

# Hickory NC Trout Unlimited July 2019 Newsletter



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**WE ARE NOW ON A PROGRAM BREAK FOR THE SUMMER. SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER.**

## A GREAT PICNIC



The picnic in the park turned out a great success with great food, games, and raffles. Cathy and Wes Starnes wowed us all with some really great smoked pork butt and Jackie Greene and Carolyn Woodward provided some great baked beans for a side dish. Robbie Williams was truly the winner of the day. He took first place in the men's fly casting contest, won the raffle for the float trip on the Catawba, and won the raffle for the Thomas & Thomas fly rod. We are all hoping he bought a lottery ticket on the way home because most certainly would also have become the Mega Millions winner with his luck of the day. Jackie Greene and Deb Dowling tied for first place for women's fly casting and men's runner ups were Robert Kirby and Brandon Harrison.

See the last page of the newsletter for photos of the event.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH



*"There is no greater fan of fly fishing than the worm.*

**Patrick McManus**

## 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) (note: this site requires a minimum of 12 items)

## Tight Lines & Road Kill

### Spice it Up or Protect It?



Last month I admonished you not to leave Yellowstone on your bucket list unvisited. Serendipitously, just this week, a wonderful new book was released that will help you accomplish just that, and it's unlike any Yellowstone guidebook from before.

*Catching Yellowstone's Wild Trout: A Fly-fishing History and Guide* by Chris Hunt is a superb work about fishing in my favorite place on earth. Here is a link to a TU webpage that gives you a taste of Hunt's wisdom:

<https://www.tu.org/blog/catching-yellowstones-wild-trout/>

Last month I mentioned two of the Yellowstone "bibles" by Craig Matthews and Richard Parks. I've read these so many times I almost have them committed to memory. They and all the other park guidebooks I've seen divide the park by geographic areas and then describe each stream there in minute detail, including the fish, the hatches, flies that work, access, and the techniques to use.

Hunt takes a completely different tack: organization by species. All the fish in the park are now wild; there has been no stocking since 1959. Hunt ticks off each trout species then tells you where to catch them, how to get there, and what flies to use, in a thorough but very concise fashion. He accomplishes this task very well with straightforward, understandable language.

Great guidebook, but its most valuable gifts are Hunt's history and ecology lessons. He skillfully delineates how fishery managers have altered the fish populations in the park over time. The only trout native to Yellowstone are the

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Yellowstone cutthroat and the west slope cutthroat. Arctic grayling, once plentiful in those waters, have nearly disappeared. Browns, brookies, and rainbows have all been stocked. Over time, 300 million non-native trout have been planted into the park. Lake trout were long ago stocked into one isolated lake, but they have somehow been introduced into Yellowstone Lake, maybe accidentally, maybe maliciously.

(Last month I said some rainbows were native. Hunt taught me that I was mistaken. None of Yellowstone's waters connect with streams further west where bows are native. All rainbows in the park were originally stocked.)

All this stocking and the intrusion of lakers into Yellowstone Lake have been devastating to the native species in the park. The lake trout nearly wiped out the beautiful Yellowstone cuts from the lake and Yellowstone River. Arctic grayling had all but vanished. The west slope cuts actually were thought to all be gone until a very small holdover population was discovered in a remote stream in the western reaches of the park in 2005.

How could anybody not be happy with streams teeming with Yellowstone cuts? Sadly, we made similar mistakes in our area. As Hunt says, "Rainbows not only wash away the genetic integrity of native cutthroats here in the West. They also are among the culprits that have relegated eastern brook trout in Appalachia to the small, headwater streams where they are native."

In 2010 the park embarked on an ambitious plan to reintroduce native species to the park's streams and, where possible, remove the non-native species and the invasive lake trout. The Native Fish Conservation Plan, devised by chief fish biologist Dr. Todd Koel, has achieved some modest successes. Yellowstone cut numbers have recovered nicely in Yellowstone Lake, Yellowstone River, Soda Butte Creek, and Lamar River. Hopefully there are many more wins yet to come. Hunt spends much of his book championing this plan and its triumphs. These are the parts of the book with the most valuable lessons.

