

Hickory, Table Rock, High Country Trout Unlimited November 2025 Newsletter



This month the newsletter is dedicated to those of us who are getting a bit long in the tooth. Just because you are getting old doesn't mean you need to give up fly fishing, it just means you have to adjust to it. We will explore ways that will still get you out there on the river to catch some fish.

However, if you do reach the point where you just can't handle it anymore, we will discuss what to do with that closet full of equipment and desk full of fly tying materials. There are many groups that would make good use of your donation.

For all of you young guys we also have an article on things that make fly fishing and tying easier, and another plus, for all of you who love dogs and take them to the river, we'll give you some ideas for a name. Enjoy the newsletter

HIGH COUNTRY MEETING

When: Thursday, Nov. 6th, 6-8 PM

Where: Blue Ridge Conservancy Education Center
416 Aho Rd, Blowing Rock, NC 28605

HICKORY TU MEETING

When: Tuesday, Nov 18th, 6 PM

Where: Old Hickory Station
232 Government Ave SW, Hickory

What: Trash Flies.....Because they work

We will talk a little about the history of these flies and show how they are tied. Dave Heis inventor of the squirmy will be there to demonstrate. Meetings are open to everyone, not just members and dinners are optional.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MountainTrue Winkler's Creek Clean-up in Boone, NC Nov 4th 10 AM [Sign Up](#)
Naked Creek Volunteer Planting Day, Nov 8th
Highlander Motel 891 NC-16, Jefferson, United States

Join us for New River Conservancy's Live Stake Planting Day at Naked Creek. [SignUp](#)

NCTU Seeking Volunteer Groups to Aid in Identifying Locations and Planting 7000 Trees

NC Trout Unlimited Chapters are working with Jeff Yates, TU National Senior Director of Engagement who has organized several corporate donors to support a low cost but high impact practice – planting native trees along streams. The funds will purchase up to 7,000 three to five gallon potted trees (5-8ft tall) to aid in replacing lost riparian buffers from Hurricane Helene along cold waters streams throughout the western North Carolina watersheds. They will supply trees only, no shrubs or dormant live stakes and we do not have funding for additional supplies such as tree tubes, mulch etc. A large number of these trees will be planted or given away during and around the Southeast Regional Rendezvous in mid March, but there will be plenty available for other planting events as well. High impact sites with lots of public visibility/access and along cold water trout streams are the priority, but all sites will be considered.

To keep things organized, Jon Pershke and Shea Tuberty at High Country TU are working together to collect information about possible planting sites and organizations who may be able to provide tree planting effort. They will liaise with Jeff Yates to ensure all viable sites are submitted and prevent double counting tree requests. If you have a community partner/landowner who is interested in potentially getting native trees, please email them (see below) with the following information: Location, name of contact/phone/email, name of organization, whether they can provide volunteers for planting, species of trees preferred, number of trees, and when the site is ready for planting. Thanks and we look forward to getting thousands of trees into the ground along rivers in Western NC with you and your chapters!

tubertysr@appstate.edu jpershke@gmail.com

Note: If your organization has an upcoming event and would like it in the newsletter, send it to HkyNCTU@gmail.org.

NCWRC FISHING CLASSES

11/1/2025 - Family Fishing Workshop - Marion
11/5/2025 - Catfishing Basics - Virtual
11/6/2025 - On the Water Fly-fishing Experience- Jacob Fork, South Mountains State Park

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 and let us know.

<u>11/8/2025 - Entomology for Anglers Workshop - Lenoir, Patterson School</u>
<u>11/19/2025 - Fly-fishing Basics: Understanding and Selecting Fly-fishing Equipment - Virtual</u>
<u>11/20/2025 - On the Water Fly-fishing Experience-Jacob Fork, South Mountains State Park</u>
<u>12/3/2025 - Fly-fishing Basics: Wading Safety and Etiquette - Virtual</u>
<u>12/4/2025 - On the Water Fly-fishing Experience-Jacob Fork, South Mountains State Park</u>
<u>12/6/2025 - Basic Fly-Casting Workshop - Lenoir</u>
<u>12/6/2025 - On the Water Fly-fishing Experience - Lenoir</u>
<u>12/10/2025 - Rod Building Primer - Virtual</u>
<u>12/13/2025 - Basic Rod Building-Marion</u>
<u>12/17/2025 - Fly-fishing Basics: How to Read a Trout Stream - Virtual</u>
<u>12/18/2025 - On the Water Fly-fishing Experience-Jacob Fork, South Mountains State Park</u>

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"During my addled career as a trout fisherman I have gone on a lot of wild goose chases, and I ruefully expect to go on a lot more before I hang up my waders."John D. Voelker



The Aging Fly Fisher: What are the Options?

