

Hickory NC Trout Unlimited

September 2017 Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Chapter Members... Weather is cooling a bit and people are beginning to talk about fall fishing and the flies they will need to have in their box. Hope you will take part in your chapter events where you will learn more about fly fishing techniques and meet new friends.

Just returned from attending the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians Hall of Fame induction ceremonies where they inducted six worthy individuals who have given so much to promote the sport of fly fishing. A really good event and one of our own had a lot to do with the success. Jackie Greene, Hickory TU, was the event coordinator and did a great job. If you visit Bryson City, please take time to visit the museum.

As school starts this month, Hickory TU will have two new schools joining the Trout in the Classroom program. We welcome University Christian High School and West Alexander Middle School as they join River Bend Middle School in providing their students a wonderful conservation learning experience. Hope you will visit one of the classrooms and see the program in action.

Mark your calendar and buy your tickets for the Hickory TU Reception and F3t Film Tour on Monday, October 23rd at the Salt Block. This is your chapter's annual fund raising event and your support is greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing you at the chapter meeting on Tuesday, September 19th at the Olde Hickory Station. This is a very special evening as we recognize Casting Carolinas for their work with women recovering from cancer.

Thank you for your support of Hickory TU.

Fish Tales... Gary Hogue

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

HAPPINESS IS

A BIG FISH
respectthefish.com
(AND A WITNESS).

NEXT MEETING - NEW VENUE

We are starting our new program year at a new location. Our meetings will now be held at the Old Hickory Station in downtown Hickory. For those wishing to have dinner, please arrive by 5:30. Dinner will be on your own and ordered from the menu. For those wishing to have only a drink, you will be able to order from a large drink menu that includes a host of specialty beers.

When: Tuesday, September 19

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

Program: 5:30 – 6:30 Dinner/ Raffle Ticket Sales
6:30 - 7:30 Guest speaker/ Program... Q&A
7:30 Raffle/ Door Prizes... Conclusion

Speaker: Simmons Welter

The 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. (*All of you UNC and NC State fans need to behave.*) 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*.

FUTURE MEETINGS

October 23rd -- Our regular monthly meeting will be replaced by our annual fund raising program on October 23. Please see details below.

November 21st – The program for the evening is “Pisgah/Nantahala National Forest Management Plan” to be presented by Andy Brown, TU Southern Appalachian Stream Restoration Manager.

TAKE A KID FLY FISHING



National Hunting and Fishing Day is September 23, 2017. You can make a difference this year by becoming a mentor.

DELAYED HARVEST STREAMS

To this point in our newsletters we have covered delayed harvest streams within an hour of Hickory. This month we will reach out a little over an hour and a half to what I like to consider a designer trout stream. Welcome to Mayberry RFD, that is Mount Airy, NC, home of Andy Griffith.



If you hang around a while you just might see a black & white squad car with a red bubble gum light on top. You can charter a tour past

Floyd's Barber Shop and other sights. Just don't misbehave or you may get slapped into the Old Jail at the Visitor's Center. You can also stop by the Siamese Twins Exhibit of Chang and Eng Bunker. The brothers toured with P. T. Barnum in the early 1800s retired and bought a plantation near Mount Airy.

The river we are visiting this month is the Ararat, which flows around the east edge of town. A few years back, this stream was just another unkempt stream that skirted the city of Mount Airy. A few people of vision started a project to turn it into a first class trout stream along a greenway that became a recreational asset to the city. In 2007 a master plan (<http://www.mountairy.org/DocumentCenter/View/238>) was developed that would achieve that dream and on October 6, 2011 the WRC hatchery truck planted the first batch of trout into the new delayed harvest stream. The initial tract of greenway was 2.2 miles along the east side of Mount Airy. This greenway has become so popular with fisherman from around the state and the residents of the city that an additional 2.2 mile stretch was developed downstream and opened in 2016.



