

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited



June 2017 Newsletter

Visit us on Facebook at Hickory NC Trout Unlimited Chapter 032.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To Hickory TU members... Several items to bring to your attention before we take our summer break to be with families and hopefully get some quality time on the water.

On Tuesday, September 20, TU will hold its June Social for all members and friends. The event "Trout on Tap" will be held at the Olde Hickory Station starting at 5:30 pm where you will be able to swap, buy, donate, give away any fly fishing items you may have. Also, Skip's raffle will have a number of exciting things for you.

Put on your radar screen- NC Senate Bill 434- Agriculture/ Environment/ Natural Resources Committee; an Act to Amend Certain Environmental & Natural Resources Laws. This Bill could produce excessive watershed soil erosion and create a lack of streamside shading vegetation impacting fish and aquatic populations. This is counterproductive to TU's efforts to stabilize and enhance erosion control measures.

For your calendars: September 19, Casting Carolinas Night featuring guide Simons Welter; October 23, TU's Reception and Film Tour Fundraising Evening featuring the Costa, Yeti and Simms Fly Fishing 2017 Film Tour and the Joel Sartore Endangered Exhibit... Sartore passionately captures striking artworks to help viewers understand the importance of saving animal species, while also ultimately saving ourselves.

Hope to see you at one of TU's events and thank you for your support. Have a fun and safe summer.

Fish Tales... Gary Hogue

JUNE MEETING

When: Tuesday, June 20

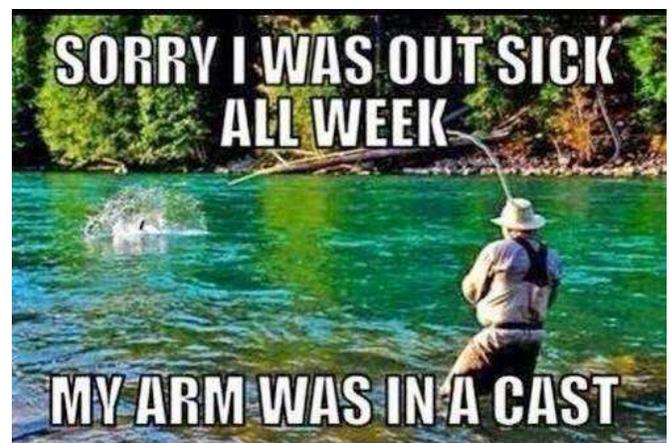
Where: Old Hickory Station
232 Government Ave SW
Across from the Post Office

Program:
5:30 – 7:30

The meeting will begin at 5:30. Dinner and drinks will be available from the Olde Hickory Station menu for those interested. The program will provide an opportunity to sell or swap some of that extra fly fishing gear that has piled up in the closet and representatives from the Hickory High School Fly Fishing Club will be there if you would rather just make a donation of the gear. In addition to the swap and shop, the evening is an opportunity to share some of those fish stories from the past year on the river. The program will close with the monthly raffle with some special prizes just for this event.

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. May's winner is **Todd Lamoreaux**. Congratulations, I hope we'll see you at the meeting to receive your prize.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH





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/>

1ST ANNUAL WILSON CREEK KID'S DAY

The first, of what we hope to become an annual event, Wilson Creek Kid's Day will be held on Saturday June 3. The program is planned to coincide with the first day of Hatchery Supported trout fishing on the Delayed Harvest section of the stream. That first day, only children under the age of 16 are allowed to fish before noon.

The program will begin at 11:00 AM and continue until 3:00 PM. It will include a light lunch, casting demonstrations and bugs in the stream. There will also be fly tying and knot tying demonstrations. Plan to bring along your kids, grandkids, neighbor's kids, or any one you think would enjoy it. We will need some general help with meals clean up, etc. so please chip in when you get to the event.



