

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited

May 2018 Newsletter



Visit us on Facebook at [Hickory NC Trout Unlimited Chapter 032](#)

A LINE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Trout Unlimited Chapters are built on members who love fly-fishing for trout and/or conservation of our countries cold water resources. Every chapter depends on members volunteering to help out occasionally and sometimes to step up and serve as a chapter officer or board member. Our chapter has experienced a good group of folks who have made major commitments to the chapter serving on the board and volunteering for our special events like our upcoming Fly-Fishing Festival. We are entering a period of time where our chapter needs to see a few good men and/or women to consider stepping up.

With the Fly-Fishing Festival coming up on June 9th here in Hickory, we are in great need for some of our members to help with the different activities. We have a good leader for each activity, but we need extra hands. Please consider volunteering to help out with the event which is only four hours plus maybe an hour to set up and clean-up afterwards. We need volunteers to help check people in, to help prepare and serve hot dogs, need a couple to help demonstrate knot tying, fly-casting and more. Check out details elsewhere in the newsletter. If you have any interest to help out and meet some nice folks and/or make some new friends, please contact me at HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com or call me at 478-284-1224. And remember, you don't have to be an expert, just have a willingness to help out.

We are also looking for a few good folks to step up and serve on the board. We have had a resignation from Steve Mull and another seat not filled so we would like to know if you have an interest to get more involved. The board meets the first Tuesday of each month and we meet at the Peddler Steak House at 5:30 for a short social then start the meeting approximately 6 till 6:15. Please join us if you want to feel it out before making a commitment. Everyone is welcome anytime. Remember this is your club as much as it is ours so come give us your thoughts and ideas.

If you are not ready to step up to the board level now, please know that in December we will have some more end of term vacancies coming up and we will be needing several

new board members at that time. So, if you are on the fence, check it out, pray about it, have a beer or whatever you do before making a decision. As I said early, we need some new blood to step up. We have over two hundred fifty members so there has to be a couple of you ready to have some fun, do a little work and get to know a bunch of fine folks. Again, feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

I would like to take a moment to thank Steve Mull for his service on the Board. He has been invaluable especially with fund raising and finding candidates for office to name a few of his leadership skills. Heck, he got me to say yes after 15 or 20 no responses. Steve has some aging parent issues to deal with and any of us that have been through that totally understand that commitment. Steve has agreed to help with some fund raising for our fall fund raising event. But for now, he needs some time off and a big thank-you so if you see Steve please be sure to thank him for helping make our chapter one of the best.

Hope to see you at the next meeting on May 15th. Socialize and optional dinner at 5:30. The program starts at 6:30. This month we will have a program on fishing for Wild Trout. Come meet some new fishing partners and get in on the raffle. See you there.

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, May 15th.**

NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, May 15
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: Summer Fishing for Wild Trout
Speaker: Kinnon Hodges

Kin Hodges has covered NCWRC District 7 (11 counties in the northwest corner of the state) since 1997. His job duties include overseeing the trout program, which involves conducting biological surveys on wild trout populations, overseeing the trout stocking program, and working with landowners to keep streams on private land open to the public. He also manages warmwater fisheries in reservoirs and rivers and work to improve public fishing access to these systems. His presentation will discuss fishing for wild trout during the summer and some recommendations for seniors regarding streams with more gentle access.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“The traveler fancies he has seen the country. So he has, the outside of it at least; but the angler only sees the inside. The angler only is brought close, face to face with the flower and bird and insect life of the rich riverbanks, the only part of the landscape where the hand of man has never interfered.”

....Charles Kingsley

FLY FISHING FESTIVAL

The Hickory TU Chapter is planning an expansion of the Kid's Day event from last year to make it a family event. The program is scheduled June 9th from 10 to 2 at Glenn C. Hilton Jr. Memorial Park in Hickory and will be called the Fly Fishing Festival. This hopefully will become a large event. There are about 250 chapter members out there and we need the support of membership to pull it off. The program includes the following activities:

- Entomology
- Trout in the Classroom
- Fly Casting
- Knot Tying
- Fly Tying

We need the following to help support the event:

- Gary Hogue will teach fly casting, but needs assistants to help coach.
- We need one more volunteer to demonstrate fly tying.
- We need volunteers to help with food preparation
- We will need other general support.
- We need canopies and tables for the activities

If you are able to help out with the event, please send an email to hkynctu@gmail.com and we will get your name to the appropriate activity chairman.

