

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited August 2016 Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Chapter Member... I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you and your friends to the TU Film Festival & BBQ on Saturday, October 22, 6:00pm, at Market on Main in downtown Hickory. The evening will feature Orvis's award winning Fly Fishing film, "Down the Hatch", plus door prizes, raffles, live auction and much more. Casters Fly Shop is hosting a pre-event party to get the evening started with a "free beverage" to all of those who are of drinking age. All non TU members attending will receive a free one year membership, so bring a friend. Tickets are \$30 per person and tickets will go on sale in August. We will be selling a limited number of tickets for the event so you need to buy Early so you are not disappointed. Proceeds support vital Hickory TU Conservation and Educational projects for northwestern North Carolinas coldwater fisheries and their water sheds.

We are looking for volunteers to organize a new program for our Chapter: The Veterans Service Partnership is an initiative to serve our nation's military family, our veterans, abled and disabled, active duty military, spouses, and families and to involve them with TU chapter activities with the ultimate goal of engaging them in a meaningful, life long, and sustaining way with the TU community locally and in TU conservation programs and initiatives. If you have a desire to help and want to be part of the VSP organizing group, please let me know at hkynctupres@gmail.com.

The temperature is hot and the water is very warm and if you are looking for summer fun on

the Catawba River chain give carp fishing a chance... Kirk Deeter said "Carp do a better job of demanding all the skills an angler can muster- from the accurate cast, to spotting fish, to picking the right bug, to dropping that fly right into the feeding zone at exactly the right moment and making it behave just so- than almost any fish you can chase with a fly rod. Fish Tales... Gary Hogue

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:

Tuesday, September 20: Women in TU

Saturday, October 22: Annual fundraising event-----Fly fishing and BBQ

Tuesday, November 15: Planning an Alaska Fly-In Adventure

Hickory TU Annual Fundraiser Film Festival and BBQ

To Conserve, Protect, and Restore
Northwestern NC Coldwater Fisheries and
their Watersheds

October 22, 2016

**Market on Main, 335 Main Ave. SW,
Hickory**

Pre-Event Party at 6:00 Sponsored by Casters
BBQ Dinner at 7:00 PM

Down the Hatch, Orvis Fly Fishing Film
Festival, Raffles and Auction to follow
Tickets \$30 per person
(A portion is tax deductible, consult
your accountant)
Cash Bar at Dinner

Door Prizes, Raffles, Live Auction
Proceeds Support TU Conservation

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We need a movie titled **A Golf Course Runs Through It** to get some of the crowd off the trout streams."

-Chick Woodward

FISH PHOTOGRAPHY



Leta Kubasiak with a pair of giant yellow perch

Several years ago my father-in-law took a photo of his wife holding a pair of apparently gigantic yellow perch. Obviously yellow perch don't grow this large and these were most likely less than ten inches long. So how did he do this? If you look very closely at this photo you'll see a string above these fish. She isn't actually holding the fish, but is standing several feet behind them. Cameras have a difficulty showing depth on a flat surface (depth of field) and objects in the foreground often appear large next to those in the background. A great technique, but not recommended for trout unless they are from hatchery supported waters and on their way home for dinner.

DON'T JUST SNAP PICTURES, FRAME THEM

We all worry about getting the fish back into the water so that it doesn't suffer or die. That of course is extremely important, but with that concern, many people just snap a quick photo and put the fish right back. The result is often an out of focus or poorly framed photo. To take good photos, you need to plan them. Keep the fish in the water, preferably in a net, while you get the camera out and get it ready. Many cameras take a little time to focus. This is normally done by pressing the trigger halfway down, so before you have the fish posed, focus

the camera. Most will hold that focus setting or focus more quickly when you take the final photo. Once you are ready have the subject pull the fish out of the water and pose. A few seconds out of the water will not harm the fish, so look at your pose in your viewfinder and assure what you have is what you would want hanging on your wall. Then snap the photo.

TAKE MULTIPLE PICTURES

Once you have snapped that first photo, keep on snapping until the fish disappears back into the water. Zoom in and snap the fish only, snap the photo as the fish as its being released in the water, put the fish back in the net and get a close up. Often, one of these other photos may prove to be even better than the one that was planned.



Sometimes the best shots aren't planned. Keep shooting.

