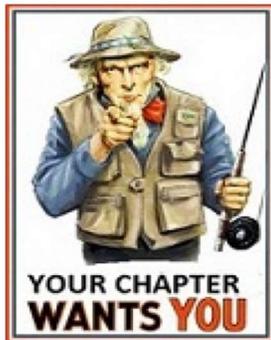


Hickory NC Trout Unlimited May 2019 Newsletter



Visit us on Facebook at Hickory NC Trout Unlimited Chapter 032

TU IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION



Perhaps that poster should be changed to read, "Your Chapter **NEEDS** You." The Hickory Chapter went dormant back in the 90s due to volunteer burnout. Three years ago it was revived under our new president Gary Hogue. Two years later Zan Thompson stepped in until a new career as an artist forced him to resign. That stepped Jackie Greene up from VP to take over. For those of you who know Jackie, you know she is one of the hardest working volunteers we know. For those of you who don't, read her bio in the September 2017 newsletter.

These three people would probably not have survived without a dedicated board to support them, but many of our board members have been around for the last three years and have already served well beyond their two-year terms. The first couple years saw a great many activities as you can see on our website, but burn out was becoming a problem so we have slowed down our number of activities in the past year. We have had only a few people step up to serve since the resurrection of the chapter and we are in deep need of more of you stepping up to keep us going.

We have been operating on the money raised in the fund raising events in the first couple years, but we need to replenish that to keep going forward so are planning another event in the coming year, we would love to hold another Kids' Day, we would like to arrange a picnic for the local National Guard that is deploying to Iraq, and more, but we will have to get more support to accomplish this. There are over 200 members in our chapter and only 14 have stepped up to help run the chapter. Please consider volunteering.

There will be a board meeting on Tuesday, May 14. We will be meeting at The Food Factory Restaurant by the 321 bridge at 5:30. Weather permitting we will hold our meeting on Chick's pontoon boat out on Lake Hickory and maybe see if we can find a couple bluegill on beds to throw a fly at. After the board meeting we will adjourn to the restaurant for dinner. Please consider joining us and if you are able, please let Jackie Greene know at HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com.

A volunteer organization cannot survive without volunteers.

NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, May 21

Where: Market on Main Cellar

Across From 325 1st Avenue SW, Hickory

Time: 5:30 Optional Buffet Dinner (\$10.00)

6:30 Program

Program: Preparing for a Salt Water Trip

Speaker: Bill Long, Gary Hogue, Chick Woodward

*****Open to the public*****

Note: You must park across the street or you may be towed. Only handicap is available at the building.

Have you been thinking about a saltwater fly fishing trip? If you've never done one before, there are a lot of things to consider. The program will discuss clothing, gear, casting methods, flies, and a lot more to help you be ready for your big adventure.

June: Saturday the 29th is planned for our first annual TU Family Picnic in the Park. The plans are in the works, but tentatively the chapter will provide some great smoked pork butt and each family will be requested to bring a side dish. Full details will be in the next newsletter

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

What a tourist terms a plague of insects, the fly fisher calls a great hatch.

Patrick F. McManus

TRY USING WIDER GAP HOOKS

If you read the last newsletter, you'll know that I had a new Tenkara rod that I tried out, but had no luck catching any fish. This month I took it up to Elk Creek again and had my first success with the rod. I got two nice trout, a rainbow and a brook. They were both about 9" and they put up a great fight on such a flexible rod. I got the fish up close enough to grab the line and then landed them.

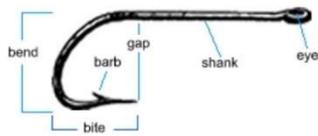
I had rigged up with a Y2K as a top fly and a squirmy as a dropper. I had a little longer leader this time and with the added length of the dropper I had about 16' of line on the 12' rod. Last time I used just a nymph with about 14' of line. In the first setup it was quite easy to flip out the line with an underhand toss. This time the longer line and extra weight

made the underhand toss very difficult. I was in a large open area so I cast it overhand like a regular fly rod and it worked quite well. I was fishing farther out and the rod still worked quite well for high sticking.



