

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited

February 2017 Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Winter weather has been rainy and cold and has kept many of us from getting out to enjoy our love of fly fishing. To help you answer the call to get outside, we have the film "Drift" by Confluence films for you to enjoy. "Drift" takes you on an adventure across the flats of Belize and the Bahamas, down the tail waters of the Green, Frying Pan, and the Big Horn and spey fishing on the Deschutes. Come in from the cold and join us for our next chapter meeting on Tuesday, February 21.

Philosophy of TU by one of the founding members in 1959 by Art Neumann: Believes trout fishing isn't just fishing for trout.

- It's fishing for sport rather than for food where the true enjoyment of the sport lies in the challenge, the love and the battle of wits, not necessarily the full creel.
- It's the feeling of satisfaction that comes from limiting your kill instead of killing your limit.
- It's commuting with nature where the chief reward is a refreshed body and a contented soul, where a license is a permit to use-not abuse- to enjoy- not destroy our trout waters.
- It's subscribing to the proposition that what's good for trout is good for trout fishermen and that managing trout for the trout rather than for the trout fishermen is fundamental to the solution of our trout problems.
- It's appreciating our trout, respecting fellow anglers and giving serious thought to tomorrow.

Thank you for being a TU member... Fish Tales... Gary

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles.

---Doug Larson

FEBRUARY MEETING

When: Tuesday, February 21

Where: Elks Lodge in Downtown Hickory
356 Main Avenue NW

Program:

6:00 – 6:15 Meet and Greet/ Raffle Ticket Sales

6:15 - 6:30 Brief Announcements

6:30 - 7:45 Feature Movie "Drift"

7:45 - 8:00 Raffle/Door Prizes... Conclusion

Drift: Photographed entirely on 16mm & 35mm film, the breathtaking imagery of DRIFT will be captivating with incredibly vivid color, contrast and depth, qualities that are only available in the film format. DRIFT will look and feel lush and beautiful, each segment highlighted with hypnotic, slow motion images of casting, moving water, and underwater action. Deep, soulful interviews with select "legends of the sport" and others who have shaped the sport, will resonate with a musical score that features the sounds of Jack Johnson's Brushfire recording artists. This deep rooted passion for the sport will be conveyed by these devoted (and sometimes eclectic) characters that have immersed themselves in the sport and the lifestyle of fly fishing. The fact that each segment tells a completely unique story and focuses on different characters and anglers is one of the many things that sets this project apart from other film and video releases of recent years.

At each monthly meeting this year we will be giving away a Chapter Tshirt. A random member's name will be drawn and listed in the monthly newsletter. To win the shirt you must be present at the meeting. February's winner is Randy or Renee Munday. Congratulations, I hope we'll see you at the meeting for your prize.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- March 21-Chris Wood (District 8 Fisheries Biologist)
And Mike Hatley (District 8 Law Enforcement) NC
Wildlife Update
- April 18-Art and Science of Fly Fishing Kurt Steinbaugh,
Appalachian State University
- May 16-Kayak Fishing, Eric Boyd with Jackson Kayak
Fishing Team
- June 3-Wilson Creek Visitor's Center-Kid's Fly
Fishing Day Event



HICKORY NC TU LOGO GEAR

The Hickory Chapter now has an account at **Lands' End** for clothing and other items with our logo. There are frequent discounts available you can sign up for by going to <https://business.landsend.com/> and signing up. To access the account go to:

<https://business.landsend.com/store/hkynctu/>

WELCOME JANUARY NEW MEMBERS

William Chisenhall
Eric Dollarhide
Phillip Krimminger
Garrett Logan
Luci Mae Lowery
William Pearce

FLY FISHING MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACIANS

Is it a little too cold for you to head out to the river and catch a few trout? Then head over to the fly fishing museum in Bryson City, about a 2 hour drive from Hickory. The museum is open Monday thru Friday from 9AM to 5PM. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

FLY FISHING TIP

Short lines catch more fish. Long, graceful casts are pretty, but they are tough to manage. There are lots of currents in a stream or river, and the more line on the water the more your fly will drag. Shorter lines help beginners make proper presentations and those will catch more fish.

