

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited

March 2018 Newsletter



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A LINE FROM THE PRESIDENT

If you missed our February Program, you missed a very touching story of the work Eagle Rock Camp does with our veterans and their families and how the camp uses fly-fishing as one component to accomplish their repair work with these families. The program was presented by Lynn Marilla, who is the director of Eagle Rock Camp and thankfully she serves on our chapter board as a co-chair for Veteran's Services. We heard the story of a number of families who have had to deal with a variety of issues as a result of serving in our country's military. Several of our chapter's members volunteer with Eagle Rock Camp to help with the fly-fishing component of the program. Lynn is looking for more volunteers, so if you have an interest, please watch our newsletter for details. I will also say that Eagle Rock Camp as a nonprofit can always use any financial help. Besides help with the day to day cost they are looking to eventually acquire their own 400 plus acre private camp facility so they can hold camps year-round. So, if you know a foundation or corporation that might be willing to help them, please contact Lynn at lmarella@eaglerockcamp.org. Eagle Rock Camp gets no help from the military or our government which is amazing in that it is another example of how our country does not serve those that serve it. Enough of my political pet peeves. As I said you missed a great program and I would like to see our chapter provide more volunteers and some financial assistance which the board will discuss at our next meeting.

As you may recall, last month I announced that the chapter won the Thomas & Thomas fly rod from Southern Trout Magazine for being the chapter with the most-new followers in the state of North Carolina. The board has decided to raffle the rod to help raise money for the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program. Currently we provide this program to three schools. West Bend Middle School, West Alexander Middle School and LR University High School. We hope to add one or two more schools this next school year. Raffle tickets are being printed so watch the newsletter and website for more details.

I am sure you have all noticed the TU license plate Chick has in the newsletter where he explains that with every tag sold, \$10 is donated to North Carolina Trout Unlimited. Well to give you an idea what that adds up to, NCTU has received \$5000 from the state for a 4-month period running Oct 1 thru Feb 1. That equates to approximately \$15,000 a year. So, if you don't have a TU tag please give it some consideration.

High Country Chapter of TU and Due South Outfitters are looking for some volunteers on March 10th. Several local groups working together to raise funds are hosting a fly-fishing tournament on public waters, so they need some volunteer judges who will verify legal catches, use of legal equipment, etc. Volunteers will get a free lunch and a T-shirt. If you have an interest in volunteering, or have questions, please contact Meredith Sessoms at mcsessoms@gmail.com.

The program committee has a good program lined up for the March meeting. Fly-tying basics and secrets will be done by local fly shop, Casters. Specifically, Dave Hise will do the program. Even if you don't tie and don't desire to tie, understanding how flies are tied, the materials used can guide you in fishing those flies in such a way as to greatly improve your catching results. So, take some time and come check it out at our March meeting.

Hickory TU will have some raffle items and giveaways to bring in money for our chapter operations, and we hope you'll all bring some extra cash to get in on the fun. We're also planning a new five-minute event to follow the main program that is a "How to" demonstration to help everyone improve their skills as fly-fishers.

In closing, if any member has any interest in being more involved or if you have a question or suggestion about Hickory TU, our events, procedures, whatever, please feel free to contact me at HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com or 478-284-1224. **See you Tuesday, March 20.**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Fishing is only an addiction if you are trying to quit."

...unknown

NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, March 20
Where: Peddler Steak House
1350 U.S. 321
Program: 5:30-6:30 Dinner(Optional)/
Socializing/Raffle Ticket Sales
6:30-7:20 Guest speaker/ Program... Q&A
7:20-7:30 "How To"
7:30 Raffle/ Door Prizes... Conclusion
Topic: Fly Tying Basics
Speaker: Dave Hise of Casters Fly Shop

Dave will introduce you to the tools, materials, and basic terminology of fly tying and will let you know what you need to get started in the hobby.

