

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited

December 2017 Newsletter



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A LINE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As your new chapter President, I am very thankful this Thanksgiving season for our Past President Gary Hogue.



Through Gary's leadership and hard work this chapter was resurrected from the TU Chapter Cemetery and in two short years is now well established and a very healthy chapter in the North Carolina Council of TU. Gary has left the board and me with a good game plan to continue growing the chapter with members, activities and conservation accomplishments. I have big shoes to fill and with your help we will continue growing this chapter.

If any member has any interest in being more involved with the chapter or a particular activity or if you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me. I welcome your phone calls or emails. I can be reached at HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com or 478-284-1224. The more members involved the easier the work load. And with that said I am looking for someone to co-chair the Kid's Fly Fishing Day and I would like to add a board member to head the Youth Initiative. Gary Hogue who remains on the board as Past President has agreed to be a co-chair for Conservation so I am looking for someone to co-chair with him. Over this Christmas Holiday Season please consider how you might contribute to your chapter's growth and activities.

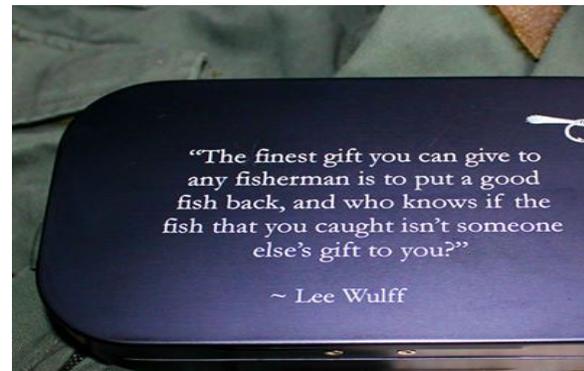
The following is your chapter leadership for 2018. Jackie Green will be our new Vice President. Gerry Johnson will now be our Treasurer who takes over for Skip Pearce who keep the books even while the chapter was dormmate. Skip will now be an easy-going board member. Thank you Skip. Holly Cole remains as our chapter Secretary. Chick Woodward remains as a board member and chairs Communications which includes our web site, social media/Facebook and serves as Newsletter Editor. Consider

writing an article and share pictures and fish stories with Chick for the newsletter. David Jones and Lynn Marilla will continue to serve on the board as co-chairs of Veterans Services. Another board member with a key board role is Cathy Starnes who heads our Trout in the Classroom program. Jean McMullin stepped up to chair the Women's Initiative after Jackie stepped up to VP. Steve Anderson remains on the board and will serve as our Accounting Review Executive. Gary Hogue will serve as Past President, and co-chair of Conservation. We have a number of at-large board members; Gail Garrison, Joel Miller, Eddie Madden, Steve Mull, Joe Giovannini and Skip Pearce. Want to add your name here, and join the fun we have as a board, please contact me. We now have a program committee. These folks will organize and plan our programs for 2018. If you would like to make suggestions or work with them, they are: Gail Garrison, Jean McMullin, Lynn Marilla and Chick Woodward. Thanks to all of you for your roles in the chapter.

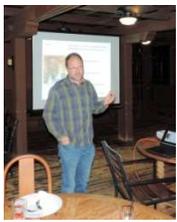
There will be no meeting in December. Enjoy the holidays with your family and remember nothing brings a family together like fishing even though it's cold outside. If you need to know how to survive in cold weather, then you need to make plans to attend the January meeting as Gary will be doing a program on outdoor survival. A question for our members, How many of you carry a large heavy duty trash bag and a bic lighter in your vest or gear bag? Do you know what it is for? Or how to use it? Attend the January meeting if you want to learn more. Have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and Happy Holidays.

