

# Hickory NC Trout Unlimited

## November 2018 Newsletter



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### A LINE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I was pondering what this month's article might be about, my mind kept wandering to an upcoming tournament that I was fishing in Cherokee that weekend. My friend Eveleen Randal and I teamed up to Fish the Tie on One Team Challenge for Casting Carolinas. 30 teams, Pros, Amateurs, and Alumni. We had named our team The Hotflash Hellbenders. When someone asked me "what's a Hellbender?" I couldn't give much of a description except to say a large salamander that lives in the river. So I decided to find out more about this elusive creature. I say elusive because I've never seen one in the wild before. They are known to be in the Pisgah National Forest, but what about Wilson Creek?

Hellbenders are North America's largest Salamanders and have many nicknames, why the nicknames, I don't know Hellbender seems like a cool name to me. You may have heard them called Mud Puppies but that is incorrect. A MudPuppy (also a cool name) although similar is a different species only grow to be about 13 inches. Hellbenders also called Lasagna Lizards, water dogs, snot otters, devil dogs, mud dogs, grampus and Allegheny Alligators grow to be 2 feet long and weigh as much as 4 pounds.

Hellbenders breathe through their skin. They do have lungs but they are used for buoyancy control and not for breathing. For this reason, they need cold oxygen-rich fresh water to live. It takes 5 to 8 years for a Hellbender to reach sexual maturity and live up to 30 years in the wild. Crayfish make up about 90% of their diet and it is supplemented by worms, insects and small fish and smaller hellbenders.

Hellbenders can see with their whole bodies. They have tiny eyes on top of their flat heads that detect light but not images very well. What they do have is light-sensitive cells all over their bodies. It's their sharp sense of smell and vibration that help them to hunt.

There are 2 species of Hellbenders living in the US. They range from Alabama to New York. The species are The Eastern Hellbender and the Ozark Hellbender. A study done in the Ozarks by Jeff Briggler found that Hellbenders were quickly disappearing. About 50 years ago there were 28 to 30 thousand Ozark Hellbenders in the wild. In 2006 the number had dwindled to only 1500. As a result, the Ozark Hellbender was listed as Federally Endangered in 2011. I would like to know more about a study count on Eastern Hellbenders. They are solitary animals outside of breeding

season. The adults are territorial and violently chase off another Hellbender that comes visiting. Living their entire lives in the water you would think that hellbenders would be avid swimmers but that is not so. They usually just walk along the bottom. They spend most of their time under rocks or in a crevice and generally hunt at night in fast-moving streams. When it comes time for a male Hellbender to mate he builds the nest and entices the female in. She lays the eggs, He fertilizes them and then he runs her out of his nest and takes over guarding it himself without even saying thank you I'm sure.

Anyway with all this said it brings me back to my original question. Are there Hellbenders in Wilson Creek. I've fished this area for years and never seen one. On the Wilderness Society web page under North Carolina's Mountain Treasures an article listing the upper Wilson Creek Complex that covers 9,316 acres shows a picture of a hellbender but does not reference it all.

Trout are not our only concern but the entire ecology of this River we have assigned ourselves to and chosen to protect. So what I want to know from our TU members, after traversing this terrain for decades, Have you ever seen a Hellbender on Wilson Creek and if so when? Have you ever seen a Hellbender in any other water in Western North Carolina? What are your suggestions on protecting the Hellbenders? Have you ever hooked one?

Next month's newsletter will contain your responses and hopefully some stories on hellbenders. Please take the time to share with me anything and everything of interest about Hellbenders. I appreciate your input so please don't be shy.

The tug is the drug,  
Jacqueline Greene  
[HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com](mailto:HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com)

### NEXT MEETING

**When:** Tuesday, November 20th  
**Where:** Market on Main Cellar  
Across From 325 1<sup>st</sup> Street SW, Hickory  
**Time:** 5:30 Buffet Dinner (\$10.00)  
6:30 Program  
7:40 Mini Board Meeting  
**Program:** Knots Tying Workshop  
**Note:** You must park across the street or you may be towed. Handicap is available at the building.

You are receiving this newsletter either as a member or prospective member of the Hickory NC Chapter 032 of Trout Unlimited. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please respond by email to [HkyNCTU@gmail.com](mailto:HkyNCTU@gmail.com) and let us know.