FUTURE MEETINGS

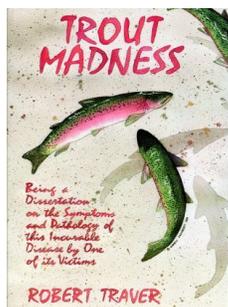
Meetings are held the third Tuesday each month except July, August, and December. Locations may be changing so keep an eye on the newsletter or website. Spring meetings currently planned are:

Apr 17 Determining the Health of Wilson Creek
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.

CHAPTER LIBRARY

We are creating a Hickory Chapter library of fly fishing books. The listing is available on the Chapter website at <http://www.hkynctu.org/library/>. You will make your withdrawal request on the website and then pick up and return your books at the Chapter meetings. We will initially start with book donations from our members and if the activity warrants it we may purchase additional books. Susan Anderson has graciously agreed to serve as our Chapter Librarian. If you have any books that you would like to lend or donate to the library, please bring them to the February meeting. Please indicate in the book whether you are donating or loaning it to the library.



TROUT MADNESS BY ROBERT TRAVER

Trout Madness is a series of short fly fishing stories by Robert Traver (pen name for John D. Voelker) set in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He was raised and lived most of his life in that area, served as a local district attorney, and on the Michigan

Supreme Court. His most famous achievement was *Anatomy of a Murder* which became an American best seller and was on the New York Times best seller list for more than a year. As you read *Trout Madness* you will understand that his work in law was only a way to support his trout fishing. A friend would come into his office to let him know they were biting out on the river and at the drop of a hat he was into his old fishing car, a 1928 Ford Model A named "Buckshot" and headed out to catch some trout.

For those of us who have lived in this wonderland and experienced the terrain, ecology, and people of the area, this book is a journey home to a better place where life revolves around your surroundings rather than work and trying to impress others. Robert Traver expressed it best in his quote

"I fish because I love to. Because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, and hate the environs where crowds of people are found, which are invariably ugly. Because of all the television commercials, cocktail parties, and assorted social posturing I thus escape. Because in a world where most men seem to spend their lives doing what they hate, my fishing is at once an endless source of delight and an act of small rebellion. Because trout do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed, or impressed by power, but respond only to quietude and humility, and endless patience. Because I suspect that men are going this way for the last time and I for one don't want to waste the trip. Because mercifully there are no telephones on trout waters. Because in the woods I can find solitude without loneliness. ... And finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important, but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant and not nearly so much fun."



For those who have not experienced Michigan's UP, there are a few things you need to know to truly understand the book. In the opening story in the book Traver talks about breaking through the ice and snow to get to the stream in late April. For those of you who have been raised south of the Mason-Dixon line you may find it hard to believe that one of the lower 48 states has snow this late in the year. In fact there is recorded snow in the UP on the 4th of July and I have woken up to a 1/2" of ice on my water bucket in August where he is fishing. He tells the truth in his stories and is not exaggerating (unlike normal fishermen). This area was once part of a huge inland sea so the terrain is mostly sandy and has only moderate elevation from the old sand dunes. As a result most streams are relatively slow and there are several marshy areas. Tag alders grow tightly along many of the creeks and make access difficult. The early settlement of the

Upper Peninsula was by the timber and mining industries. Most of the mining was for iron and copper in the western end of the UP and the eastern and western ends was timbering of a major white pine forest. These companies drew their manpower mainly from Finland and Italy so throughout the stories you'll need to interpret what his fellow fishermen are saying. Even when I was there in the 60s the heavy accents still existed.

So enough of the background, let's get to the stories. The Michigan trout season runs from April through September. The rivers are closed the remainder of the year from the start of the brown trout spawn in the fall through the end of brook trout spawn in April. The book is written around this calendar with the first story being opening day and the last chapter the closing day of the season. In between he provides color to the streams they fish and the people who fish them. The book provides not just humor but an insight to the lives of these fly fishermen and what makes them so different from a normal human being.

