

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited

March 2017 Newsletter



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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hickory TU will host the chapter's first annual 'Kid's Fly-Fishing Day' on Saturday, June 3rd, 11 AM to 3 PM, at the Wilson Creek Visitors Center as a fun way to introduce children and families to fly-fishing and fly tying.

Zan Thompson, event chair, has planned a day full of activities including fly casting, where to find trout, bugs in the stream, fly tying and much more. There will be a free lunch and prizes for the youth in attendance. The event is to share and educate both youth and adults in the basics of fly-fishing and fly tying. Zan is looking for chapter members to volunteer that day.....please consider helping. Also, June 3rd is opening day of Delayed Harvest and only youth can fish that morning. Bring your kid fishing and enjoy the beauty of our home waters.

The March program will feature NC Wildlife's Chris Wood, chief biologist, and Mike Hatley, Dist. 8 law enforcement, where they will share and update all that is going on in the district and answer your questions. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, March 21 at the Elks Lodge. Show your TU Chapter support.

Remember, TU makes fishing better by protecting and restoring the most important habitat for trout.

Fish Tales... Gary

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*God grant that I may fish
Until my dying day...
And when it comes to my last cast
I humbly pray,
When in God's landing net
I'm peacefully asleep,
That in his mercy I be judged
As good enough to keep.
.....Anonymous*

FEBRUARY MEETING

When: Tuesday, March 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 NCWRC Update

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

Our annual NC Wildlife update will be given by Chris Wood, Dist.8 Fisheries Biologists, and Mike Hatley, Dist.8 Law Enforcement Division. They will share the Commission's work, resources and regulatory changes in the district and state related to inland fisheries and law enforcement. Also, they will update us on the state trout management plan and answer any of your questions. Also, how TU can help NC Wildlife with protecting and conserving our trout resources. The mission of the NC Wildlife Commission is to conserve North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters; other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife- associated recreation. The program is open to the community so bring a friend to learn more about NC Wildlife. " Between every two pine trees there is a door leading a new way of life"... John Muir

At each monthly meeting this year we will be giving away a Chapter T-shirt. 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 **Forrest Ferrell**. Congratulations, I hope we'll see you at the meeting for your prize.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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

2017 FLY FISHING FILM TOUR

Plans are in the works to host the annual Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) as our annual fund raiser this fall. Stay tuned for more details on the event.

A CALL OUT TO CHAPTER MEMBERS

On June 3 the Chapter will be putting on a day of fly fishing instruction for youth at the Wilson Creek Visitor Center. Many facets of our sport will be demonstrated, including fly tying. I need at least two members to join me and demonstrate this enjoyable pastime and introduce these young people to a better way to fish. If you have been tying your own flies for fishing, please contact me and be part of our June event. My home phone number is (704) 380-2898.

Thanks.....Bill Elliott



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 FEBRUARY NEW MEMBERS

Jeffrey Jackson

WHY DO WE USE A FLY ROD?

Did you ever ask yourself why you use a fly rod rather than a spinning rod, bait casting reel, or a cane pole? Well, actually the fly rod and cane pole are first cousins and a Tenkara rod is essentially a small cane pole. Many would say it is the aesthetic beauty of the flex of the rod and the loop of the line as we cast. They would say it is the cast of the fly to just the right spot that causes the trout to rise to it. And they would be right to a degree. There is a beauty to fly fishing that draws many of us to it, but if it did not catch fish, most of us would give it up and go find a rod that did.

Our fly rod evolved from a stick that was likely used much like Tenkara is today. Over time it evolved from a stick to bamboo, to fiberglass, and to the graphite most of use today. A reel was added to allow us to cast a bit farther and to control the extra length of line. The fly line evolved to make it cast those light flies. The changes were all made to adapt it to its use. And that is why we use a fly rod rather than a spinning rod. It evolved to be the tool that is best suited to the task of catching trout.

If you are casting heavy baits, the spinning and bait casting rods can work for you. But if the trout are rising to a hatch, you need something to match what they are rising to or you just won't catch any fish. If the fish are hanging out in tight structure, it's almost impossible to get your bait to them. That is where the fly rod becomes the tool of choice. Even if you are using worms it is the right tool for the job.