Trout Unlimited Hickory Chapter

Kid's Fly-Fishing Day

Introduction to Fly-Fishing and Fly-Tying for Families

When: **Saturday, June 3, 2017**
Time: **11 AM till 3 PM**
Where: **Wilson Creek Visitor Center**



EVENTS:

- Fly-tying Basics
- Fly Casting Instruction
- Reading the Water to Find Fish
- Entomology (Bugs in the Stream)
- Fly-Fishing Knots
- Trout Identification and More!

Drawing for a **Free Fly-Rod** suitable for youth
Must be in 6th through 10th Grade or Age 11 to under 16 to register
Register on-site the day of the event

Free T-Shirt for the First 100 Registered Kids
Must be in 6th through 10th Grade or Age 11 to under 16 to register



See you at Wilson Creek Visitors Center June 3rd!

For More Information: Hkynctu.org or on Facebook @ [mwctu](https://www.facebook.com/mwctu)
For Questions: Hkynctuveep@gmail.com

Trout Unlimited Hickory Chapter meets 6 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Elks Lodge in Downtown Hickory, 356 Main Avenue NW.

2017 FLY FISHING FILM TOUR

Plans are being developed to host the annual Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) at our annual fund raiser this fall. The program will be held at the SALT Block in Hickory on Monday, October 23. The program will begin with refreshments in the Art Museum and then move to the auditorium for the movie. Watch future newsletters for the details.

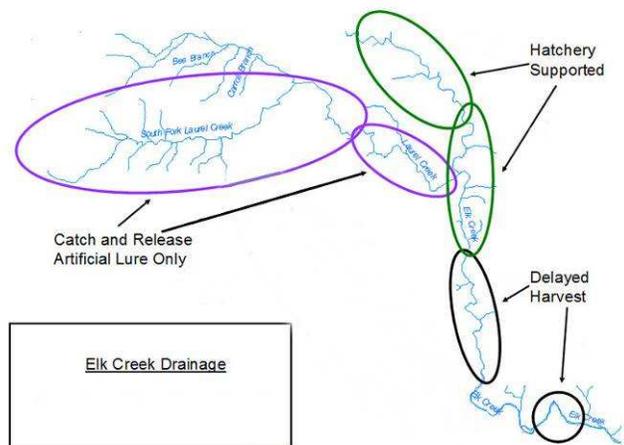
PLEASE SEND YOUR FISHING PHOTOS. We will have a photo slide show again this year at our fund raiser. We will include photos of all our events, but would like to include all of your great fishing photos from this year as well. The ladies have been doing quite well sending in photos, but the guys need to get in gear and send theirs in. Please send your photos to hkynctu@gmail.com.

ELK CREEK



Elk Creek (not to be confused with Elk River) is one of our newest Delayed Harvest

Harvest rivers. It's only about a 45 minute drive from Hickory but there are a lot of bends and turns to get there, so you'll need a good map or a GPS to find it. If you set your GPS to 7262 Elk Creek Darby Road; Ferguson, NC you will arrive at a fire station at the intersection of that road and Triplett Road. If you head north along Triplett Road (after a mile it becomes Elk Creek Rd) you'll find the northern portion of the delayed harvest which runs to the point where it becomes a dirt road. If you



head east from the fire station you will travel along

the southern portion of the delayed harvest. The day I went up to Elk Creek to shoot the photos for this article I decided to do a little fishing. It turned out to be the best day of fishing on a North Carolina trout stream that I have ever experienced. I spent about three hours in the morning at a single hole and caught about 50 trout. Now before everyone who reads this newsletter races up there, it has not been like that on every trip. One trip up there, I found nothing but a school of spawning suckers. Other trips I have been skunked, but generally I have had decent luck on the stream.

One thing you need to remember is that this is a fairly small stream and can be affected severely by stream flow. The normal flow on the creek is about 80 cubic feet per second (cfs). The day I had the great luck up there was about 170



cfs. The higher flow rate actually made the fishing a bit better. (See this month's tip below.) This past fall the flow rate got down as low as 30 cfs and forces the fish into a few pockets of deeper water. If you want to check out the flow rate before you go, there is a website published by the USGS, <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nc/nwis/current/?type=flow>.

