

# Hickory NC Trout Unlimited

## July 2018 Newsletter



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### A LINE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our president, Zan Thompson, is on vacation for most of June so is unable to send you his monthly greetings. Vacation isn't exactly the right word since a lot of his vacation is traveling around displaying his watercolor art that he is trying to develop into a retirement business. If you'd like to check it out you can visit his website at [www.zanthompson.com](http://www.zanthompson.com).

There has been a lot of discussion on the Trout Unlimited forum about meeting attendance. To give you an example, we are a very typical chapter with over 200 members, but only about 20-25 at our monthly meetings. This is not unique to TU as many organizations today are experiencing the low attendance rates at a time when everyone seems to be too busy with their own lives to take time out to attend meetings.

Right now our chapter is on summer break and the next meeting will be in September. The board, however, is busy working to develop programs for the next year. We would love to hear from all of you on what can be done to improve that attendance rate. Please drop us a line at [hkynctu@gmail.com](mailto:hkynctu@gmail.com) and let us know what types of programs would encourage you to attend and if there is a better time that would allow you to attend.

And for the rest of the summer, get up to the mountains and fish some of those wild trout streams up in the mountains. It's a great time to leave those waders at home and do a little wet wading.

See you in September

### NEXT MEETING

We're now on a summer break and the next meeting will be September 18.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

There are two time honoured angling rules:

- 1) Aesthetics are a major part of fishing. That is, the peace, quiet, and solitude, are at least as important as the fish. Maybe even more so. And:
- 2) When the trout are big enough, rule one can be temporarily suspended.  
.....John Gierach



### HICKORY NC TU LOGO GEAR

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

We now have a second option for logo gear that Zan's wife Peggy has set us up with. Check out the following website: [www.companycasuals.com/hickorytrout/start.jsp](http://www.companycasuals.com/hickorytrout/start.jsp)

## Tight Lines & Road Kill

By Dr. Joel Miller

*Size matters! Yep, like it or not. And it may be THE most important factor!*

I'm talking about fly size, not what you might have thought. Presenting the right size fly, in my mind, is one of the most important elements in bringing trout to the net.

Now, first, let me back off from that assertion just a bit and say it matters most only in certain places. In most of our streams where we don't get huge, blanket hatches with literally millions of natural bugs of precisely the same size, shape, and color, and where most of what we're trying to catch was raised in a concrete tank, the dictum is not nearly as sound. On most of our streams, a sulfur hatch in the spring means we see several or lots of sulfurs, not millions. If they are size 16 bugs, I bet a size 14 parachute Adams presented properly will work just fine.

But go to one of our great tailwater fisheries or a lot of the large streams in the West, and you won't get away with that discrepancy. I remember a couple hours on the White River in northwest Colorado when there were literally millions of size 18 blue wing olives that covered the water. I caught lots of big fish on a size 18 BWO. I bet a size 18 Adams would have worked but toss a size 14 anything and you might as well sit on the bank and have lunch. I recall another time on Soda Butte Creek in Yellowstone when there was a huge hatch of very tiny black midges. I stood in

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one spot and caught 10 large Yellowstone cutthroats in less than an hour on a size 26 black midge on 7x tippet! Having that much fun surely must be immoral or at least illegal!

A trout has a tiny brain, about the size of a small pea. He remembers what he saw and ate a minute ago but not what he did yesterday! When a size 18 BWO is imprinted in his brain, he doesn't recall how good the hopper he ate yesterday was. In his mind all he eats is BWOs!

Lots of anglers disagree. Many cite stories about catching fish during a hatch of small mayflies on a big, ugly whatever. Rules have exceptions, but rules will be rules more often than not. Follow the rules, catch more fish!

Nonetheless, people complain about fishing small flies. The two objections I hear most are that they can't see small flies, or they can't tie them.

There are two simple ways to fix the first complaint. One is to use parachute patterns with a white or hi-viz yellow or orange post. Up to size 18 or 20, this works pretty well. Size 26 dark flies are a totally different matter, however, but also have a simple solution. Tie on something big that you can see from the next county. Then, at the end of 18 to 20 inches of small tippet coming off the bend of the large fly, tie your tiny fly. When you see a rise anywhere near the big fly, set the hook. It ain't brain surgery!