Preparation for teaching the Boy Scout Fly Fishing merit badge brought some knots to our attention that we had forgotten how to tie or had never heard of, but should have.

- Do you know how to thread the line on the spool to tie an arbor knot?
- Do you know how to tie a nail knot without a nail?
- Have you heard of a needle knot?
- Have you tried the Davy knot?

At the November meeting we will demonstrate how to fully rig from your bare spool through tying on the fly and share these and more knots that just might make your fly fishing easier.

**December** is a month off for the chapter to allow our members Christmas time with their families.

**January meeting**—We have had several requests for a presentation on Tenkara fly fishing. We are fortunate to have a nationally renowned speaker on the topic, Jason Sparks, living right here in North Carolina.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*“Today, America’s kid’s are caught up in one of the mass migrations in humanity: the movement indoors.”*

..... Ken Hewitt

## THE CASE FOR FLY FISHING

More and more children today have less and less contact with the natural world. And this is having a huge impact on their health and development. We as parents and fly fishermen have the ability to change the course of this movement and give our children a better life. Fly fishing has the ability to improve both the physical and mental health of your child and at the same time improve the bonds that will make you a closer and happier family.

## HEALTH

A lot of people don’t realize the extent of the exercise provided by fly fishing. For the older readers you probably think you get a day’s exercise just by putting on your waders and boots, but you get a lot more than that. Fly fishing is a full body sport. The illustration shows how fly fishing effects every part of your body and four hours of wading in strong current and balancing on slippery rocks can burn up to 1000 calories.

But fly fishing doesn’t just improve physical health, it has a positive effect on mental health as well. The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundations describes fly fishing as a natural stress reliever because fly anglers are surrounded by nature,

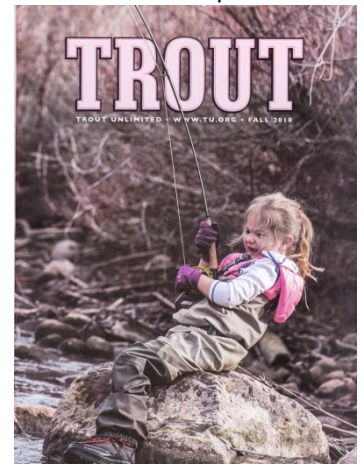


unplugged from electronics, and distanced from the so-called real world. In other ways, fly fishing has been compared to meditation in that fly fishers perform a simple, repeated task, often for hours on end. “The motion of fly fishing is part and parcel of the activity itself and may contribute to its calming effect,” says Benson. “Besides, it’s achieving something—you might catch a fish!”

While there may be a soothing effect from the repetitiveness of fly fishing, it also exercises the brain by continual need to make decisions. When you arrive at the stream you must decide whether to fish dry or wet and which fly will be best for the day. When you arrive at the stream you must analyze the stream currents and structure to determine where to fish and with every cast calculate the angle and effort to land the fly in the appropriate spot. Studies have shown that war veterans experienced lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol for as long as three weeks after a weekend fishing trip.

## FAMILY BONDING

Children today are often shuffled constantly to soccer, T-ball, swimming classes, piano lessons and a myriad of other organized activities. These are good activities and much better than the child sitting at a computer game, but about the only bonding time with parents is a short trip in the car and perhaps some cheering from the sidelines. Fly fishing is not a team sport and so has not become an organized activity. It requires that the parent spend time with the child teaching the fundamentals and sharing the time together on the river. The result often creates a bond that can last a lifetime. While it often doesn’t seem like it, children



do have the desire to do things with their parents. There is a big difference in the result between the statement “Why don’t you go fishing” and “Let’s you and I go fishing.” If the teaching is handled in a way that catches the child’s interest, it won’t be long before the child is asking you to go fishing. My son is in his 40s and lives an hour away, but I often get calls to head up to the mountains together and last summer we spent a few days in Yellowstone at his request. And fly fishing is not just a father/son adventure. Young girls and women are becoming regulars on the stream that can make this a family event or vacation.

So help put a stop to that mass migration indoors. Teach your child to fly fish and while you are at it get the whole family into the sport. You will all experience greater physical and mental health and have a whole lot of fun while you’re at it.

See you on the water.

