are increasingly effective in water where eggs from spawning fish are floating around. Browns and Brook trout will both eat eggs that are produced by their brethren, and where rainbow trout and these other species share waterways, rainbows can feed aggressively on eggs. Whether you find the use of egg patterns sporting is for you to decide,

but the fact is they take fish and can often be the cure for an otherwise slow day.

NOVEMBER FLY PATTERNS

An article in the Carolina Sportsman Magazine by Robert Satterwhite suggests the following flies for November:

October-November - This is the time to watch for spawning brown trout. Tributaries are prime spots to fish during the fall spawn.

Use large flies such as a No. 12-10 chartreuse, olive or black Woolly Booger, a No. 10 Bitch Creek or a No. 21-10 Girdle Bug. Ideal spawning conditions are when water temperatures are between 44 and 48 degrees, and spawning can start as early as September and continue through November, since not all browns spawn at the same time.

Suggested dry flies for October and November are No. 20-18 Blue-Winged Olive, No. 16-14 Royal Wulff, No. 16-14 Orange Palmer, No. 16-14 Red Humpy, No. 16-14 Stimulator and No. 61-14 Autumn Dun.

Effective nymph patterns include the No. 10 Secret Weapon, No. 10 Shell Back, No. 12-8 Muddler Minnow and No. 10-8 Streamer.

MEMBER BIO - STEVE MULL

In this age of mobility, Steve Mull is unique that he was born and raised here in Hickory and has spent the rest of his life here, most of it as manager of the Fresh Air Galaxy food store on North Center Street. In addition to his service to the Hickory NC Trout Unlimited Chapter, he has served as an officer and on the board of Rotary International, YMCA, Boy Scouts, the Science Center, and more. He has always been a moving force in whatever he became involved with.



22" Rainbow Caught by Steve Mull
at Wilson Creek in 1977
On Display at Visitor Center

Steve had no one to introduce him to fly fishing. He was lured by the beauty of the sport and at the age of 19 purchased his gear and learned it on his own. He loved the outdoors and graduated from NC State with a forestry degree. That led him to an internship with the US Forest service working at Doughton Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The rangers had no specific job for him so just sent him out to patrol the creeks in the park. He spent the whole summer patrolling the creeks as requested...but with a fly rod in his hand. The one memory of that summer that

has stayed with him is the day he was patrolling the river and heard a lot of noise ahead. He knew there was a camping group in the park and as he moved up to check it out he caught them seining the creek. They had captured 200 trout. He called it in on the radio and the rangers arrived to take



charge. Since he had observed it, he was called to court to testify. The judge just happened to be a fly fisherman and threw the book at the adult leader of the camping group. The following summer Steve and two friends took off out west for three months, camping along the way at trout streams. They traveled the north route west through the Black Hills, Yellowstone, and Glacier Park and then the south route back home. Steve's father owned the grocery stores and was having some difficulty with one of them so Steve stepped up to the task and took over as manager and that became his life long career.

In 1977, Garvin Hughes, a wildlife writer for the Hickory Daily Record, invited Steve to join the Northwestern NC Chapter of TU as it was called at that time and began his long and faithful service to the organization. One of the first things Steve did was to contact 100 of his friends and convinced them to join TU. That eventually let the chapter to grow to 300 members. Steve served two years as VP and

two years as President of the local chapter. One of his major efforts was to begin a fund raising program in 1987. For 12 years the Northwestern NC Chapter won the



National Banquet Champion of the Year award and became the model for hosting a fund raiser. During this time Steve attended most of the annual TU conventions and always with his fly rod, so he's had a chance to fish many famous rivers. Eventually all good things come to an end. Due to the non-stop effort of managing the annual programs, there was a lot of burnout among the members and the chapter faded for a time. There was a great deal of money in the treasury that was going to revert to national without the chapter there to manage it. The money was raised locally and Steve was determined to see that it get used locally, so he formed the Bracewell Trust to see that the money remained here in Hickory.

Steve hasn't been able to do a lot of fishing recently due to knee issues and will be having knee surgery in December so will be off the stream for a while longer until he recovers. But he has a lot of memories to fall back on before he gets back in the river. His favorite fly fishing memory was a trip to Hazel Creek. They got into a mayfly hatch and the water was just boiling with fish. They were landing one on every cast. Graham Hunsucker put on a mayfly with mayfly dropper and landed two fish at once. Steve, not to be outdone, put on three mayflies and actually landed a triple. When he was learning to fish, all of his fishing was with dry flies and that's where his love still is. As time went on he learned to fish with nymphs and understood he would catch a lot more fish if he did, but he never started

fishing a nymph and dropper behind an indicator. To this day he will still put on a dry fly for his indicator and with a nymph dropper. As a result his favorite flies are the larger ones like a stimulator or a Cahill. He did tie flies for many years, but found with age the eyesight and dexterity made it a lot more difficult, so he donated all his tying equipment and materials to a young lady who was just getting started and couldn't afford it.