In the chapter on "Big Secret Trout" he relives a trip to a favorite hole that his father had showed to him years before. Trekking the long hike back to the stream he reminisces of those times.



When he arrives at the stream the fish have not yet begun to rise so he patiently sits sipping a beer and watching flies circling on the water in an eddy across the way. The he hears the telltale slurp of a large fish beginning to rise for the hatch. He picks out a special fly that a friend has tied for him and ties it to his leader. Now he is faced with a dilemma. He wishes to cast a perfect cast to let the fly gently settle to the water and drift down to the rising fish, but the brush behind him will allow only a roll cast. He carefully pulls out the right amount of line he needs to get above the fish and rolls a perfect cast that lands the fly just above the fish. He watches and listens to the fish rising as the fly slowly drifts down to where it is feeding and slurp! the battle is on. It is a huge brown trout and he struggles to bring it to the net on his light leader. Eventually he gets it to the net and the fish

peels the line back out. After the long battle he lands the fish and then lands a second which has continued feeding throughout his battle with the first. He heads home the next



day his photo is in the newspaper with these two beautiful browns. This is typical of the stories he weaves around fly fishing describing the fisherman and the way his mind works. If you are an avid fly fisherman you'll find yourself there on the stream living his adventures with him.

I should do an aside at this point and let you know if you're a rabid catch and release proponent you may not

want to read this book as almost all of the fish in the book wind up in the frying pan except in one chapter where he presents catch and release, but ends up taking the fish home in his creel. You need to understand that most of these stories stretch back into the 40s and 50s when there were few fishermen on the rivers and the trout population was self sustaining. These were days before *A River Runs Through It* which put more fishermen into the streams than there are fish and made catch and release a must to keep from cleaning out the rivers. Read the book for the pleasure of viewing the mind of the fly fisherman and let the keeping slide and you'll find real pleasure.

The book continues with many other stories about an old man reluctantly sharing his fishing knowledge with the younger generation, the search for greener pastures to find that monster fish, the prejudice against spin casting which had just emerged during this time, and attempting to turn a small barren lake into a trout pond that will have you dreaming of your days and past events on the river. He even provides some for good advice getting your spouse to let you go fishing.

No one weaves trout fishing tales like Robert Traver because his life was immersed in trout fishing. And he did so much of it because *it was so much more important than the other concerns in his life.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

Our president, Zan Thompson attended the Atlanta Fly Fishing Show at the beginning of February and brought back with him a Thomas & Thomas Avantt 9' 5wt. 905-4 in a black aluminum rod case. This is the rod that you all helped us win by signing up for Southern Trout magazine. In it's Annual Shootout, Yellowstone Angler ranked this rod as number four out of 26 reviewed.

Objective Observations		Best in Test		Overall Weight in Ounces	Swing Weight in Ounces	Made in the USA?
Rank						
1	G. Loomis NRX LP 9' #5	\$755	2.9	8.6	YES	
2	Scott Radlan 9' #5	\$795	2.8	8.9	YES	
3	Hardy Zephrus FWS 9' #5	\$699	2.9	8.8	NO	
4	Thomas & Thomas Avantt 9' #5	\$825	2.9	8.7	YES	
5	Loop Opti Stream 9' #5	\$429	3.1	8.4	NO	
6	Douglas Sky 9' #5	\$695	2.8	8.6	NO	
7	Orvis Helios 2 Covert Tip Flex 9' #5	\$850	2.5	8.5	YES	
8	G. Loomis Asquith 9' #5	\$1000	2.8	8.2	NO/YES	
9	Orvis Recon 9' #5	\$425	2.7	9.1	YES	
10	Douglas DHF 9' #5	\$349	2.8	9	NO	
11	Hardy Wraith FWS 9' #5	\$849	2.8	9.1	NO	
12	Sage H 9' #5	\$895	2.8	9.7	YES	
13	St. Croix Legend Elite 9' #5	\$460	2.9	9.9	YES	
14	Fenwick Retos 9' #5	\$189.95	3.3	8.9	NO	
15	Beulah Guide Series 11 9' #5	\$295	3.1	9.7	NO	
16	Livingston Rod Co. VS Fast 9' #5	\$745	2.8	9.5	NO/YES	
17	Beulah Platinum 9' #5	\$425	3.5	9.2	NO	
18	Loop Cross SH 9' #5	\$759	3.4	9.4	NO	
19	EDGE Alpha 9' #5	\$855	2.9	9.7	YES	
20	Mystic Reaper 9' #5	\$279	3	9.5	NO	
21	Scott Flex 9' #5	\$475	2.9	10.1	YES	
22	R.L. Winston Billix 9' #5	\$845	3.3	9.5	YES	
23	Echo Base 9' #5	\$89.99	3.4	10.4	NO	
24	R. L. Winston Air 9' #5	\$945	3.5	9.9	YES	
24	Sage Pulse 9' #5	\$450	2.9	9.9	YES	
26	TF0 BUK 9' #5	\$259.95	3.1	11.2	NO	