By Trent Robert Pridemore



AS YOU GROW OLDER, SCRAMBLING ALONG RIVERS, SUCH AS THIS ONE, BECOMES INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT.

At some point in your angling career, you will have to face the fact that you will no longer be able to feel comfortable wading your favorite stream. This loss of confidence and comfort level could be caused by an early knee injury or some other aspect of the aging process that ultimately gets to all of us. Your discomfort might come from physical infirmities, a diminishing sense of balance, a cardiac issue, failing eyesight, or just loss of muscle mass that makes rock hopping in a canyon challenging or impossible. Males lose approximately 5 percent of their muscle mass per decade after age 40, and changes in

testosterone/estrogen chemistry affect males and females alike. You don't see many 60-year-olds climbing Mount Everest, playing basketball, or for that matter wading Pit Number 3 or the Owens Canyon.

There are actions we can take that will prolong our useful fly-fishing lives, and there are good options beyond wading and fishing moving water. I hear lots of young guys say, "I wouldn't be caught dead on a lake. I love rushing water!" You might want to retract that statement if you no longer could walk very well, and especially if you'd found five-pound rainbows or largemouth bass at the end of your fly rod while float-tubing a local pond.

Let's look at what we can do to stave off the effects of age and also at what our options are after we feel that aggressive wading is no longer a good idea.

It was a knee injury that got me, and that disability was compounded by a back problem. I was off the river for three years. A successful surgery and some serious physical rehabilitation have me back on the water now, but as Dirty Harry said, "You've got to know your limitations."

Focus on Location

First, pick your spots. Remember the story about the Warden of the Madison: He comes over from Dillon every night and greases the rocks. As we age, we need to wade bottoms composed of sand and small aggregate. Not only do you need to think about places where you can wade with comfort, but you need to anticipate what scrapes you can't get out of anymore if you get in trouble. You should have an exit strategy before you enter the water. You might have escaped being deep-sixed once or twice in your thirties, but you won't now that you are fifty, sixty, or seventy. If you make a bad decision or get unlucky, you could be toast. Don't fish where a fall does more than get you wet.

I fish the lower Yuba all season, but particularly in the winter. A birthday present this spring was a personal floatation belt that is worn with my waders in addition to wading belt placed higher up. It doesn't hinder me in any way. Even with this belt, I'm a lot more careful than I was 10, 20, or 30 years ago.

I go back to a lesson from André Puyans 35 years ago. Andy contracted polio as a child in Batista's Cuba. He carried physical limitations with him the rest of his life. That's one of the reasons he loved the Railroad Ranch in Idaho, Hat Creek, Hot Creek, and the Rising River. These streams are easy to wade. Andy was ponderously methodical, but his slow pace gave him the time to observe the water carefully, spot fish, and find the best lies that held the biggest fish. Angling partner and good friend John Bjorkholm says, "I've become a better fisherman now that I pick my spots because of wading limitations, and I've become a more astute observer."

Often you can fish effectively from the bank. Sometimes it's best not to enter the water at all. Don't step on the fish!

Don't just pick your spots, pick your times, as well. With each decade, I find that fishing in prime time is more and more important. Most angling success comes in short windows of opportunity several times each day. I don't care to be out in the sun and wind from dawn to dusk anymore. If I am rested and fully alert, I can capitalize on those moments of prime time. I can't begin to tell you how many times a 20-minute window

made my angling day. If you're not sharp and ready when it happens, you lose!



STILL WATERS ALLOW YOU TO STAY IN THE ANGLING GAME WITH FEWER RISKS TO LIFE AND LIMB.