Before we begin a tour of the river, let me apologize for the photos this month. The night before I arrived to do the photo shoot they had a huge rainfall. The river was about a foot above normal and very muddy. Normally this is a very clear stream. In addition to that the mowing arm on the city tractor had broken down and there was a jungle of brush growing along the stream.

That made it difficult to get good landscape photos of the river. As you read on, just imagine that normally this is a clear, open, and a beautiful river to fish.

I often refer to this river as a "designer" trout stream. Since they started with basically an old big drainage ditch they had to redesign from scratch to turn it into a trout stream. The people who did that design clearly understood fly fishing. They have done an excellent job of placing wing dams and chutes that cause a laminar flow across the river



and as a result very little mending is needed for your cross stream drifts. The only fault I find with the stream is the difficulty climbing down to the stream. The banks are quite steep and often

slippery or rocky. But that is something I find in almost all of our delayed harvest streams. It would be a good TU project across the state to improve stream access, not only for safety, but also to reduce bank erosion.



There are two access points to the river you can use. The lower access is at Tharrington Park behind the B. H. Harrington Elementary School. Set your GPS to 1630 Spring Street for the school and the park will be down the hill to the right. This access is the lower end of the original 2.2 mile section and is now also at the upper end of the second 2.2 mile stretch of greenway. At the end of the parking area is a bridge that takes you over a drainage area and to the start of the lower greenway.

The lower greenway has just been opened and I've never had the chance to fish it. As I mentioned before, the brush along the river was too thick for a good view, so I don't know how much they have done to enhance the stream. I did talk to a policeman on patrol and he claimed that they

had installed wing dams and other enhancements like in the upper section.

I have fished upstream from the park several times and have caught a lot of fish. One of my favourite spots is a wing dam about 2-300 yards upstream from parking. I've always caught fish there. The photo shows



only a couple rocks, but at normal water levels, it is a complete wing dam. A little farther up is a bridge across the river with a nice chute above it. I have never caught a fish in that chute. Just below the bridge there is a deep hole that stretches for a good ways underneath trees. It's a difficult spot to fish, but I have caught many fish there.

Generally after fishing that stretch of the river I drive upstream to a second access point at Rowe Park at 218 Hamburg Street. This is a great place to have lunch in their picnic area. An easy path behind the restroom and to the right takes you

down to the stream where there are good holes just upstream and along the path downstream all the way to the bridge. Just above and underneath the bridge you'll also find some good fishing. Below the bridge is probably my favorite spot on the whole river.

For a hundred yards downstream there is a deep hole along the bank on the greenway side. This I have found is the best fishing on the river. Access to this section is difficult because of



a steep slope and the hole along the bank. I've found if you walk down the greenway to where the hole ends there is a trail leading in for access and then you can work your way back up stream. There are almost always other fishermen in this stretch, but it's a large area with room for more than one.

There is another access upstream at Pine Street, but the river just does not look very tempting in that area and there is fourth access listed at the very downstream end of the new section that I've never been to. The next time I'm up there fishing I'll probably check out the new lower 2.2 miles just to see what it's like, but at the end of the day I'll probably be back to just below the bridge at Hamburg Street.

It's a bit of a drive, but you really need to check out the Ararat River. It has some great holes that are easy to fish and you never know.....you just might see one of those Mayberry squad cars with the bubble gum machine on top pull into the parking lot while you're having lunch at Rowe Park.



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 - JACKIE GREENE

Jackie Greene is an extremely active member of our Hickory NC TU Chapter. She's been at every meeting I can



recall, serves on our board, and volunteers for Casting Carolinas, Women on the Fly, and the Fly Fishing Museum. She is so active that many of us worry about her, but she seems to love what's she's doing and thrives on it.

Those of you who know her would be surprised to hear that she has only been fly fishing for about two years now. Jackie grew up fishing lakes in Indiana. She has loved fishing all of her life and had always fished with a spinning rod. About seven years ago she bought her trailer that she keeps near the visitor center on Wilson Creek. She fished the creek with her spinning rod until about four years ago when she decided that she would like to learn fly fishing. She hired a guide from Hickory to come up and teach her how to cast. He spent a half a day with her up in the delayed harvest area and in that time she caught six fish. He told her that she didn't need any more lessons, just practice.