Zan Thompson

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



NOVEMBER MEETING



Our November presentation was by Andy Brown who was hired earlier this year as TU Southern Appalachian Stream Restoration Manager. Andy has been working directly with the US FOREST SERVICE to restore disconnected waterways to allow for native and wild trout access to greater habitat. The

projects this year have been replacement of culverts at four sites on or adjacent to national forest that were perched, improperly sized or installed, or caused in some other way the blockage of fish access. The project shown here is on Roaring Creek in Avery County and was in partnership with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Andy's management responsibility



includes supervision of stream crossing designs, permitting and gaining government approvals, contracting, and implementation of these new fish-friendly bridges and bottomless culverts. The projects are being funded by private and federal matching funds. If you are

aware of a source of funding to help support future projects, you can contact Andy at andybrown@tu.org for more information.

NEXT MEETING

There will be no December meeting. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 16. Gary Hogue will be making a presentation of safety on the river.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Meetings are held the third Tuesday each month except July, August, and December. Locations may be changing so keep an eye on the newsletter or website. Spring meeting currently planned are:

January 16 Safety on the River

February 20 Eagle Rock Camp for Veterans

May 15 Summer Fishing for Wild Trout

If you have a presentation you would like to share or an idea for something you would like to see, please contact Chick Woodward at hkynctu@gmail.com.

WIN A THOMAS & THOMAS FLY ROD 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.



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 that 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

DECEMBER FLY PATTERNS

For winter fishing, carry a thermometer to check changes in water temperature. Trout are more active when the water temperature is at least 40 degrees. Although hatches are common during December, nymph patterns usually are preferred. Suggested nymph patterns are  No. 10 My Pet, No. 10 Mink Hair, No. 12-10 Zug Bug, No. 8 Woolly Booger,  No. 10 Girdle Bug, No. 12-10 Prince, and No.  10-8 Brown Stone. Best time to fish in the winter is the middle of the day.

The Carolina Sportsman "A trout fly for every season" by ROBERT SATTERWHITE December 26, 2006

MEMBER BIO - ZAN THOMPSON



This month and in the following months we will feature our officers and boards to help you get to know them and to learn where they would like to see our chapter head in the coming years. At the November meeting we elected a new president to take us through the next two years. Zan Thompson has only been a chapter member here in Hickory for about two years, but his history with TU goes back much farther to membership in his prior home in Georgia. On retirement he moved here to Hickory and his life has recently centered around a career in art. When he's not fishing, he is painting water colors and attending art shows.

When did you begin fly fishing and what got you started?

As a small child I used to watch my grandfather casting a fly with his automatic reel and bamboo rod on his farm pond.



It looked like fun. But as a small six-year-old kid, I was not given a flyrod to cast but a simple cane pole. When I became a teenager, remembering my grandfather and the beauty of his fishing, I wanted to fly fish. There were not

many people fly fishing or selling fly fishing gear back in the mid sixties in Atlanta, Georgia. However, my dad found a fly rod and Pflueger Medalist reel for my birthday. Taught myself to cast and fly fish by reading books. Spent a fortune since and still love the sport today.

When did you join TU and why did you join?

I read a newspaper article back in the winter of 1982 about a new TU Chapter being formed in Roswell, Georgia, my home town at the time. I joined the new chapter early in 1983. They held meetings in a bank board room initially. The Chapter was called Upper Chattahoochee and the home stream was the Chattahoochee River where I fished every opportunity. It was a wonderful way to meet others hooked on my favorite sport. Little did I know how that it would just be the beginning of a long relationship with the sport, fellow fishing buddies and with TU.

What is Hickory TU doing best?

When I joined TU in 1983 there were no women or children in the chapter. Our diversity was strictly our spouses at that time. Hickory TU has a talented group of women who have an enthusiasm for the sport I have not seen for a long time. Our work with Hickory High Schools Fly Fishing Club and Trout in the Classroom are two significant efforts to encourage and interest youth in to becoming the future of both our sport and in Trout Unlimited itself.

What could Hickory TU improve?