If you are fishing in a pond, a spinning reel may work as well or perhaps better than a fly rod, but most of our trout fishing is in streams and that is where the fly rod excels. The most important issue in getting our bait to the trout is to get a natural drift. When you are working across stream the line will always drag downstream and either drag your bait at a different speed than the flow or drag it sideways across the stream. Trout seem to be a relatively smart animal and recognize when the bait isn't behaving naturally. To correct for this you need to mend the line. The heavier weight of the fly line makes that an easy thing to learn. Try mending 25' of mono stretched out across the stream. It just won't work.

When working around structure, the fly rod gives you much better control. A good fly caster can actually bend the line and land a bait behind a piece of structure that is between him and the fish. Spinning is a straight line cast and that makes it impossible to get behind that structure. If there is shallow submerged structure between you and where you are fishing, the floating fly line allows a drift over that structure while your bait beyond is able to get down deep and find the fish.

When the trout are rising to a hatch, they often fixate on that particular bug to the exclusion of everything else in the water. At these times you may have to throw a fly at them. This may be as large as a mayfly or as small as a midge, but there are few fishermen skilled enough to throw that light weight fly with a spinning rod or bait casting reel. You could add a bubble to your line, but the splash of a large bubble is likely to scare the fish and even if it doesn't drifting a bubble will normally produce a very bad drag on the fly that will cause the fish to avoid it. The fly line on the fly

rod provides the weight that allows you to cast and that carries the fly and tippet with it. A good cast with a proper stop will allow the fly to drift down and land on the water like a fly alighting to lay its eggs. There is probably nothing more satisfying than that perfect cast and the reaction of the fish.

So why do we use a fly rod to fish for trout on the rivers? As said above, it is the right tool for the job. It allows you to present your bait to a fish in a way that the fish expects to see it and in doing so catches many more fish. Whether you are using a worm or a fly, a piece of corn or a nymph, the next time you head to the trout stream take a fly rod along. You are likely to hook more fish and in the process hook yourself on using a fly rod.

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

At the end of the day when you are putting your rod and reel away, **NEVER** wind the full length of the tippet into the reel. Once the end of the tippet gets inside the reel it's likely to tangle itself with the other line and you may spend a lot of fishing time trying to untangle it. Often the only solution is to just start cutting.

NC WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

This month our speakers are from two of the departments at the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). If you can say we have a partner in both our chapter mission and also in our vision, it is the NCWRC. The Hickory NC Chapter of Trout Unlimited has a mission statement as follows:

To conserve, protect and restore northwestern North Carolina's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds

The NCWRCC mission statement is:

To conserve North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers,

boaters; other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation.

Do you notice a bit of similarity in these mission statements? This makes it important that our organizations work together so that we can achieve the ends that we are both working toward. In order to better understand our partner organization, this newsletter will give you more insight into the details and workings of the NCWRC so that we can have a more constructive program at our March meeting.

TROUT RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

The NCWRC has responsibility for many outdoor activities, but at the heart of the relationship with TU is the *Trout Resources Management Plan*. I will try to give a summary of those activities, but if you wish to read the entire document, you can see it on-line at <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Fishing/documents/TroutManagementPlan.pdf>.

Introduction

*Trout fisheries represent a significant portion of angling opportunities in the mountain region of North Carolina. These coldwater resources, including Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*) populations, are important ecological and cultural assets of the State.*

North Carolina has approximately 4,000 miles of streams capable of supporting trout and providing angling opportunities. However, these streams are located at the southern range of coldwater fishery habitat in the eastern United States, which restricts trout populations to higher elevations. In addition, the underlying granitic geology of western North Carolina limits the overall productivity of the State's trout streams. This combination of factors results in wild trout populations often characterized by fish less than 3-years old and less than 10 inches in length.

Of the estimated 4,000 miles of trout waters in North Carolina, approximately 2,000 miles are designated as Public Mountain Trout Waters (PMTW) and managed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission). Nearly 1,000 miles of these streams are managed to protect self-sustaining, wild trout populations. The Commission annually stocks approximately 900,000 hatchery-raised trout to maintain fisheries within the remaining 1,000 miles of PMTW.

In 2006, North Carolina had an estimated 131,055 resident trout anglers (Responsive Management 2007).