## **50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILD & SCENIC RIVERS ACT**

**1968.** A year of profound change. The Tet Offensive and Vietnam protests. The assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A standoff with North Korea over the capture of the USS Pueblo. Racial protests—even at the Mexico Olympics. Escalation of the Cold War; the Soviet Union invades Czechoslovakia. Riots at the Democratic Convention in Chicago. The transition of “Flower Power” to a more somber time in the country.

But it was also a year of new hope and growth. A manned spacecraft first orbits the moon. The Paris Peace Talks. The beginning of the end to Vietnam.

And it was a year of profound progress in environmental protection. “Sustainability” enters the lexicon with the publication of *The Population Bomb* and *The Whole Earth Catalog*. “Earthrise” from Apollo 8 defines a new perspective of our world. Six new national park units. Over 800,000 acres of wilderness protected. The National Trails System Act. *And on October 2, 1968, the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.*

Today of more than three million miles of streams in the U.S. there are only 12,574 miles of Wild & Scenic Rivers. We are fortunate to have one of them as our adopted stream here in our back yard.

On August 18, 2000 the U.S. Congress passed a bill designating Wilson Creek. Since that time there have been hundreds of thousands if not millions of people who have visited the stream and its surrounding area for hiking, biking, kayaking, trout fishing, and just to drive through and enjoy the beauty. Glynnis James at the visitor center stated that they have had someone from nearly every country in the world sign the register.

Saturday, November 3, eighteen organizations that support, maintain, or make use of Wilson Creek have joined together to host a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party for the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act at the visitor center. The event begins from 9 to noon with service activities to clean up and maintain trails and the river. At noon the main event will begin with live music, food trucks, and exhibitions of fly tying, fly casting, and more. The weather is forecast to be sunny and the leaves should be near their peak color so come on up for a great time. Please see the last page of the newsletter for more details.

The following article was prepared by Ron Beane, one of the most ardent supporters of Wilson Creek becoming designated a Wild & Scenic River. I asked Ron to share with us the activities that led up to Congress passing the bill and to let us know the people who made it happen. Ron will be at the event on Saturday, so please take a little time to thank him for all he has done for us.

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*In 1998, the county commissioners board at the time in Caldwell county with the leadership of county manager, Bobby White, began talking about trying to get a wild and scenic river designation for Wilson*

*Creek. Commissioners at that time were Herb Greene, Larry Taylor, John Thuss, Ron Beane, and now deceased Alden Starnes.*

*On April 20, 1998, the commissioners outlined the advantages of having a wild and scenic river designation for Wilson Creek. Those advantages were 1) making an environmental statement for clean water resources for future generations, 2) economically, the designation would promote Caldwell County and the Unifour area, 3) would promote travel and tourism in the county and the area, 4) had the potential for future federal and state grant money to help sustain the creek, and 5) national recognition as an environmental treasure. As of this date, these advantages have been achieved.*

*The first public meeting of the community and the land owners of Wilson Creek was held in the Collettsville school gymnasium on January 21, 1999, with about 75 people present. The purpose of the meeting was to explain to the people what we were trying to do with the wild and scenic designation. All the people present were in favor of pursuing the designation.*

*On May 11, 1999, congressman Cass Ballenger introduced house bill 1749 to designate Wilson Creek as a component of the national wild and scenic rivers system which was supported by U. S. Senators John Edwards and Jesse Helms. On August 18, 2000, this bill became public law 106-261.*

*Once the Wilson Creek wild and scenic river was designated, Caldwell County began work on the creation of a visitor/education center to promote the outstanding values of Wilson Creek. Led by the efforts of Caldwell County commissioners, the county purchased 6.4 acres along Wilson Creek using grant monies from the National Heritage Trust Fund and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund in January 2001. Later that year, funds for the construction of the visitor center were received from the N. C. Department of Transportation's enhancement funds to build the visitor center. Construction of the visitor center began in May 2002, and on October 14, 2002, the visitor center officially opened its doors to the public.*

*Since that time, Foothills Conservancy and Caldwell County have together been able to purchase 649 acres from the Lutz family on Wilson Creek with state grant monies. The N. C. Wildlife commission is now managing this property for public use as a*

delayed harvest fishing season, and other types of recreation.

To date, there has been no vandalism on any public property on Wilson Creek. To me, that is an indication of how proud the people are of what was in the beginning only a vision and a dream.

Ron Beane

## DELAYED HARVEST

November stocking will take place on Friday, November 2. If you would like to assist with the stocking, be at the handicap parking lot between 9 & 10 AM.