The second issue I had this time was that I hooked about ten fish on the squirmy and lost them all while bringing them in. The two I caught and landed were on the Y2K. The biggest difference in the flies was that the squirmys were tied on a #14 standard nymph hook while the Y2K was tied on a #10 egg hook. I theorized that the #14 was too small and the limber rod wasn't setting the hook well. When I got home I posted the issue on a Tenkara Facebook page and got a suggestion that I needed a wider gap hook. That thought struck home.

The squirmy I use is a fairly large diameter body and leaves only a small space between the hook and body to bite into the fish's lip. In addition, the standard nymph hook extends well forward of the hook point. I use a few lead wraps and that weight may well have caused the hook eye to rotate down and come out since the light rod is putting less tension on the line.



If you search Tenkara flies on-line you'll notice that most of those you see are tied on wider gap hooks designed more like an egg hook. This design allows for more rotation while still keeping the hook embedded deep into the lip.



That afternoon I switched back to my standard fly rod and had a similar experience. I caught two on the Y2K and lost two on my squirmy. That leads me to believe that perhaps we should be using wider gap hooks on many of our nymphs. There are a lot of variables here to think about: diameter of the nymph body; weighting the nymph; hook length; and perhaps more. But it's something to think about. If you frequently lose fish on your flies, think about using a hook with a wider gap.

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 also 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 (note: this site requires a minimum of 12 items)

Tight Lines & Road Kill

Patience

Patience is a virtue; were there no others, I wouldn't be very virtuous! I don't wait well. If I do something, I fervently want to do it right ... right now. If I show you how to do something, I fervently want you to do it right ... right now!

Jack is my 14-year-old grandson. Jack has shown some interest in fly fishing. Of course, a 14-year old shows interest in everything — for about five minutes. We had done some casting on a pond, sorta. He had caught some bluegills, sorta. He seemed to be ready to wade a real trout stream, sorta.

I put him into a pair of old Neoprene hippers, and he and I slid into the Middle Fork of the New River. His wading was suspect. His casting was worse. I recited, spoke more emphatically, then yelled, every casting principle I know: You're not pausing on your back cast. Cast above the water not into the water. You're not letting your forward cast straighten out before dropping your rod tip. You're opening your loop way too much. You have to look behind you just as much as in front. You're buggy-whipping your casts.

Jack got frustrated. I got frustrated. He did have four trout roll up on his fly, but each time, mesmerized by seeing the fish, he neglected one crucial step, setting the hook! No sore lips, no fish to the net. When we left, however, he said, "Thanks for taking me, PawPaw."

Bill was a dear friend we lost recently. I taught Bill to fly fish. He loved doing it but never got at all good at it. He told everyone I gave him a new first name, as in, "Dammit, Bill, put the fly where I tell you!"

Four of us spent a week fishing in Yellowstone. One of my favorite spots is on the Yellowstone River just upstream from Haden Valley. Fishing there is technical and challenging, but the reward is wonderful. 18 inches is a small cutthroat there. By late afternoon, we had all caught nice, big Yellowstone cuts, all but Bill, that is. The other three of us were determined Bill was going to catch one too.

On the west side of the river, there is a high bank overlooking a deep run where fish hold and are pretty easy to spot by the trained eye. We spotted two nice fish in the gin-clear water, holding near the bottom and feeding occasionally. We got Bill in position at the back of the run casting small nymphs to the two big fish.

We used every permutation and combination imaginable. Spotter on the bank and two with Bill. Two spotters. Many new flies. Different split shot. Changed Bill's position. Expletives. Prayer.

Finally, after an hour or more casting to those two, one lifted its head slightly as a size 18 Copper John drifted by, and 5 minutes later we scooped Bill's 20-incher into the net. I have a wonderful photo of Bill smiling like a Cheshire Cat holding that fish.

Patience. Bill got his Yellowstone cut. Jack will become a better fisherman. I got a big thank-you from a frustrated grandson. Maybe patience is one of the best things this sport teaches us. No, not learning to wait, realizing that waiting often brings a superb result!

By Joel Miller

MAY FLY PATTERNS

It might be time to start using a dry fly ahead of your dropper. Some of the more popular are the Stimulator and Yellow Sally since they have enough heft to support a trailing nymph. Steve Mull says he has always used the dry fly/dropper method year around. His testimony to the success of that method is the 21" rainbow hanging in our display at the WC Visitor Center.