Hunt says the culprits in Yellowstone's decimation of native species were "fisheries managers generations ago who were more inclined to answer the call to spice up America's fisheries than they were to protect our native trout." That call came from anglers like us who weren't happy enough with Yellowstone cuts or beautiful indigenous brookies!

I commend this book and its lessons to you. I read it completely the same day I downloaded it. It contains great information if you fulfill that Yellowstone trip that's on your bucket list. More importantly, it teaches us that we better be less eager to spice up our fisheries and much more inclined to protect them.

By Joel Miller

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## **A WEEK ON THE BELIZE FLATS**

I've said many times that the best thing you will ever do is to teach your child to fly fish. Last year we had a great trip to Yellowstone and early this year he suggested a saltwater trip to the flats. I'm not sure how it evolved, but we decided

to make the trip to Belize. There is a direct flight out of Charlotte and it is just three hours away. Belize is a former English colony so it is an English speaking country. We had pared it down to two lodges, El Pescador and Turneffe Flats. El Pescador has been on many TV shows and we were leaning toward booking there, but he called both and El Pescador never returned his call, so we booked at Turneffe Flats. Since then we have learned a great deal about it and we believe it was the best choice.



Turneffe Flats Resort is on an atoll about 30 miles of the coast. You arrive in Belize City, they pick you up at the airport and shuttle you to the island. We didn't know when we booked the trip, but our Hickory TU VP Bill Long and his wife had been there last year and were able to give us a lot of information to help us plan our trip. He had nothing but praise for their vacation there and suggested we include some diving while we are there.

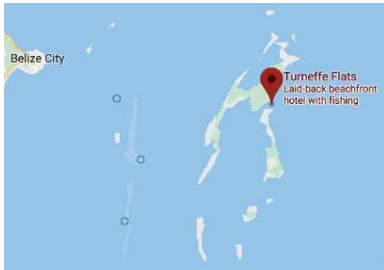
Even though I lived in Virginia Beach for ten years, I had never been saltwater fly fishing, so I spent most of the winter digging through the internet to help us prepare for the trip. It is amazing today how much information on any subject is available. I love tying flies, so the first thing I did was find out what flies were needed. The lodge website listed several and I found a few more on other websites. About \$300 in materials later I had boxes of about 150 flies for bonefish, permit, and tarpon. I have a habit of tying way too many flies for every trip we take and later found out from Bill Long that he used only about a half dozen flies on their week-long trip. I learned you must have saltwater fly line (weight forward) since regular line gets sticky in the heat of the Caribbean and after some research discovered Rio makes a bonefish leader that is perfect for flats fishing. It has a very large butt which makes it easy to make long casts in the winds. Searching more sites we found recommendations for clothing and other gear to prepare us.

The other thing I learned on line is that fly casting on the flats is a lot different than the rivers we fish. There are almost constant winds of 10-15 miles per hour and casts run 40-50' often into that wind. I spent some time with past president Gary Hogue and learned a lot of tips on how to fish out there on the flats. First and foremost, I've found you need to become proficient with a double-haul cast. Meeting and talking fellow fly fishermen through our TU chapter has been a big plus in preparing for the trip.

If you want to travel to Belize, you are fortunate to live near Charlotte. There is a daily non-stop direct into Belize City that takes about three hours. Once you get there,

however, you'll be arriving along with several other airlines and the customs line will take a good deal of time to get through. Outside of customs we were met by our host and they drove us to Radisson Hotel marina where we would meet our boat to the island.

One of the guests was on a plane hit by lightning so their arrival was delayed. We had lunch in the Radisson bar where we spent the time with several local soccer fanatics watching the tournament. Clearly soccer is a big deal in Belize. Finally, about 4 PM the last couple arrived and we headed for the boat and Turneffe Atoll.