## 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 also 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

### What They Said!

Those of you who get emails from me know that I have fishing quotes that appear randomly in the signature area of my messages. I've collected these for years. There used to be a quote every month on the TU Calendar, a practice they unfortunately stopped. Maybe they ran out of good quotes, who knows.

I thought it might be fun to share some of these in "Tight Lines & Road Kill" this month. I have another motive too: if you have good ones that I don't, I'd love to have those too. We'll sweeten the pot: **whoever submits the best fly-fishing quote that's not already in my compendium will win 12 flies tied by Editor Chick and me.** Submit your quote by November 25 to: [HkyNCTUtlrk@gmail.com](mailto:HkyNCTUtlrk@gmail.com). Chick and I will be the judges. The winner will get the prize at the January chapter meeting.

Here goes:

- Many men go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after. (Henry David Thoreau)
- I am not against golf, since I cannot but suspect it keeps armies of the unworthy from discovering trout. (Paul O'Neil) (I've said for years that the reason the Scotts invented golf was to keep the riff-raff out of the trout streams.)
- Fishing is a delusion entirely surrounded by liars in old clothes. (Don Marquis)

- The angler forgets most of the fish he catches, but he does not forget the streams and lakes in which they are caught. (Charles K. Fox)
- I have fished through fishless days that I remember happily without regret. (Roderick Haig-Brown)
- If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles. (Doug Larson) (One of my favs for sure!)
- With the right conditions, Nature herself provides the best and cheapest way of producing trout .... (Dermot Wilson)
- When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world. (John Muir, of big West Coast tree fame)
- Often I've been exhausted on trout streams, uncomfortable, wet, cold, briar-scarred, sunburned, mosquito-bitten — but never with a fly rod in my hand have I been unhappy. (Charles Kuralt) (So true, Charles. Many years ago, I spent a week at a lodge on the Henry's Fork in Idaho at the same time Kuralt was there. He was indeed that serious about fly fishing!)
- Fishing is a quest for knowledge and wonder as much as a pursuit of fish. (Paul Schullery)
- Fishing consists of a series of misadventures interspersed by occasional moments of glory. (Howard Marshall)
- I salute the gallantry and uncompromising standards of wild trout, and their taste in landscapes. (John Madson)
- A wild trout in its native habitat is a compact example of the Earth working well. (Christopher Camuto)
- Take care of the fish, and the fishing will take care of itself. (Art Neumann)
- I've never met a true angler who is not by nature at least a somewhat hopeful person. (Charles Gauvin, national TU past-president)
- Perhaps fishing is, for me, only an excuse to be near rivers. (Roderick Haig-Brown)
- Trout are quite unaware of their exalted status. (Harold Blaisdell)
- Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught. (Author unknown, but truer words have never been spoken!)
- There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either is a gain over just staying home. (Roderick Haig-Brown ... he said a lot of good stuff.)
- My biggest worry is that my wife (when I'm dead) will sell my fishing gear for what I said I paid for it. (Koos Brandt) (Anybody have a cheap bamboo rod?)
- There is no use in your walking five miles to fish when you can depend on being just as unsuccessful near home. (Mark Twain)

- Fish: The only living creature in any stretch of stream, river, lake, or bay that doesn't have a hook in it and isn't smoking a pipe. (Henry Beard and Ray McKie)
- There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot. (Steven Wright)
- Fishing is much more than fish. It is the great occasion when we may return to the fine simplicity of our forefathers. (Herbert Hoover)
- You do not cease to fish because you get old, you get old because you cease to fish. (Author unknown, but he was probably over 60!)
- Down at the core of every fisherman's heart is the belief that on any day something wonderful and unlikely could be made to happen, and that if you're careful and patient enough it could happen to you. (John Gierach)
- The solution to any problem — work, love, money, whatever — is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be. (John Gierach) (I've needed some long trips at times!)

And then, maybe my all-time favorite, with apologies to any ardent bass anglers:

- Bass fishermen watch Monday night football, drink beer, drive pickup trucks and prefer noisy women with big breasts. Trout fishermen watch MacNeil-Lehrer, drink white wine, drive foreign cars with passenger-side air bags and hardly think about women at all. This last characteristic may have something to do with the fact that trout fishermen spend most of the time immersed up to the thighs in ice-cold water. (Author unknown but he was obviously a male!)