Another option comes from Steve Anderson. He has been having good luck using a CK Nymph. He has been catching fish on both the surface and subsurface. The link to tie this fly is at

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWVfbnxyaXZlcmJvdW5keHRyZWV1c2l0ZXxneDozZWY0YjQ0YTVhYjE2NGVm>

For more information on fly hatches and patterns, visit our website [helpful links page](http://www.hkynctu.org/helpful-links/) at <http://www.hkynctu.org/helpful-links/> and look for the NC Fly Hatch Chart.

BE THE HERON



One of my reliable sources of intel, Dredger, always instructs his new anglers to "be the heron." Well, based on Buford Hatchery technician Andy Wentworth's pics from today's stocking run to Buford Dam, the Heron Model might be a good one to

follow. Some pointers on how to "be the heron":

- Study the water carefully;
- Be stealthy;
- Wade very slowly;
- Make short, accurate casts;
- Make short, quick hooksets;
- Catch a bunch of trout right in front of you!

Rabun Chapter (522) Trout Unlimited Newsletter

TIP OF THE MONTH

Little Things Matter: On The Water Tippet



Successful anglers are built out of sound habits.

Those habits focus not only on the large aspects of fly fishing but also on the small. Within the realm of those petite practices is being aware of the status of your tippet when you're on the water.

Your tippet is often the weakest link between a fly that hooks fish and the line that runs through your rod. Due to this fact, it is critical to check the state of that material as you move through a day of fly fishing. A lack of due diligence often results in frustration and sometimes heart breaking experiences.

On a summer adventure with friends, we had been working through an isolated drainage known for its larger than average brown trout. While fairly open, the typical stream side vegetation of willow and alder were very much present. During the morning I watched my friend pop his tippet and fly loose from several different alder bushes. As we arrived at a large run below a waterfall, I asked him if he wanted to tie on a new section of tippet. My offer was declined.

After one round of rock, paper, scissors; he won the first cast into the run. On his second drift a large brown, over two feet long, happily ate his foam offering. My friend paused and set the hook perfectly. Sadness and open mouths followed seconds later when his tippet snapped a few feet up from the fly. With a little inspection, it was easy to see the abrasion to the material that had built up over the course of the morning.

Situations like this can be avoided by checking your tippet material throughout your time on the water.

By running your index finger and thumb over the material, any abrasions or rough spots can be easily detected. If these imperfections turn up, it's well worth the time to cut that section out and blood knot it together or attach a completely new section of tippet.

In addition to wear and tear, it's also important to slow down and take your time when knotting your tippet. I cannot count the times that I've seen friends and clients hustle through the knot tying process, only to see those knots fail. This is especially true when there are visible fish feeding or a particularly large fish is in view. Taking the extra thirty seconds or minute to properly tie a knot can make a huge difference. In addition to tying it properly, I always give the knot a firm and extended tug. I would much rather have a faulty knot break in my hand than on a fish.

Exceptional fly fishing experiences are not entirely a result of chance. As you head out for your next adventure on the water, add to your tool box of sound habits. Those effective habits will increase the quality of your performance and your fish-to-net success.

Bob Reece

Gink & Gasoline

www.ginkandgasoline.com

hookups@ginkandgasoline.com

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ADVICE FROM THE VISE

Welcome to the May edition of Advice from the Vise. This month I want to talk about dubbing. I will tell you that I am a self confessed dubbing junkie. Some tiers can't resist capes and saddles from exotic colored roosters, others are obsessed with hook shapes in every size, but me, I am a sucker for dubbing. Dyed, natural, synthetic, flash, micro legs, UV, thick, thin, sort or long, that fuzz has my interest every time. I think it's just the varieties and the potential of each kind to create those bugs that haunt your imagination.

Let's step back in time and cover the beginnings, and I think that to be the humble fur of a rabbit. A Hares mask, simply the skinned-out face and ears of a rabbit has just the right length and soft underfur fibers to spin on the thread and ultimately wrap the body of a fly. When I first started, rabbit dubbing was sold in tanned pieces and you raked the soft underfur out and then spun that on your waxed thread to form a noodle. That noodle is then wrapped around the hook to form the body of the fly. A good assortment of pre-made rabbit dubbing is fundamental to every tiers kit. Any critter with a fuzzy underfur is fair game for dubbing. Squirrel is especially nice and one of my favorites because the longer guard hairs are just right to blend with the underfur to make a kind of spikey finish to the nymph. When it comes to dries, mink beaver, muskrat all work well and have characteristics of shedding water, making this dubbing ideal.