(You can also check out Wilson Creek from this website, but you need to look up the Johns River. The Johns river is the one that merges with Wilson Creek at the bridge just below Brown Mountain Beach. The measurement is taken a bit downstream from there and measures the combined flow, but will give you a good indicator.)

The short stretch of delayed harvest to the east of the fire station is rather flat and has little structure, but it is planted and you will find fish there. This stretch of river belongs to the Leatherwood Mountains PFA and runs adjacent to their campground. If you wanted to spend a little time in the mountains they have the camping and some cabins that can be rented.



Heading north from the fire station up Triplett Road you will cross a bridge over Elk Creek and a short distance beyond there is a huge parking lot on the right. Access to the river here has been provided by the Blue Ridge Mountain Club PFA. This is where the upper part of the delayed harvest

begins and it continues a couple miles from there to where the pavement ends. This is a beautiful stretch of river with many rapids and pools. Other than the area near the parking lot, the road stays close to the stream most of its distance. As you drive along you will be able to spot most of the holes and you'll also find many of them by pull-offs that are along the road. There are many places you can catch fish here. The creek can get crowded on weekends so I suggest you fish



weekdays or arrive very early on the weekend.

Above the delayed harvest section are a few miles of hatchery supported stream. I've spotted several fish at the first bridge, so if you want a fish dinner you might want to save a little time at the end of the day to try to bring home supper.

Elk Creek is still too low in elevation to support a healthy population of trout in the summer, but I did talk to a local who says he fly fishes the stream all summer long in the evening. The only "catch" according to his report is that he said he seldom has any luck with flies larger than #22. He said he has had fish rise to larger flies, but they just turn and won't take the fly.



There is another summer option you may want to check out. About a mile above the delayed harvest is a wild trout creek. The Powder

Horn Mountain PFA allows access to Laurel Creek onto their property. They and the NCWRC have provided parking at the entrance to the property and just south of that Laurel Creek crosses the road to merge with Elk Creek.



The reports I have received indicate there are a few brown and brookies there, but the major population is small mouth and bream. Be sure to check the latest fishing regulations before you head to any private access water it changes frequently. Just in the last year the access to Dugger Creek off from Elk Creek was cancelled by the Blue Ridge Mountain Club.

So if you are looking for something different than Wilson Creek for a change, give Elk Creek a try. Wilson Creek, Jacob Fork, and Elk Creek are all less than an hour from Hickory and offer some beautiful fishing.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Fish faster water. Trout in slow, clear water can be tough to catch. They're not in a hurry, they can look over your fly, and they can be picky. Beginners can get an edge if they fish riffles or runs that have quicker current. Trout don't have all day to think about your fly, and more often than not they'll pounce on it before it drifts away.

If you are fishing a pool and there isn't enough current to move your nymph, create the movement. You can do this by slowly pulling in your line or by switching to something like a woolly bugger that is fished with some action.

Interactive Trout Fishing Map of NC

Would you like to try a little Wild Trout fishing this summer, but don't know where to go? There is an interactive map of NC that can help you out. <https://ncpaws.org/wrcmapbook/FishingAreas.aspx>

WHIRLING DISEASE

Whirling disease has been discovered in North



Carolina in both the Watauga River near Foscoe and the Elk River near Blowing Rock. (Note this not Elk Creek NE of

Lenoir that many of us fish.) Whirling disease can be devastating to the trout and with it this nearby, we need to do all we can to keep it from spreading.