Watch the newsletter, Facebook, and our website for information about an upcoming raffle to win this rod. Funds from the raffle will be used to support our Trout in the Classroom program.

Thank you again for helping us win this rod.

MEMBER BIO – GERRY JOHNSON



This month we will introduce you to the last of our officers, Treasurer Gerry Johnson. Gerry's background is in computing so with computers driving almost everything we do today, he is a good fit for the position of treasurer. He just took over the position in December and he has already resolved our issues with accepting payment through Paypal as a charitable organization and is now working to get us set up on both our website and Facebook to receive on line payments for future fund raising events, raffle sales, and donations for events.

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

Gerry has been a fisherman all his life, but most of it with a spinning rod. Growing up he fished the Jersey shore with his father and later when he went to work in Alaska, he fished the salmon with a spinning rod. It wasn't until he moved to Hickory in 2011 that he decided he wanted to learn fly casting. He hired Dave Hise at Casters fly shop to guide and teach him fly fishing. His fishing was short-lived, however, as he ended up having both knees replaced in the next couple years and that prevented him from wading the streams.

When did you join TU and why did you join?

In 2015 he was recovering from the knee surgery and was ready to continue learning to fly fish so he joined the Hickory Chapter of Trout Unlimited. His hope was to learn more about fly fishing and meet people who were passionate about fly fishing that he could fish with. He accomplished those goals, but after a couple trips to the stream found that his knees just weren't quite ready for wading. It's been a couple more years now and he's ready to continue his fly fishing adventure.

What is Hickory TU doing best?

The best thing about Hickory TU is the camaraderie of the people there and their willingness to help others learn the sport.

How Could Hickory TU improve?

Gerry would like us to do more group trips for fly fishing adventures and also would like us to expand our events to

include introduction to fly fishing to people of all ages, not just for the kids.

What other organizations do you belong to?

Gerry is a volunteer at the Catawba Science Center and his church, but he says the best organization he belongs to, other than Hickory TU of course is CLASS, The Catawba Lager & Ale Sampling Society. He recognizes that many of you may never have heard of this society and are now very excited, so see him at the next meeting to get the joining details.

What is your favorite stream?

From my lack of fly fishing experience described above you can understand I haven't had the opportunity to visit many of our streams, so I'd just have to say that our adopted stream of Wilson Creek tops my list.

What are your favorite flies?

Again my lack of experience makes my favorite fly what others suggest I use.

Do you tie flies?

No, but I would like to and if our chapter begins fly tying classes I will probably use that to get started.

What events would you like to see us take on?

As I mentioned above I would like us to build on the Kids' Fly Fishing Day we started last year and expand it to introduce people of all ages to fly fishing.