Get in Shape

Exercise tailored to help my angling has become very

important. Not only do I target my lower body to build leg strength and agility, but I target my core and upper body so casting will not give me wrist, shoulder, neck, or elbow problems. Four of us traveled to the Bahamas this spring for a week of bonefishing. At my urging, several in our group worked out with light weights and practiced casting with heavier-weight rods for several months before our trip. We picked breezy days to improve our casting in the wind. Even though we dealt with heavy rod and line weights all day long in strong winds for a week, not one of us had any upper-body problems when it was time to return home. Our ages range from the mid-sixties to the mid-seventies. We are already thinking about our next destination.

Exercise can improve your balance, too. Conversations with angling partners and fly-shop operators suggest that one of the biggest problems that older anglers have is loss of balance. I know that it is an issue with me, and I know that agility exercises help improve balance.

Dr. Gina Lokna, head of sports medicine at the U.C. Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, emphasizes that balance comes from more than just strong legs and knees. It involves proprioception, the internal sense we have of the position of our own bodies and limbs. It's what police officers test for when they pull someone over for driving under the influence. Because proprioception involves the whole body, exercise that helps keeps the whole body toned up therefore becomes important. And exercise is important for keeping your mind pliable and balanced, as well.

At Hot Creek Ranch, the rules and angling etiquette prohibit one from entering the streambed to fish. This is intended to protect the delicate aquatic environment and keep the trout from being stressed, but it is a blessing for those who have difficulty with ambulation. You could fish the stream with a cane or a walker, if you really had the desire . . . and burning passion is indeed important.

While we're considering balance, don't be too proud to use a wading staff. In fact, I've learned that a wading staff works very well for more things than wading. It is my cane, and, because it's collapsible, I take it with me when I travel and I use it for a trekking pole. More than once on an overseas trip, I've been comforted by the thought that it would also be a great street weapon if I were accosted by pickpockets or muggers. But it's a great help in getting around rocky river bottoms, too.

Physiological Factors

Altitude is another issue. If you have cardiac limitations or aren't in the best of shape, the Truckee or Owens at 6,000 feet or high-country backpacking may not be for you. Learn to adjust your pace and take breaks. Even with my orthopedic

limitations, I can walk the entire meadow of the Little Truckee if I pack a sandwich and water and take the whole day to make the journey. As I noted above, It's amazing what you see if you stop for a while on a good piece of water and study it.

Diet and hydration are important for any angler. For seniors on the river, consideration of these two factors should be axiomatic. I have a 30-year-old book in my library that is titled *Eat to Win*. I bought it for ideas in counseling my dental patients on the importance of eating sensibly and to help me with competitive tennis as I turned 40, then 50, then 60.

The book deals with eating well to enhance athletic performance. A long day on the stream can be as demanding as any day on the athletic field. Dehydration is your enemy. The dry air at higher altitudes enhances dehydration, which saps your strength. Start by hydrating properly the day before. Drink lots of water. Most cramps come because of low hydration levels 24 hours earlier. Moderate your alcohol, caffeine, and nicotine intake so that your electrolyte balance is in order. It's your intake the day and night before that affects the next day's well-being. A slug of Gatorade won't fix last night's problem instantaneously, but it sure helps if you drink a bottle or two during the course of a day's activity. Carbohydrates ensure quick energy, but protein at breakfast and at dinner the night before is very important to give you a stable blood sugar level and staying power on a long day. The "angler's breakfast" of Krispy Kreme doughnuts, high-acid orange juice, and three cups of high-octane coffee won't win a tennis match and won't give you the gradual energy release that you need for a day or a whole week of angling. Even young guys fade when that sugar high disappears and there is nothing left in the tank. Don't forget lunch. You need the energy and the break.

Other Options

You might want to consider engaging a guide to help you with your angling. Perhaps it's a float on the lower Sacramento in a drift boat or trolling flies with Jay Fair. Sure it's expensive, but save up and treat yourself. Just let your guide know your limitations. Most are thrilled when they can help someone enjoy the angling experience. Some even take wheelchair anglers.

If you've done everything possible to deal with a disability that limits your hiking and wading, but still aren't comfortable wading streams, try stillwater fly fishing. There are lakes that fish very well from shore. I fish every week with a group of guys and gals who are members of the Gold Country Fly Fishers. We have discovered that float tubes, pontoon boats, and prams can extend our angling lives. There's a reason legions of fly fishers, women and men, old and young, have adapted their angling methods to float tubes and small watercraft. There is lots of water out there with big fish, and it's very easy to beat the crowds that drive us from many rivers.

