

# Hickory NC Trout Unlimited

## August 2017 Newsletter



Visit us on Facebook at Hickory NC Trout Unlimited Chapter 032

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is an old saying in outdoor education that I have used to teach wilderness instructors that I think applies to us today who enjoy fly fishing... "always expect the unexpected."

As fly fishermen and ladies, we chat a lot about equipment, flies, honey holes, and techniques but rarely do I hear us talk about "Personal Safety". The question for all of to answer is... If an accident happens, would I be ready? Accidents happen in many forms while you are fly fishing... hook in the ear, a fall causing a dislocation, heart attack, hypothermia, being lost, no cell service, bruises and cuts, biting bugs and you can go on and on. And a new one today in the world we live in... who's in the woods???

Many of us enjoy fly fishing alone and take off to one of our favorite creeks... does anyone know where you are going and when will you return? Do you know any medical concerns that your fishing partner has and can you help if needed.

Things to consider before you go... Will I have communications and who do I call and do I have the number? Have I included a first aid kit and can I use it? Have I left directions on where I am going and time of my return? If going off road, do I have a map and compass, water, clothing for any weather change? These are just a few questions to have you confident of your next fishing trip.

If Murphy shows up remember this Basic Rule: STOP... stop, think, observe, plan. Just like we prepare to go fishing don't forget to prepare to take care of yourself.

If you would to have a program on this topic please let us know through a reply Hickory TU's newsletter.

Have fun and be safe.....Fish Tales... Gary

### Next MEETING

The chapter is now on summer break. The next meeting will be held on September 19. That program has been declared "Ladies Night". Our guest speaker for the evening is Simmons Welter coming to us from Spartanburg SC. Simmons grew up in Statesville NC and graduated from Clemson. She has been a professional guide for 11 years and is currently with Brookings Anglers in Cashiers NC. Simmons was recently featured in the March 8th edition of Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine. The article titled "Fly

Females : Six Women Who are Revolutionizing the World Of Fly Fishing". Her topic will be Reading the Water and the Drift.

### Quote of the month

*"Fly fishing is a way of life, not a sport or hobby."*

.....Bill Elliott

### Delayed Harvest Streams

We are blessed here in Hickory with having several delayed harvest streams within an hour. In the past few newsletters we have discussed some of them:

Wilson Creek	April Issue
Jacob Fork	May Issue
Elk Creek	June Issue
East Prong Roaring River	July Issue
Reddies River	July Issue

This month we will visit the last of those within an easy hour's drive, Catawba River near the Greenway in Marion and Mill Creek in Old Fort. We won't end with those. There are several streams just a bit farther away including a couple of my favourites: Helton Creek and the Ararat River. Both about two hours away, but well worth the trip.

### Marion Greenway-Catawba River

The delayed harvest portion of the Catawba River lies on the Marion Greenway on the northwest side of town. Set your GPS to 860 US Hwy 70 in Marion for the west entrance



to the Greenway. Head up to the end of the entrance road and there is a large parking lot and from there is a paved trail that takes you to the creek. There is second entrance to the Greenway trail behind the Joseph McDowell House between KFC and Sonic Drive-In at 136 US Hwy 70.

The delayed harvest starts at the bend at Major Conley Road and continues downstream to Business 221. The Greenway path meets the Catawba about 200' downstream from the start of the delayed harvest and ends at Business Hwy 221. The full Greenway is 1.65 miles long.

If you reach the east end of the Greenway around lunch



time there are many restaurants nearby. As mentioned earlier, the east entrance is between KFC and Sonic Drive-In. Just west are Wendy's and McDonalds, and in

the shopping center is a Subway and a Chinese take out. If you break a nail during your expedition there is a nail salon next to the Subway to repair it for you.

If you come in from the west entrance, the trail takes a bend to the left and then comes around and makes a bend back to the right where it follows the river. At the bend to the right is a path through the woods to the river. From there you could walk the river back to the start of the delayed harvest. Once the path reaches the river it continues close to the bank all the way to the other end of the Greenway.