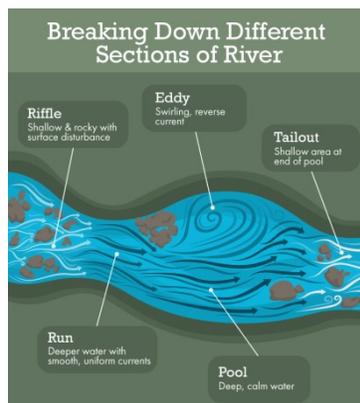
Introduce yourself to Gerry at our next meeting and offer to take him fly fishing. He's a great companion on the stream and you might just find him entertaining. I'll let him explain it from there.

TROUT ARE LAZY

After spending many years on trout streams observing trout behavior I have found that there are only three really important things you need to know to catch them. Those are:

- 1) Trout are lazy
- 2) Trout are voracious feeders
- 3) What trout eat

We spend a great deal of time studying bugs and their



behavior as the most important thing we need to know about fishing. Do I use a wet fly, dry fly, what color fly, feathers from what part of the chicken pelt. After throwing everything from a prince nymph, to a royal wulff, to a mop fly, to

(believe it or not) a few green beads on a hook and catching fish on every one of them, I truly believe that at any given time a trout may eat anything within reason that you throw at it. I believe the most important part of catching trout is getting whatever bait you are throwing at them to where they are located. And that in my mind makes items 1 & 2 the most important things to learn and that in a nutshell is learning to read the stream.

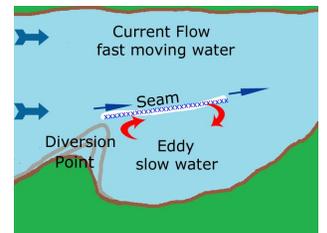
Item number one actually came to me in a comic book many years ago. Bugs Bunny and Porky Pig were in a canoe race. Bugs brought along his lazy pet goldfish on the precept that it would always find the fastest currents taking him down the stream so he didn't have to swim as hard. Crazy, but that idea sat in the back of my mind until I started studying trout years later. Trout are basically lazy and are going to find a location out of the main current so they don't have to swim so hard. But that is only half of the story as trout also have to eat to live. They need to be out of the current, but nearby their food source along what are called seams.

If you think of a bend in a river, The slowest current is on the inside of the bend, but that is not where the trout will hang out as the food is being carried downstream by the current and that is the outside of the bend. There are two places on that bend where the slower current and the food source are close to each other. When you look at the river you will often see a bubble line where the fastest current is flowing. On the inside edge of that bubble line the current is beginning to slow. The trout will often hang out just on the inside edge of that bubble line, but close enough they can dart out and grab food drifting by. As you approach the bank on the outside of the bend, the current will start to slow due to friction between the water and the land. Fish will hang tight to that bank for the slower current where they again can watch for food drifting by and dart out to eat it. The third place for look for trout is right in the middle of the current under the bubble line on the bottom of the stream. Again you will find friction between the stream bottom and the water causing the current to be a little slower and if there are significant rocks there will be pockets of slow water behind them for the trout to hang out in. So when you fish a bend in the river you need to fish across the whole section of bubbles from the inside to the far shoreline for trout, perhaps lengthening your leader below the indicator as you get to deeper water.



A bend is almost always a great place to fish, but there are others worthy of the toss of a fly. A large rock in the river is a great place for trout to hang out. Again, watch the bubble line. Ahead of the rock you'll notice a bulge in the water where the current meets the rock. This is caused by back pressure and creates a small pocket of calmer water for a fish to sit and watch for food being brought down the river. Around the sides of the rock you'll see the bubbles accelerate as the full width of the flow is split into two smaller streams. Behind the rock you'll notice no bubbles. The rock is shielding that area and the current is greatly reduced. The trout can sit in the slack water behind the rock and watch for food being carried down the two currents around the rock.