The trip to the island takes about 90 minutes through a few reefs and some open ocean, but it was fairly calm and the large boat they provide rides the waves very well.

When we arrived at the lodge we were met at the main lodge with a tropical cocktail and introduction to the events of the week while the staff delivered our bags to our rooms. We retired to our rooms and then back to the main lodge for a great dinner

Turneffe Atoll is quite large at about 30 miles north to south and about 10 miles east to west. That proved to be a slight negative as we spent almost as much time traveling to various fishing spots in the skiff as we did fishing each day.



The land portion is primarily a mangrove marsh and home to masses of the most vicious mosquitos I have ever encountered. Fortunately, you are far enough away from the mangroves that the

mosquitos seldom get to you, but when they find you it's time to GIT! One evening Michael decided to follow a trail by the lodge into the trees. He hadn't gone two feet when his whole body was covered and came out slapping and bleeding from the bites. After that we stayed in the lodge area and were fine.

Our plan for the week (or maybe I should say hope) was to get a grand slam of bonefish, permit, and tarpon. Let me describe the effort and success of each.



**Bonefish.** There were two groups there that had never fished the flats before, so the first morning our guides drove us well up north to a "honey hole". I'm not sure why it's there, but it is full of small bonefish. We took turns

standing on the bow of the boat and casting to them until we had all had our "first" bonefish. The claim was made that it weighed two pounds, but I'd be surprised if it was truly much more than a pound, but we did catch a bonefish and we



learned right away the true power of these fish. During the day we then fished three different flats for them. By the third flat I was exhausted and about half way on the trek let Michael and the guide go on where, of course, they saw a

ton of bonefish.

The second day we went to a special location that I promised not to divulge and had a ball catching six bonefish. Unfortunately, it was a bit lopsided with Michael catching five of the six. After lunch we headed to the flats again. This time I was fresh so took the hike right up to the reef where they were feeding. The school contained probably 50 bonefish feeding there. Here I learned that bonefishing is a bit of a track meet. Winds were coming on shore at about 20 miles per hour. Now Gary had taught me how to cast into the wind with a slam on the forward cast. That may have worked in 10 mile winds, but not in 20. The guide also demonstrated a low side arm cast, but even that didn't work in those winds. So the only solution



to cast to the fish was to get upwind of them and the race began. The fish would work their way along the reef and you placed yourself about 30' upwind and kept running until you got ahead and up



wind of them and then made the cast. The idea was to stop the fly line just short of the school and let the leader cast into them. I was happily successful and got two bonefish to Michael's one so we each had a win for the day.

The other thing about fishing the flats is that it is a lot like fishing a freestone river. The fishing is done just inside the coral reef. The waves coming in make a continual current to wade in and breaks up the reef so that you are constantly tripping over chunks of coral. Had I known in advance, I would have brought along my wading staff.

The second day we went back to the special location again. To make things fair I suggested that Michael and I switch sides on the hole from the day before to take a variable out of his "luck". It worked! That day I got 5 and he got 6 and we even managed a double. That impressed a lot of people back at the lodge that evening, though I didn't share how "special" the fishing spot was.

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**Permit:** Fishing for permit is as much hunting as fishing. Our primary method was to poll or motor slowly along the edge of the mangroves to try and spot them and then drop a fly in front of it in a target about the size of a hula hoop. Michael and I only had 8 wt. rods for bonefish, so we rented a 10 wt. on day one. We spent some time each

day looking for permit and the rest of the day bonefishing for the first four days. We never saw a permit and neither did anyone else in the lodge until late on the fourth day. Michael is a more accurate caster than I am so I let him have a shot at the first permit we sighted and hence the photo shows my view for a couple hours each day.