Due to the steady rains this summer, the river is slightly murky. You can see about six inches into the water. I talked to a couple people along the way. One of them told me it clears up in the winter, but the other told me it gets better, but is always discolored. In spite of the discoloration, there was enough current to distinguish a few chutes and holes along the river. There is almost a continuous channel the whole length of the Greenway, but only an occasional hole. There were a few rocks and trees to create some

structure, but mostly it is just a clear open river. That is likely to improve the fishing as the trout will be disbursed along the whole river rather than gathered up in a few locations.



There are two handicap ramps along the way. I met a fly fisherman from Raleigh who fishes there often. He'd been fishing a while that day, but had caught no

trout. He felt it was just too late in the season. He told me there is a good hole in front of the second ramp down the trail. At the east end of the trail a Hwy 221 bridge crosses the river. It looks to be a great place for the fish to hang out.



There are some bonus things set out along the trail. In



the eastern half of the trail they have a series of exercise equipment set up with chin up bars, leg bends, and others, so if you don't get enough exercise

wading the stream, you can climb out and get with it. They have also labeled many trees along the river so you can get a lesson in forestry during your trek. You'll note in this photo that there are black walnut trees there. If you plan your trip in the fall, you might be able to bring some back for shucking during the winter.



Generally I was quite impressed with the Marion Greenway as a delayed harvest resource. There is enough area that you will almost always find a place to fish. And access is easy so it would be a great place to bring your whole family along for a day of fishing and a picnic.

## Mill Creek Delayed Harvest

Not far up Hwy 70 from the Marion Greenway is the town of Old Fort. Mill Creek Delayed Harvest runs through



downtown Old Fort. The stretch begins at Main Street beneath the high bridge and continues through town to the Catawba River, just below

I-40. Even with all the recent rain this year, there is not a big flow in Mill Creek. In a dry year like 2016, I'm not sure how well it would hold fish. Access to most of the river is difficult so I had a limited chance to check it out, but I saw no pools and only a few runs. The fish will need to hug the brush of the banks for protective cover.



The upper section of the creek from Main Street bridge to Catawba Avenue is difficult to access. There is considerable thick brush and kudzu along most of the creek and a large part is private. The best way to fish this river would be to find an access and wade the length. Water is shallow through all areas I could see, so wading should not be difficult.

The section below Catawba Avenue starts at the Mountain Gateway Museum. The first hundred yards or so



is easy access from the museum grounds. I stopped in the museum to talk to them and they said they have spinning rods that they loan out free

of charge. Beyond the museum grounds the brush along the river again becomes very thick and much of the access is from private property. That runs maybe a couple hundred yards and then the creek runs along the edge of the school

athletic fields. There is a paved walking path along the river at this point with one good access and a couple paths through the brush.

To get to the school athletic field you need to drive a couple blocks south of the museum and turn left onto E. Crawford St.



Drive all the way until it dead ends. There is a parking area with access to the walking path. The only problem is that access to the area is not allowed during school hours. At those times, stream access is again best from the museum and then walking down the stream.



At the end of the delayed harvest area is the I-40 bridge and just below the bridge is the Catawba River. Just below where Mills Creek enters the Catawba it appears there is a small reservoir. I didn't have a chance to get down there, but it might be worth a try to go down to the head of the reservoir if you



can. Where a river comes into a lake or reservoir is often a great place for trout to hang out. Also, the Catawba River Hatchery Supported just upstream from here. As I was leaving the school I saw a young man with a spinning rod and a bag of trout. I would wager a bet that he had been down to this area.

One thing that concerned me at Mill Creek is that I never saw a Delayed Harvest sign on the entire stretch of stream that I walked. Poaching is bad enough that without any signs it will be even more difficult to enforce. If you wish to check out Mill Creek, I suggest you check the stocking schedule and visit shortly after it is planted.

Mill Creek like the Marion Greenway is the kind of Delayed Harvest stream that would be good for a family trip. The non fishing family members can visit the museum and

take a walk around town or use the school athletic field equipment. Restaurants are nearby for a lunch or you can have a picnic on the museum grounds. The trip is just under an hour from Hickory.

## 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/>

## Member Bio-Bill Elliott

If you have attended a Hickory TU monthly meeting or



function in the past year, it is very likely you have met Bill Elliott. He's very personable and outgoing so you've probably had a chat with him. But did you know that Bill is a



nationally renowned wildlife artist?

