

I MAY NOT KNOW  
THE KEY TO HAPPINESS,  
BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN  
SAD FISHING WITH  
MY LITTLE BOY.



right, you may turn them off for life. And do you remember how excited you were the first time you caught a fish on a fly you tied. If you can get your child to do that you may have them “hooked” for life. We’ll talk a little about teaching your child to tie flies. It’s summer now and the kids are out of school, so take some time and head out onto the water with them.

No meeting this month.

Hickory TU does not hold meetings in July and August. Our next meeting will be September 16<sup>th</sup>.

*"Instead of buying your child a cell phone, buy them a fishing rod.  
....Unknown*

**Tie-a-Thon For Project Healing Waters** in Charlotte and Winston-Salem, July 19<sup>th</sup> at Patterson School. We will be tying Walt's Worm, Squirmy, and Egg Fly. Material is provided. If you can, bring your own tying equipment but a few sets are available. If you can, tie some flies up before you come and bring them along.

## Rocky River TU Alarka 2025 Trip, October 16-19.

We will have cabins and tent/car/RV camping options. Registration will open later this summer.



## **7/1/2025 - Fly-fishing Basics: Wading Safety and Etiquette - Virtual**

### 7/3/2025 - On the Water Fly-fishing Experience

**7/11/2025 - Intermediate Fly-tying Workshop - Morganton**

## 7/12/2025 - Family Fishing Workshop

**7/16/2025 - Catfishing Basics - Virtual**

### 8/9/2025 - Beginning Fly-tying Workshop - Lenoir

## 8/13/2025 - Rod Building Primer - Virtual

## **8/14/2025 - Intermediate Fly-tying Workshop - Morganton**

## 8/16/2025 - Basic Rodbuilding Workshop - Marion

## **8/27/2025 - Fly-fishing Basics: How to Read a Trout Stream - Virtual**

You are receiving this newsletter either as a member or prospective member of the Blue Ridge Chapter 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.



## 5 TIPS FOR TEACHING KIDS TO FLY FISH

March 3, 2025 By: [Heather Harkavy](#)



Photo: Meris McHaney

I have been fly fishing with my dad since I was a little rug rat. When I reflect on my childhood, fishing was everything. If I wasn't catching fish, I was probably catching snakes or lizards in the backyard. You can't teach kids the natural desire to roll around in the dirt and try to outsmart critters, but what you *can* do is make an environment conducive to learning, reduce the barriers to entry, and add the extra entertainment. My wonderful childhood on the water was cut off—temporarily, thankfully—when I became a teenager. I faded away from the sport a bit. Why? One simple reason: None of my friends were doing it, and I wanted to hangout with my friends. Thank goodness I grew out of that.



Photo: Dylan Schmitz

### Fish for Change

When I graduated from college, I helped found an organization called [Fish for Change](#). We take teenagers on international fly fishing trips centered around conservation stewardship, fly-fishing education, and building global citizens. Throughout the course of the summer, we use fishing as a platform for change. Ten teenagers per week join us in Honduras, Bahamas, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Colorado. We team up with local conservation partners to plant mangroves, tag fish, study jaguars, eradicate invasive species, and more. We build cultural

exchange through dinners with guides, a local scholarship program, local sporting games, traditional dishes, and deeply immersing ourselves in the culture.

Fish for Change programs are all grounded in education. We have students learn their knots and then tie them while they dance to make sure they are practicing under pressure. We draw boats in the sand and act out skits of different scenarios that can happen on the water—landing fish, setting the hook, a fish running under the boat, or a fish running at the angler fast. We make a point to offer only three pieces of advice for a student's cast per day, as to not overwhelm them. We tie flies with ocean trash we've collected.

Most important, we give teenagers from around the globe best friends who fly-fish. With that, they've got this sport for life. So parents out there, once your precious fishing kid becomes a teen and forgets that you are cool for a few years, help them find a friend that fishes, too. It will be sure to stick.