WILSON CREEK ENTOMOLOGY

Hopefully you've tied or stocked up on some of those top winter flies in last month's newsletter. Now we'll get back to the series on what the trout eat in

Wilson Creek. You may recall from the previous articles that there are five primary groups of insects in Wilson Creek:

- Midges
- Mayflies
- Stoneflies
- Caddis
- Terrestrials

In our final month on Wilson Creek entomology we will discuss Terrestrials. These tend to be of lesser importance to most of us because they are primarily outside the Hatchery Support season during the summer. They will work for you in the shoulder months of May and October on Wilson Creek, and if you decide to try some of the wild trout streams during the summer, they are a good choice.

I found a particularly good article on the use of terrestrials, so I'll quickly give you a list of Dave Hise's picks and then let Tom Rosenbauer explain how to fish them.



Dave's Cricket



Green Weenie Inchworm



Hi Viz Ant



Rosenbauer Beetle



Donkey Kong Hopper

Secrets of Fishing Terrestrial Flies

Written by Tom Rosenbauer

If you think terrestrial imitations are only for summer fishing, you're missing a great deal of dry-fly action. The normal thought is that trout ignore land-bred insects in the spring and early summer, until mayfly and caddisfly hatches dwindle with the heat of summer. They ignore terrestrials about as much as you ignore chocolate mousse when out to dinner.

Stomach content studies of trout show that land-bred insects are dominant trout food not only in August, but also in May, June, and September. Well into October and November, beetles can be the most abundant food

in a trout's stomach, and leafhoppers have been seen there as late as December. The studies I referred to



above were done in upstate New York, and if you've ever spent December in Rochester or Syracuse (I've done both), it's hardly what most fishermen would consider terrestrial weather.

I've known about these studies since my college days, but do you think I'll be smart enough to act on it? The other day, fishing a wild trout river in late morning, I noticed a number of big March Brown and Gray Fox mayflies on the water, plus a smattering off caddis in the air. There were no rises. Feeling very clever, I put on a big Hare's Ear Nymph to imitate the mayflies and a Lafontaine Deep Pupa in case the fish were eating caddis. It's a shallow, clear stream, so I added a pea-sized glob of bright red Strike Putty instead of my usual yarn indicator the size of a baby sparrow. Three fish rose to the Strike Putty before I was smart enough to switch to a beetle. Nobody touched the nymphs. Now if I had been in a river with hatchery fish I would have told you they took the indicator because it looks like a food pellet, but no fish have been stocked in this river for 20 years. I can't imagine those trout mistook my round red indicator for anything but a beetle.

Do trout prefer terrestrials to aquatic insects? It's said that trout like the taste of ants, but I'm leery of anyone who claims to know about the taste preferences of the American public or Labrador retrievers, much less silly little fish. However, it has been proven that adult trout are good at judging the relative caloric value of prey and balancing their energy expenditures with energy inputs. A size 14 beetle would seem to have a lot more "meat" than a size 14 mayfly, and a big grasshopper must provide more calories than anything except a big minnow or crayfish.

If you fish small streams, terrestrials are even more important than in larger rivers. A trout's diet in some small streams is made up almost entirely of terrestrials, as these smaller waters don't have large expanses of insect-producing riffles. This may be why such so-called "attractor" flies like Humpys and Royal Wulffs are so effective in small streams—both flies, from a trout's-eye

view underneath, look suspiciously like beetles or other land-bred insects. And an Elk-Hair Caddis looks very much like a tiny early-season grasshopper. But, you say, these flies have wings. So do beetles, bugs, katydids, and many ants!