Bill has a rather unusual background for a fly fisherman, having been raised in Brooklyn, NY, but by age 13 he taught himself to fly fish.

After High School he went on to the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan (later part of NYU). Upon graduation he served three years in the Army as a post illustrator in Alaska which set him on a direction for the rest of his life. After leaving the Army, he returned to the New York area and fell into a wild life artists dream job as Art Director of the New York Zoological Society (Bronx Zoo).

His love of fly fishing led him to friendships that eventually led him to a career illustrating for major magazines and book

publishers. Bill has had his illustrations in Outdoor Life, Field



and Stream, Sports Afield, and others. He has done illustrations for 38 books. In addition his works have been represented in New

York galleries such as Crossroads of Sports and Gallery 19.

Bill's involvement with TU began with the Croton Watershed Chapter while he was living in Putnam County north of New York City. Bill was instrumental in implementing a new trout management plan on the East Branch of the Croton that made it one of the finest trout fisheries in the State of New York. Bill values this as one of the most



important achievements in his life.

Between 1985 and 2012 Bill made over 38 trips to the Amazon and caught and painted over 100 species of fish.

Bill's skill and achievements have not gone without recognition. In 2008 he was chosen as Artist of the Year by the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust. In 2015 he was inducted into the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum Hall of Fame along with John Gierach, Curt Gowdy, and Charles Rich.



In 2012 he made what he calls his last move here to North Carolina where he joined our local chapter of TU and has served here as our conservation director. Bill is still painting, but at a

slower pace so that most days you will find him on one of our local trout streams.

If you would like a piece of art created by Bill, come to our fundraiser in October. He is donating a litho of one his paintings that will be part of our silent auction.

## 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. You will have a chance to socialize with fellow fly fishermen and to view the special exhibit of Joel Sartore. *Through his images of the Earth's*

creatures, Sartore's artwork illustrates both the beauty and the tragedy of animal species threatened by extinction, demonstrating that photography matters. In the finest documentary tradition,



Sartore passionately captures striking artworks to help viewers understand the importance of saving these unique animals, while also ultimately saving ourselves. Sartore writes,

“...every species is a work of art, created over thousands or even millions of years and each is worth saving simply because it is so unique and priceless.”

After the reception we will move to the Drendel auditorium for the movie. The film includes a series of shorts on fishing adventures from Kamchatka, Mexico, and all corners of the US.

On the way to the auditorium you will have a chance to enter the silent auction for many fly fishing related items. We are currently gathering items for the auction and if you have something you would like to offer, please contact Joel Miller at [hkynctu@gmail.com](mailto:hkynctu@gmail.com).

**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](mailto:hkynctu@gmail.com).

## TIP OF THE MONTH

Fly Color: Think Seasonal Don't know where to start with your fly selection? Think first of seasonal color patterns. Early spring, late fall, and winter flies tend to be darker, matching the colors of their environment. Lighter flies typically appear in warmer weather.

## SIMMS WADERS

As a practice, I don't promote brands or products in the newsletter, but once in a while I see something that is worthy of mention. My son has had a pair of Simms waders for many years. He only uses them maybe 20 times a year and does take good care of them. Recently they started leaking. Simms has a lifetime warranty on manufacturing defects, but also a small fee for repair if it is not their issue so he sent them in. They agreed to repair them free of charge. I can only assume that they found a seam leak that they considered a manufacturing

issue. Seam issues are not uncommon and I just retired a pair of my own waders for that problem. Even if you had to pay \$45 (minor wear & tear) or \$60 (heavy wear & tear) for a few more years of use it would be a bargain, but it's hard to beat \$0 for a few more years of use. Simms are expensive, but sometimes it's worth paying the extra cost.

## HICKORY HIGH FLY FISHING CLUB

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

[www.hhsflyfishingclub.com](http://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](mailto: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.

## TU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

Hickory TU Women's Tennessee Trip.