On that fourth day someone spotted some permit on the flats behind the reefs, so the next day the guide took us to a large flat at the southern end of the atoll. We started walking and after the first half mile, it was becoming a little too much for me. The guide pointed me to a nearby islet where he said there were bonefish. When I didn't find any I headed back to the boat and waited.



Michael and the guide walked about two miles up the reef. Michael thinks he may have seen a permit, but the guide didn't spot it. Michael was

able to get the biggest bonefish of the week during their trek.

On Friday, our last day, the guide wanted to take us back to the flats for more bonefish. By then I was exhausted and declined so we headed back to the lodge for lunch. After lunch, Michael caught a nice bonefish from a school that hangs out right in front of the lodge and then the two of them headed to the flats. That afternoon, Michael had a shot at four permit that were up on the flats, but never was able to entice one.

**Tarpon:** There were probably a 6-8 tarpon caught during the week so on the fifth day we asked the guide to start to target them and we rented a 12 wt. rigged tarpon rod. June is the time of year when large migratory tarpon pass through on their way north. They hang out in the murky channels and so we did several rounds of blind casting with no luck.

The guide also took us along the windward side of one of the mangrove islands. There was a mudline about ten feet wide along the shore where the tarpon hang out to attack their prey. We polled along and he spotted a pair of small tarpon. I was on the bow and couldn't see them, but they were spooked and moving so fast he couldn't even line me up for a cast. A bit farther we ran into another small group. They again spooked and ran, but about a 60 pounder moved to the outside of the boat and sat. I had out about 20 feet of line and he was probably 10 feet from the boat. I got the fly right in front of him, but with 10' of slack line I wasn't able to get a good strip before he spooked again and disappeared. That was the last one we saw.

Perhaps the most excitement of the week was when one of the guests had a 60 pound tarpon jump into the boat. It landed in the back right at the guides feet and it was a bit of a panic until it managed to jump back out again.



**Snorkeling:** In addition to fishing, Turneffe Flats Lodge is also a SCUBA diving resort and sends out a boat with the diving guests each day. We heard some wonderful reports from one of the guests who was a

return customer at the lodge. Michael and I do not SCUBA, but thought we would like to do a little snorkeling. Our guide was also trained for ecology tours and knew of a nearby inshore reef, so Thursday after lunch he arranged for the gear and we spent about an hour swimming around the coral. I have explored the reefs in the northern Abacos in the Bahamas, but the color and number of fish in this coral was amazing. Inshore it was mostly small coral reefs. Think of the most beautiful salt water aquariums you have seen and this looked like a whole seabed of them. In addition to the many small reef fish we saw a lion fish and even had a small porpoise come to check us out.

**The lodge:** The lodge is very updated and modern and was a wonderful place to stay. The main power runs on generators, but they have implemented solar water heating which provided plenty of hot water. They have a rainwater collection system and treatment, but also have a backup RO system to make fresh from seawater if needed.

Each evening at 6:30 they had cocktail time with some excellent appetizers and a well stocked bar, then at 7:00 they served dinner. We had a variety of great meals with a few special treats during the week including fried banana and a fresh made tortilla for fajitas. They packed great lunches for us each day to take out on the boats. Overall, the lodge experience was excellent.

On the last day we had an early breakfast while they loaded our baggage onto the boat and then we headed back to Belize City to catch our flights. There was a bit of excitement when just outside of Turneffe Atoll they blew an engine rod. Fortunately, the boat has two engines so, the only loss was a slightly longer trip to shore. Well actually, there was another downside. The boat speed with both engines was fast enough to give us a good forward breeze for comfort. With one engine we essentially moved at the same speed as the tailing winds. That gave us the effect of dead calm and it was a bit warm, but we all survived and got to the airport in plenty of time to make our flights.

Unlike the long delay coming in through customs, the check in and security at the airport was very quick with almost no waiting. Customs back in the US went surprisingly fast until we got to the baggage carousel. Bags are unloaded, laid out and checked, and then brought to the carousel. Add to that a baggage unloading stop due to lightning and we had a long wait, but I still was able to catch my scheduled shuttle back to Hickory.