Unlike fish responding to a hatch, trout can be eating terrestrials and you'll never notice. One reason is that they might see a beetle only once or twice an hour, and the chances of you looking at exactly the right spot aren't good. An even more important reason is that when trout eat low-floating terrestrial insects, there is hardly ever a splash. Sometimes you see a subtle ring on the water, sometimes a black snout poking above the surface, and sometimes you see a hopper just disappear into a hole in the water with no visible sign of a rise. Best places to try a terrestrial fly are where riffles deepen into a dark slot (especially near a deep bank but not necessarily), in concave impressions along a bank that form small bays, and along undercut banks, especially ones that flow through meadows.

Finally, one of the most deadly midsummer rigs I've ever used is a tiny nymph tied as a dropper to the bend of the hook of a beetle or hopper. Tie a size 14 beetle or ant to a 12-foot 5X leader. Knot an eight-inch piece of 6X Mirage tippet to the bend of the hook of the beetle with a clinch knot, then tie a size 18 Pheasant Tail Nymph to the end of the 6X tippet. You'll catch about half of your fish on the beetle, and on the other 50% you hook on the nymph, the beetle makes a damn good but subtle strike indicator.

Tips for Fishing Terrestrials

- Be just as stealthy as with any other kind of dry-fly fishing, but some times a fly that lands with a distinct plop will catch their attention. To do this without splashing line and leader on the water as well, point your wrist slightly below the horizontal at the end of the cast. Practice this before you try it on live fish!
- Don't ignore the center of the river with terrestrials. Most ants and beetles fall into the water along the bank, but the current eventually draws them to the center of the river. A Skilton's Quick Sight Ant or Quick Sight Beetle is often deadly fished in fast riffles.
- An occasional twitch can be effective, but don't overdo it, as it's more likely to put a fish down than a fly carefully dead-drifted over its head. Try casting downstream with some slack in your leader, then make the fly twitch just a fraction of an inch with your rod tip. Immediately drop the rod tip so the fly drifts naturally after the twitch.
- Many terrestrials sink after hitting the water. Try a Hard-Body Ant, or a floating beetle or hopper with a small piece of Sink Putty eight inches above the fly. This arrangement is best fished with a strike indicator. This is a deadly

secret that a couple of my fishing buddies use for their hole card when nothing else works.

- Terrestrials are more productive on windy days and from late morning through evening, when terrestrial insects are active and more likely to fall into a river.
- Trout eating hoppers will often follow a fly downstream for 10 or 20 feet before either eating the fly or refusing it. Don't pick up to make another cast too early, even if the fly is dragging because a trout may still be tagging the fly. And they sometimes take a hopper fly when it's dragging.

Best Terrestrial Flies

You don't need a broad selection of terrestrials. Fish are seldom selective to a certain kind of beetle or ant. I would, however, carry a broad range in sizes, as the trout seem to prefer smaller or larger flies on a given day or in a certain river. I have no idea how to predict what size they might like. If the water is high or fast, lean to the bigger sizes to get their attention, and if it's low and clear, pick a smaller pattern to avoid spooking them. Other than those guidelines, you're on your own.

- Schroeder's Hi-Vis Hopper. It's surprising how subtle a rise to a hopper can be. If you can't see your fly you might miss the big snout inhaling it in fast water. Ed Schroeder's brilliant pattern has a great profile and you can always follow it on the water.
- Quick Sight Beetle. This is my personal go-to fly when nothing is rising. I've had great days with this fly at home in Vermont and in Montana. It is always in my vest, no matter what time of year. Developed by one of the masters of Pennsylvania spring creek fishing, Bill Skilton.
- Travis Para-Ant. As with hoppers, if you can't see your fly you'll miss a lot of rises. Most ant patterns are nearly impossible to see, even at 20 feet. This one, by gifted Montana fly tier Tom Travis, has a great ant profile and high visibility.
- Terrestrial Selection. This is a selection of the most popular patterns and sizes we sell, so you can go with my picks or what several thousand other fishermen like.