The ladies of Hickory TU and Casting Carolinas met at the Ledges Lodge to fish for the weekend. Jackie Greene, Tammy Neal, Gail Garrison, Eveleen Randall, Jules Reaume, Starr Nolan and Cathy Starnes. Several of the ladies fished in the rain on Friday, but the rain made the Doe River dump red mud into the Watauga which made fishing the Watauga on Saturday a bust. Tammy and Jules had booked a float trip on Saturday with South Holston River Fly Shop; however, Tammy slipped and fell on the boat ramp and broke her ankle, ending their day of fishing and sending the guide with boat in tow to the emergency room. The other girls (minus Starr) headed out to find a guide at South Holston when it became clear the water wasn't going down at the lodge.

While traveling in the car the ladies received the news about Tammy's fall and began making arrangements about what to do. Tammy insisted that Jules go back out fishing

and continue the trip as planned. Jackie headed to the hospital to stay with Tammy during the surgery. Gail and Eveleen left the fly shop with a guide and Cathy joined Jules on the boat with Matt Champion. During the float Matt had to navigate by some boats that had decided to fish the same spot and move to a deep hole and anchored there. While anchored, Cathy hooked a big brown trout and after a 12 and a half minute fight, Matt netted the **BIG 27" BROWN**.

When everyone met up at the fly shop at the end of the day there were high fives and smiles for Cathy. Then the ladies headed to the hospital to see Tammy. It was a good weekend of fishing for all despite the mishap. I am sure the ladies will speak to Cathy again, eventually!

*Please note: You can see the video of Cathy landing this monster brown on our facebook page.*

## **FLY FISHING CLASSES**

**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](mailto:info@davidsonflyfishing.com) to reserve your spot in the next class.

2017 DATES, All 201 classes are from 1pm-4pm August 20; and 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 website to make your arrangements:

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

## **FLY FISHING MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS**

### **PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\* FLY FISHING MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS**

**Bryson City, North Carolina** – 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](mailto: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.

**Bernard "Lefty" Kreh** – Inducted on April 8, 2017 at the Virginia Fly Fishing and Wine Festival in the **Recreation** category for his many contributions to fly fishing as an outdoor writer with 31 books to his credit, innovative fly tyer especially known for his world-renowned Lefty's Deceiver of the late-1950s and as a fly rod designer.

**Mac Brown** – Inducted in the **Recreation** category for his varied contributions to fly fishing as a fly fishing volunteer of many organizations, guide, book author, instructor, coach and for his regional and national leadership in fly fishing competitions.

**Jimmy Jacobs** — Inducted in the **Communications** category as the author of numerous fly fishing books and articles, seminar speaker, and photographer.

**Stephen Edward Moore** — Inducted in the **Conservation** category for his years of dedication to the restoration of brook trout in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and his efforts in the discovery of the Southern strain of brook trout.

**Joe M. Messinger, Sr.**—Inducted in the **Crafts** category as a professional fly tier who is widely recognized for the creativity and wisdom in designing the famed Irresistible pattern as well as other noted creations including the Nitehummer, Messinger Frog or Bucktail Frog, Meadow Frog, Golden Frog, Dogcatcher, Bleeding Bucktail Popper, and Bleeding Hair Frog.

**Starr Nolan** - Inducted in the **Humanity** category for her contributions to fly fishing as a fly fishing volunteer in many organizations, instructor, educator, clinical coach and for her regional and national leadership in the use of fly fishing as a method of therapy for recovering cancer patients.

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](mailto: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/>

If you're looking for some art to decorate your home and would like to help cancer survivors at the same time, check out the art of Jim Hefley. Starr Nolan, the executive director of Casting Carolinas, told us that Jim donates 100% of the proceeds from the sale of his art to their program. He has won a good many awards for his art. He also paints commissions including a painting of your favorite spot on a trout stream or a house portrait. You can see several samples of his art at <http://jimhefley.com/>.



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### **CHAPTER WEBSITE**

The chapter website has been upgraded and revamped with a lot of additional information about our activities. Please check in at [www.hkynctu.org](http://www.hkynctu.org) and look it over. If there is something you would like to see added, please let us know.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:HkyNCTU@gmail.com) for consideration of publication.

### **HICKORY NC TU OFFICERS**

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M-F 08:00 AM-06:00 PM  
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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**