

# Hickory NC Trout Unlimited July 2016 Newsletter



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Hickory TU Member... Hope your summer is going well and you have planned to do a little fly-fishing on one of the many beautiful streams we have in NC. To make sure our streams will be here tomorrow for our children and grandchildren, we need **YOU** to be an active member of your chapter. We have over 200 members with only 15 percent taking part in chapter meetings and activities. The "graying of TU" is a major concern locally and nationally and we will all be disappointed if we don't help protect, preserve and restore our natural resources. Sitting around waiting on the next person to fix the problem will not solve our growing environmental issues. Please consider lending a helping hand.

Your TU chapter will be having its first annual fundraiser on Saturday, October 22nd, at Market on Main in downtown Hickory. This evening event will have a pre-event party hosted by Casters Fly Shop, a barbecue dinner, a major fly fishing film, and auction, door and raffle prizes in which to participate. It will be a night to just have fun with other people who enjoy being out on the water. Tickets will be limited so mark your calendar and look for more information to come soon. What can **YOU** do.....Volunteer, help with sponsors and prizes, sell tickets and attend the event. This is our major fundraising event of the year so we need many hands to help for a successful evening.

Please contact me if you have any questions or can help out...

Fish Tales... Gary Hogue

[hkynctupres@gmail.com](mailto:hkynctupres@gmail.com)

## JUNE MEETING



Charlie Mogray, Jr. of Outdoor Supply Company uses Gerry Johnson as a model to demonstrate the proper use of a kayak lifejacket.



After the indoor presentation, members had the opportunity to head outside and look over three of the hottest fishing kayaks.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*The man who coined the phrase "Money can't buy happiness", never bought himself a good fly rod!*

*-Reg Baird*

## FUTURE MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month from September through June except in December. The following programs are already planned:

**September 20:** Women in TU

**October 22:** Annual fundraising event-Fly fishing and BBQ

**November 15:** Planning an Alaska Fly-In Adventure

## Wilson Creek Survey Results

The Wilson Creek survey was a huge success with 280 people responding as of this writing. We are now evaluating the responses to determine our course of action based on the results. You can see a summary of the results by logging on to the following link before July 15.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-Y29KCJVT/>

If any of you would like to comment on the survey results, please send it to President Gary Hogue and the address given below.

## NC LICENSE PLATE



Select "Personalize It!" to type your own message.

[Order this Plate](#)

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When it comes time to renew your license plate, consider pledging your vehicle to Trout Unlimited. With each purchase \$10 is donated to the North Carolina TU.

## Summer in the Carolinas

I grew up in Michigan and every summer the men in our family would head north for ten days of trout fishing. We fished many streams that are nationally known such as the AuSable, Two Hearted, and Pere Marquette and many

others that are mainly known to locals. Occasionally we would make a spring trip to fish the fantastic caddis hatch, but summer was the time to be trout fishing in Michigan. Winter was cold and snowy and most of the streams were frozen over. Almost no one fished in the winter.

Here in North Carolina it's much the opposite. Winters are moderately mild and many of us fish from fall through to spring, but rarely in the summer. That's really a shame because there is still a lot of excellent fishing here in the summer months. In this issue of the newsletter is a collection of tips and articles to encourage you to get out and enjoy the trout in our summer streams. So where do you look for trout in the summer?

- The stocked streams you've been fishing still have trout, just not as many of them and several have an additional planting the first week of July.
- For the hardier among us, there are miles of wild trout waters in the higher elevations that are available by hiking.
- There are many private waters in North Carolina. You can hire a guide to take you there or if you do a little searching you can join a group that fishes there.
- Many of our lakes in NC have trout and some very big ones, however, those at lower elevations may close in the hottest part of summer due to mortality of release.
- If you're looking for a little fun to catch a nice trout dinner, there are many stocked ponds where you can buy your dinner by the inch or pound. Betsy's General Store is one place that I'm sure many of you have passed while fishing Wilson Creek.
- Perhaps the best summer trout fishing is the tail waters of dams. In NC we have the Catawba River below the dam on Lake James. In nearby Tennessee are the Watauga and the Holston. Tail waters can be dangerous due to water releases and at least on your first trip you should consider a guide.

I assume most of you newsletter readers have a main love of stream fishing, so that's what we will concentrate on.

## Catawba River Tailrace



Catawba River Tailrace brown trout

Floating the Catawba River tailrace is a new option here at Mountain Troutfitters. This section of water has been in recovery for the last several years and has turned into an awesome brown trout fishery. It has not yet reached the status that the tailwaters across the mountain have reached. But it does offer something that the Watauga and South Holston can't give you, SECLUSION. A float on this river will be peaceful and there will be very little boat traffic. The float is approximately 8 miles long from the put in below Lake James at Bridgewater Dam, to the take out at the town of Glen Alpine, NC. We float the Catawba on either no generation or one generator, which makes this trip our go to trout float.