When the chapter was resurrected two years ago, Steve came back onto the board to help. He said he thinks the best thing we are doing is youth programs like Trout in the Classroom that help to teach conservation to the kids. He wants to see us continue and try to expand those programs. And thanks to Steve's efforts we have the funds to do that. Steve's main role on the board is fundraising. His connections from his many years working on committees with other business leaders in Hickory have helped us to raise the funds we need to make our chapter a real force in conservation education in our community. When you get the chance, please thank Steve for all he has done for our chapter.

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TIP OF THE MONTH

Following the keepemwet principles is something every one should easily be able to do. All it takes is a little preparation and mindfulness before heading out on a trip and while on the water. By incorporating these tips into regular fishing practices, you can eliminate contact with dry surfaces, minimize air exposure, and reduce handling. This list of tips is by no means exhaustive, but rather a starting point of simple and easy steps every angler can take to keepemwet.

TIP 1: REDUCE ANGLING DURATION
TIP 2: FOLLOW LOCAL REGULATIONS
TIP 3: HOLD FISH OVER WATER
TIP 4: FISH BARBLESS HOOKS
TIP 5: FISH WITH NETS
TIP 6: ONLY USE RUBBER NETS
TIP 7: CARRY HOOK REMOVAL DEVICES
TIP 8: PHOTOGRAPH WET FISH
TIP 9: GRIP FISH CAREFULLY
TIP 10: CAREFULLY REVIVE FISH

For more details on these tips visit:

<https://www.keepemwet.org/tips#keepemwet-tips>

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.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

All three schools have reported live and healthy fry. Something you really need to see is the Alexander Middle School webcam that they have set up on their tank. The webcam can be viewed livestream on YouTube every weekday evening from 4:30 pm to 8 pm and weekend hours of 8 am-8 pm. They have a light programmed to cut off during nighttime hours to simulate natural day and night for the eggs/fry. I could sit all evening and watch.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoR5BgBLwPFX2L_hWfjW91g/live

TU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

Check out <https://www.meetup.com/WomenOnTheFly/> for the latest women's events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WNC Fly Fishing Expo

December 1-2

WNC Agricultural Center, Asheville, NC

Regional speakers, beginner fly fishing classes, fly casting instruction, gear demos, fly thing clinics, fly fishing films and more. \$15 at the door, free for children 16 years and younger. Friday Noon-7 pm, Saturday 9 am – 4 pm. The Center is a 1301 Fanning Bridge Rd in Fletcher.

STOCKING AT WILSON CREEK

The next stocking will take place on Wilson Creek on Thursday, November 2. If you'd like to be there to lend a hand, be at the handicap area between 9&10 AM. Stocking at Elk Creek will take place the next day.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Eagle Rock Camp
Veteran Family Retreat

EAGLE ROCK CAMP

Eagle Rock Camp is dedicated to support of veteran families. This month one of their retreats was held at the



YMCA Camp Harrison just east of Lenoir. Hickory NC TU director Lynn Marilla is also the executive director of Eagle Rock Camp and as part of their program has invited our chapter to

help out to include fly fishing as part of the retreat. Gary Hogue, Steve Anderson, Joel Miller, and Chick Woodward stepped up to help out. The program included fly casting lessons followed by a little time on the water. The youth had their turn in the morning and then the adults joined in the fun in the afternoon. Everyone had a great time and even landed several nice fish to make it a great day on the water.

If you would like to learn more about Eagle Rock Camp or make a donation, you can visit their website at <http://www.eaglerockcamp.org/>

CASTING CAROLINAS

Sunday, October 15 was the Casting Carolinas fall retreat fishing event on the Pigeon River near Canton. Joel Miller, Gary Hogue, and Chick Woodward served as river guides for the Sunday event. The sky was blue, the temperature was

perfect, and everyone had a great day. Jackie Green and Holly Cole were there for the entire weekend helping out.

The next retreat will be at Hobcaw Barony near Georgetown, SC on November 10-12.



The events can always use more volunteers to support the program. If you would like to join the next event, go to <http://castingcarolinas.com/community/volunteer/> and sign up.

CHAPTER WEBSITE

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

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.

SPONSORS INVITED

As part of our fundraising, we invite you to post an advertisement in our monthly newsletters and on our chapter 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 032
2425 N. Center Street #183
Hickory, NC 28601-1320

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

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



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Thank you for your support!



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