Approximately 1.4 million days were spent fishing for trout in PMTW in 2008, and the total economic output associated with these trout fishing activities was estimated to be \$174 million (Responsive Management 2009). Nationally, trout anglers contributed an estimated \$13.6 billion to the economy of the United States in 2006 (USFWS 2010)

The plan was adopted in 1989 through the gathering of information and discussions with many groups, including TU, and resulted in strategic goals for managing the State's trout resources. These goals were organized into five critical program areas:

- I. Trout Management
- II. Resource Protection and Habitat Management
- III. Research
- IV. Angler Access
- V. Education and Communication

Of these five critical program areas, the ones that have the most immediate impact on the majority of us are Trout Management which impacts the quality and quantity of stocked trout and Angler Access which seeks to provide us with more places to fish. There are, however, goals within these two areas as well as in all other areas that have an impact on the present and future quality of our fishing experience.

Trout Management

- Goal 1. Identify, protect, and enhance Brook Trout populations.
- Goal 2. Provide diverse, high-quality trout fishing opportunities.
- Goal 3. Provide a sound regulatory structure to manage Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Goal 4. Maximize the fishery potential of stocked trout resources.

Our Vision for the Hickory Section of Trout Unlimited is: *By the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish once again thrive within their North American range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.* The first goal in Trout Management is in alignment with our Vision Statement. The NCWRC will identify native trout populations, manage those areas exclusively for native brookies, and restore them in other streams where it is deemed feasible.

The second goal relates to providing all of us with angling opportunities through management of the various types of waters. Where feasible, the non native waters of streams, ponds and tail races will be stocked with sterile rainbow, brown, and brook trout

populations. The impact on other aquatic species will be considered as part of the plan.

The third goal relates to the regulations for the various trout waters. While most of us are aware of two or perhaps three of the types of trout waters, there are currently seven:



This goal includes that regulations will be developed, published, and equitably enforced.

Goal number four relates to the production and stocking of trout. I think most of us will agree that the Commission has done a good job in the quality and variety of trout stocked, but they identify in the plan that current demand has fully utilized the available production capabilities of Commission trout rearing facilities. Many of us have expressed a need for additional stockings and with the heavy pressure on Wilson Creek I'm sure we would all love to see additional Delayed Harvest developed. Here is an area where we can perhaps help the Commission expand its facilities.

Resource Protection and Habitat Management

- Goal 1. Minimize degradation and loss of trout waters and associated riparian habitat.
- Goal 2. Improve trout habitat quality and quantity.
- Goal 3. Manage and minimize adverse effects of invasive species.

Threats to trout habitat include land-disturbing activities associated with residential and commercial developments, road construction, in-line impoundments, improper agricultural practices, impediments to fish passage, and invasive species. Although impacts exist region-wide, habitat loss is more severe on private lands where streams are often channelized or moved, their canopies are removed, flow regimes altered, or they are impacted by sediment. In addition, point and non-point source discharges often

result in a decline of water quality due to increased temperatures, high nutrient loads, acid deposition, and other substances toxic to fish. Impacts are often reflected by negative changes in stream ecology, such as reduced abundance and diversity of aquatic invertebrates, which are an important part of the trout diet, and the loss of pools, adequate substrate, and cover necessary to support trout populations. We can all help the commission prevent these issues by bringing them to their attention whenever we observe an occurrence.

The third goal in this area is identification and control of invasive species. The NCWRC has found evidence of both gill lice and whirling disease in trout streams in North Carolina. They have also identified vegetation invaders didymo and knot weed in and along NC streams. The commission has posted notices to let us know what we can do to prevent further spread. We need to support the commission by assuring our felt boots are thoroughly dried and even better rinsed in a bleach solution before fishing in another stream. The knot weed is a vegetation that grows along the banks of creeks and is everywhere along Wilson Creek. As its name implies it grows very dense and tangled and makes it very difficult to get to the stream. Our chapter assisted with knot weed control at the WC visitor center last spring.

Research

Goal 1. Obtain routine measurements of social and economic data regarding trout management programs.

Goal 2. Conduct biological surveys to determine the effectiveness of stocked trout and wild trout management strategies.

Goal 3. Evaluate alternative trout management practices

There are two facets to Goal 1. The first is to gather angler input data will allow the Commission to identify topics that are important to trout anglers and should be considered in the management of trout resources. The second is to collect economic data periodically and use these data to promote the importance of trout fishing in North Carolina. We are supporting this by having the commission attend our March meeting to speak to us. If you have any praise or concerns, this is your opportunity to convey them to the Commission. You can also stay in touch by signing up for the NCWRC newsletters at <http://www.ncwildlife.org/News/Wildlife-Email-Update>. This will keep you abreast of any actions by the

Commission and any hearings that you may be able to attend and supply your input for making the decisions.