Even though this is mainly a brown trout fishery, both the fish and the tactics we use are quite diverse. It is common to see not only trout, but also perch, bass, and carp. We fish deep nymph rigs under an indicator, light dry/dropper rigs, and streamers with a sinking line. This is a year round fishery, and is probably one of the best stonefly fisheries in North Carolina. What makes this river most exciting though is the caddis hatch in early spring, and the terrestrial fishing in the late summer!



Catawba River butter

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## Summer Fly Patterns

JUNE		
INSECTS	EMERGENCE	PATTERN
Mottled Brown Gray Caddis	Early June All Day Sporadically	16 Brown or Gray Soft Hackle 16 Brown Elk Hair Caddis
Light Cahill Stenonema Ithaca	Sporadically - Late Afternoon and Evening	16 - 18 Light Cahill
Sulphurs Ephemerella Dorothea	Late Afternoon and Evening	16 - 18 Sulphurs 16 - 18 Light Cahill
Isonychia Bicolor	Sporadically - All Day	12 Adams
Green and Yellow Stone Fly	Late Afternoons	16 Light Green and Yellow Fluttering Stone
Giant Stone Fly Pteronarcys	Early Mornings	4 - 6 Stone Fly Nymph
Terrestrials	All Summer	Inchworms, Black Ants, Beetles, and Crickets
JULY		
INSECTS	EMERGENCE	PATTERN
Isonychia Bicolor	Sporadically - All Day	12 Adams
Green and Yellow Stone Fly	Late Afternoons	16 Light Green and Yellow Fluttering Stone
Golden Stone Fly Acroneuria	Early Morning and at Dusk	6 - 8 Stone Fly Nymph
Light Cahill Stenonema Ithaca	Sporadically - Late Afternoon and Evening	16 - 18 Light Cahill
Terrestrials	All Summer	Inchworms, Black Ants, Beetles, and Crickets
AUGUST		
INSECTS	EMERGENCE	PATTERN
Isonychia Bicolor	Sporadically - All Day	12 Adams
Golden Stone Fly Acroneuria	Early Morning and at Dusk	6 - 8 Stone Fly Nymph
Light Cahill Stenonema Ithaca	Sporadically - Late Afternoon and Evening	16 - 18 Light Cahill
Flying Ants	All Day	20 -24 Spent-wing Black and Brown Ants
Terrestrials	All Summer	Inchworms, Black Ants, Beetles, and Crickets

## Fly of the Month



The Sulfur Usual

If you get out fishing in the late afternoon or evening and are lucky enough to catch a sulfur hatch, here is a great fly to have in your box. Tying instructions can be found at:

<http://midcurrent.com/videos/how-to-tie-a-sulphur-usual/>

## Book Review

There is a new book to help you find those mountain streams in NC. *North Carolina Trout Fishing* by Steve Maslar. This book is only available electronically at this time, so you will need to read it on a tablet or computer.

The book lists many NC trout streams that the author considers "some of the best." For

each stream he discusses logistics, size of stream, and fishing information. Fishing techniques are given for each season of the year and this is a good source to find streams he identifies with summer techniques. A great feature is detailed directions on how to get to the stream.

The majority of the streams that would be good for summer fishing are in the far western part of the state, but there are some in our area. Most of the streams are listed alphabetically, so unless you are very familiar with the smaller towns in western NC, I suggest you get out a map while you are reading the book.

### **Cherokee Tribal Waters**

There are 30 miles of streams on the Cherokee Tribal Waters. Each year the Cherokee Fish and Game plants nearly 400,000 trout making it the most heavily stocked streams in the USA. Stocking is year around so this becomes a good place to fish in the summer months. A special tribal permit is required to fish these waters.

There is a special catch-and-release section for trophy fly fishing that requires an additional special permit. (I need to add that my son and I fished this section a couple years ago and never even saw a fish. I would hope that isn't a normal experience. I'd be interested in hearing from others who have fished it.)

### **FLY FISHING ETIQUETTE**

**Handle fish with care.** The less a fish is handled the better and the greater chance the fish has to survive. Fish survival hints:

- Make sure your fishing net's web is wet before picking up a fish.
- Wet your hands before handling any fish!
- Don't squeeze a fish's stomach.
- Don't stick your fingers or any object into the fish's gills.
- If you can't remove a hook from a fish, cut your tippet line and release the fish before the fish becomes overly stressed.
- Quickly photograph a fish and immediately return the fish to water.

- In warmer water conditions try photographing fish in a net that's held partially in the water.

### **TU Women's Initiative**

#### **WOMEN ON THE FLY**

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited Chapter (TU) is proud to be a sponsor of a new group called "**Women On The Fly**".