Problem #2, tying them. It's really not that difficult. First, you need to realize you don't have to tie as much detail in a size 26 as you do in a 16. If you use simpler patterns that are much easier to tie, even a 26 is doable by most tiers.

The first tactic is to omit wings or wing posts. Tie in a sparse tail, use tying thread or the thinnest of a dubbing noodle for the abdomen, and then use the appropriate size hackle for three or four turns. Whip finish and you're done. Works well down to size 26.

Below are videos for three similar techniques that also work well for small sizes. Craig Matthews does one of them and the other two cite him. Craig is one of my heroes. He owns Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone, MT. He's an innovative fly tier, has written extensively about fishing in and around Yellowstone, and is just a prince of a gentleman. If you're in the area, drop in just to watch him tie or talk to him; he is always very gracious. These three patterns are fairly easy to tie in small sizes and they work. Try them.

Sparkle Dun: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULAY2Bged7o>

Zelon Musk Midge: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOU8ttljgEY>

Matthews' Zelon Midge: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEWOhyvJL\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEWOhyvJL_g)

So, next time you're faced with a blanket hatch of tiny flies, don't be afraid to show off your diminutive assets.

They may be more impressive than you expect. Tight lines ... tiny tippets!

Joel Miller

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## JULY FLY PATTERNS

Reprinted from Carolina Sportsman magazine

Fishing generally slows down this time of the year, and trout become more selective. Best dry-fly fishing occurs during early morning and late evening. Nymphs work best fished deep during the middle of the day.



Suggested dry-fly patterns are No. 20-18 crème or yellow Midge, No. 10 Giant Yellow Mayfly, No. 10 Black Quill and No. 12 Adams. In addition to terrestrial patterns, recommended nymph patterns are No. 10-8 Brown Stone, No. 10 Cahill, No. 10 Secret Weapon, No. 10 Sheep Fly, and No. 12-10 Pheasant Tail.

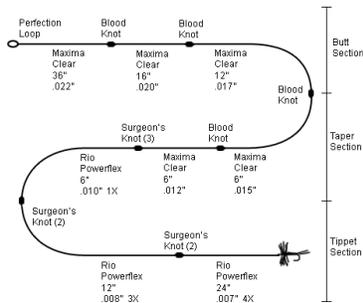
## TYING YOUR OWN LEADERS

I fish almost entirely with nymphs here in NC. For nymph fishing fluorocarbon is recommended for many reasons. (If you did not read the comparison of Nylon to Fluorocarbon last month, I recommend that you do before you read this article.) The primary reasons are that it sinks faster than nylon and it is less visible in water. But it is also very expensive. A 9' tapered leader can cost you as much as \$12 and if you tie flies like me, the leaders are probably your biggest annual cost. For that reason I began tying my own a few months ago. I didn't really research it, I just started tying a 5' 0X fluoro piece of tippet to the fly line and then attaching a 4' piece of 3x to 5x piece of fluoro tippet to that with a surgeons knot. It worked fairly well for me and only cost about \$1.40. But then a couple months ago I decided I should investigate a little further and became mired in one of the most complicated fly fishing issues I have tackled.

When you think about it, why do we even use tapered leaders. Why not just put a straight piece of leader between the fly line and the fly? There is a double reason for this. The casting process requires you to generate power through the rod and into the fly line that carries through the leader and eventually to the fly to create a full extension of the line to the point where you want the fly to land. If the leader is too small a diameter it won't be able to carry that power out to the fly. The other issue is that if the leader is a large enough diameter to carry the power to the fly, it will be too large to get it through the eye of the hook. Thus we need to start with the large diameter and end with a small diameter and thus a tapered leader. The process of tying your own tapered leaders to save money has been around for many years and perhaps even started earlier when tapered leaders were not available. There are formulas for tying these leaders and if you explore the internet, you will find hundreds of them. Let me preface this article by saying I

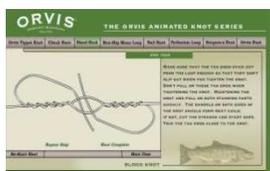
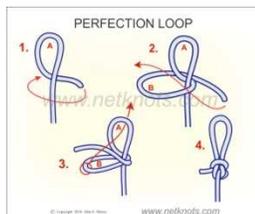
have not spent enough time to refute these formulas, but I have fished enough to dispute some of the basic ideas.