BE UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

A photo of a fisherman posing with a fish from across the river will not impress anyone, even if it is a lunker. As a rule of thumb, your subject should fill at least one third of the frame. Remember it is usually the subject you are



Photo taken from approximately 100' away from the subject. Not the best quality, but when your fishing with a partner and not nearby, it allows you to preserve memories of your trip.

shooting, not the background. If you want to include the background, take your close up photo and then zoom out or back up for a

second photo. The camera I use has a 40x zoom on it and takes a photo with up to 18 megapixels. This allows me to zoom in and take



This is a photo from the same distance as the close up.

that photo of my fishing partner from 50' away and still have a close up. The high resolution photo then allows me to frame and crop the photo on my computer to produce a picture as good as if I had been standing a few feet away. Some of the smart phones today shoot even more pixels than my camera, so you can do a lot of adjustments when you get home to your computer.

POSE YOUR FISH

We all want our fish to look big in the photos and there are a few tricks to doing that. The first and most important is to be sure you fish is near perpendicular to your camera. A photo from the fishes belly doesn't do it justice. The



This is a very good photo and only needs a little tweeking. The subject is down on a knee close to the water for the fish, back is erect, head up and toward the sun to eliminate shadow, and holding fish properly. The glove is a real plus. The only improvements would be to remove the sunglasses and point the fishes head slightly toward the camera. A fill flash would add a slight enhancement.

second thing to remember is to point the fishes head slightly toward the camera. That gives it a bit of depth to the photo that doesn't make the fish bigger, but makes a better presentation. The last thing to do if you want to make your

fish look big is the technique that created the giant perch at the beginning of this article. Extend your arms away from your body toward the camera, but there are some tricks to getting this right. First, the fish should hide your arms as much as possible so your straight elbows don't give you away. Keep your body erect, not bent over, and put the fish on a line with your elbows and the camera. The second thing is to hide your fingers. Clever photography can make a six inch trout look eighteen inches long, but if your little pinky is in front of the fish in the photo and is a tenth the length of the fish, it's a dead giveaway.

USE FILL FLASH

We all have photos of ourselves with fish where the top half of the face is covered by the shadow of the hat brim. These may show a great picture of the fish, but they do little justice to the person who caught it. There are



Shown here behind those hands is a nice fish, caught by someone behind the sunglasses in the shadow of the hat. Fish is vertical and head slightly forward. Hands in proper position for holding with one just ahead of tail and the other just behind the head. Good proportion of subject to background.

To correct this photo use a fill flash or remove hat, remove sunglasses, move back hand closer to the tail, and curl fingers back behind head of fish.

two solutions to this problem: a) turn on your flash to lighten the subjects in the photo or b) take off your hat. Fill flash can do a lot for photos. On a sunny day there will almost always be dark shadows somewhere in the photo and the flash will give you a much more even lighting and a much better photo. On cloudy days the flash will bring out more color in your photos. In addition the brighter image will adjust the camera to a faster shutter speed which will increase the depth of field, bringing more of the photo into focus.

LEARN TO ADJUST THE SHUTTER SPEED

As was just mentioned in the previous topic, changing the shutter speed will normally bring more of your photo into focus. The converse of this, however, is that a faster shutter speed will reduce your aperture size (f-stop) and let less light into the photo. This whole thing is a study in college level physics (which I took and still don't understand). Just remember a faster shutter speed puts more picture in focus. Shutter speed also affects the focus of items in motion. If you want a picture of the fly line being cast without a blur, increase your shutter speed to 1/1000 of a second or faster. If you want to show the water running over the rocks slow your shutter speed to 1/60 of a second. You can go slower than that, but you'll need a tripod.

USE YOUR MACRO

Most automatic cameras will not focus from less than 2-3 feet away. If you want a really



Macro close up of a beautiful rainbow.

good close up of your fish, switch to your macro setting. This is usually designated by a tulip on your settings buttons. With the macro setting you can usually get within a foot of your subject. The depth of field focus in this setting will be much smaller and if you get too close, only the head of the fish may be in focus.

FISH FIRST, PHOTOS SECOND

When photographing your fish, remember that the life of the fish is more important than that perfect photo. There is an excellent article following on how to protect your fish during photography.

HOW TO HOLD THE FISH

Remember that it is the fish that is the focus of your photograph. How you hold that fish is an important element of the photograph. Most people wrap their hands under the fish with their fingers on the side toward the camera. This very often presents a better picture of the fingers than the fish and may be very distracting. Try putting one hand around the narrow part of the fish in front of the tail with the fingers toward you and the other just behind the head with the fingers curled back under the fish. One important point is to never hold your fish by its belly as this can harm the fish. Your forward hand should be beneath the pelvic fins.

REVIEW YOUR PHOTOS BEFORE RELEASE

After you have finished your photographs, put the fish back in the net to revive and look at the photographs you have just taken to be sure they are in focus and give you what you are looking for. You don't want to discover the lens cap was on after you have released the fish.