Wing dams or points of land sticking out into the river also form great places to fish. The wing dam causes the river to narrow and creates faster current and also creates a pocket of little or no current behind it. This creates a seam between the faster current and the slow



and again often a bubble line outside of where they meet. The place where often the most fish hang out is right behind the tip of the point. Get your fly upstream of that point and let it drift into it and you'll often find a fish. The other area that can fish well is the eddy that often forms behind the wing dam. These eddies often collect food that is coming downstream and circulate it in the eddy. Remember that the current is circular and in the part closest to shore is moving upstream and behind the point is moving downstream. This makes it almost impossible to fish across the eddy without drag as your line is moving in one direction and your fly is moving in the other. It is best to fish directly up or down stream.

A pool is always a great place to find fish. As the stream gets deeper, the cross sectional area of the stream increases and the water slows and you'll often find trout throughout a pool, but there are a few places that fish best. Again you'll often see a bubble line coming into the pool and this is the primary food source. As the water enters the pool the bottom drops off and provides shelter from the current coming in. There again is that line between the food source



and the shelter from the current. That's why the head of the pool is the best place to fish it. Cast your fly upstream above the head of the pool whether dry or wet fly fishing. In dry fly fishing it is because the fish are watching upstream to spot food and get in a position to grab it. If wet fly fishing it is to give your fly time to get down to the bottom as it enters the pool. There are other places to fish a pool like eddies that often form along the sides, the mid pool along the bubble line since waters in the pool are slower and the current line is bringing food, and the tail of the pool as it collects food drifting in from across the whole surface of the pool.

There are many other places to fish a trout stream. When a big hatch is going on, anywhere there is water is generally good, but at other times remember to look at the stream and try to identify where current and slack water are side by side. The primary tell-tale is the bubble line and remember not to fish just the two sides, but also middle along the bottom. So work your fly across the bubble line a foot at a time until you have fished all the way across. Good fishing!

For more in depth information on reading a stream, watch the following Videos by Tom Rosenbauer.

Part 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9hg0DoSdt0>

Part 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1glB9rzwiM>

Part 3
http://hwcdn.libsyn.com/p/6/1/7/6172ef95173ff3c/Prospecting_for_Trout_Part_3.mp4?c_id=1983016&expiration=1519500152&hwt=5fa0be5e9bb9390d66da7c1fc4eb0c9e



HICKORY NC TU LOGO GEAR

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

MARCH FLY PATTERNS

Most of the flies used during January and February are still effective. Toward the end of the month, March Browns and Hendricksons begin hatching, both good patterns. Suggested sizes are No. 14 and 16. Recommended nymph patterns are No. 10 Peeking Caddis, No. 8 Brown Stone, No. 10 Tellico, No. 10 Secret Weapon and No. 10 olive Stone.

TIP OF THE MONTH

I've been tying flies for over 50 years and the one thing I still don't fully understand is thread. There are a few things I've learned like thread sizes like hooks get smaller with bigger

numbers and I've learned to use 6/0 for my bigger wet flies and 8/0 for most of my smaller dry flies, but then the industry started selling Denier sizes. All I can tell you about Denier is that bigger numbers are bigger diameters. Materials come mainly in nylon and polyester, but there are



round, flat, waxed and other materials. You can go to Walmart and pick up polyester thread a little cheaper, but it has its own special sizing and generally it is too heavy for all but rough flies like a #8 woolly bugger. The fly tying threads are relatively inexpensive when you consider a spool will last you a very long time. The best thing I can suggest to you is to take advantage of the expert at your local fly shop. Stop in, explain what you are tying and ask for advice on what thread you should use. And then when you get home, make a note of what you were told, because I have no idea why I bought that 8/0 dk. Brn unithread spool for 20 years ago.

If you want to learn more about fly tying threads, the website listed below had some good information for you to check out. At least you won't seem like an idiot when you talk to your professional at the fly shop.