A typical formula for a 9 ft 4x leader might look like the line in this drawing. I'm sure that the people who developed formulas like this did some thorough research and were not just trying to sell you a whole bunch of line spools, but over the years I have found that if there is a knot in my leader, I'm going to get a tangle, and note that this formula has seven blood knots between the fly line and the fly and each blood knot has two tag ends to catch on. And have you ever tried to tie a blood knot? More on that later.



So based on my relatively good experience with my two piece 0X/3-5X leader, I decided to try using a three piece leader and then tying on the tippet I'd be using for the fly. One thing I discovered in reading through a myriad of material is that each piece should be approximately 2/3 of the diameter of the previous piece. The section that connects to the fly line is called the butt section and should be about 2/3 the diameter of the fly line. (See the table at the end of this article) Most of us fish 5 wt rods and matching fly line. A 5 wt line is approximately .040" diameter and 2/3 of that is approximately .026". The closest mono line to that size is 30# line at .024" diameter. The next piece would be 2/3x.024" or .016" diameter or a 20# line which is .015" diameter and the third piece 2/3x.015" or .010" diameter. Here you could use 10# spooled or 1X tippet which are both .010" diameter. I tried this and felt the 30# line seemed a bit stiff so started with 20# line. Using the 2/3 rule, that gave me a leader of 20#, 10#, and 5#. Again, based on a lot of reading, I settled on lengths of the butt section of 4' and each of the other sections 2'. Add to that 2' of your final tippet and you have a 10' rig.

The initial knot at the butt end should be a perfection loop shown at right. The additional knots can be tied with a surgeons loop, but are better tied with a blood knot. A surgeons knot will tie the two pieces together at a slight angle, however, the blood knot will create a straight line between the pieces. If you have never



tied a blood knot before, you're going to find this one of the most difficult knots you've ever tied. When I started I was able to do it by hand with great difficulty, but not every time. If you will be tying your own leaders now, it is best to invest in a tying tool. I purchased the Dennison blood knot tool and it has been worth all of the \$12 it cost me. You can see how this works by visiting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9RMpiAcsy0>.

I've often read articles that tell you to leave a bit of tag end on your knots to help keep them from coming untied. I say **absolutely not** with blood knots in your leaders. I have found that the slightest tag causes snags and remember you have two tags in each knot. Trim them as close as you can.



Once you have tied up the leader, you need to attach your tippet to it. It is recommended that you tie on a tippet ring at the end of your leader. This seems silly to put a piece of metal in the line if you are dry fly fishing, but the rings are so small and light that they float on the surface tension of the water.

If you tie your tippet directly to the leader, each time you replace it you will be shortening the leader and will have to replace it as it gets too short. By using a tippet ring, you only have to snip off the tippet at the ring and add new tippet without affecting the leader. Also, when you get your fly snagged, it will generally snap at the tippet ring and you will not lose your whole rig. In my trials I found this to be a great asset. I have found two issues with tying tippet rings. The first is when tying it to the leader, do not take it off the gizmo they come on. This may be a safety pin, swivel, or something else. These are so small that once you take it off you are likely to drop it and it will be gone forever. Tie it to the next ring to come off the spool and then remove it. The second issue I have had with tippet rings is that they have a highly polished surface and my tippet knots slip out. I've found if you pass the line through twice before tying the knot it holds much better.

Should you tie the line with nylon or fluorocarbon? Logic would tell you that if you are dry fly fishing you would tie your leader and tippet as nylon which floats better and tie your nymph leaders with fluorocarbon which sinks better. The article in the last newsletter comparing the two materials tells you that's not quite as true as it would seem. Here is my logic. Tie the butt section with nylon. Since nylon has a better tendency to float, it is less likely to pull your fly line under water and since it is a distance from your fly it is not likely to spook the fish. Beyond that point I would suggest nylon for dry flies and fluorocarbon for nymphs. But.... I recently learned from Joel Miller (our Tight Lines and ROAD KILL writer) that if you lay nylon and fluoro on the water the nylon will cast a shadow while the fluoro does not. That tells me that it is likely that the fish will see the nylon line. I tested my tied leader using fluorocarbon tippet for dry fly fishing and found that it did not sink my fly. You may want to give this a try.