Would I go back, no. But that is not due to the experience, but to my age. I find I'm getting a little too old to beat myself up over a week in the heat of the Caribbean sun. Were I a bit younger I would head back and try again for the permit and tarpon, however, future trips for them will probably be two or three day trips to the Florida Keys or the Bahamas. The number of bonefish at Turneffe is amazing and aside for dealing with the wind were a lot of fun. If I did go back I would definitely take along my other son who is a scuba diver. But if you are still young and healthy, I highly recommend the Turneffe Flats Resort as a special experience you will cherish forever.

## TIP(S) OF THE MONTH

### Tom Rosenbauer's 8 Tips to Becoming a Better Fly Fisher



He's Just That Cool

### There are few guys out there squeezing cork with the angling chops of Tom Rosenbauer.

Tom is the author of nearly two dozen books on fly fishing and too many articles to count. Add to that his podcast and posts on Orvis News and it's fair to call him one of the leading educators in the field. Tom's been an angler his whole life and was tying flies commercially when he was just fourteen. He has fished all over the world, including the English chalk streams, Christmas Island, and Kamchatka. He invented stuff you use every time you fly fish, like the magnetic net keeper and tungsten beads for fly tying.

Tom is now the Marketing Director for Orvis and a driving force in the rejuvenation of that great brand. A few people know that he also makes his own chocolate from the beans, which is incredibly technical not to mention amazingly delicious. He's a hell of a nice guy and a good friend.

Tom has a lot to share on the subject of fly fishing so we asked him for some broad strokes. Some basic tips that will help you be a better and more satisfied angler. Here's what he got back to us with.

### Tom Rosenbauer's 8 Tips To Becoming a Better Fly Fisher:

1. **Observe everything.** Look around every time you catch a fish and figure out why it was there and why it ate at that particular time. Look at the sun angle, the surrounding terrain, current threads in rivers, or highways on the flats.

2. **Tie flies.** I don't think anyone can be truly on top of their game until they understand how a fly is constructed and what it's supposed to do in the water.

3. **Tie your own leaders.** In fresh or salt, knowing how to modify a leader to make it behave better is best understood if you have tied a bunch of knotted leaders first. *Even if you are starting with a commercial knotless leader, you will eventually need to modify it.*

4. **Improve your casting.** No matter how good you think your casting is, it is not good enough. Take a lesson from someone who is a better caster than you. Don't be too proud.

5. *Don't be an ass on the water.* In rivers, give people as much room as you possibly can, even if you end up in water you don't really like. In the salt, find your own school or your own flat. Someone else got there first. Get over it.

6. Delight in every fish you catch- no matter how small. If you can't get excited about an 8-inch brook trout, you don't really get it.

7. **Don't sweat it.** The fishing will never be as good as you anticipate. The weather sucks? You blew an eat? You didn't catch a fish as big as you thought? You are just setting yourself up for a deficit of confidence—and fun.

8. **Stop being so serious.** Never take your fishing or yourself too seriously. You are just a tool with a silly pole playing with fish. How stupid is that?

Louis Cahill

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## SUMMER FLY FISHING

While most of us only fish Delayed Harvest from October through May, there is still some terrific fly fishing during the summer months. The trick is to find a wild trout stream above 3000' where the trout can survive through the warm summer months. To help you do that, we have maps of many of those streams near-by that were provided to us by Kinnon Hodges from the NCWRC. You'll find those maps on our website at <http://www.hkynctu.org/helpful-links/nc-wild-trout-streams/>. Another good source is the Interactive NC Trout Stream Map that can also found on the helpful links page of our website.



And what makes this fishing even better is that these wild trout love dry flies. Summer is a great time for terrestrials so try out some ants, beetles, and grasshoppers during the day. Early morning and late evening you are likely to run into some hatches. The elk hair caddis and adams are a couple great go to dry flies.