By Dr. Joel Miller

## NOVEMBER FLY PATTERNS

Reprinted from Carolina Sportsman magazine

Use large flies such as a No. 12-10 chartreuse, olive or black Woolly Booger, a No. 10 Bitch Creek or a No. 21-10 Girdle Bug. Ideal spawning conditions are when water temperatures are between 44 and 48 degrees, and spawning

can start as early as September and continue through November, since not all browns



spawn at the same time.

Suggested dry-flies for October and November are No. 20-18 Blue-Winged Olive, No. 16-14 Royal Wulff, No. 16-14 Orange Palmer, No. 16-14 Red Humpy, No. 16-14 Stimulator and No. 61-14 Autumn Dun.

Effective nymph patterns include the No. 10 Secret Weapon, No. 10 Shell Back, No. 12-8 Muddler Minnow and No. 10-8 Streamer.

For more information on fly hatches and patterns, visit our website helpful links page at <http://www.hkynctu.org/helpful-links/> and look for the NC Fly Hatch Chart.

## TIP OF THE MONTH

### FIFTY FLY FISHING TIPS #6: LEARN BY USING VISIBLE FLIES



Watching a trout take your fly — it's one of the most exciting aspects of this game. All fly anglers talk about it. Streamer guys love watching the transient swirl just before a hulking brown crushes the fly. Dry fly guys patiently tie strands of visible flash into upright wings and bright colors into their parachutes. Nymph fishers walk miles to spot a good wild brown trout in the shallows before setting up to sight fish to it.

Vision is our primary sense, so no wonder anglers go to great lengths to use it. At some point though, we resign ourselves to the facts: fishing is often better when the flies aren't seen by the angler — when the streamer or nymph gets deeper, and when the dry fly is small and natural enough to get lost in the surface. Visible flies, though, should never be forgotten. They're effective as a learning tool, and they catch fish at the same time.

Let's go through the styles.

### DRIES

Every fly fisher I know loves some good dry fly action. We're attracted to the surface game because we get to see it all go down. After some time with larger and more visible patterns, we learn the unfortunate truth — that the best choice might be a tiny little fly that we'll never see on the water.

Patterns for solving that visibility issue abound, and my dry box is filled with them. I like parachutes and hi-vis wings. Even my comparaduns are mostly tied with bleached deer hair for visibility — same with my elk hair caddis and those related styles.

When fish won't take any of the above, I remember the advice of a seasoned [fly shop owner](#): "[Don't get hung up on wanting to see your fly. Just set the hook on maybes.](#)"

I do that sometimes. And I accept that I won't see the fly much. But just as often, I use a tandem dry rig. I add a second fly as a [trailer or tag dropper](#) about 8-20 inches away. Usually, I make the first fly the visible one, but you can do it the other way too.

It's fun, and it brings sight back into the dry fly game.

### NYPHYS

Most of my nymph fishing happens with the nymphs well out of site. To sense the take, I either feel the line through the rod, watch the sighter or follow a suspender.

Around here, I rarely encounter sight fishing opportunities. So when I go underneath with nymphs, I rely on experienced estimates about where my nymphs are.

However, I regularly tie on a visible nymph and watch it drift in the current. I use Green Weenies or pink Squirmy Wormies, and they catch fish. Sometimes, I choose a visible fly just to see how the currents are flowing on the bottom. Given the right water conditions, I can peer through about three feet of depth.

Many times, the motion and the course of my nymph is much different than what I expect.

So by watching the visible nymphs, I learn how to better read what my sighter or suspender is showing me. I learn to manipulate the line and rod for better drifts, and I learn what the surface currents may signal about the river below.

Also, just like the visible dry fly, adding a second, more natural fly paired with the visible nymph often results in a lot of hookups.

### **STREAMERS**

I've found that I catch more fish on streamers when I don't see the fly. But I love watching a streamer. I used to strip too fast, keeping my streamer high in the water column, just so I could watch it dance in concert with my strips and jerks. Many anglers have the same habit.

Decades ago I read Joe Humphreys' book Trout Tactics and found his tip for trailing a dark, natural streamer behind a more visible one. Problem solved. I've been doing it ever since. I like a white or tan upper fly, sometimes flashy, usually small, and tie it about 24-30 inches above the lower fly. I watch the upper fly in the water, but I have a very good idea about where my lower fly is and how it's moving.