So how much can you save by tying your own leaders? As stated above, the 9' tapered fluorocarbon leaders cost \$12 each and the tapered nylon cost \$4. If you use spooled nylon to build your leaders, it is about a penny a foot, fluoro about eight cents per foot. If you use spooled tippet for your fluorocarbon it costs about fifteen cents on the 30M spool,

but you can buy a 100M spool that is only about twelve cents per foot. That means you can build a 9' all nylon leader for about \$0.09 versus \$4 and a fluoro for as little as \$0.72 versus \$12. If you use a half dozen leaders a year that's a big savings.

If all of this seems like a lot of work, here is another suggestion. If you fish mainly smaller trout, buy a 9' 5X leader and trim off a couple feet of it. That will get you back to a more substantial strength. Tie on a tippet ring and then tie on your tippet. This should give you a much longer life with your leaders and save you a substantial amount.

To sum it all up, Here is what I have recommended for rod weights from 3 through 6. :

**For a 9' leader equivalent: 4' of 20# nylon, 2' of 10#, 2' of 5#, tippet ring, your choice of tippet**

**For a 7.5' leader equivalent: 3.5' of 20# nylon, 1.5' of 10#, 1.5' of 5#, tippet ring, your choice of tippet**

**(the second and third pieces can be nylon or fluorocarbon depending on the type of fishing.**

As I mentioned early in this article, this is all quite new to me and I've still got some experimentation to do to confirm to myself this is the ideal combination. I'd love to hear from others of you have been tying your own leaders or who begin with using this article as a plan. Below are some charts that will help you to do some of your own tinkering with line sizes. Remember these diameters are approximate and can vary by company and line style.

Tippet Diameter	Tippet Size	Pound Test*	Fly Size
0.003	8x	1.2	24,26,28
0.004	7x	2	20,22,24,26
0.005	6x	3	16,18,20,22
0.006	5x	4	14,16,18
0.007	4x	5	12,14,16
0.008	3x	6	10,12,14
0.009	2x	7	6,8,10
0.01	1x	8.5	2,4,6
0.011	0x	10	1/0,2,4
0.012	x1	12	2/0,1/0,2
0.013	x2	14	3/0,2/0,1/0,2
0.014	x3	16	5/0,4/0,3/0,2/0
0.015	x4	18	6/0,5/0,4/0,3/0

## TIP OF THE MONTH

### FIFTY FLY FISHING TIPS:

#### #2 FISH ALL TYPES OF FLIES

By Domenick Swentosky

The ultimate convenience and utility of fly fishing is in the way you can meet fish on any terms they dictate. With a fly rod in hand, you may deliver flies that are light or heavy, flies as large as your palm or smaller than the freckles on your hand. You can fish flies on the surface, the rocky bottom, or the middle of the water column, and you can fish them dead drift, swung or stripped. Yeah, the fly rod is a Swiss Army knife.

With all that versatility, an ambitious angler can find a fly and a matching technique to fool trout on any given day.

So, why not learn to use each tool available?

Success in my early years of trout fishing was dependent on the fish themselves. If they weren't interested in my live minnows or red worms, then action was slow. And there were noticeable times (even to a ten year old boy) when live minnows seemed a futile approach. Indeed, my interest in fly fishing was spawned the day I waded past hundreds of rising trout, desperately slinging strung minnows through a mayfly a hatch, my hope vanishing with every step. I knew I needed a fly rod and dry flies to match those surface insects and fool the trout.

Like many anglers new to fly fishing, I assumed that dry flies were the best way to make use of a fly rod. To be honest, I didn't even know that nymphs were a thing for a couple years. So imagine my surprise one day, when I walked into a fly shop and came out ten minutes later with a box of nymphs in one hand, scratching my head with the other.

"How do I catch the fish I can see on the bottom," I'd asked. "They won't take my flies."

"Fish nymphs," the shop owner told me. And he graciously passed the keys to my next steps as angler. (Read: Learn the Nymph <https://troutbitten.com/2018/03/01/fly-fishing-strategies-learn-nymph/>)

I like to focus on one thing at a time, so I spent many trout-obsessed years, streamside, learning each type of fly, fishing one way and rarely deviating, no matter the conditions. Dries, nymphs, streamers, then wets — eventually, I gained confidence with every fly in my box, learning that each has a time and place for success.