This group was organized by the Women's Initiative Chairperson on the North Carolina State Council, Linda Hickle, in July 2015. Membership and participation is through the social media site Meetup.com. Their objective is to unite women interested in learning about the great opportunities to get into fly fishing throughout the Carolinas. Women of all skill levels are welcome. This group wants to re-engage women that are currently TU members as well as invite others to join. **Women On The Fly** has a single gender mission and welcomes everyone interested in promoting women in the sport of fly fishing and conservation. Linda along with other Co-Organizers invite their membership to attend the local Trout Unlimited Chapter events, other local fly fishing venues, as well as get together just for these Fly Girls. They help their members feel welcome at our Chapter meetings and educational events. [ ]TU welcomes these women anglers into our membership and will continue to support them with informative monthly meetings, quality education, conservation projects and great fishing outings.

As an added incentive, the North Carolina Trout Unlimited Council will offer a free membership to any new TU member that is part of this organization.

You can contact Linda directly with any questions at [womenonthefly@yahoo.com](mailto:womenonthefly@yahoo.com) or go to this website to join the group at <http://www.meetup.com/WomenOnTheFly/>.

*Jackie Greene and Holly Cole are the Women on the Fly coordinators for the Hickory NC Chapter of TU and can be contacted at the email address listed below. Meeting announcements for Women on the fly will be listed in this newsletter. The*

September TU program will be dedicated to the Women's Initiative.



Jackie Greene, Linda Hickle, Jan Gamage, Holly Cole at Casting for Hope Cherokee Classic

### **Volunteers Needed in October**

Casting Carolinas is looking for River Helpers for the October 14-16 retreat. Casting Carolinas is a not for profit group to support - educate- teach fly fishing to any female cancer survivor in North and South Carolina. Casting Carolinas is also raising money with the Tie One On Tournament on the Davidson River on November 6th. For more information go online and check out our website [www.castingcarolinas.com](http://www.castingcarolinas.com)

### **Wilson Creek Visitor Center**

Please see the Wilson Creek Visitor Center flyer at the end of this newsletter. Of special note is a fly tying demonstration by Bill Everhardt on August 13.

### **Chapter Website**

The Hickory NC TU Chapter website is now up and running. It's still under development, but we would love to have you take a look and give us any input on how we can make it better for you. Visit [www.HkyNCTU.org](http://www.HkyNCTU.org) Our thanks to Clay Ford for his efforts in the development of the site. If you have suggestions for improving our we improving our website, please contact Clay at [HkyNCTUveep@gmail.com](mailto:HkyNCTUveep@gmail.com)

### **Sponsors Invited**

As part of our fundraising, we invite you to post an advertisement in our monthly newsletters and on our section website. 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  
PO Box 9401  
Hickory, NC 28603

For more information, please contact us at [HkyNCTU@gmail.com](mailto:HkyNCTU@gmail.com).

### **Newsletter Contributors Invited**

Send us a photo of your fishing trip, an article you'd like published, or just a topic you would like us to write about. [HkyNCTU@gmail.com](mailto:HkyNCTU@gmail.com)

### **Hickory NC Trout Unlimited Officers**

Gary Hogue... Pres

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Jackie Greene & Holly Cole Women in TU

[HkyNCTUWomen@gmail.com](mailto:HkyNCTUWomen@gmail.com)

### **Board of Directors**

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## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

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



[www.castersonlineflyshop.com](http://www.castersonlineflyshop.com)

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## *Wilson Creek Visitor Center 2016 Events Calendar*

- Saturday, May 28*      *Memorial Day Weekend - Food, Fun, and Music*
- Saturday, June 18*      *Safety Awareness Day - various classes for adults and children - Wilderness First Aid and Swift Water Rescue*
- July 4th Week*      *Fourth of July Holiday - Food, Fun, and Music*  
*Monday, July 4th - BearWallow Bluegrass Band*
- Saturday, Aug 13*      *Heritage Day - Collettsville Historical Society*  
*Old time mountain music with "Hobo Bill & Kristen"*
- Saturday, Sunday*      *Civil War Reenactment - Food and entertainment*  
*Sept 24 & 25*      *BBQ & fixins, with Hobo Bill and Kristen, 24th*  
*Wicker & Jones, 25th*
- Saturday, Oct 29*      *Festival of Colors - Food, Fun, Music, and Crafts!*  
*BearWallow Bluegrass Band - 12-3*

*Other events will be added throughout the year. The Chamber of Commerce will update the schedule as events are added.*



*Wilson Creek Visitor Center*  
7805 Brown Mountain Beach Road  
Collettsville, NC 28611  
828.759.0005 - phone

### **Fly Tying Demonstration**

**On August 13, the Wilson Creek Visitor's Center will host a fly tying demonstration by Bill Everhardt from noon until three. Bill is a noted fly tier originally from Lenoir. His display of Southern Appalachian flies is featured in the Fly Fishing Museum in Cherokee.**