EXPERIMENT

As you get better with your photography, take some time to try out different angles and methods of photographing the fish. Take some pictures in the net, in the water, on release, and anything else that you happen to think of at the time. Digital photography has opened up the ability to do a lot more experimenting than the days when we had to pay to develop a print to see the outcome. Today you see the results right there on your camera as soon as the photograph has been snapped.

Get out there on the river with that camera (or your phone) and start snapping photos!

8 TIPS FOR TAKING GREAT PHOTOS WHILE PRACTICING GOOD CATCH-AND-RELEASE

This excellent article was posted on the Facebook page of Gink & Gasoline. This is an excellent site for trout fishermen and well worth seeking out. You can also visit them at <http://www.ginkandgasoline.com/>.

Carry enough net



Carry a net with a large rubber net bag. Rubber nets are super gentle on fish and allow you to rest the fish in the net. You can spend money on a nice one but you can also get one for \$20 at Wal-Mart.

Let the fish recover

Once you've landed your fish, give him a minute or two to revive from the fight. Let him rest in the net, fully submerged, near the edge of the current where the water is full of oxygen. Keep his head upstream and let him relax. This goes a long way.

Get your act together

Take advantage of the rest period to do your job as a photographer. Find your angle, figure out your exposure, get your angler looking good, and take a few test shots without the fish. A little time spent now while there's no pressure will make your photos a lot better in the end.

Hold the fish right

No need to panic



This is where both C&R and good photography usually go out the window. I am continually blown away by how many anglers don't know how to hold a fish for a photo.

First and most importantly, never squeeze a fish. This doesn't help anybody. Most guys hold fish way too tightly. If you're not sure, you are, I promise. When you squeeze a fish, it panics and struggles. If you respond by squeezing tighter, he struggles more. This is how photos get ruined and fish get killed. No grip is needed, I promise. If you let the fish balance in your hand he will relax and you will not have to fight him.



Use two hands. Let the front of the fish rest on one of your hands. Keep your index and ring finger under the bone of his skull to support the weight. This keeps his organs safe from harm. Put your other hand just in front of his tail. This part of the fish is all muscle so you can grip him firmly here. If possible, put this hand on the back side of the fish, away from the camera. It makes a much better photo.

Try this and you'll be surprised how much easier it is. Trust me, this is my job.

Keep the fish in the water

It's not just good for the fish, it's good for the photo. Fish start to lose their color as soon as you take them out of the water. Keep them



fully submerged until you are ready to snap the shutter, then lift them for no more than 10 seconds at a time. Fish don't have lungs, so they can't hold their breath.

Leave the fly in the fish

If you're worried about dropping the fish and missing the shot, there's a simple solution. Leave the fly in his mouth. He won't go far.

Take a knee

There's no need in blowing your back out. Take a knee in the river or on the flat with your fish. This makes a much more flattering photo and makes it easier to keep the fish in the water.

Relax



Most of the things I see go wrong when taking fish photos are due to tense anglers. And of course you're tense! You've been told you're killing every fish you touch. Take a deep breath and chill. Everything will go smoother. I know you might think you're never going to catch another fish like this one, but you will, plenty of them. Just enjoy the moment.

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



Poly Parachute Adams

The Adams is one of the most popular and widely used dry flies. The pattern seems to imitate a broad spectrum of mayflies. I used this fly for years in the feather pattern and frequently added floatant to keep it from sinking. But a few years ago I discovered the Parachute Adams tied with white poly yarn. The yarn not only improves the float of the fly, but it makes it a lot more visible in dim light conditions. Give this a try and it will gain a permanent position in your fly box. And when you've mastered the parachute, you'll find it can be applied to many other dry flies.

<http://www.orvis.com/news/fly-fishing/how-to-tie-a-parachute-adams-dry-fly/>

FLY FISHING ETIQUETTE

Stay off spawning beds and resist fishing to spawning trout. The spawning process is a major key in our river's future and what you may catch next year, and the next, and the next!

Wade only when necessary, as all aquatic food chains are fragile. Have fun.

Be a good sport, if the trout gets off before you land it, laugh it off and consider it a "LDR" (long distance release), there are plenty more fish where that one came from.

Encourage others. Examples:

- Recognize the talents of others when fishing.
- Promote these simple rules of fly fishing etiquette.

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.

TU Women's Initiative

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

In Memorium

Dr. John de Perczel died on July 7, 2016. He was a long time member of TU and donor to many conservation causes.

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 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

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.

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

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



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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.