Now flash forward to the advent of synthetic fibers like Antron, and now you have not only dubbing that comes in any single color imaginable but is impervious to water. something really important for keeping a metal hook floating on surface film. There are dozens of manufacturers, some

making niche products including everything from alpaca to Sasquatch. As usual, I will encourage you to visit your favorite fly shop and browse the varieties.

This month we will tie a very simple bead head nymph using natural dubbing for the abdomen and synthetic for the thorax to give it some flash.

This is another opportunity to use a swipe of 721 wax to give your thread that touch of tack to bind the dubbing to the thread. One of the best rules of thumb when preparing a dubbing noodle is to take what you think you need and use half that. A little dubbing goes a long way, and it takes some time to get a feel for how much you need to build a perfect carrot shaped body. Don't be afraid to experiment, and not points off for wrapping it, and unwrapping till you get it right. It's not over till the whip finish pulls tight.



With your hook and bead in the vise, dress the hook with touching turns, trimming the tag halfway down and dressing to the bend. I will forgo a tail on this pattern but tie in a piece of wire for a rib. The rib gives some durability and segmentation to the body.



Swipe wax on your thread, and lightly touch your dubbing, in this case I'm using natural squirrel, about 2 inches down. Lighter and gradually becoming heavier towards the bottom. This is how we get a nice life like tapered body.



Between thumb and forefinger, spin the dubbing on the thread by gently rubbing it. You will see it form a round "noodle". You can add bits so you have a uniform tapered shape.



Wrap the noodle on the hook up to the 2/3 mark and tie off. The counter wrap the wire to form your rib.



Now with your synthetic dubbing, repeat the dubbing noodle steps, but shorter, to form your thorax. Less important to taper the thorax as well. I'm using some UV Ice Dubbing to add a little flash and hotspot to the pattern. The thorax should be a bit fatter than the abdomen.



With the thorax wrapped, touch a little head cement to the thread and make 2 or 3 wraps and then a 4 turn whip finish. It's a really basic pattern but it's a good one to get the fundamentals down and practice with dubbing bodies.

Hope this one gets you introduced to the wonderful world of dubbing. We will explore some other ways to use it in the coming months. I'm happy to answer any and all questions, give a lesson, or just talk fly fishing. Don't hesitate to contact me at jacobsforkflytying@gmail.com or check out some of my current ties on Facebook at Jacobs Fork Fly Tying.

By Dave Everhart

Fly Line Taper

By BigSkyFishing.com

Fly Line taper is one of those mysterious subjects that something few understand despite being quite simple. So, let's begin with a very simple question...what the heck is a fly line taper?



Air Flo WF Fly Line for Trout, from [Cabela's](#).

A fly line taper is a small adjustment made by the manufacturer of the fly line to the fly line itself. This generally involves making parts of the line thicker in spots, heavier in spots, thinner in other spots, lighter in other spots. These adjustments to the fly line are done to give the angler better control of the line which, in theory, means improved casting.

Ultimately, whenever someone mentions "fly line taper" - think "adjustments to fly line." Because an adjustment to the fly line is all a fly line taper is.

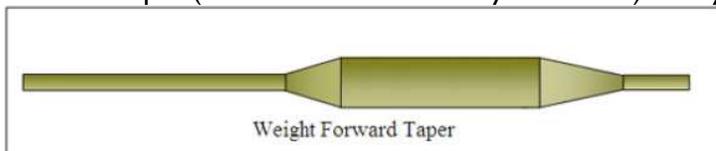
So, why is fly line taper important? The taper of fly line plays an important role in how accurate an angler casts. This is rather important, obviously, in determining whether you catch any fish or get chased from the river empty-handed by laughing fish.

The Types of Fly Line Taper

Well, now that you know what a fly line taper, the next step is to understand the different types of fly line tapers available. There is quite a few of them, and more seem to be invented everyday, or at least every year. Yet, the general angler who chases trout, panfish and bass need only concern themselves with the following four types of fly line tapers.