[READ: Troutbitten | Pat Burke on the Sighter Streamer](#)

The added benefit of course, is that some days, trout are all over the upper fly too.

Fish on.

Enjoy the day.

Domenick Swentosky

TROUTBITTEN

domenick@troutbitten.com

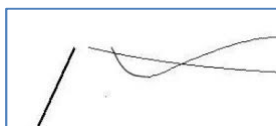
### **FLY CASTING ESSENTIALS...**

By Gary Hogue

*Gary 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.*

#### **Principles of Fly Casting... Part One**

Principle... "a fundamental basis of something"... This applies to fly casting and fly fishing especially when you are wanting to become a better fly fisherman. If you know the essentials and principles of something you are able to understand why you become frustrated on the water when you get an unexpected surprise ie. a tailing loop and the resulting tangle.



1. Before you can load the rod, you must have line tension against the tip, so that when you move the rod, the weight of the line, aided by the water and air resistance, will hold back the tip causing the rod to load (bend). You can't load in either direction unless the rod tip is pulling against the weight of the line.

2. The rod is best loaded by a smooth, even acceleration of the hand, producing a constant increase in speed throughout the stroke. The rod unloads when the rod comes to an abrupt stop. A firm solid stop unloads the rod just below the oncoming line producing a tight narrow loop. An extended stop, moving the rod over a longer distance during the stop, results in a wider loop. The more abrupt the stop, the tighter the loop.

3. The line can only go in the direction the tip is traveling. If you want the line to go straight ahead, the tip must finish going straight ahead. If you want the line to go farther, the angle of trajectory should be elevated slightly. When casting a short distance, the finishing point should be lower than the starting point of the cast.

4. With a constant length of line, generally, the amount of power applied on both the back cast and forward cast should be the same.

The other day I was reminded how important it is to know the principles when after a long time looking for that trout I hurried the forward cast and ended up with a tailing loop that cost me an opportunity to catch. "Constant Acceleration"

Learn & Enjoy.

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.*

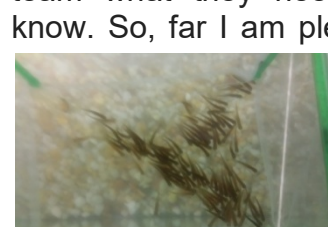
### **TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM**

#### **REPORT FROM RIVER BEND**

We have had good success so far this year. Although we lost several eggs, most hatched quickly and appear very healthy. Students are rotating the responsibility of monitoring the tank and

keeping their journal.

I have them split into teams this year and each team teaches the new team what they need to know. So, far I am pleased with their efforts. I do



get tickled at some of the students. They are growing impatient waiting for the trout to start the journey toward the top of



the basket so we can remove the covers. I have to remind them to be tolerant, natural instinct will take care of it....Stoney Turner

## 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.

## FLY FISHING MERIT BADGE

We were approached by Boy Scout Troop #275 in Bethlehem with a request to assist them with the fly fishing merit badge. We have agreed and the schedule for the program is as follows:

- November 8th. Knot Tying
- November 15th. Fly Tying
- November 29th. Casting Lessons
- Saturday, December 8th. At Betsy's on Wilson Creek - Actual Fishing cleaning and cooking the fish.

The meetings will on Thursdays at 6:30 at the Mt. Pisgah Church location at 9379 NC-127 in Taylorsville.

If you are able to help with this, please contact Jackie Greene at [HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com](mailto:HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com).

## CASTING CAROLINAS

### TIE ONE ON TOURNAMENT

Fishing in the Tie One On Team Challenge Tournament in Cherokee were Hickory TU girls, Deb Dowling, Anna Yates, Jean McMullin in the Alum division. Jackie Greene in the Amateur Division.



**VOLUNTEER.** Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. To sign up to help with their programs: <https://castingcarolinas.com/community/volunteer/>

## CASTING FOR HOPE WILSON CREEK

**What:** 1-day fly fishing competition on Wilson Creek to benefit Casting for Hope and the women and families it serves battling gynecological cancers across western North Carolina.

**Where:** Betsy's Old Country Store on Wilson Creek

**When:** November 10, beginning at 7:00am.

**How Much:** Team entry is \$100 or \$50 per angler and can be made to [kathy@castingforhope.org](mailto:kathy@castingforhope.org) by PayPal or payable the morning of the event by check or cash.