Photo: Karly Mathern

### Life Lessons

Here are 5 fun tips for getting kids into fishing!

#### 1. Turn Casting Practice into a Game

Casting can be tricky, but the idea is to develop the muscle memory of a wee one. So make a game out of it.

- **Imaginary Fishing in the Field:** One angler makes up a fun fishing scenario, and the other responds.
- **Bocce-Style Casting:** Set a target and give each angler three shots. The closest one wins.
- **HORSE, but Make It PERMIT:** Like the basketball game HORSE, but with creative casts. One angler does something fun—cast with eyes closed, cast lefty, back hand cast with one double-haul, aim at a floating leaf. The second angler must match it or gain a letter. Once they've spelled "permit," they're out. The last one standing wins.

Pro tip: Use a **yarn fly** to avoid accidental piercings.

#### 2. Use Kid-Friendly Gear

That fancy nine foot rod you love? Don't hand that to a 7-year-old unless you want a mess and some frustration. A smaller rod, something in the 7 1/2-foot to 8 1/2-foot range, with a light-weight 3- or 4-weight line, is way easier for little hands to manage. Also, keep the rig simple. One fly: Minimal tangles, maximum chance of success.

Here are two great, economical buys to kick off with. An [Orvis PractiCaster](#) or a [TFO Bug Caster](#) which is lightweight and made for smaller hands.



Photos courtesy of Fish for Change

### 3. Fishing is About the Journey

If the goal is just to catch fish, you're setting yourself up for failure. Instead, make it about the whole experience. Flip rocks and hunt for bugs. Pack a ridiculous amount of snacks. (Seriously, snacks are critical.) Let the youngster go for a swim, skip rocks, or name the fish they haven't caught yet. A riverside picnic can sometimes be the highlight of the day. And if they actually catch a fish? That's just the cherry on top.

### 4. Set Long-Term Goals

Having goals to strive for is a fun way to get kids to interact more and initiate the next fishing trip. As skills build, the kids will continue to strive and grow. Here are a few ideas that vary, depending on location:

- Learn 5 knots by the end of summer
- Pursue a "slam" of three target species
- Pick up a bag of trash each day you're on the river
- Catch every species of fish in your state before you're 18
- Pursue an IGFA junior-angler world record
- Fish three new places over spring break
- Learn how to row a boat by the end of summer

### 5. The Kid's the Guide

Where should we fish? Which fly should we use? Where do you think the fish are hiding? Let the child take the reins, even if their choices seem questionable. Giving them ownership builds confidence and makes the experience more fun. Hand them the fly box and let them pick, and no second-guessing. Then, talk through their reasoning and encourage their curiosity.

*Heather Harkavy is founder and executive director of [Fish for Change](#). A South Florida native, she now lives in the Roaring Fork Valley of Colorado.*

## A FLY ROD FOR TRAVELING

If you take a lot of trips to go fly fishing, taking your rod along can be a problem. The maximum size suitcase is a total of 62" length, width, and height and you probably don't want to push it. I was able to find a suitcase 28"x19"x10" (57" total) that gets through with no problem and it will carry a 4 piece rod diagonally. But if you are the kind of traveler that prefers a carry-on bag you will not get a 4 piece rod into it and will have to carry it separately and stow it on the plane. My son is a carry on person and on a return from the Bahamas forgot to

take the rod out of storage as he left the plane. Even though his name was on it, he never got it back.



Recently he was looking on line and discovered a 6 piece rod at [Pescador on the Fly](#). The company has three tiers of rods with the top rod being the El Rey series. We were headed to the Big Hole River in a couple weeks so decided to go ahead and get one. We had some concern

about the casting quality of a rod with six pieces so we went with the top of the line and purchased an El Rey G6 908-6 – 9' 5 weight. The list price was \$900. But at the time it was on sale for \$550.