Goal 2 is the evaluation of stream conditions and efforts of both stocked and wild trout to determine if the goals and efforts by the Commission are successful.

Goal 3 is to evaluate the research and determine if regulations and practices can be changed in any way to improve the maintenance of trout in NC and to improve our experience as fishermen.

Angler Access

Goal 1. Secure permanent public access to trout fisheries.

Goal 2. Improve angling access for trout anglers with special needs.

The first goal is of course very important to us as it allows us to get to the streams we love to fish. The access in State and National forests are worked out with those agencies. Perhaps much more difficult is the effort by the Commission obtain access for us to private lands through lease or purchase. We should all thank the Commission for that effort. In return for our rights to fish these streams we should be very careful not to litter the streams. That has been cited as the biggest complaint by land owners and could cost us the right to fish there.

The second goal is to provide access such as you may have seen at Wilson Creek for persons with a handicap that are unable to wade and fish under normal conditions. This type of access can help us with our Veterans programs.

Education and Communication

Goal 1. Increase the awareness of trout fishing opportunities.

Goal 2. Maintain and enhance trout fishing information.

Goal 3. Evaluate enhancing public awareness of trout stocking events.

Goal 4. Continue to cultivate interactions with trout anglers.

Goals 1-3 all pertain to information and awareness of trout fishing. This is done through the website, magazine and brochures made available to trout fisherman. The fishing website is located at <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Fishing/Fishing-in-North-Carolina> and the magazine is available at <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Multimedia-Center/Wildlife-in-North-Carolina> for a fee of \$12 per

year. Some brochures are available by stopping wherever they sell fishing licenses.

Goal 4 is achieved by presentations to groups like ours this month and by partnering with groups like ours to set up kiosks at Wilson Creek to include information about trout fishing both from the NCWRC and from our TU chapter. Additionally they are partnering with us so put on a Kids Day fly fishing program at the Wilson Creek Visitor Center on June 3.

Nowhere in the trout management plan do I see what I believe is a tremendous program for educating both current and future generations of trout fisherman. At various centers around the state the NCWRC puts on educational programs (mostly free) to teach both adults and youth how to fly fish. The programs for the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education southwest of Asheville can be found on-line at <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Education-Centers/Pisgah>.

In Conclusion

The above discussion of the NCWRC Trout Management Plan demonstrates just how in sync we are with them in regard to the present and future of trout fishing. They rely on groups like ours for support and we rely on them to make a great fishing experience for us. With that in mind, please make every effort to attend the March meeting to hear what they have to say and to share with them both our compliments and desires for improvements to the Trout Management Plan.

TABLE ROCK FISH HATCHERY



The Table Rock Fish Hatchery is located north of Morganton beside Irish Creek. We were surprised to learn on our visit that while the trout planted in

Wilson Creek come through the hatchery, they are not normally raised there. The majority of the trout are raised at the hatchery SW of Asheville. They are then trucked to Table Rock Fish Hatchery where they are put in a holding sluice until they are delivered to Wilson Creek. The water comes from Irish Creek when it is cold enough or from wells when it gets too warm.



In addition to the distribution of trout, the hatchery is responsible for raising warm water fish. They raise musky, walleye, catfish and white bass in the ponds at the hatchery.

When necessary, they can raise trout at the hatchery. The warm water conditions last year created a shortage and they currently have a batch of trout they have raised. The eggs are hatched in special pans and they are then

transferred to large tanks. It's essentially a large scale version of the Trout in the Classroom program going on at West Bend Middle School. I didn't think to ask while I was there, but I assume when the trout get larger they will be transferred to the other hatchery since they only have the single sluice at this hatchery. These fish will be released in one-and-a-half to two years.

They answered a couple questions while we were there. The first was how they make the trout sterile. The process is performed by placing the fish into a pressure tank and raising the pressure to a point that genetically changes the fish to make them sterile. (That's right folks. The next time you think about taking one of those trout home for dinner, understand that you'll be eating a genetically modified organism.) The second question regarded



identification of a planted versus native trout. I know in some cases the adipose fin is removed on planted fish. They said there is nothing done for identification, but if you catch a fish in hatchery supported or delayed harvest waters, odds are high that it was planted as these waters generally are too warm to support natural reproduction.

The hatchery is open to visitors Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM.