We are also looking for sponsors for the event and door prize donations. Sponsorship for the event is \$100 and will get your name published on Tshirts, posters, and activity signage. If you would like to be a sponsor for the event or have door prizes you would like to donate, please contact President Zan Thompson at hkynctupres@gmail.com or bring them to the monthly meeting on May 15.

We hope all of you will be able to attend this event and hope together we can turn this into an annual event that will

grow each year and become something that all of us can be proud of. Thank you for your support.



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

Tight Lines & Road Kill

By Dr. Joel Miller

In my inaugural column last month, I gave you a brief account of how I came up with its name. Editor Chick, however, later said that the non-fly tiers might not fully

grasp the **Road Kill** reference. So, this month I thought I'd give those of you without a tying bench a bit more insight into the sine qua non (for those of us who have not studied Latin of fly tying, road kill).

A tying bench is indeed a thing of beauty! Mine was made for me by my dad out of solid walnut. The tools are as well-made and precise as many of those I used in the OR. There are often high-tech lighting fixtures with super-bright halogen bulbs and precision optical aids for aging eyes. These are spools of thread, yarn, floss, and wire that encompass a color spectrum as broad as Adobe's. Despite the beauty, precision, and hues, there should, nonetheless, be a warning posted over the cubbyholes or drawers: Small children and squeamish women should not look inside!

My cubbies contain lots of scary things. There's a hare's mask, something that looks a lot like the Egyptian mummies I saw in the British Museum. I guess it's left over from Hares' Halloween. I have chunks of deer and elk hair in shades you won't imagine. I've never seen a green elk, but I have its hair. A bright yellow deer would get your attention too if he sprang at you in the woods. I have a plethora of chicken chunks with attached feathers of some pretty freaky colors too. Parrots have nothing on some of those birds. There's a whole section with the hides of animals as common as a cow or as exotic as a fox from the arctic. Ever heard of her!? I have several different varieties. Lots of things there that would make one her! Are you starting to get the "road kill" connection?

Now a true story. My friend John is not a fly fisherman but quite a turkey hunter. One Sunday at church he asked if I used any feathers from turkeys to tie flies. "As a matter of fact," I said, "the primary flight feathers from the wings are used for the wings of hopper patterns." He promised me some from the next gobbler he bagged.

Several weeks later my wife told me she had found a bag of feathers on our front porch. "Oh, yea, I forgot, but John said he'd bring me some turkey feathers," I said.

"Well, I figured it was something like that. I put them on your fly tying bench."

"Good, thanks," and that's the last I thought about them.

A week or two later I began to detect a funny odor. I couldn't find anything the cat had killed in the house. I looked all around outside and again came up empty. It wasn't very noticeable, so I just simply blew it off.

Over the next several days the odor got a lot less funny! It was getting a lot closer to putrid. As the odor became more intense, so did my searching. It seemed to be worse in the room where I tie flies, and even more obvious near my bench. The Ziploc bag with my turkey feathers contained a bit more than feathers. I was in possession of two COMPLETE turkey wings. Two-week-old turkey wings have a way of getting your attention ... and that of all the vultures in the neighborhood! Turkey vultures, obviously.

So, if you bargain for road kill, be sure you specify how it's processed!

Joel Miller

YELLOWSTONE BANS FELT SOLES

If you're headed to the Yellowstone area for a fishing trip this year, don't pack those felt soled boots. They have been banned.

And if you do have a trip planned this summer, be sure to check out the article on our Facebook page. Many airlines have special fishing gear rules that could save you money on baggage fees.

WILSON CREEK BENTHIC MACROINVERTIBRATE STUDY



Benthic macroinvertebrates (also known as "BMI") are small animals living among stones, logs, sediments and aquatic plants on the bottom of streams, rivers and lakes. They are large enough to see with the naked eye (macro)

and have no backbone.

On March 31, Dr. John Brzorad led a group of Hickory TU members to Wilson Creek to perform a survey of the river. Those of us who attended agreed it was one of the most interesting days we had ever spent on the river. The purpose of study was to determine the variety of BMIs that live in the river. The more diversity, the better the river quality. As the water becomes polluted, there are fewer of the BMIs that are able to survive.

There is a defined plan that you must follow to do an adequate study. On land we have a variety of habitats such as forest, plains, deserts, etc. The same is true in a stream. In the stream there are fast moving rapids, sandy areas,

patches of decaying leaves, dark undercut banks with tree roots, and beneath stones. Each of these areas attracts different types of BMIs.



up the bottom and loosen the BMIs from their hiding places in the gravel and stones. After working the area you place the dislodged debris and place it into a bucket.