When I got the rod home I tried out my Orvis Access 9' 6 weight along side this new rod. They both had a similar flex when I shook them. Then I tried out casting a fly with each rod and was amazed that I was able to actually cast the fly about 20' farther with the Pescador Rod. They clearly have done an amazing job building this six piece rod.

The rod comes in a 21½" inch case and it fits easily into my 21" carry on and you are allowed up to 22". In addition the rod came with an extra tip in case the first one breaks.

We took the rod along to the Big Hole River as a spare, but we each tried it out for a day. We were both very impressed at casting and roll casting. I'm a bit long in the tooth and I made it through our 8 hour day without an effort.

And by the way, I missed it when I logged into the website to buy the rod, but if you sign up for their newsletter you will get an additional 10% off on your first purchase.

*Follow up note: I took this rod on a trip and even the guides could not believe how fantastic the cast was. One guide suggested that you use a 6 or 7 wt. line on this 5 wt. rod to make it cast even better.*

## 5 TIPS FOR TAKING A KID ON A GUIDED TRIP

Written by: Kip Vieth, [Wildwood Float Trips](#)



That big smile suggests that this youngster is hooked for life.

This is the year. You've been thinking about exposing a kid to the wonderful sport of fly fishing, and you've decided that



he or she is ready. What better way to do it than to take them on a guided trip? They will get a great glimpse into the sport and what it involves, and you'll have an expert on hand to answer the questions and offer advice. Guides teach all season long and really reduce the learning curve for the new angler. My favorite trips every season are the ones that expose children to our wonderful sport. I pride myself in teaching youngsters, and it is a big part of what we do.

That said, there are certain things that adults can do to ensure that the young angler has a good experience. Nothing turns someone off as quickly as a bad experience while they're trying to learn a new sport. I've been guiding a long time. Here are a few things that I have seen that can make the difference between making fly fishing a lifelong sport or something they never want to do again.

### 1. Make it Fun

It might seem obvious. If it isn't fun, good luck getting youngsters to be enthusiastic about going fishing again. It's all about the experience, so make sure it's a good one. This might include not fishing. Let the kid enjoy their surroundings. This might include throwing rocks, building sand castles, or swimming. Don't make it a grind. For the most part, let the youngster dictate the day. The guide can help with this. A good guide knows how to read people and can often see the frustration coming on.



If the fish aren't biting, maybe it's time to look for cloud animals.

### 2. It's Not About You

Make sure that the day is about the kid. It was great that you brought him or her; that was the easy part. But many times, I've seen the adult start fishing and get lost in it, often forgetting why they're there. If you want to make it a day the kid won't forget, make the child the center of the world. All attention should be paid to them.

### 3. Let the Guide be the Bad Guy

If you have ever had children involved sports, you probably know this. I was lucky enough to coach my kids a bit in the sports that they participated in. They never listened to me as well as they did with the other coach. I was just their dad, not really a coach. Keep this in mind as you start your day. Remember that it's the kids' day, so let the guide be the guide. They are professionals at teaching, so let them teach. I can't

tell you how many times I have seen the adult jump in and the kid just shut down. Then frustration sets in. Sit back and watch the child be exposed to a sport that hopefully will be with them for the rest of their lives. It's a great gift you are giving them. Enjoy it.



Orvis casting instructor Pete Kutzer offers some tips to the author's son, Truman.

### 4. Comfort Is Important

If the child isn't comfortable, they aren't going to enjoy the day. Buy or borrow good outerwear, so they can concentrate on the fishing. Keep them warm and dry, and things will go much better. With all the great affordable outerwear available, there really isn't an excuse for them to be uncomfortable.

### 5. Good Equipment Helps

Just like outerwear, there really isn't an excuse for giving the kids second-rate equipment. I'm not saying you must spend thousands to outfit the kids, but don't give them grandpa's rod from the attic. There are plenty of good reasonably priced outfits out there. If nothing else, the guide will have outstanding equipment that they would love to let the kid use for the day. Nothing is more frustrating than trying to teach someone a sport with subpar equipment.