That would have been the beginning of her fly fishing adventures, but shortly after she discovered that she had cancer. She went through successful treatment with six surgery locations, chemo, and radiation, but in the process contracted c-diff that is extremely difficult to treat. She was

able to struggle through with it and after a month in the hospital became a cancer survivor. To quote Jackie, "I say that the definition of survivor means" you get to live - so you better." Also in the process of it all, they transplanted a muscle from her back to her chest on the side of her casting arm. At the end of all of this, she was barely able to walk, but was determined to go with her grandchildren to Kids' Day on Wilson Creek on the first Saturday in June when the Delayed Harvest section was opened to Hatchery Supported. She did get there with a walker to watch her grandchildren catch trout. That was in 2015.

She continued to improve and later that year discovered Casting Carolinas. She attended their retreat in October of that year. That retreat made fly fishing her passion, established her devotion to Casting Carolinas, and gave her membership in the newly resurrected Hickory Chapter of TU. Those and other things to have come would absorb her life.

Jackie was so happy with what **Casting Carolinas** had done for her that she became an advocate for the program and took on the role of Program Coordinator. In this role she works with those who will be attending the event to prepare them for what they will need when they arrive.



She is often their only contact before the event and is there to welcome them when they arrive. She has also been an active recruiter for the program and the Hickory area has benefitted with many women attending from our area and most of them becoming active members of our Chapter.

In her efforts to help the graduates of the Casting Carolinas program continue their progress, Jackie became part of the **Women on the Fly** program. This program exists to provide women with links to programs that can help them continue to improve their fly fishing skills and connect with other women to share the experience. Jackie, and her close friend Holly Cole who is also a Casting Carolinas graduate, work closely together as the Hickory Coordinators of the program.

Jackie's official CC title is "Participant Coordinator" but that does not begin to describe her role. She is actively involved in everything we do...from helping to coordinate and fund (and fish in) the "Tie One On" Tournament to working on the Retreat Staff to being one of our best fundraisers. When we go to a fly fishing show we now take a wagon because we know that at the conclusion of the show, Jackie will come back to the booth with a truckload of donations. Not only does she participate in everything, she does it all with a great attitude.. and most of the time, with a smile.
Starr Nolan, Executive Director Casting Carolinas

Shortly after Jackie became active in the Hickory Chapter, the speaker for the month was Alen Baker, the Board Chair of the **Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians**. During his talk Jackie asked if there were any women in the museum. His reply was no, but I'm thinking about doing a Hall of Fame. After the meeting he asked for her email and recruited her the next week. She is now the event

As board chair for the museum, I am extremely proud of all of Jackie's involvement with the museum, Trout Unlimited in Hickory and Casting Carolinas. Jackie has led the Museum Hall of Fame Luncheon event for 2016 and 2017 and plans to be a part of this effort for years to come. She is highly dedicated to the fly fishing community and is passionate about making this a world-class, top-drawer event for those being honored each year. She added the joint fund raiser pre-event by working with the Nantahala Brewery in Bryson City. A beer will temporarily named after each inductee for the day and part of the proceeds will go to Casting Carolinas and the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians. She has made a number of trips to Bryson City to coordinate with the caterer, the Southwestern Community College where we hold the luncheon, the Nantahala Brewery and the museum.

She is also working with the local fly shops, both Rivers Edge Fly Shop in Cherokee and the Tuckaseegee Fly Shop in Bryson City and Sylva to bring the Casting Carolina Fly Fishing Retreat to the area annually. We plan an October 6-7 Fly Fishing Festival with the local fly shops, Fly Fishing International, local Trout Unlimited chapters, Casting Carolinas, Project Healing Waters and the town of Bryson City. One street will be closed for fly fishing and other vendors to setup outside. We will have the Recreation Center on Deep Creek Road setup with the Smoky Mountains Hook and Hackle museum event that includes fly tyers, rod builders and vendors along with seminars conducted by FFI. The Island on the Tuckaseegee River in town will also be the center for a fly fishing tournament and fly fishing seminars. Jackie is deep in the middle of all the planning and a very capable leader of this upcoming event. Those who know her in Hickory can be very, very proud!