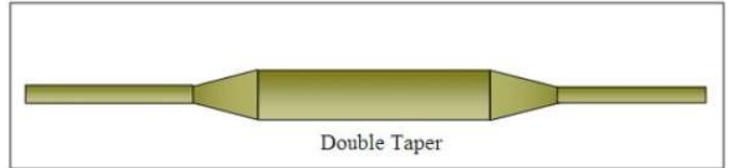
WF - The Weight-Forward Taper

This is the "standard" taper for trout fishing. A Weight Forward Taper (abbreviation of WF on fly line boxes) is a fly



line that has additional weight and thickness added to it in the first 10 yards of fly line. The remainder of the fly line is then of uniform thickness and weight.

The purpose of the weight-forward taper is to provide additional "heft" to the fly line. This additional "heft" allows the angler to make casting easier, especially on windy days. Since additional weight is on the front of the fly line, longer casts can also be made too. Finally, the extra weight on the end of the fly line helps larger flies turn over properly, thus landing on the water with proper presentation.



DT - The Double Taper

The Double Taper (abbreviation DT) is a fine fly line taper for trout fishing, unless you need to make long casts or it's windy. On a DT fly line the first fifteen feet of the fly line gradually widen in diameter. The next 60 feet of the fly line remains a constant weight and width. The final 15 feet of the fly line then gradually loses width and weight at exactly the same rate as was gained on the front of the fly line. One benefit of this type of taper is that it can be reversed as both ends of the fly line are equal.

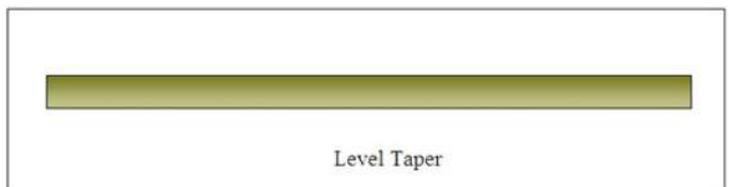
So, why would an angler want to use double-taper fly line? Simple, the lighter front-end weight of the fly line allows for a "lighter touch" when casting and presenting the fly. However, the trade off is that it is more difficult to cast in windy conditions and shorter casts are more difficult to control.

In short, both the DT and WF tapers are perfect for trout fishing. Choose the taper, at the end of the day, that works well for the type of fishing you will do.

The Level Taper (L) and Shooting Taper (ST)

Two other fly tapers are worth mentioning, since anglers are bound to come across them sooner or later.

The Level Taper (L) fly line is the easiest of all fly line



tapers to grasp simply because it has no taper. A level taper fly line has the exact same width and weight throughout it's entire length.

At first glance, this probably seems like it would be great for fly fishing. Well, the line does float very nicely due to its even weight and width. Additionally, level taper fly lines are the least expensive of all fly lines since nothing fancy goes into "adjusting" them.

Those two meager benefits, though, pale in comparison to the drawbacks. Level taper fly lines are significantly more difficult to cast and control than DT or WF taper fly lines. This is because there is no "heft" to the front of the fly line. Level taper fly lines also have a nasty habit of slapping into the water due to their even weight, and event that is not especially desirable when fly fishing for wary trout.

Overall, unless you have some compelling need, stay away from Level Taper fly lines. And beginners shouldn't use them at all.

The Shooting-Taper (ST) fly line is essentially a Weight-Forward fly line on steroids. The first 20 feet of the fly line is heavily weighted - far more so than a WF fly line. The remaining fly line is then of uniform width and weight, but is especially narrow.

purpose of a ST fly line is simple - tournament casting - where anglers try to cast the fly as far as possible. Few anglers ever use this type of line while fly fishing since the hassles of the line outweigh its long casting benefits.

Unless you are an expert angler, there is no reason to use, or even own, a ST fly line. That is, unless you plan on tournament casting or just want to see how it works.

Well, wasn't that interesting? Everything you wanted to know about fly line tapers, and most likely some things you didn't.