Few things are more fun than watching your kid fall in love with your favorite sport.

Nothing is more special than spending a quality day on the water with a child. Practice patience and make sure the day is



all about them, and your experience should be great. Remember it's about teaching. Also, remember that it might not be their cup of tea. It might be disappointing to you if they don't care for it. Just know that you exposed them to it, and that's all you can do. If the experience is a good one, chances are they'll love it and you just might have a fishing partner for life. Now get out there and take those kids fishing.

Kip Vieth owns [Wildwood Float Trips](#), in Monticello, Minnesota, and he is a former Trout Bum of the Week. Check out his excellent "[10 Tips for Catching a Musky on a Fly](#)."

## NCWRC TACKLE LOANER PROGRAM

Looking to try fishing for the first time? Still fine-tuning your angling skills? Or perhaps you forgot your gear at home? The Tackle Loaner Program is here for you! The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has teamed up with various cities, counties, state parks and other organizations so that North Carolinians (and visitors) may borrow rods, reels and other fishing gear free of charge. The NCWRC created the program in the 1990s to introduce new anglers, especially children, to the wonderful pastime of fishing and encourage novice anglers to develop their skills. The program is funded by the federal Sport Fish Restoration program.

## HOW TLP WORKS

The Tackle Loaner Program operates just like a library system. Anglers of all ages register at any participating site, then receive a TLP ID card, which allows them to check out fishing gear. Participants can then use their ID card again and again to loan out gear at any of NC's TLP sites. All gear must be returned to the site from which it was originally loaned out, however.

First-time TLP participants under 16 years of age will receive a free mini-tackle box loaded with basic fishing essentials.

For more details, locations of the program, and to sign up to borrow a fishing rod visit: [Tackle Loaner Program](#)

## ADVICE FROM THE VISE

It's officially summer and officially hot. That shouldn't keep you off the water though. On my stretch of the Fork, long days make for nice evenings on the water when the smallmouth and bluegill bite turns on.

This month's offering is a great fly, that floats like a cork, takes a beating, and imitates more bug than its namesake Caddis- the Neversink. There's some conflicting stories out there if this fly was named after Gordon's River in New York, or if it refers to its floating ability. I'm thinking that foam bodies on dry flies were several years past the Catskills heyday- but for whatever convention you choose for its history, it's a great all around performer. I stick a couple in my vest patch and I'm set for the evening.



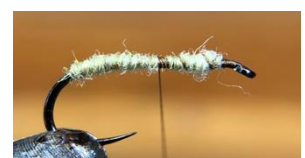
The traditional colors, tans and browns, natural elk hair and hackle work well to keep to the most matching shade of what is in the water, but don't be afraid to hit some more attractor colors with this pattern. As always, if it catches fish, it's worth tying.

Foam can be daunting at first try, so this is an excellent pattern to get your foam feet wet if you have had foam on your list to try out.

I'm using standard 3mm sheets cut into a strip about 1/8 inch wide on a #12 standard dry hook, dry fly dubbing of your choice, elk hair and genetic hackle of your choosing. BSP thread is helpful as there's some tension involved.



Dress the hook from eye to bend, and dub from bend to eye. Dub the thread with a noodle and wrap to the eye.



Return the thread to the center of the shank, just in front of the point. That's going to reveal as the tie in point for the foam





Take a secure wrap to hold the foam in place then take wraps fore and aft of the center point to form a bit of a saddle for the hair and hackle. Keep back a tad from the eye.



Take a series of wraps on the saddle to compress the foam and then lightly dub to ensure an even foundation.

Take a pinch of elk hair, cleaned and stacked and pinch wrap that so that the insertion point is at the rear of the saddle. Take a few wraps through to secure the hair and trim off the butt ends.



Dub lightly to give your saddle some substance for the hackle to sit on and tie in the hackle. With touching turns, wrap the hackle forward to the eye, and secure it in. Don't be conservative with the hackle, keep it full and tight. The foam keeps the butt up, but the hackle keeps the head afloat.