We have a healthy chapter especially considering it has not been that long ago that the chapter was resurrected from the TU Chapter cemetery. I hope to see us grow the activities and programs we have started such Kid's Fly Fishing Day, Trout in the Classroom and working with veterans through Eagle Rock Camp. As the new chapter president, I would like to see us get more hands-on events such as fly tying, casting clinics, rod building and organizing 3 or 4 days a year that we would have group fishing trips maybe even a camping trip based around fly fishing. Another opportunity might be setting up a system to find a fishing partner. I

would also like to see us develop a big conservation project. We are after all a conservation group with a goal to conserve, protect, and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

What's your best fly fishing memory?

One of my favorite fishing memories goes back a number of years. A group of us were getting ready to make the drive from Atlanta to Reliance Tennessee to fish the Hiwassee



River. I stopped by my favorite fly shop in Atlanta, The Fish Hawk to pick up some supplies. Started talking to Gary the owner and he told me about these new flies

he had gotten in and he thought I should try them on the river. So, I purchased a half dozen and threw them in a fly box and forgot about them. Next day we are on the river, there is a good hatch and I and the others tried every size and shade of the Blue Wing Olive to no avail. Could not figure why we were having no luck. Nothing else worked either. Pulled out several boxes looking for something when I noticed those six flies I had purchased. Tied one on, made my cast to a nearby rising fish and wham, fish on. In the next few minutes I caught every fish I casted too. We caught fish till those flies were gone. The new fly at the time was the CDC Blue Wing Olive size 18. For those that don't know, the CDC means the fly is tied with the Conard Duck Feather which is the soft feather next to the duck's oil gland. It allows a fly to sit, not on top of the water, or below the surface but in the film of the surface. That was what the trout were keying on that day!

What other organizations do you belong to?

I have hit that point in my life where I am refocusing my interest. Just a couple of years ago I belonged to several fishing organizations like, Bone Fish & Tarpon Trust, Fly Fishing Federation, Coastal Conservation Association, Georgia Kayak Fishing, etc. etc. Today Trout Unlimited is my main focus on fishing. The other organizations I am involved with are all art related.

What is your favorite stream?

This is a question every fly fisher hates. **One stream?** Are we talking about in the world, close to home, out west, dry flies or nymphs, slow and deep or shallow and fast, or somewhere in between, Brookie water or Big Browns? I am going to say after thinking about it a few minutes and this will surprise many but my favorite would have to be:

The Chattahoochee River! Why you ask? I know it like no other stream. Back when it was legal I could fish that river on a moonless night and catch fish without falling in the water. And where else can you stand waist deep in cold water that far south and cast to big 24 inch plus Brown while looking at rock bluffs with blue glass high rise office buildings? I miss the sounds, smells and trout of that wonderful metropolitan river.

What are your favorite flies?

Dries are my favorite but because I like to catch fish I have several nymph patterns and streamers too. Though I have never fished for salmon I love the colors of salmon flies which is why I paint them. And salt water flies are interesting and easy to tie. My favorite trout flies are: dry: The Light Cahill, The Blue Wing Olive and the CDC version too, March Brown, Elk Wing Caddis and black ants; nymphs: Hare's Ear nymph and its bead head version, Sparkle Pupa; streamers: Muddler Minnow with a little red tied in, and a number of crawfish patterns. Every species of fish love them.



Do you tie flies?

I used to tie a lot. Now I prefer to paint watercolors and buy my flies. I will still tie on rare occasions.

What events would you like to see us take on?

See the question, what could Hickory TU improve? Let me say of those items I mentioned, a camping/fishing trip with chapter members would be a blast. I have always enjoyed such events in the past and there is no better way to get to know fellow TU chapter members than to go camping and fishing together.

Zan's wife Peggy has also been a regular at our local chapter meetings. Through a company she works with she has set up a website for us to purchase chapter logo items. The details are listed earlier in the newsletter. At our fundraising event she was the winner of the women's waders at the silent auction and plans to join Zan fly fishing this year.

What Do Fly Fishermen Really Want For Christmas?