So, what's next. Next month we move into the last and final stage of fly line selection - getting the [Right Fly Line Density and Fly Line Color](#)

T&T AVANTT ROD RAFFLE

Thanks to everyone that signed up with Southern Trout Magazine last year and helped us win a Thomas & Thomas Avantt 905-04 Flyrod valued at \$845. We have decided the best use for this rod is to have a raffle that will go to support our Trout in the Classroom program. The program has been growing and we need the funds to support it.

We have been selling the tickets at our monthly meetings, but would like to give others the opportunity to join in the raffle. Ideally we'd like to have you buy tickets on-line, but have not been successful in getting that set up. As an alternate to that, we would like to offer you the chance to buy tickets by mail. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. If you would like to enter the contest, please send a check along with your return address, email, and phone number and we will return your tickets by mail.

Chick Woodward
5920 Melrose Lane
Granite Falls, NC 28630

The prize winner will be named at our monthly meeting in June. Thanks for your support of Trout in the Classroom.

I'm Looking for Investors

In a recent article on Gink & Gasoline Louis Cahill wrote a rather lengthy, but interesting article on "how much would it cost to get you to give up fly fishing". Through his analysis the cost became astronomical but pointed out that streams are irreplaceable. In the forum we had at a recent meeting it was pointed out that we are losing streams each year to private clubs and developments. Even if we were to find a new stream, the WRC won't have enough trout to stock it for several years. So the only option to overcrowding seems to be getting people to give up fly fishing. Well, there might be a way.

How much does it cost to make a movie? For years I've preached making a movie called "A Golf Course Runs Through It". Then people would leave the streams and go play golf. If that works, we could perhaps have a sequel of "A Bike Trail Runs Through It" and get a few more to leave. With enough imagination we might be able to make many sequels and get rid of all those people who watched "A River Runs Through It" and crowded our streams.

And you never know. If we are creative enough we might actually make some money on the films and the cost of getting those people to quit fly fishing would be negative.

Just saying.

CASTING CAROLINAS

October 11-13, 2019 NC Fall Retreat for women surviving all cancers, Lake Logan, Canton, NC. *Apply for this retreat on our website BEGINNING in AUGUST 2019.*

<https://castingcarolinas.com/retreats/retreat-participant-application/>

VOLUNTEER: Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. To sign up to help with their programs:

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

TIC RELEASE-

WEST ALEXANDER MIDDLE SCHOOL



Friday, April 12 about 9:30 AM about 200 students from West Alexander Middle School 6th grade arrived at South Mountains State Park to release the trout they have been raising this past year. For the second time this year we were blessed by the weather. A few weeks ago we released the River Bend Middle School Trout. The forecast was for solid



thunderstorms the whole morning, but the rain held off and there were only a few sprinkles near the end of the release. The forecast for this day was the same. When I arrived a little ahead of the students it was pouring rain, but it quit shortly before the buses rolled in. We broke the students into four groups for the release and the rain held

off for the first three groups and then only a light rain for the fourth group.

Warden Amanda Lasley set up the release by the bridge over the Jacobs Fork Creek and we brought over the first group of 50. Ms. Lasley gave a welcoming talk to the group, giving them a little information about the park and thanking them for their efforts raising the trout. With 73 fish and 200 students it was arranged for them to come in groups of three. One of the three would be assigned to carry the fish down to the river in a plastic cup and the other two would be there to observe. The release area was laid out that two groups at a time could do a release.

When they got down to the creek, they were instructed to get a little creek water into the cup to help acclimate the fish to its new surroundings, wait five seconds, and then release the fish into the water. This worked for most releases, but a few of the fish seemed to anticipate freedom and leapt out of the cup as soon as it was near the water.

After the last group had completed its release the plan was to take a hike up to the falls like the previous year, but the rain continued so they had lunch on the buses and when it didn't let up, headed back to the school.



The teacher in charge of the Trout In the Classroom for West Alexander Middle School is Ryan Rowe. If you've kept up on the newsletters, you probably remember another story about his efforts with this program to add a hydroponics tank into the water cycle for the fish to help clean and balance the chemicals from the fish waste. They grew herbs and when they were large enough some of the kids were allowed to take some home to eat. It was a learning experience for both the class and Mr. Rowe. During the year the plants started dying. Through some research by the class they discovered they had an iron shortage, so adjusted the cycle by adding iron.