Whip finish at the eye, under the foam. Pull it rearward so you can get in there and get a good knot. Trim off the head by cutting the foam straight across in front of the eye then shaping the sides.



There's endless color combinations you can use with this one, so use your imagination. Substituting Antron for the wing over elk hair works a treat and makes it even more visible in the evening light. Hope you can enjoy a sunset or two with this fly on the river or in the pond. Hope to see a few of you at Southern Fly Tyers Guild event On July 19<sup>th</sup>!

Please don't hesitate to contact me at [Jacobsforkflytying@gmail.com](mailto:Jacobsforkflytying@gmail.com) Please check out some current ties on Instagram at Jacobs Fork Fly Tying

## KIDS LOVE HUNTING BUGS

*One thing I have learned from our Trout in the Classroom releases is that kids love bugs. At the release we send them into the river to search for, catch, and then identify the bugs that trout eat. You can't imagine how much fun they have doing that.*

*If you are teaching your kids to fly fish, you need for them to enjoy it, to learn to love it, and looking in the river for the bugs that they are using at the end of their fly line is going to hook them. Here is an article and brief video showing you a simple way to do that.*

**Easy Bug Sampling For Trout Fishermen Video**  
by [Louis Cahill](#)





By Louis Cahill

## Ever have one of those days where you just can't figure out what the trout are eating?

Selective trout can make you crazy but there is a way to figure out for sure what they're keyed in on. Taking a stream sample is quick and easy and it really gives you a leg up on the fish. With a bug seine you can sample nymphs from the bottom, emergers from the film and spinners or adults from the surface. Match the size, color and profile of your fly to the insects you find and you'll be into fish.

Paint strainers make great bug seines. They're cheap and easy to store in your pack or boat. Stretch one over your net and you're in business. **You can get yours [HERE](#).**

**Check out this video and learn to sample bugs on your water. [Bug Sampling With Paint Strainer](#)**

Louis Cahill

**Gink & Gasoline**

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

*Note: If you want to be a bit more sophisticated at looking for bugs check out this video: [Wilson Creek Bug Study](#)*



THE NEXT GENERATION

## Teaching Fly Tying to Kids: Where To Begin?



*The author with his daughter Lucy, then four years old, discussing fly color. Lucy has always been an arts and crafts kid, and her peripheral interest in fly tying began to grow when she associated it with time on Daddy's*

*lap and another opportunity to be creative. The actual link to fly fishing came later.*

## Many of Us Who Tie Flies and Have Children Would Love To See Them Take Up the Hobby

If you aren't a parent, maybe you have some young relatives or know some local youngsters who have shown an interest in fly tying.

Time spent tying with kids can be fun, productive, and higher quality than most people think.

Before you go down that road, here are a handful of things to keep in mind.

### 1. Keep It Simple

We're not going to tie fully dressed salmon flies here.

By keeping the patterns simple, children can stay focused longer and have a greater appreciation for the fly building craft. Kids don't learn math by starting with calculus, so reflect on that principle when starting to teach kids how to tie flies.

Many youngsters enjoy the process of learning tying techniques that can broadly apply to many patterns. Just wrapping thread on the hook can be a good time for little newbies at the vise.

As for material and color selection, well, that can go on for some time and be quite amusing.

### 2. Start With Large Patterns



"Large" is a relative term. This fly, tied by an eight-year-old student, is on a saltwater size 2 hook. Compared to most trout patterns it's huge, but for many saltwater situations it's

below average. Note the sparsity and sense of proportion... Not bad for a youngster who'd only been at it for a few weeks!

In the interest of being able to properly gauge what's actually being tied to the hook, I advise that children start by tying larger flies.

This is for the benefit of both the teacher and the pupil. It's much easier to view the progress of a fly under construction when all ingredients are readily seen during the process, as well as being seen after the fly is complete. More advanced notions such as color blending, proportion, sparsity, and others are also more obvious when tied large.