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

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## ADVICE FROM THE VISE

Welcome to July's Advice from the Vise. It's that time of the year where the topwater game should be in full swing and according to my muscadines, the beetles are in full hatch. Beetles and other terrestrials such as grasshoppers and crickets are prime protein for this time of year. This month's offering is a foam beetle. These are high floating, have some legs and the fish dial in on these. On my stretch of Jacobs Fork, the bluegills absolutely tear these up and a day of panfish taking the top is a great time out.



A couple new materials this month, the foam is 3mm craft foam that can be had at any of the craft stores. I tie this pattern in black, tan and brown. You can also make a dandy frog imitator with these same method in green. We will also introduce rubber legs on this pattern. I think the motion of these when twitched is what draws the crushing take of this pattern.

Recipe is simple: Size 8-12 3xl curved nymph hook such as the one I have here (Firehole720) brown SLF dubbing, I like a little sparkle, a few strands of yellow silicone leg material and some 3mm craft foam.



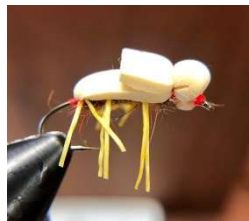
Start off cutting your craft foam into a strip about 3/8 inch wide and 2 inches long and taper it to a point as shown. Dress the hook down to the bend - I'm using some fluorescent orange, and tie in the point of your foam well along the shank.



Next, tie in a pair of legs, don't worry about length we will trim them at the end, so give yourself something to work with. These can be tricky to lay right, a figure 8 wrap is helpful, that is going behind and then on front of the material in a figure 8. Once you get the first pair tied in, create a dubbing noodle with a swipe of wax, and take a few wraps toward the eye. Now a second pair of legs, another noodle and then a third set of legs.



Take your dubbing noodle and wrap to the eye, then come back about 2-3 eye lengths, pull the foam over the back and with a couple loose wraps and then tighten those up. Bend the foam back over the eye, but leave the foam extending over the eye, so the tag is facing rearward. This creates a lip on the front of the fly that make a little ripple when you twitch it.



This is a great fly this time of year for both trout and warm water species. It's simple to tie and the action of those rubber legs gets attention throughout the day. I'm happy to answer any and

all questions, give a lesson, or just talk fly fishing. Don't hesitate to contact me at [jacobsforkflytying@gmail.com](mailto:jacobsforkflytying@gmail.com) or check out some of my current ties on Facebook at Jacobs Fork Fly Tying.

Dave Everhart

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## How To Get New Fly Line For \$5, Or Pretty Close



Photo by Louis Cahill

### Think you need a new fly Line? Spend \$5 First.

I was out fishing with my buddy Scott the other day. He broke off his rig while I was on the oars so I handed him my five weight to fish. Scott took one cast and asked, *"What fly line is this? I've got to get one!"*

What Scott didn't know was that I had fished that same line just two days earlier and it had been miserable. The line stuck to the water and the guides. It felt like you could barely pull it through the guides, let alone shoot it. It was filthy.

"It's a RIO Gold," I told him. "But what you like about it is that I dressed it last night."

It's such a simple thing to clean and dress a line, but so many anglers don't do it. At least not regularly enough. I'm guilty too but at least I know how to fix the problem. And now, so do you. Before you spend \$90 on a new fly line try this out. I'll bet it solves a lot of your problems.

### How to clean and dress a line

Start by cleaning the line. Putting line dressing on a dirty line just makes a slurry. It's best to clean your line often and so I keep it simple. I use finger wipes. The kind you get at BBQ joints. Individually packaged, alcohol towelettes. I bought a case of 1000 of them for \$7 wholesale years ago. You can get them [HERE](#). I keep them in my boat bag so I can clean my line any time. It takes seconds.

Once the line is clean I dress it with [Mucilin green label](#). Mucilin is a silicon paste line dressing. It can be used even when the line is wet. Again, easy and immediate. Just rub some into the applicator and pull the line through it. The whole process of cleaning and treating doesn't take two minutes.