Modern Size	Old Size	Weight Range(Gr)	DT	WF	Level	MM - OD	IN - OD
1	TBD	54 - 66	--	--	I	0.56	.022
2	TBD	74 - 86	--	--	H	0.63	.025
3	TBD	94 - 106	IFI	IFG	G	0.76	.030
4	TBD	114 - 126	HFH	HFG	F	0.89	.035
5	3/2	134 - 146	HEH	HEG	E	1.02	.040
6	TBD	152 - 168	HDH	HDG	D	1.14	.045
7	TBD	177 - 193	HCH	HCF	C	1.27	.050
8	TBD	202 - 218	GBG	GBF	B	1.40	.055
9	TBD	230 - 250	GAG	GAF	A	1.52	.060
10	TBD	270-290	G2AG	G2AF	2A	1.65	.066
11	TBD	318-342	G3AG	G3AF	3A	1.78	.070
12	TBD	368-392	G4AG	G4AF	4A	1.91	.073

LB Test	Mono Equiv.	Diameter
10	1 LB	0.10
15	2 LB	0.12
20	3 LB	0.15
25	5 LB	0.20
30	7 LB	0.24
40	9 LB	0.30
50	11 LB	0.34
60	15 LB	0.36
80	18 LB	0.38
100	20 LB	0.50
150	30 LB	0.58

I won't every angler to make full use of the fly rod. It's a big, deep speculate in what order you should learn things, or how you should learn them. That's your own process to discover. I just encourage bag of tools.

Enjoy the day.  
Domenick Swentosky  
TROUTBITTEN  
domenick@troutbitten.com

Say welcome to Gary Hogue this month. Gary plans to begin a monthly column to make us all better fly casters. He has been an outdoor educator for over 35 years working as a guide, outfitter and fly casting instructor for various groups including the YMCA, American Camping Association and Sierra Club. Locally, he has started Fish Tales an instructional program in fly casting and fly fishing.

## FLY CASTING ESSENTIALS...CATCH MORE FISH

By Gary Hogue

Joan Wulff, world renowned fly casting instructor, made a statement that has stuck with me and as a teacher of fly casting has proven to be true over and over again. She said, "If you don't know where the fish lie but can cast well enough to cover all the water with finesse, you are likely to solve the mystery and catch fish. If you know where the fish lie but can neither reach them nor present the fly naturally, you are not even in the game."

One of the major obstacles that stops beginners from entering and enjoying the sport of fly fishing is their lack of casting ability. Bill and Jay Gammel combined their years of casting experience and wrote the booklet "The Essentials of Fly Casting" in 1990 that has proven to be the thread that ties all good casters together. If all of the following essentials are properly executed, good casting will be the result; if all the essentials are not correctly executed, you cannot be a complete caster.

The five essentials are:

1. There must be a pause at the end of each stroke, which varies in duration with the amount of line beyond the rod tip.
2. Slack line should be kept to an absolute minimum.
3. In order to form the most efficient, least air resistant loops, and to direct the energy of the fly toward a specific target, the caster must move the rod tip in a straight line.
4. The size of the casting arc must vary with the length of line past the rod tip.
5. Power must be applied in the proper amount at the proper place in the stroke.

Understanding the essentials of good fly casting will enable you to achieve the proper loading and unloading of the rod, which should be the goal of every fly caster. The correct loading and unloading of the rod allows you to first store energy in the rod and then transmit it to the fly line in the most efficient manner.

You never stop learning in fly fishing and that is what makes the sport so enjoyable. If you would like more information on fly casting or casting classes, please let Hickory TU know of your wishes.

Fish Tales... Gary

If you have an interest in becoming a better fly caster you can also find several books on the subject in the chapter library. Just go to <http://www.hkynctu.org/library/> and look under the INSTRUCTIONAL category.

## MOUNTAIN TROUT REGULATIONS

We've talked a lot about getting to the mountains to fish this summer in the streams that are high enough to support trout the year around. As you move away from Delayed Harvest streams there are several different sets of regulations you have to be aware of. The included image shows you the signs that are posted. If there is no posted sign the rule is no size or lure restrictions, no closed season, and a creel limit of seven. Notice that there are two Catch and Release designations, the difference is one allows lures and the other allows trout flies only. I was a little confused regarding the term trout flies so I reached out to the NCWRC. They confirmed that squirmy, Y2K, mop flies, etc. are considered trout flies as long as they are tied with a single hook.