In a sandy area you use a very fine sand-sample net to collect a shallow layer of the sand from the bottom. One of our smallest BMIs (midges) are sometimes found in this area and are extremely small. The sand is run through some very fine sieves to capture them.

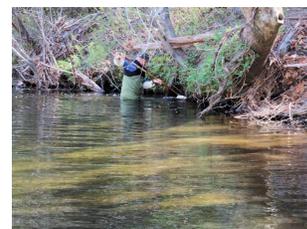


There are many areas in a stream where leaves are captured as they drift down the stream and pack in a dense layer called a leaf pack. This is a perfect home for many BMIs that chew on the decaying leaves. It's best if you can find some that are



well rotted and grab a few clumps for the bucket.

The next habitat is the undercut bank with tree roots. On the outside of a forested riverbend the water often undercuts the bank and creates a dark habitat with the roots providing sanctuary in the current. A special net is used to scoop out debris from back in this area.



The final habitat is on and under objects in the water. One of the most interesting we found was a toilet seat on the bottom of the river which had several insects attached and a crayfish hiding beneath it. More typically you can



find BMIs on submerged sticks and under rocks. You pick them over and grab any BMIs with a pair of forceps.





Once you have gathered all of the debris from the various habitats in the stream it's time to find and remove all the MBIs you have captured. The debris is placed in shallow white pans and you search through it to

find them. This is a long and tedious process and took the five of us about an hour that day. As you remove them they are placed in a vial containing ethyl alcohol to preserve them for study.

The final step in the process is to put all of the MBs you have found under a microscope and preserve them. This was really the most fascinating part of the study. As you can see from photo below there is a large variety of MBs in the dish and



1-cranefly, 2 -stonefly, 3-cranefly, 4-caddisfly, 5-dragonfly, 6-mayfly, 7-mayfly, 8-mayfly

this is only one of the four dishes we studied.

Our study was too small to complete an analysis on the health of Wilson Creek, but the state of North Carolina performs regular studies of our streams and reports the health of the stream to be Excellent.

As mentioned earlier, we found this whole process fascinating. If you ever have the opportunity, be sure to take it. You will be amazed what is under your feet when you walk the river and understand how fish are able to feed themselves on the variety of food in a stream. And if you study the MBIs you have captured, you'll have a better understanding of the flies you use to fish with.

APRIL/MAY FLY PATTERNS

Reprinted from Carolina Sportsman magazine

This is the time when the wide arrays of hatches come off, and trout are gorging to make up for the lean winter months.

Primary hatch patterns include No. 14 Red Quill, No. 18 Blue Quill, No. 14 Hendrickson, No. 16-14 Light Caddis, No. 16-12 Light Cahill, No. 16-14 Sulphur Dun, No. 12-10 Yellow Mayfly, No. 16-14 female Adams and No. 14 green or yellow Elk Hair Caddis. Good nymph patterns are No. 10-8 Yellow Stone, No. 10 Tellico, No. 10 Stick Bait, and No. 10-8 Yellowhammer.

In late May, watch for Green Drake hatches. Best time to fish Green Drakes is at dusk. These are large insects, so you'll need a No. 8 or 10.



SOME KIDS NEVER GROW UP, THEY JUST BUY FLY RODS.

TIP OF THE MONTH - STEALTH

Fly Fishing with Stealth - 8 Common Mistakes

Fly fishing with stealth is one of the best ways to increase your catch rate. Photo Louis Cahill

By Kent Klewein



How often do you think anglers miss opportunities catching trout because of the lack of stealth? The more educated trout populations are in a stream, river or lake

you're fly fishing, the more important it is for fly anglers to

mimic the way a hunter stalks game in the field. I estimate that I give away upwards of 50% of my trout catching opportunities due to my lack of stealth. Below are 8 common mistakes fly anglers make on the water that blow their cover and success.

1. MOVING TOO FAST IN AND OUT OF THE WATER

Trout are amazing at picking up on the subtle movement of objects around them. Movement is often perceived by anglers as being more important than noise by trout when it comes to them detecting danger. Eagles, osprey, heron and anglers all fit the bill for danger by trout when they see movement. Don't just pay attention to your movement in the water either, it's just as important to pay attention to the movement we make out of the water. I've got a wild trout stream a couple miles from my house where the trout are known to spook from anglers walking along an access road high above the river 50 feet or more away. Make no mistake, trout can see very well out of the water, particularly if the water is calm and clear.