<http://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/how-to-articles/trout-fishing-articles/>

TU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

Since there is such a varied degree of experience with fly fishing, educational opportunities continue to rank high as well as planning some local and overnight fishing trips. Several have expressed interest in attending the Atlanta Fly Fishing Show the first weekend

in February and should contact Jackie Greene at hkynctuwomen@gmail.com if interested in going. Jackie will be working at the event so will not be driving, but can put anyone interested in touch.

All women are encouraged to get more involved in supporting our local TU Chapter by serving on one of many committees.

There will be a winter casting practice session at Henry River Soccer Complex and Park on Sunday February 19th at 3:00 PM. This is open to everyone including men, women, and high school and younger kids. No sign up, just show up if you are interested. Bring your own rod if you have one, if not we will have a few extra on hand. This program is weather permitting. We will meet at the large covered shelter.

There will be a class offered by Davidson River Outfitters in Brevard that the women might be interested in attending. Those interested should contact Jackie.

Fly Fishing Orvis 201 (They also have a 101 class that I did not include)

The 201 school is also collaboration between DRO and Orvis. Once you have completed the 101 class or have a little bit of experience, join us for a 201 outing. This three hour long class is designed to build on your casting skills, teach you the basics of fly selection and knot tying, and then get you out on the water for an hour of fishing with some of our guides. This class is designed to deepen your fundamental skills in fly fishing. This class has a \$30 fee and is open to anyone age 10 and older. Participants under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Each participant will receive a coupon for 15% off of any purchase which can be applied to your new fishing gear. Class size is limited to 12 participants call toll free 888-861-0111 or email info@davidsonflyfishing.com to reserve your spot in the next class.

2017 DATES, All 201 classes are from 1pm-4pm

March 26; April 22; May 7; May 28; June 11; June 25; July 8; July 23; August 20; September 10;

The Pisgah National Forrest Education Center is located just west of Marion. They offer several classes on fly tying, fly fishing, and Tenkara. Most of these classes are free. Visit the following web site for details. If you would like to attend please make your own arrangements

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Education-Centers/Pisgah/Event-Registration>

PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST

There was a group of us fishing up at Wilson Creek the other day and someone asked what Pisgah meant. None of us knew, but speculated it was an Indian word.

I looked it up when I got home and was surprised by the following definition:

Pisgah(*ProperNoun*)

The name of a mountain in the Bible. Usually refers to biblical Mount Pisgah or Mount Nebo.

Origin: A high place; top of a mountain.

HICKORY HIGH FLY FISHING CLUB

Please welcome the Hickory High School Fly Fishing Club and visit their very impressive website at:

www.hhsflyfishingclub.com

The club is teaching fly casting and fly tying to its members, but is drastically short of equipment. If you have fly fishing or fly tying equipment and supplies that you can donate to the club, please contact Lisa Barron at hhsflyfishingclub@gmail.com or call 828-234-3956, drop them off at the HHS front desk, or bring them to the monthly meeting and we will see that they get them.

I HOPE THERE ARE TROUT IN HEAVEN

A few weeks ago I took a friend fishing. He had knee surgery some time ago and it was his first time on the river since. He walked well so we headed down to the river. There was a rather fast current as we started across the stream so I helped him through that section. When we got to the shallow side where there was no current I let him go on his own. I'm sure you all know the difficulty walking in a free stone stream. Well, it's even harder when you have new knees and haven't done it in quite a while. He went about ten feet and right down into the river. Next he discovered he couldn't get up with those new knees. I tried to help lift him and he took me down into the water with him. He finally worked himself over to shore and was able to get up. Both of us were wet, but fortunately it wasn't too cold that day so we continued fishing.

Last week two of us went to our favorite trout stream and took a newcomer with us to introduce him to the stream. We wanted him to learn to love the stream as much as we did. I set him up on one of my favorite holes and went off to fish the other parts of the river. He caught three very nice trout out of my hole and I caught none that day.