These signs are difficult to read in the photo, so before you head out, check out the official regulations at the following website.

<http://ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Regs/Documents/Mountain-Trout.pdf>

## RIVERCOURSE 2018

The 2018 Rivercourse Youth Camp was held this past month. Jackie Greene attended the program as a volunteer this year and sent in the following report and photos.

Another Rivercourse has come and gone but it was a huge success for the kids. Hickory TU sponsored 4 youth from our area, 2 boys and 2 girls. They all were Immensely happy with the program and learned a huge amount about conservation and fly fishing. If you would like to hear about it in more detail, they will be sharing their experience at a future TU meeting. So please check your newsletter for that upcoming event.



For more information about Rivercourse Youth Camp you can visit this website or contact Jackie Greene [jackiefishes@gmail.com](mailto:jackiefishes@gmail.com)

## CHAPTER LIBRARY

We have created a Hickory Chapter library of fly fishing books. The listing is available on the Chapter website at <http://www.hkynctu.org/library/>. You will make your withdrawal request on the website and then pick up and return your books at the Chapter meetings. We will initially start with book donations from our members and if the activity warrants it we may purchase additional books. Susan Anderson has graciously agreed to serve as our Chapter Librarian. If you have any books that you would like to lend or donate to the library, please bring them to the chapter meeting. Please indicate in the book whether you are donating or loaning it to the library.

## EAGLE ROCK CAMP

Eagle Rock Camp is dedicated to support veteran families. If you would like to learn more about Eagle Rock Camp or make a donation, you can visit their website at <http://www.eaglerockcamp.org/>

## CASTING CAROLINAS

**FALL RETREAT.** Casting Carolinas is now taking applications for our October 5-7 retreat at Lake Logan Center. Open to and *entirely free* for women surviving cancer in the Carolinas (with a few spots for those outside the region). Make initial application at:

[www.castingcarolinas.com](http://www.castingcarolinas.com).

**TOURNAMENT.** Come Tie One On with us! October 27 in Cherokee. We're filling up fast! in Pro, Amateur and Alum Divisions

Register: <https://castingcarolinas.com/tournament/>

More info: Contact Tournament Director Josh Garriss: [josh@castingcarolinas.com](mailto:josh@castingcarolinas.com)

**VOLUNTEER.** Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. To sign up to help with their programs:

<https://castingcarolinas.com/community/volunteer/>

## GRANDPARENTS TROUT FISHING DAY



In celebration of National Grandparents Day and State Parks' 2018 theme of Fishing Fun, we invite the senior anglers to bring out their grandkids and try trout fishing together. Have you ever wanted to try

fishing but don't want to invest in all the equipment? You can borrow ours! Meet a ranger down at the Riverwalk Trail behind the Old Rock Cafe to learn the basics of fishing and try your hand at pulling some trout out of the Rocky Broad River. All supplies will be provided. All ages welcome.

**Date:** Sunday, September 9, 2018 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm

**Start Location:** Old Rock Cafe

## CHAPTER WEBSITE

There have been a couple additions to the website this month you may find of interest.

Under the Helpful Links main tab you will now find a subpage that has links to videos from the Orvis Guide to Fly Fishing by Tom Rosenbauer. <http://www.hkynctu.org/helpful-links/> Enjoy!

Basics Of Fly Fishing  
Dry Fly Fishing For Trout  
Reading The Water  
Fly Fishing On Moving Water  
Dry Flies And Emergers  
Using Wet Flies And Nymphs

Wet Flies vesves Nymphs  
Streamer Fly Fishing  
Stillwater Fly Fishing For Trout  
Small Stream Fly Fishing

Under the ENVIRONMENT <http://www.hkynctu.org/environment/> tab you will find videos of the National Fish Passage Program that is being implemented here in NC and across the nation.

Our local TU representative Andy Brown is seeking volunteers to help identify fish passage barriers at stream and road intersections in the Wilson Creek Wild and Scenic River watershed that need to be replaced with fish friendly stream crossings. The intensity of this volunteer commitment is fairly high over the next few years but Andy promises that it will be well worth it. Please call or email Andy if interested: [abrown@tu.org](mailto:abrown@tu.org); (828) 674-106.

### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS INVITED

I'm sure many of you will be taking trips to Montana, Alaska, or many other places this summer. Take some great photos, put some words to it and submit it to the newsletter. You're adventure may inspire others to start planning their own trip for next year. Send it to us at [HkyNCTU@gmail.com](mailto:HkyNCTU@gmail.com) for consideration of publication.

### BIGGEST FISH CONTEST WINNER FOR JUNE



Chick Woodward introduced Mike Reott as the monthly biggest fish prize winner while Mark Scruggs awarded him a free steak dinner.

Our prize winner this month won the contest not only for the biggest trout submitted, but also for one of the best stories. Mike Reott is a newcomer to fly fishing and has been at it for less than a year. He got his start with a fly rod given to him by a friend and an inexpensive reel from a fly shop. To top all of that, he caught this fish on a black and white caddis that he received as a joining gift with TU.



He is in the process of trying to retire from his dentistry practice and has purchased an RV that he hopes to drive

around the country to do some trout fishing. Fortunately for Mike, his wife also enjoys trout fishing so he may have a good chance of achieving his goal. Congratulations Mike!!

### THE CONTEST RULES

Our host at The Peddler Steakhouse, Mark Scruggs, has graciously agreed to award a steak dinner at the montly meeting for the largest trout caught. Here's how the contest works:

- The fish must be caught in the period between meetings.
- The fish must have been caught in North Carolina on a public stream.
- You must measure your fish and report it to the nearest ¼ inch, not just guess at the size.
- Submit a photo of you and your fish to [hkynctu@gmail.com](mailto:hkynctu@gmail.com). Include the length of the fish, where it was caught, what you caught it on, and any other information about the catch you think is interesting.
- The selection will be made the Sunday before the monthly meeting and you will be notified if you are the winner.
- The winner must attend the meeting to receive the award.
- In case of a tie the winner will be determined by "rock, paper, scissors" at the meeting.

Photos of fish will be posted in the monthly newsletter. A photo of the winning fish and fisherman will be on display at the restaurant.

### PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

Jackie Greene works very hard on several causes. She is our chapter vice president and also volunteers for Casting Carolinas and the Southern Appalachian Fly Fishing Museum in Bryson City. As a result of her efforts a friend took her to some special waters near Bakersville where she caught these two monsters and several other big fish. She deserved a little "me" time and a chance for this treat. Best wishes Jackie.



### 2018 FLY FISHING HALL OF FAME



The candidates for 2018 are

**Jim Dean** — Inducted in the Communications category as

the editor of Wildlife in NC for many years, the author of numerous outdoor articles and books, and an outdoor photographer.

**Curtis Fleming** – Inducted in the Recreation category for his varied contributions to fly fishing as a fly fishing volunteer, fly fishing educator. Fly fishing guide, and “Reality Fly Fishing” TV celebrity. A West Virginia fly fisherman, Fleming is the host for more than fifteen seasons of the globally televised Fly Rod Chronicles.

**Kevin Howell** —Inducted in the Crafts category as a professional fly tier who is widely recognized for the creativity and wisdom in designing the famed Hot Creek Special, Trip Maker, Trip Saver as well as other noted creations. Kevin is the owner of Davidson River Outfitters and continues the family legacy of his father Don R. Howell and uncle Dwight Howell.

**Sandy Schenk** — Inducted in the Conservation category for his many years of dedication to teaching kids about the outdoors and preserving the land. He founded Muddy Sneakers - “teaching children the joy of learning outside” and he is the founder and executive director of Green River Preserve summer camp where he put 2,600 acres of Green River Preserve in a conservation easement, preserving the land for perpetuity.

**Joyce Shepherd** - Inducted in the Humanity category for her contributions to fly fishing as a volunteer of organizations that “give back” - helping others recover from personal challenges, as a fly casting instructor, and for her leadership in NCWF, NCTU, RRTU and Casting Carolinas.

Third Annual Museum Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon at The Old Almond School Gym on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM Meet and Greet, Lunch at Noon, Inductions at 1PM. For reservations contact For reservations call 828-488-3681.

## THE HICKORY CHAPTER NEEDS YOU



The revived Hickory Chapter has now been back in existence for almost three years. Many terms on the board of directors are retiring soon and we need new members to step up and help continue our programs to keep the chapter going. If you would like to help out as either an officer of volunteer, please contact president Zan Thompson at [HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com](mailto:HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com).