2. TOO MUCH NOISE EQUALS UNSATISFACTORY STEALTH

Never be in a rush to get into position so you can make a cast into that tasty looking trout water. If anglers move too quickly, they're going to increase the noise they make during their approach and greatly increase their chances of alerting trout. Studies show that sound can travel as much as 70% farther underwater. With metal studs and metal tipped wading staffs the norm these days, we're making more noise than ever on the water. A rule of thumb that I use on the water to help me maintain stealth during my approach is to move twice as slow as my gut feeling is telling me to.

3. LEAVE YOUR BLING AT HOME

One of the worst things a fly fisher can do to alert fish to their presence is wearing brightly colored clothing and flashy bling on the water. When you wear bright clothing you're going to stick out like a beacon to trout. I know this is fly fishing 101 stuff but I continue to see anglers ignoring this every year on the water and felt obligated to mention it in this post. Flashy jewelry (*watches, necklaces and rings*) is another no-no on the water. New Zealand guides are notorious for having their clients leave their flashy bling at the car before they hit the water. If the sun catches your flashy accessories just right, it can cause bright flashes of light to hit the water and alert trout.

4. STAY AS FAR AWAY FROM THE TROUT AS YOU CAN

It's amazing how fast anglers can find themselves standing out in the middle of the stream right on top of trout shortly after they've started fly fishing a spot. I call it the shuffle foot syndrome. Many novice fly fisher's shuffle their feet during their false casting, which draws them in closer and closer to the trout without them realizing it. The closer you position yourself to trout, the more likely you're going to miss out on catching them. Don't fall victim to the chronic shuffle foot syndrome. Pay attention at all times where you're positioned relative to the trout and make sure you have your feet

anchored to the stream bed when you're fishing. It's also important to note that when anglers are wading from one spot to the next that they should always wade as far away from the trout as they can. When possible, stay out of the water when repositioning. This will decrease the noise you're making when you're wading and keep you off the radar.

5. KEEP THE SUN IN YOUR FACE WHEN POSSIBLE

Pay attention to where the sun is located in the horizon and what side of the water you're approaching a hole to fish throughout the day. Doing so, you'll greatly eliminate the chance of your shadow being cast on the water and alerting fish. Moving shadows that are cast onto the water by anglers during wading and fly casting will almost always spook trout to some level and make it harder for you to get them to eat your fly.

6. DON'T LINE THE FISH WITH YOUR FLY LINE

Pay attention to the distance and the angle of your presentation cast. Both can blow your cover by you landing your fly line too close to the feeding trout. Try to work trout with just your leader when possible (*lengthen it if you needed*) and try to target trout from a 45 to 90 degree angle if you can. This will make it much easier for you to just drift your flies over the trout and not your fly line also.

7. DON'T HIT THE FISH ON THE HEAD WITH YOUR FLIES

Most of the time if you land your fly rig too loud on the water or too close to a trout you'll end up alerting or spooking it. A lot of the time this happens because the angler didn't have enough fly line stripped off their reel in the first place before making their initial cast, and that has them ending up falling short of their target. Fly anglers have two main objectives when they've moved into position and are ready to make their first cast. The first objective is to get their fly/flyes to land where the trout will be able to spot them during their drift. The second, is to cast far enough ahead of the trout so the sound of their rig hitting the water doesn't spook the trout. Pay attention to both of these when you're on the water fly fishing and you'll catch more trout.

8. DON'T FLYFISH LIKE YOU'RE FIRING A MACHINE GUN

When fly anglers are dealing with educated trout and small strike zones that require pin-point accuracy and drifts, they often will find more success if they focus on making quality presentations over quantity. A prime example of this would be when a fly angler has spotted a trophy trout but can't get it to bite. A big mistake rookie anglers make in this situation, is firing one cast after another, over and over, like their firing a machine gun. I've found the more times you cast over a big fish the less chance you'll generally have of catching it because you'll usually alert the fish at some point to your presence from the repeated casts. Next time you find yourself in this situation, take your time and make one presentation and drift at a time, then pause for a minute or two in between. You'll find by slowing down, your focus will increase, your accuracy will be much better and you'll greatly

decrease the chances of the trout getting spooked. I've witnessed anglers on Flat Creek in Jackson, WY landing giant trout when no one else was because they had the discipline to locate a big trout and only make one cast to it every 15-20 minutes until they caught it. That's probably a little bit overboard, but there are situations when trout will stop feeding for several minutes when they've witnessed danger.

Keep it Reel,

Kent Klewein

Gink & Gasoline

CHAPTER LIBRARY

We have created 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 chapter meeting. Please indicate in the book whether you are donating or loaning it to the library.

2018 STOCKING SCHEDULE

The last spring stocking at Wilson Creek will take place on Wednesday, May 2. If you would like to help, be at the handicap parking area between 9:30 and 10:00. The Delayed Harvest season will be ending on June 1 this year. Some of the best fishing of the year takes place in May. Be sure to get up the creek and enjoy it.