Besides the obvious choices of an entire fly shop's worth of the



newest, most technically advanced fly fishing gear, a shiny new drift boat, and a month-long trip to New Zealand or the Bahamas, there are some very important things every angler secretly hopes for on their Christmas wish list. At Vail Valley Anglers we have a little experience on the water and know what makes for the perfect day of fly fishing so here's a list of fly fishing gifts that we don't always get but we sure appreciate it when we do get them. Behind all the bombproof raingear, tricked out lanyards, and slick-looking shirts, all we really want is a few simple things.

The Hall Pass Assuming you've not sunken so far into your fly fishing addiction that you are unable to maintain a relationship with someone that puts up with your questionable infatuation with slimy fish, it's always nice to get the hall pass. The get out of jail free card for fly fishermen lucky enough to have a significant other might cost you dinner, an overpriced bottle of wine and a couple hours of misery watching a romantic comedy. Ultimately, it's worth not having to come up with an elaborate excuse for where you were for the last twelve hours and why you smell like beer and fish. Besides, deep down you know you like romantic comedies. Use the hall pass wisely and do not abuse or it will disappear forever faster than a spooky bonefish.

Perfect Conditions On a couple special days a year, the stars align and the fly fishing conditions set up for an epic day. We hope and pray for this each and every time we fish, but know usually something out of our control will screw things up like gale force winds, jury duty or food poisoning. Imagine this: You're up before dawn, the boat is rigged, the cooler packed and you tied up a bunch of juicy bugs in advance. The day is warm but not too hot, there is no wind to speak of except the occasional (very) light breeze. The river is flowing at a clear, cool, ideal flow. The parking lot and boat ramp are mysteriously empty. Your buddy, who is rowing, paid for the shuttle and brought the best breakfast burritos in the valley because he owes you. Swallows are diving all over above the river. Casting to the bank you immediately have a take and while fighting the fish you look downstream to see a rise, and then another, and another. Green Drakes and Golden Stoneflies blanket the water and hover in the air. You are about to experience one of those rare days with perfect conditions, perhaps the ultimate fly fishing gift.

The Right Fly at the Right Time Having an endless supply of exactly the right pattern is the gift that keeps on giving. It sucks when you have to wing it with a rusty half-assed purple parachute two sizes bigger than the PMDs that are hatching when every fish in the river won't touch anything but a #18

Patriot. Every angler has experienced the dread of peering into a fly box and finding a gaping hole where you expected to find *The One*. It's a sinking, sickening, gut-wrenching, puke-inducing feeling. Here's to full boxes of flies fish can't help but eat.

Fly Fishing Vices There's something to be said for eating healthy and getting plenty of sleep and exercise but admit it, some days it's nice to chuck all that and just go fishing. At the gas station in the morning, you're eyeballing the delicious, processed, pre-wrapped, greasy goodness of that convenience store sausage, egg, and fake cheese breakfast sandwich. Get it. Just do it before the guilt sets in. And while you're at it, grab a can of chew, a twelve of cheap beer and ten bucks worth of scratch-off lottery tickets. You may as well get some of those powdered donuts too. Don't worry, on the way home you can stop for a hot dog.

Bonus Expert Tip: In order to achieve maximum enjoyment out of this gift, it is best used sparingly in conjunction with the Hall Pass seen above.

Getting Greedy You visualize it all the time. Endless strings of rolling tarpon, bonefish and permit tails as far as the eyes can see. Giant wilderness rainbows that are so stupid they greedily eat huge bushy, easy-to-see dry flies tied on a stubby section of 3x. A picture of you on the cover of Fly Fisherman magazine with a sea-run brown trout so big it snapped your ten-weight just as your guide netted it. GPS waypoints that mark a massive school of thirty pound popper-loving redfish. The key to the kingdom is handed down to you from some old timer, a laundry list of X marks the spot locations of secret stashes of wild, backcountry fish that haven't seen a fly since before WWII. You get the picture but this is a very elusive gift. Once...maybe twice in your lifetime, you might get to experience something like this so these things are very high on the wish list.