### [Beyond the Gear: 3 Important Things to Teach Your Kids On Their First Fly Fishing Trip](#)



As an added feature, I often used brightly colored thread that need not match the pattern being tied so a youngster can see the path of construction.

Who cares if the colors don't match? Your student won't, and neither will most fish.

### 3. Hands-on Time Matters

Even basic concepts such as thread wraps can be entertaining for little ones. Notice the exposed hook point; this was an impromptu lesson where Lucy

jumped on the author's lap and wanted to help. Thread wraps were made far away from the point. Subsequent sessions had hook points covered.

Everything is theory until put into practice. Fly tying is no different.

Yes, showing technique is beneficial, but until the rubber hits the road and rookies start using the vise and tools themselves, they really won't grow. Only watching and not actively participating can be discouraging to students regardless of age.

#### [Take Your Baby Fly Fishing: 5 Tips for Fishing With an Infant](#)

Of special note when teaching fly tying to children are a few safety measures, particularly when dealing with scissors and hook points. Good tying scissors are razor sharp and their use with young ones should be supervised. Hook points are an always present hazard for any fly dresser, but children can be especially unaware. My solution is to stick a pencil eraser onto the hook point and tell the student why it's there and what could happen if it wasn't.

With some common sense, kids can have fun cranking out flies at the vise without too much risk.

#### 4. Manage the Expectations



Lucy (now 6 and an avid angler) soaks up knowledge from Sean Murphy at a local fly fishing expo. The fly is a psychedelic combination of material and color, a true extension of her creativity, and here she's observing how to perform a whip finish. The enthusiasm for the hobby can carry into the future where skills

will continue to develop.

Don't push too hard. Remember, kids who are learning to tie flies are kids.

It doesn't matter whether or not the flies they tie would actually catch fish. Let them be creative with material selection and design. I've let my daughter use many fly tying materials for other arts and crafts projects because this lets her become more familiar with them and what they can do.

Fly tying is an activity that should be fun, not stressful with unreasonable goals. Every child is different, and because of that each will get something a little different from tying flies.

Above all, have fun!

#### **FISHING TRIP FROM HELL**

I recently had one of the worst fly fishing adventures of my lifetime. My son and I had scheduled a three day float trip on a western river. He now lives in Chicago and I fly out of Charlotte. He made it fine the first day, but after getting up at 3:30 AM, spending most of the day at the airport with a cancelled flight, rescheduling a two legged flight, and having the re-scheduled trip cancelled, I headed back home with the thought of cancelling my trip and letting him enjoy it alone. On the way home he called me and told me there was now a direct

flight. I was up the next day at 4:30 AM and all went well and I got to the destination.



We had planned the trip to be there in the middle of a major salmon fly hatch. Unfortunately the hatch came early and had ended a couple days before we arrived. That meant the fish were

gorged from a feeding frenzy the previous couple weeks. Fishing was poor the first day and we only caught 3 each the first day with some very small ones and only a medium sized big one. The second day was a little better with nothing in the morning, but it did turn on a little better in the afternoon, but nothing to write home about.

The next morning I was up at 5:00 AM and headed to the airport for the flight home. The first leg went fine to Dallas, but there our plane didn't show up at the gate. It had finished maintenance, but had not been picked up. Two hours later we learned that the maintenance paperwork had not been completed. The airline found another arrival and put us on it.

When I got back to Charlotte it was nearly 9 PM. I figured I had missed the 9 PM shuttle back to Hickory and the next wasn't until midnight. Finally, however, the gods looked down and said ENOUGH! The shuttle called and said they would try to hold the shuttle for me. The problem was I had a checked bag and Charlotte is notorious with slow bag delivery. To my absolute amazement, when I got to the carousel my bag was arriving and I was able to get on the shuttle. Oh, and to top it all off, I arrived home with a strep throat.