TU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE



The Women's Fly Fishing Essentials Class was held this month and hopefully it is the first of many more to come. The program included gear, flies, casting, reading the water and more. We'd like to thank

Steve Anderson, Holly Cole, Gary Hogue, and Chick Woodward for their excellent job of teaching the ladies and special thanks to Jean McMullin for putting the whole program together. I'm sure after this success she'll be called on to put together another class.



EAGLE ROCK CAMP

The annual spring retreat was held this month at YMCA Camp

Harrison in Boomer this month. Eagle Rock Camp sponsors a spring and fall retreat here each year and fly fishing training is part of the program. We had a banner year with eight volunteers from Hickory TU helping out. There was a children's program in the morning and an adult's program in the afternoon. Gary



Hogue gave an introduction on fly casting and then the volunteers took the participants to the field to practice casting. After they mastered the cast they were taken to the shoreline of the lake to try for some fish. Unfortunately, due to our very cold spring the fish didn't cooperate this year, still hiding out in deep water to keep warm.



Hickory TU would like to thank all of our volunteers who helped with the program. Watch the newsletter to sign up for the fall program. Hopefully the fish will be a little more cooperative by then.



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/>

GRANDPARENTS TROUT FISHING DAY

In celebration of National Grandparents Day and State Parks' 2018 theme of Fishing Fun, we



invite the senior anglers to bring out their grandkids and try trout fishing together.

Have you ever wanted to try fishing but don't want to invest in all the equipment? You can

borrow ours! Meet a ranger down at the Riverwalk Trail behind the Old Rock Cafe to learn the basics of fishing and try your hand at pulling some trout out of the Rocky Broad River. All supplies will be provided. All ages welcome.

Date: Sunday, September 9, 2018 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Start Location: Old Rock Cafe

CHAPTER WEBSITE

If you haven't yet visited our chapter website, you need to check it out. All of our past newsletters are stored on the website. At the end of the newsletter this month is an index of the featured articles for each month. When you get a little time, check it out at www.hkynctu.org.

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 CONTEST

Our host at The Peddler Steakhouse, Mark Scruggs, has graciously agreed to award a steak dinner at the montly meeting for the largest trout caught. Here's how the contest works:

- For this first award at the May meeting, the fish must have been caught in 2018. Thereafter it must be caught in the period between meetings.
- The fish must have been caught in North Carolina on a public stream.
- You must measure your fish and report it to the nearest 1/4 inch, not just guess at the size.
- Submit a photo of you and your fish to hkynctu@gmail.com. Include the length of the fish, where it was caught, what you caught it on, and any other information about the catch you think is interesting.
- The selection will be made the Sunday before the monthly meeting and you will be notified if you are the winner.
- The winner must attend the meeting to receive the award.
- In case of a tie the winner will be determined by "rock, paper, scissors" at the meeting.

Photos of fish will be posted in the monthly newsletter. A photo of the winning fish and fisherman will be on display at the restaurant.

Now to this month's photos.



Jackie Green caught a beautiful 20" brown trout on Wilson Creek on April 6. She caught this at the tall bridge. Jackie is our current leader in the Big Fish Contest.



Renee Munday and her husband took a chance and visited Jacob Fork on a Saturday and the stream was not to crowded. The visit was a few days before the second stocking. Fish were hitting dries and we had a lot of fun. Elk Hair Caddis and Royal Coachman were the attractors we were throwing and they kept fish coming up. This is one of Renee's fish, lots of fun on light weight equipment.

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Trout in the Classroom

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



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DIRECTORY OF NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Article</u>
July 2016	Summer in the Carolinas
August 2016	Fish Photography
September 2016	Mayflies
October 2016	Midge Flies
November 2016	Stoneflies
December 2016	Top 10 Winter Flies
January 2017	Caddis Flies
February 2017	Terrestrial Flies
March 2017	Trout Resources Management Plan
April 2017	Wilson Creek
May 2017	Jacob Fork River
June 2017	Elk Creek
July 2017	Stone Mountain State Park
August 2017	Marion Greenway and Mill Creek in Old Fort
September 2017	Ararat River in Mount Airy
October 2017	Helton Creek
November 2017	Fall Fly Fishing
December 2017	What Fly Fishermen Want for Christmas
January 2018	Fly Fishing New Year Resolution
February 2018	Planning a Trip to Alaska
March 2018	Reading the Water
April 2018	Bluegill on Lake Hickory/Mitchell River