The following guidelines for fishermen have been issued by the NCWRC:

CLEAN equipment of all aquatic plants, animals, and mud

DRAIN water from boats, live wells, and equipment

DRY equipment thoroughly

NEVER MOVE fish, plants, or other organisms from one body of water to another

EAGLE ROCK CAMP

Eagle Rock Camp is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation founded in August, 2011 after founder Lynn Marilla discovered very limited resources for military families. Lynn, the board of directors and a focus group of veterans carefully listened to what the military families needed and then developed Eagle Rock Camp's curriculum to meet those needs. Meeting all members of the military family at their level of need, these evidence-based programs help the families heal in body, mind, spirit and heart.

And that's what makes Eagle Rock Camp unique. Where most programs exist for treatment of the veteran, Eagle Rock Camp is designed to support the needs of the whole family. Their Mission Statement is: *We provide unifying experiences for families by offering Therapeutic Recreation, Building Family Resiliency Workshops, innovative services and ongoing support in a traditional camp or quiet retreat environment.*

The Hickory NC TU Chapter supports the mission of Eagle Rock Camp in providing valuable programs for military veterans and their families. Lynn Marilla has joined our chapter board to assist us in the expansion of our support to veterans. That said, we have received our first request to support their program. Please consider volunteering to help teach casting for the following programs:

- Sept. 12, Camp Luther Ridge, Arden, NC
- Oct 17 and 26 at YMCA Camp Harrison in Boomer, NC

For more information about Eagle Rock Camp visit <http://www.eaglerockcamp.org/>. To sign up to help please contact Gary Hogue at HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com.

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.

WILSON CREEK VISITOR CENTER

WILSON CREEK VISITOR CENTER invited our chapter to post a wall that had been bare for some time. Plans began about two months ago and Steve Mull donated a 22" rainbow that he had caught on Wilson Creek in 1977 for the display. On Friday, Steve Anderson, Gail Garrison, Jackie Green, and Chick Woodward headed up. They laid out and had it all



assembled in a couple hours. The trout will eventually be in a shadow box to protect it from touching by visitors, but we wanted to get it up before the Kids' Fly-Fishing Day event on June 3. Stop up and take a look at our work and if you can, join us on June 3 between 11 and 3.

TU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

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
June 11; June 25; July 8; July 23; August 20;
September 10;

The Pisgah National Forrest 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>

WILSON CREEK CLEAN-UP.

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited thanks Bruce Gray, owner of Betsey's Ole Country Store in Mortimer for his efforts to keep Wilson Creek Clean. Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening he and his cleaning crew drive from Edgemont to Browns Mountain Beach and clean up the litter that was left behind that day. Bruce has formed a 501(c)(3) organization to help defray the expenses. Gail Garrison, Jackie Greene, and Steve Anderson presented a check from our chapter to help cover his costs. If you care to contribute please go to http://www.betseylecountrystore.com/wilson_creek_clean_up... or stop by the store.



North Carolina Trout Anglers Contribute Significantly to Economy

RALEIGH, N.C. (May 23, 2017) — Trout fishing opportunities provided by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission have substantial economic effects on North Carolina's economy, according to a recent study conducted by Responsive Management and Southwick Associates.

Nearly 149,000 trout anglers fished approximately 1.6 million days in 2014, and the effects these trout anglers had on North Carolina's economy totaled an estimated \$383 million, according to the study, "Mountain Trout Fishing: Economic Impacts on and Contributions to North Carolina's Economy." This dollar amount represents anglers' direct spending, such as purchases of fishing equipment, food and accommodations, as well as secondary spending by businesses associated with trout angling and their employees.

The study also found that money spent on trout fishing in 2014 supported approximately 3,593 jobs.

In addition to answering questions pertaining to expenditures and numbers of days fished, survey respondents answered questions related to their opinions of access to Public Mountain Trout Waters and their satisfaction with trout fishing in North Carolina. Overall, 76 percent of anglers surveyed were satisfied with their trout fishing experience in North Carolina in 2014.