You are the Man We all like to philosophize about how nice it is just to be out there and enjoy the beauty and solitude of a pristine trout stream. The reality is sometimes much different. Popular trout rivers get lots of traffic and every angler has a little bit of competitive, inner "Take that, I'm the Man" swagger just waiting to break out. When you round that bend and float by two other fishless, dejected boats and you and your buddy are both hooked up...well, once in a while it's OK to be that guy. When you net that disgustingly huge, bloated pig of a rainbow in front of thirty other guys at the Toilet Bowl on the Frying Pan, you're entitled to a little bit of showmanship and bravado. We call it the Kelly Slater-you're a badass who's better than the other guys, at least on that day at that moment. Lefty Kreh has got nothing on you.

Take a bow. Just don't overdo it or it'll come back to haunt you.

Of course when you do get some of these gifts you'll want to have some new gear to help you enjoy that hall pass and perfect fly fishing conditions. Combine one or two of these gifts with a lightweight reel, hi-tech waders that don't leak and that new rod you've been waiting to put a bend in and you're well on your way to getting some pretty incredible Christmas presents. At Vail Valley Anglers, we hope Santa brings you some great new fly fishing gear, and plenty of big, hungry fish in the river, on the flats or wherever you cast a fly.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!
Brody Henderson, Guide and Content Writer

TIP OF THE MONTH

One pattern I've noticed after years of fly fishing both dry and nymph is that anything with red on it seems to work better. The classic is the prince nymph which is very productive. I've also had great success by tying a copper john with red wire, but you can add many of your flies and nymphs. The next time you're tying your flies, think about adding a red bead, wrapping behind the head with red thread, or perhaps insert a small red feather or red hair tail. The results can be very productive.



Prince Nymph



Red Wire Copper John



Hares Ear With Red Bead



Black Gnat

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM



Derek Chase reported from University Christian High School on the TIC program there. He said some of our students at UCHS in the science classes are assisting him with measuring levels of nitrates, nitrites,



ammonia and pH. Then we are adding bacteria making partial water changes to keep the levels of these optimal for the fish. They are also helping me with feeding the fish in the morning and afternoons.



I BELIEVE YOUR NAIL POLISH IS TESTING RATHER HIGH IN NITRITES

TU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

Join us for a **Fly Fishing 101** class at South Mountain State Park on Sunday, December 10th at 2:00 PM. Check out <https://www.meetup.com/WomenOnTheFly/> any time 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.

Atlanta Fly Fishing Show

February 2 & 3, 2018

Infinite Energy Center

<http://flyfishingshow.com/atlanta/>

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



This is what happens when you cross a brook trout with a humpback salmon.

Trey Harkey on private waters near Boone, NC

EAGLE ROCK CAMP

Eagle Rock Camp is dedicated to support of veteran families. 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

Hello everyone, I just want to give you an update on Casting Carolinas.

This Fall has been really active for Casting Carolinas. We completed our October Retreat at Lake Logan. It was a huge success. We also did another Retreat this fall in Georgetown South Carolina at Hobcaw Barony in November. This retreat was different from anything that we've ever done before that I have been involved with. Most of the women present were from the coastal area of North or South Carolina. We fished freshwater ponds for Bass and crappie. The ladies caught several fish. Although this one was more time consuming and more work on our end it was well worth the effort judging from the many thank you's we received.

We help so many survivors through the program who are struggling with one issue or another. I will try to give you dates for our events for 2018 by year end so that you can add them to your Calendar.

Thank you Hickory Trout Unlimited for sponsoring and volunteering for Casting Carolinas and being a part of all of the wonderful work that we do.

Merry Christmas and a safe Holiday season from the staff of Casting Carolinas.

Jacqueline Greene
Participant Coordinator
Casting Carolinas

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:

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

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Trout in the Classroom

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