**How to Enter:** For full event information as well as information on registering, head on over to Casting for Hope's tournament website at [www.tournaments.castingforhope.org](http://www.tournaments.castingforhope.org) and click on the on the events tab and choose Wilson Creek Team Challenge. Or simply go here: <http://tournaments.castingforhope.org/events/wilson-creek-team-challenge>

This is Casting for Hope's last tournament of the 2018 season and the closer of the 2018 Casting for Hope Series. We hope to see you there.

## FLY FISHING EXPO IN ASHEVILLE

The Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Expo will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with an exhibition the weekend of November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>. The event will be at the Agricultural Fair Center at 1301 Fanning Bridge Rd, Fletcher, NC.

We are the largest gathering of fly fishing businesses, organizations and anglers in North Carolina. We have 50-70 vendors and 700-1,000 attendees annually. The event is designed to be a great resource for everyone from first time fly fishers to seasoned experts. You can learn to fly fish from certified instructors, try out tons of gear on the indoor casting pond and get great deals on gear from many fly shops, guide services and manufacturers. Between 50 and 70 \$50 value door prizes will be given out by vendors and they all bring lots of great freebies.

Youngsters under 18 are free and \$15 gets adults a ticket good for both days. BBQ lunch and dinner are always a hit and wine and beers of all kinds are offered by Casting Carolinas.

Both days are covered up with professional presenters in each of the 2 speakers tents, on the indoor casting pond and in many individual booths. Topics covered range from beginners lessons, casting instruction and "fixes" by certified instructors, technical advances in gear and technique and destination fly fishing trips of a lifetime. The amount and level of instruction available at the Expo is a huge value for the \$15 ticket price. And it's a damn good time.

## CHAPTER WEBSITE

Recently we were approached by the Boy Scouts to assist with the Fly Fishing Merit Badge. There are several requirements such as fly casting, safety, and knot tying. Our website is being expanded to include videos to support education for the merit badge. If you go to the Helpful Links page <http://www.hkynctu.org/helpful-links/> you will now find sub pages with videos for knot tying, casting, and safety that are not only important for the scouts, but are worth all of us watching. The videos on wading safety are especially worth watching and after over 50 years of wading, I learned a few tricks. For instance, what do you do if the current traps you against a log? Check back from time to time as we will continue to expand the links.

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS INVITED

I'm sure many of you will be taking trips to Montana, Alaska, or many other places this year. 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.



## 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 Jackie Greene at [HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com](mailto:HkyNCTUpres@gmail.com).

## CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE

When you're sitting in the waiting room for the doctor or in the lounge at the airport waiting for a plane, take a little time to check out the posts on our Facebook page. You'll find the latest status on the Trout In The Classroom and many tips to help improve your fishing. Search for **Hickory NC Trout Unlimited**.

## HICKORY NC TU OFFICERS

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## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

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



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**Hours:**  
M-F 08:00 AM-06:00 PM  
Sat 09:00 AM-05:00 PM  
Sun Closed

Please mark your calendar to join us at Wilson Creek on Saturday, November 3 to celebrate the anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act that has made the creek such a great asset for us. The event will include a morning of service events and an afternoon with food trucks, live music, and events like fly tying, casting lessons, and more.

# CELEBRATE WILSON CREEK WILD & SCENIC RIVER !

*1968—2018: 50 YEARS OF WILD & SCENIC RIVERS IN THE USA*

## 9 AM - Noon: Stewardship Activities

\*assemble at Visitors' Center\*

Trail Work

River & Trash Cleanup

## Noon - 4 PM: River Festival

Fly Tying and Casting Instruction

Nature and Wildlife Exhibits

Live Music

\*Hobo Bill & Kristen, Kevin Leftwich, Bear Wallow Band\*

BBQ and Vegetarian Chili for Purchase

\*Woodlands from Blowing Rock, Susie's Hot Dogs/Hamburgers and Vegetarian Fare\*

Awards Ceremony

3:15 - 3:45

**Saturday, November 3, 2018 /// 9 am - 4 pm (Rain or Shine)**

Wilson Creek Visitors' Center

7805 Brown Mountain Beach Road, Collettsville, N.C.

### YOUR HOSTS