Alen Baker, Board Chair

coordinator and there are now two women that have been inducted to the Hall of Fame. No doubt due to Jackie's influence.

In her "spare" time Jackie does do a little fishing. In her short time fishing she has landed two 23.5" trout. The first was a nice brown trout at Wilson Creek in the big hole above the middle bridge. The second was even more impressive. She was fishing in Cherokee and spotted a huge trout. There were three men across the stream who had also spotted it and they were in competition with her to catch it. Jackie not only managed to take the fish away from them, but won a \$50 prize for the biggest fish of the weekend. She and many of her new friends have gotten together on weekends for fly fishing trips to Tennessee and Western North Carolina. I asked her favorite stream and she replied not Wilson Creek, but Fire Creek near Murphy, NC where she had spent one of those weekends.

At Casting Carolinas she was taught some fly tying basics for an egg, squirmy, and woolly bugger. On the way home she stopped at a fly shop and bought a kit and the materials to get started. She ties her basic fishing flies, but still buys



the more difficult ones. Her favorite go to fly is the bead head prince nymph. She says it always seems to work for her.

As for the Hickory Chapter she says what they do best is to welcome the women and make them feel part of the group.



She says she has spoken with women from other locations that have had a very different experience. Jackie has taken the director role for **Women in TU** and has helped organize

several women's events including fly casting in the park, Wine, Women, and Waders event last fall at Wilson Creek, and a recent group trip to the Ledges in Tennessee. She is very happy with what the Chapter has done over the past year with the increasing women's activities. In the coming year she would like to see us expand that to make it more of a family organization.

The next big event in her fly fishing experience is coming up this September. She and a group of friends are heading to Montana for three days of float fishing and then a few more days of wading on their own. They will be staying at the Chico Hot Springs Resort and Day Spa. I'll end the profile there before I continue to comment and get myself in trouble.

Everyone needs to say thank-you to Jackie and let her know how much they appreciate all she has done for fly fishing and for our chapter.

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.

During the reception 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.

Tickets can be purchased on our website at www.hkynctu.org or at Casters Fly Shop.

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.

TIP OF THE MONTH

The right rod for the right job:

1-4: sunfish and small trout, small streams

4-6: general trout, larger streams and rivers

6-8: bass, carp, light steelhead, salmon. and saltwater

8-10: winter steelhead, salmon, and saltwater

10-14: big game

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.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

The new year of Trout In The Classroom begins in September. Riverbend Middle School will try to repeat their very successful program done last year and this year they will have competition with two new schools that have joined the program. Hickory TU has provided grants to West Alexander Middle School and University Christian High

School to become part of the program. "Egg laying" has been scheduled for Thursday, September 21st. You are welcome to join in the kick off ceremony. Watch our Facebook page for details. We will have group pictures in the October newsletter.

TU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

Check out <https://www.meetup.com/WomenOnTheFly/> for the latest women's events.

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 to reserve your spot in the next class.

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

The Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians Hall of Fame second class of inductees were recognized at the annual museum luncheon event. The second annual Museum Hall of Fame inductions on August 26, 2017. The Museum seeks to recognize those who have made outstanding and unique contributions to the art, science and sport of fly fishing.

The 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.



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://castingcarlinas.com/community/volunteer/>

TENKARA JAM 2017

Saturday September 30 & Sunday October 1 at Appalachian State University. For details visit www.tenkarajam.com.

CHAPTER WEBSITE

The chapter website has been upgraded and revamped with a lot of additional information about our activities, past newsletters, interesting links and much more. Please check in at 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 chapter 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 032
2425 N. Center Street #183
Hickory, NC 28601-1320

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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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**