<http://www.flyfisherman.com/fly-tying/understanding-thread-sizing-construction-and-materials/>

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM



The Trout In The Classroom program comes to an end this month with release of the fry into the Jacob Fork River at South Mountains State Park. Please join us if you can to

show our appreciation for the effort these students and teachers have made to make this program a success. Be at the pavilion at the last parking area by 10:00 AM. The releases will take on the following dates:

University Christian - Mr. Chase - March 9

RiverBend Middle - Mr. Turner/Mr. Cathey - March 23

West Alexander Middle - Mr. Rowe - March 28

WHIRLING DISEASE NEARBY

Whirling disease has been discovered to exist in the tail waters of the Holston and Watauga rivers in eastern

Tennessee. If you fish these rivers it is important that you sterilize your gear before you fish anywhere else.

Equipment Disinfection Options

ALL GEAR: 5% Detergent Solution— For a one or more minute soak. 1 cup Dawn or Palmolive dish detergent per gallon of water will be used. Felt soled waders and PIBS foam will have to soak at least 30 minutes or more. Soaked gear will be rinsed with tap water after soaking. *Note: Organic/green type detergents have been found ineffective at killing didymo so please use the approved products.*

NON-METALLIC GEAR: 5% Salt Solution— For a one or more minute soak. Felt soled waders will have to soak at least 30 minutes or more. 2 cups of salt per 2.5 gallons water OR 1 pound salt for 5 gallons of water will be used. Gear will be rinsed with tap water after soaking. Rock, salt, water softener salt, or regular salt from Southern States will work.

OTHER METHODS: ALL GEAR

Let dry for 48 hours, minimum

OTHER METHODS: POROUS GEAR

Freeze Until Solid

CAUTION: USING HOT WATER can cause some gear (particularly Gore-Tex) to delaminate.

2018 STOCKING SCHEDULE

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission has published the stocking schedule for 2018. It is available from the following link and is always available as a Helpful Link on our website.

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Fishing/documents/Delayed-Harvest-Trout-Waters-Stocking-Dates-Map.pdf>

Wilson Creek stocking will resume on Friday, March 2. If you would like to help with the stocking, be at the handicap parking between 9:30 and 10:00 in the morning.

TU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

FLY FISHING ESSENTIALS FOR WOMEN CLASS

Hickory NC TU is presenting a class designed for women who are interested in learning to fly fish or are new to the sport. We'll spend 4 hours learning about the basic concepts of fly fishing, equipment needed, the trout stream, practice casting, and what to wear on a trout stream. You'll leave with enough knowledge and resources to prepare you for your journey learning this fulfilling and engaging sport.

When: March 24, 2018 or April 21, 2018

Time: 10 am to 2 pm

Where: Wilson Creek Visitor Center

What: Cost \$5.00 for box lunch

Preregistration required: 12 participant limit per class
Register via email to jean.mcmullin1@gmail.com

EAGLE ROCK CAMP

The spring veteran event is the week of April 8 at the YMCA camp east of Lenoir. Our role in the program is generally on Thursday. Exact details will be sent out as soon as they are available.

Eagle Rock Camp is dedicated to support 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/>

PISGAH TU FLY FISHING SCHOOL

The annual event will be held Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 8:30 am to 4:45pm Harmon Field in Tryon, NC. The program includes a morning of fly fishing basics and an afternoon on the river with a mentor. For details visit <https://pisgahtu.org/ffschool/>.

CASTING CAROLINAS

The spring retreat will be at Lake Logan, March 23 thru 25th. The opening day for registration for Cancer Survivors is Jan. 1st 2018 on the CC website.

The Alumni Retreat will be April 27th. Thru 29th. In Spruce Pine.

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 is constantly 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.

VISIT THE FLY FISHING MUSEUM



When it's too cold to head out to the river to fish, spend a day at the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians in Bryson City. The museum is open weekdays from 9-5 and Saturday from 11-5.

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.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Another terrific rainbow caught by Trey Harkey. He seems to be about the only person fishing this year (or perhaps catching), so you'll have to keep looking at his great fish unless you send a photo of your catch to hkynctu@gmail.com.

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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