Looking back on this disastrous trip would I think it had all been worth it? The answer is a resounding yes! Any opportunity to spend some time fishing with my son is time worth spending. It is something we love doing together and will continue to do it no matter what the consequences. Do your best to get your child to love fly fishing. If you don't do it right it won't end well so read what the articles in the newsletter this month have to say and don't make it an effort, keep it fun. Good luck and I hope you can have that time together in your future.

*"It's not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings."*



## MOUNTAIN HERITAGE TROUT WATERS PROGRAM

The Mountain Heritage Trout Waters program is a cooperative effort between the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and local governments to encourage trout fishing as a heritage tourism activity in western North Carolina cities that are designated as a “Mountain Heritage Trout Water City.”

Currently, 17 cities are participating in the program. Each of these cities provides public access to a trout stream that runs through or is adjacent to the city. North Carolina residents and non-residents who want to fish in a stream that is designated as a Mountain Heritage Trout Water may purchase a 3-day license for \$8. The license is valid only for waters that are designated as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. Anglers with an inland fishing license can fish in Mountain Heritage Trout Waters without a Mountain Heritage Trout Waters license..

To purchase a Mountain Heritage Trout Waters license using a credit card: Call 833-950-0575. (8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.)

**Important note:** The Mountain Heritage Trout Water license can only be purchased by calling the toll-free number above. Wildlife Service Agents do not sell this license.

To fish for trout in Public Mountain Trout Waters that are not designated as “Mountain Heritage Trout Waters,” anglers age 16 and over must have a valid inland fishing license. [North Carolina Fish Licenses](#)

### No rod and reel? No problem!

Anglers can borrow a rod and reel free of charge for the day. The loaner rods and reels are provided by city and town governments and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission through the agency’s Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Tackle Loaner Program. This program operates like a library. Anglers of all ages register at participating Mountain Heritage Trout Waters program-tackle-loaner sites to receive a tackle loaner ID card, which allows them to check out a rod and reel for the day. Anglers under age 18 must have a parent or guardian to complete the registration form. Anglers receive a free one-time mini-tackle box containing assorted lures the first time they register in the program. One tackle box per participant is permitted. Loaner rods and reels are available for a one-day loan and must be returned to the participating loaner site by the end of the business day. [See a list of tackle loaner site locations.](#) Trout Fishing Tips

Fly-fishing is a great sport but it’s more than a long pole, a fake bug and a casual cast into the water. Fly-fishing takes time and practice. Knowing what lure to fish, as well as when and where to fish is as important as landing a cast in just the right spot with just the right touch. Download a printable “Tips for the Novice Fly-Fisher” card [here](#).

### Mountain Heritage Trout Cities Maps

Download a printable map and regulations of the stream section that is designated as a Mountain Heritage Trout Water in that location.

- [Bakersville](#)
- [Beech Mountain](#)
- [Black Mountain](#)
- [Burnsville](#)

- [Bryson City](#)
- [Dillsboro](#)
- [Hot Springs](#)
- [Lansing](#)
- [Maggie Valley](#)
- [Newland](#)
- [North Wilkesboro/Wilkesboro](#)
- [Old Fort](#)
- [Spruce Pine](#)
- [Sylva](#)
- [Todd Community](#)
- [Waynesville](#)
- [Webster](#)

## HELP SUPPORT THE TIE-A-THONS

The Tie-a-Thon event that began at Patterson School this year is blossoming into a major program. There have already been three tie-a-thons this year with two more scheduled. On Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> there is an event to provide flies to Project Healing Waters and on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> the event will support Casting Carolinas. Plans are already being made to have two more events early next year to provide flies to the national Tie-a-Thon organization. [Tie A Thon](#) The events are from 9AM-3PM and all materials and lunch are provided. You need to bring your own tying equipment if you have it, but a few sets are available to loan if you don’t have one.

In the heat of summer, why not spend some time at your fly tying bench and start tying up some flies ahead of the event to boost the donation. The flies we will be tying in your choice of colors for the July event, and probably the others are as follows:



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