## **PLASTIC IN THE MANGROVES**



I am by no means and environmental extremist, but on a recent fishing trip to an atoll in Belize the extent of plastic trash along the mangroves made me ill. On just this one small piece of the world there were many tons of trash. I don't know if it's possible to ban plastic and even if we did, what we replaced it with might just become replacement trash. But there is a simple solution that would go a long way and cost us very little.

Many years ago the shoulders of the roads in Michigan were covered with almost as much trash as we saw in the mangroves. Michigan passed a law requiring a deposit on all glass and aluminum beverage cans and bottles. In no time the roads were cleaned up. Jobless people developed an income picking them up and turning them in. Kids got spending money doing this and even a fellow who worked for me had his kids picking them up for fun and money when they went to the park.

Not even Michigan has extended this to plastic bottles, but if the world required a deposit on all plastic drink bottles, it would go a long way to cleaning up the mess we have made. It may even be possible to expand it to all plastic containers. If you return your containers to a deposit center, it would cost you no more than a little time. If you don't return your containers then in effect you are paying someone else to take care of it for you. There will be many out there who would be willing. The only added cost would be the rebate centers which in Michigan are automated machines using bar codes. Recycling companies might even find it financially viable to pick up the tab for that.

Think about it. A solution to the mess we have made that is not a tax, but a net, almost cost free solution. Give it some thought and if you agree, contact your state legislators.

## **EAGLE ROCK CAMP**

The fall retreat is scheduled for the week of October 27 with the fly fishing day on October 31. Please mark your

calendars to come and help out the veterans and their families.

## **CASTING CAROLINAS**

Casting Carolinas is a free program for women cancer survivors. The fall retreat is scheduled for October 11-13 at Lake Logan in Canton, NC. Fly casting volunteers will be needed on the 13<sup>th</sup>. To apply for the retreat or to volunteer to help out, sign up at [www.castingcarolinas.com](http://www.castingcarolinas.com).

## **REEL RECOVERY EVENT FOR MEN LIVING WITH CANCER**

REEL RECOVERY is a national non-profit organization that conducts fly-fishing retreats for men living with all forms of cancer. Our purpose is to help men in the recovery process by sharing with them the healing powers of the sport of fly-fishing, while providing a safe, supportive environment to explore their personal experiences with cancer, with others who share their stories. Retreats are offered at no cost to the participants and are led by professional facilitators and expert fly-fishing instructors. Reel Recovery provides all meals, lodging and fly-fishing equipment, and no previous fishing experience is required. A maximum of 14 men are invited to participate.

The Retreat Starts: 4:00 PM Sunday September 29

The Retreat Ends: 2:00 PM Tuesday, October 1

Primary Service Area: N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia

Eligibility: Men living with cancer

To apply for this event, please fill out and submit:

Retreat Application Form

<http://reelrecovery.org/programs/application/>

Medical Release Form

<http://reelrecovery.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Medical-Release-Form.pdf>

## **COME VISIT OUR FACEBOOK**

I follow a dozen different fly fishing blogs and post many of them on our Facebook page. Many of these have videos or are too long to include in the newsletter so never make it here. Recently I posted a blog on fly fishing for big bluegill. It turned out to be one of the most followed posts we've ever had. There are also posts on targeting fish in small streams, how to tie a Tenkara fly, and even a bit of humor thrown in. Please visit our page at: <https://www.facebook.com/nwctu/> and be sure to like and follow the page so you will be kept up to date on the latest posts.

## **CHAPTER WEBSITE**

For those of you who may want to give wild trout fishing a go this summer we have added a video of *How to Fish a Small Mountain Stream* on our website page that includes the stream maps. <http://www.hkynctu.org/helpful-links/nc-wild-trout-streams/>

## **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 them and submit it to the newsletter. Your 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.

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