Later in the day, my buddy got his fly caught in a limb above his head. I happened to be standing there watching at the time so stepped in to help him. He hooked the limb with his wading staff so I sat my rod against a tree and stepped over to grab the limb. In the process, my rod fell, he lost his grip on the limb, he fell backwards, and of course right on top of my rod and it

snapped. It was truly one of those fly fishing events where whatever can go wrong does.

My point in telling you all this is that I do feel that by helping your fellow anglers that you earn points to heaven. I can only hope that there are trout in heaven and I will be rewarded with an eternity of enjoyment catching them.

LEGENDS OF THE FLY FISHING SHOW

On February 3rd 2017 at The Fly Fishing Show in Atlanta, Georgia, a ceremony will be held to officially induct six grandfathered in anglers and announce six additional inductees chosen by online balloting. You can vote on the additional six (including several NC fly fishermen) at:

<http://www.southerntrout.com/hall-of-fame/>

2017 FLY FISHING FILM TOUR

The 2017 Fly Fishing Film Tour, sponsored partly by TU. Is featuring the movie Old Friends -New Fish is making it's only North Carolina showing in Asheville at Highland Brewing Co at 7pm. March 4th.

The film, made by Sophie Danson, is about 3 women anglers who used to guide around Missoula Montana, their friendships and traditions. It's a reminder to all anglers that friends made on the river are friends for life.

Tickets are \$15.00

If you are interested please let Jackie Greene know.

NCWRC Boy Scout Fly-Fishing Merit Badge Clinic

For active Boy Scouts 11 years and older, the Pechmann Center is offering a 2-day Fly-Fishing Merit Badge Clinic on April 1 and 2. Among the topics that will be covered are fly tying, knots, fly-casting, fish identification, first aid, fishing regulations, cleaning and cooking catch. Overnight camping is available for scouts. Troops wishing to camp should arrive at the Pechmann Center no later than 8:30 p.m., on March 31.

Interested Scoutmasters should contact Pechmann Center Director Tom Carpenter to register their scouts. The 2-day Fly-Fishing Merit Badge Clinic is limited to 30 scouts with a maximum of 10 scouts from each troop.

CASTING CAROLINAS

A Casting Carolinas retreat is scheduled for the April 28-30. Casting Carolinas provides a comprehensive support and educational program for women surviving cancer. The program includes low or no cost weekend

retreats that combine fly fishing instruction with medical education and support. To apply for the retreat, visit www.castingcarolinas.com. For more information you can contact Jackie Greene at hkynctuwomen@gmail.com.

Casting Carolinas is also looking for volunteers to help with their retreats and will be hosting a special volunteer training retreat on April 7-9 at Wildacres Retreat in Spruce Pine. If you wish to volunteer, sign up on their website. Information on attending the retreat is provided at the bottom of this newsletter.

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. The newsletter is sent to over 300 people in the Hickory metro area. For \$100, we will post your business card on both locations for twelve months. Please send your business card and a check for \$100 to:

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited
PO Box 9401
Hickory, NC 28603

For more information, please contact us at HkyNCTU@gmail.com.

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.

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Join us for the 2017 Casting Carolinas Alumnae Gathering and Conference!

at beautiful **Wildacres Retreat Center** (near Spruce Pine, NC)

Alumnae Gathering begins **Thursday April 6**

Full Conference begins Friday evening **April 7**

All CC Alumnae are welcome to attend the Alum Gathering and Conference

All CC volunteers, male and female, are invited to attend the Full Conference



To register or for more information contact Starr: starr@castingcarolinas.com

This weekend is a great chance to **reconnect, learn more** about Casting Carolinas, and be a part of the amazing process of **planning the future** for this great organization!

We will also offer **volunteer staff training** for retreat positions.. helpful even for those who have already been on staff!

LOTS of **fishing time** in the program. Waders, boots rods and reels available.. as well as help with fishing if you need it.

RETREAT COSTS: \$195 for Alumnae Gathering & Full Conference(3 nights, 8 meals)

\$160 for Full Conference (2 nights, 5 meals)

Some financial assistance available.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

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



www.castersonlineflyshop.com

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