Teacher Ryan Roe, Warden Amanda Lasley, and TIC Chairman Cathy Starnes

Special thanks go to of course Mr. Ryan for the extraordinary effort he put in this past year and also to Warden Amanda Lasley for her great coordination of the release.

Additional thanks to Wes Starnes and Chick Woodward for assisting with the release and photographing the event. And a final thank-you to Cathy Starnes who is the TIC Chairman for Hickory Trout

Unlimited. Cathy's efforts began the year with lining up the schools, obtaining the eggs, assisting as the schools needed help, and at the end obtaining permission with both the Wildlife Resources and South Mountains State Park for the release.

A video of the release will be available soon on our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/nwctcu/>. Both 2019 release videos, many photos, and much more information is available on our web page at <http://www.hkynctu.org/chapter-activities/trout-in-the-classroom/>.

RIVERCOURSE

Please note that Rivercourse applications have been extended for a few more girls. The boy's slots have been filled.

Rivercourse is a high quality experience for boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 15 and takes place in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains at the Lake Logan Event Center near Canton, N.C. This pristine setting includes a section of the West Fork of the Pigeon River, which is privately owned and stocked with trout for the use of the camp.

While fly fishing is the camp's primary activity focus, campers get to enjoy some other unique, often once-in-a-lifetime experience, like releasing a raptor (like a hawk) and catching it when it returns, a campfire, outside games, visits with conservation officials, fish sampling and many others.

During the week, sessions on a variety of topics are mixed into the day. Geology, fish and insect sampling, scientific and natural encounters; all things related to the things in the natural world around us and cultivating a better understanding of them and how precious they are.

And throughout the camp there are plenty of sessions where we just have fun fishing together and getting to know each other and building enduring friendships, gaining a deeper appreciation of the majesty of nature while learning to love a sport that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

If you know of a child who is interested in attending, please have them complete the application at <https://www.rivercourse.org/apply/>. Subsidy for the tuition may be provided on a need basis.

EAGLE ROCK CAMP

The spring retreat fly fishing day has been scheduled for Thursday, May 23. Gary Hogue will be the coordinator for the event so if you would like to participate, please contact him at gamahe@charter.net and let him know. Gary will provide the fly rods for the event, but participants are asked to bring a few panfish and bass flies for the participants to use. Be sure to crush the barbs on the hooks.

NEW FLY FISHING TV SHOW

We wanted to bring to your attention that the first ever, prime-time, fly fishing adventure series, "Fish Or Die," premiered on Animal Planet, Sunday, April 21 at 10 pm EST.

The show will immediately follow the premiere of Jeremy Wade's New Series "Dark Waters".

Produced by Warm Springs Productions and Watson Pond Productions, the 10 part series was shot over a span of 8 months, in 10 countries, on 5 continents. It features The Motiv Fishing crew; Chris Owens, Brian Jill, Thad Robison and Jay Johnson, as they travel to the most remote locations on earth trying to be the first to fish earth's last unexplored waters. Their adventures take them to the Bolivian jungles in search of Golden Dorado, deep into the heart of Zambia, chasing reports of large tigerfish; across Mongolia in search of Hucho taimen, to Greenland in pursuit of massive Arctic char as well as 6 other epic adventures.

CHAPTER WEBSITE

The Delayed Harvest season will be ending at the end of June. From then until October, your fly fishing opportunity will be mainly in the wild trout rivers. Last year Kin Hodges of the NCWRC gave us a great presentation on wild trout streams in our part of the state, but more importantly, he gave us maps of them. You can find these maps on our website at <http://www.hkynctu.org/helpful-links/nc-wild-trout-streams/>.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS INVITED

I'm sure many of you will be taking trips to Montana, Alaska, or many other places this year. Take some great photos, put some words to them and submit it to the newsletter. Your adventure may inspire others to start planning their own trip for next year. Send it to us at HkyNCTU@gmail.com for consideration of publication.

CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE

We welcome all of our members to post on our Facebook page, however, the way it was originally set up you must be listed as an Editor to post. If you would be willing to search out and find things worthy of being posted, please let us know at HkyNCTU@gmail.com. To find our page, search for **Hickory NC Trout Unlimited**.

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