## HICKORY NC TU OFFICERS



Zan Thompson... Pres

[HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com](mailto:HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com)

Jackie Greene... Veep

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Holly Cole...Sec

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Gerry Johnson... Trea

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Chick Woodward...Newsletter

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Trout in the Classroom

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

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



[www.castersonlineflyshop.com](http://www.castersonlineflyshop.com)

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# ANGLER SCIENTISTS NEEDED



**TROUT UNLIMITED (www.tu.org) in the Southern Appalachians is developing teams of volunteers to collect data in-the-field that are essential to quality management and conservation of our region's coldwater fisheries.**

## Our Needs: Volunteers and Funding

- What is your level of interest? How much time can you commit? What are your physical capabilities? **See matrix below to find your fit. All capabilities welcome.**
- **Consider a financial contribution** to help with volunteer training, coordination of the project, data management, travel, equipment and treating our volunteers well. **Our goal is \$75K for a 3+ year project.**
- **You do not have to be an angler or TU member to participate. Must be 16 or older unless accompanied by adult.**



VOLUNTEER DETAILS	Types of Surveys & Assessments			
	Fish Passage Barrier Assessments	Sedimentation Surveys	Water Quality Sampling Temperature Collection	Didymo Sampling
<b>Teams: Our Goal</b> <b>Teams: Members Needed</b>	4 teams in NC; 1 team in TN 3 to 4 people per team	6 teams in NC; 1 team in TN 2+ people per team	6 teams in NC 2+ people per team	One sample per person 60 people in NC & TN
<b>Commitment Level</b>	<b>Very High</b> - 5 to 7 full field days per year; Some overnight possible; Multi Year commitment desired but not required.	<b>Moderate</b> - 2 to 3 full field days per year; One Year commitment desired but not required.	<b>Low to Moderate</b> - Monthly or quarterly samples and data downloads of data loggers	<b>Low</b> - 1 sample per person; can be taken anytime and even during a recreational outing
<b>Training Requirement</b>	1 full day to 1 1/2 day	4 hours	1 hour	1 hour
<b>Physical Requirements</b>	<b>Strenuous</b> ; Some long days and possible long hikes, sometimes in adverse weather	<b>Strenuous</b> ; Some long backcountry hikes necessary, sometimes in adverse weather	<b>Easy - Moderate</b> ; Most sites easily accessible by car; Minimal hiking required though must be capable of accessing stream	<b>Easy - Moderate</b> ; Samples must be taken in-stream requiring physical capacity to access
<b>Compensation</b> <i>(What we can provide in return for your service)</i>	Mileage Reimbursement Lodging/Meals Official Team Clothing (Full Gear) End of Year Celebration Special Perks	Mileage reimbursement Official Team Clothing (1 item) End of Year Celebration	Mileage stipend TU Hat or T-Shirt End of Year Celebration	End of Year Celebration



## Our Intentions: Our work is to be Meaningful, of High Quality, and Fun

- Volunteer-collected **data will lead directly to on-the-ground land management & conservation plans and activities.**
- **Resource and science professionals from TU, US Forest Service, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and academic institutions** will help provide structure for assessments - participating in trainings and some fieldwork.
- Surveys will be performed by teams of 2 to 4 people - providing **refreshment, camaraderie and connection with the outdoors.**



## Our Geographic Focal Areas for 2018 & 2019: NC & TN

- North Carolina - 1) **'Sky Island'** - headwaters of the Upper Tuckesegee, Upper Pigeon, Upper French Broad including Davidson and Mills Rivers. 2) **Wilson Creek Wild and Scenic River Watershed** - from confluence with Johns River upstream to source waters.
- Tennessee - **Upper Doe River Watershed** - from Roan Mountain State Park upstream to source waters.



**Please call or email and include the type of assessment and geographic focal area most appealing to you.**  
**Send checks to attention of Andy at address below, made payable to Trout Unlimited and include notation: 'for angler science program'.**

## TROUT UNLIMITED SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM CONTACT

Andy Brown, TU Coldwater Conservation Manager for the Southern Appalachians  
(828) 674-1067; abrown@tu.org; 160 Zillicoa Street, Asheville NC 28801