WILSON CREEK STOCKING RESUMES MARCH 2

On March 2 the first stocking of the spring season will take place at Wilson Creek. The stocking will include:

Brookies	1880
Rainbows	1880
Browns	940

The same number will be planted on April 4 and May 3. The fish will begin to bite about an hour after planting. C'mon up and give them some exercise!

TU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE



Gary Hogue Leads Casting Practice At The Casting In The Park Event

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 Forest Education Center is located about an hour SW of Asheville. 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>

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

The Trout In The Classroom program is a continuing success. While there has been only a small



increase in length since our last report in January, you can see in the photo that the fish are getting a lot fatter.

Thanks to the hard work of Stoney and his student team the mortality rate has been virtually zero.

The permit has been requested for release of these fish at the South Mountains State Park and is expected in April. Check Facebook and the April newsletter for details on the time and place for the release.

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.

CASTING CAROLINAS

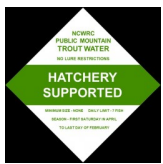
A Casting Carolinas retreat is scheduled for the April 28-30. Casting Carolinas provides a comprehensive support and educational program for women surviving cancer. The program includes low or no cost weekend retreats that combine fly fishing instruction with medical education and support. To

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.

TROUT WATERS CLOSED MARCH 1-31

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will close approximately 1,000 miles of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters to fishing one-half hour after sunset on Feb. 28 and reopen them at 7 a.m. on April 1. While fishing is closed, the state will stock all Hatchery Supported Trout Waters in preparation for opening day. Staff stocks Hatchery Supported Trout Waters, which are marked by green-and-white signs, at frequent intervals in the spring and early summer every year.



This year, Commission personnel will stock approximately 916,000 trout — 96 percent of which average 10 inches in length, with the other 4 percent exceeding 14 inches in length. While fishing on Hatchery Supported Trout Waters, anglers can harvest a maximum of seven trout per day, with no minimum size limit or bait restriction. Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are open from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until one-half hour after sunset on the last day of February the following year.

Southern Trout Newsletter 2/19/17

CHEROKEE OPENING DAY TROUT TOURNAMENT

For 2017, Cherokee's fishing season "opening day" will be March 25, and we are offering you 20,000 reasons to get excited about it. Their Opening Day Fishing Tournament requires just an \$11 entry fee to compete for \$20,000 in tagged fish. You'll be competing in the rivers on the Qualla Boundary (excluding the 2.2 miles of catch-and-release waters). Tagged fish will be specially stocked for this event, and when you catch one, you redeem it for cash prizes ranging from \$25 to \$5,000 at the Beetle Stage Pavilion next to the Cherokee Welcome Center on US 441. Open to all ages and for all legal fishing methods. Register to redeem cash prizes anywhere fishing licenses are sold.

Southern Trout Newsletter 2/19/17

FLY FISHING SCHOOL

This special 3-day 2-night program is presented by the Cataloochee Chapter of Trout Unlimited to

introduce guests to the art of fly fishing our beautiful, private waters of the West Fork of the Pigeon River.

Participants will be led by expert instructors in the basics of this wonderful sport, with classes covering Trout Species, Basic Fly Methods, Gear, Entomology, Reading the Waters and more! And of course, ample fishing time surrounded by the picturesque backdrop of Lake Logan and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Class size is limited to provide the participant personalized attention. Youth age 16 and older may attend with an adult.

Participants are asked to bring their own fly rod and reel, (8ft to 9ft in the 4 to 5 weight range) and wading boots with felt bottoms.

Accommodations in the beautiful lake side cabins are included along with all meals prepared by the talented culinary team of Lake Logan Conference Center. Instruction, Guides and Ghillies are provided by the experienced members of the Cataloochee Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

What you'll learn at the Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing School include:

1. Fly Rod Selection, Rigging and Knot Tying
2. Entomology for Anglers and Fly Identification
3. Selective Feeding Trout and Fly Selection
4. Reading Water and Casting Techniques
5. Fly Fishing Gear and Gear Selection
6. On the Water Guides and Coaching

Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing School \$850.00 May 26-28

B&B May 25 Early Arrival + Fly Fishing School May 26-28 \$968.89

To Register: <https://goo.gl/jrjpyf>

WEBSITE MANAGER NEEDED

The Chapter is looking for a member with experience in building a website to help build and manage our site. If you are able to do this for us, please contact us at HkyNCTU@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.



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