Other survey findings included:

- Hatchery Supported Trout Waters were the most frequently fished waters (710,665 days), followed by Delayed Harvest Trout Waters (390,085 days) and Wild Trout Waters (276,804 days).
- The estimated economic effects of specific classifications were \$141,273,525 for Hatchery Supported Trout Waters; \$108,355,161 for Delayed Harvest Trout Waters; and \$60,765,562 for Wild Trout Waters.

From March through May 2015, Responsive Management, a firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues, surveyed 2,113 randomly selected licensed anglers 18 and older who fished for mountain trout in 2014. Southwick Associates, a market research and economics firm specializing in the hunting, shooting, sportfishing, and outdoor recreation markets, analyzed the economic data.

This latest survey is the second time the Commission has funded a study to help quantify the economic impact of its trout management program on North Carolina's economy, said Jacob Rash, the agency's coldwater research coordinator. The first study, conducted in 2009, was used to develop a

comprehensive trout management plan to enhance public fishing opportunities.

"The Wildlife Commission conducts scientific angler surveys because the process of fisheries management includes understanding and incorporating the opinions and preferences of those who support fisheries resources," Rash said. "This study was designed to ensure that we collected representative, reliable data from North Carolina anglers so we could use that data to make the best fisheries management decisions possible."

The Commission funded the study with money from the [Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program](#).

To download a copy of the full report, visit the Commission's trout fishing page and click on "Mountain Trout Fishing: Economic Impacts on and Contributions to North Carolina's Economy."

FLY FISHING MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS

The Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians Hall of Fame announces the second class of inductees to be recognized at our annual museum luncheon event. The second annual Museum Hall of Fame inductions will be conducted on August 26, 2017 at the Southwestern Community College Swain Center located at 60 Almond School Road, Bryson City, NC 28713, west of Bryson City on US 19/74. From the downtown Bryson City, drive approximately 7 miles west. The old almond school is on your right.

Museum Hall of Fame nomination forms may be obtained electronically from Alen Baker alenandscottie@aol.com or picked up as hard copy at the museum. The Museum seeks to recognize those who have made outstanding and unique contributions to the art, science and sport of fly fishing. We encourage you to nominate those who meet the nomination criteria and are deserving of such recognition.

Our 2017 Museum Hall of Fame Inductees are Lefty Kreh, Mac Brown, Jimmy Jacobs, Steve Moore, Joe Messinger, Sr. and Starr Nolan.

The inductions will be held in Bryson City with Museum supporters as well as the family and friends of our inductees in attendance. Fly anglers from across the southeast will celebrate the Second Annual Museum Hall of Fame Inductions.

With limited space, advanced reservations are essential and are currently being taken. E-mail info@greatsmokies.com or call 828-488-3681 to reserve your place. The ticket price of \$35 per person

includes admission to the induction ceremony, lunch, and all weekend admission to the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians.

CASTING CAROLINAS

Casting Carolinas needs volunteers to help with their tournament and their retreats. If you can lend a hand please visit their website and sign up to help. <http://castingcarolinas.com/community/volunteer/>

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



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2017



EVENTS

APRIL

1st Opening day of Hatchery waters - bring a picnic lunch!

MAY

13th Disc Archery Shoot. Free lessons for kids & adults. Equipment provided. Please no personal bows! Bring a picnic lunch!

JUNE

3rd Opening day of harvest waters. Trout Fishing Event: Children 16 & under invited to fish trout 6 am - Noon & Adults Noon - 3. Lunch Available!

17th Safety Awareness Day. American Red Cross will teach Wilderness First Aid. Bring swimwear & a picnic lunch!

JULY

1st 4th of July Celebration with music by Bear Wallow Band & food by City Cafe

AUG

12th Heritage Day - Collettsville Historical Society on site with old time train music by Hobo Bill & Kristen

SEPT

16th Goodbye to Summer Event with Hobo Bill & Kristen & food by City Cafe

OCT

21st Wilson Creek Festival of Colors with Bear Wallow Band and food by City Cafe

**ALL EVENTS 11 AM - 4PM
& FREE**