I know young stream anglers who won't leave their babbling brooks or their backpacks with five-piece rods, freeze-dried food, and Primus stoves, but the solitude of a back cove filled with nymphing trout in the swirling morning mist has its charms, as do multipound trout feasting on blundering carpenter ants. Besides, there are lots of stillwaters out there. There's a world of still water to challenge, both large and small, high and low, more than the maps show.



LAKE FISHING CAN BE VERY EXCITING. SMALLMOUTH BASS, FOR EXAMPLE, FIGHT EVEN HARDER THAN TROUT.

After triple-laminectomy back surgery three years ago, with my doctor's approval, my first exercise beyond walking was in a float tube. I started with a gentle 15-minute paddle around a neighbor-

hood pond and was up to several hours on a local lake within a month. I can't tell you how great it was to be on the water, with ducks and fish commiserating with me after most of a month spent indoors. Take something away and you really learn to appreciate it. Leg action propelling my fins tightened my derriere, strengthened my thighs and ankles, and improved my circulation. Casting from a low platform firmed up weakened shoulders, arms, and wrists.

Advertisement

A float tube can be used almost anywhere. It is easily stowed in a vehicle, is relatively inexpensive, and can be carried deflated in a vehicle on a long trip. Remember, though, to partially deflate your float tube as you gain altitude. Even a climb of 2,000 feet can burst a fully inflated tube as the air expands with the lower atmospheric pressure of higher altitude. A loud bang will let you know if you forgot. If you're a wading angler, you already have breathable waders and need only flippers to complete your outfit. In the summer, you may not even need waders.

Float tubes give aging anglers access to a wide variety of waters and offer a sense of serenity and intimacy with the environment that larger craft lack. Often you get to witness aspects of the natural world that others miss because they are moving too quickly. The stealth provided by a float tube creates a tremendous angling advantage, and there is something about being on the water in a very quiet device that is soothing for the soul.

I'm 68, and I fish with friends who are in their eighties. Even if you can no longer cast, in a float tube, success comes with dragging a line behind a slow kick. It's a tried and true technique. I find float tubes to be a safe and a therapeutic way of continuing fly fishing, not to mention the fact that we consistently catch bigger fish than those who wade our crowded and overfished rivers.

So don't quit fishing until you have exhausted your creativity, resources, and determination. Several of my friends are inspirations to me. One lost a lung in World War II and another has two artificial hips and a titanium knee. Yet another fished with an oxygen bottle.

A few months before my dad passed away, we drove up to Fuller Lake, and I cleared sticks and pine cones from a path so we could make it to the water with his walker. I'm not embarrassed to say that we dunked night crawlers for a couple of hours and shared cold pizza left over from the night before. I prayed for a fish to grab that worm and let him catch one more fish, but it wasn't to be. It didn't matter. Dad talked all the way home about the great trees and the osprey that he saw across

the lake that day. If you're an angler at heart, you always will be. There are always ways you can keep on fishing, even as age catches up with you.

Consider the Float Tube

The watercraft hasn't and won't be made that can do everything or go anywhere. Compromise comes to bear somewhere, but American float tube manufacturers have done a lot of research and have incorporated their findings into their products . . . even if the things are made in China.

Start by not compromising on safety. Low-end merchandise will bring you only grief and cost you money in the long run. In the middle price range and up, you will find some remarkable products that will last for years and years.

Your weight is a huge factor. If you are near the listed capacity rating of a tube, go up a notch in size. If you aren't going to backpack or will only drag your tube short distances, you can go with a heavier model. A float tube can be used on any lake or pond that you can reach with a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Most have heavy-denier outer shells and some have vinyl shields that protect the ends and bottom from rocks, sticks, and thorns when you drag your tube across beaches and on portages.

The earliest models were truck inner tubes with sewn canvas seats. We thought they were heaven, but they were hard to get into and out of with a pair of flippers attached to your feet. Getting into one was an exercise in agility for a Cirque du Soleil acrobat, and I've seen some accidents where anglers fell face first into the water and were helpless. A few years ago, we witnessed a comical and possibly tragic scenario at Lake Davis when two guys high on dope tried to get into their tubes and then back into the lake with their flippers on. As funny as it was, it could have ended in tragedy.

For me, as an aging man, front-end entry as in a U-boat-style float tube is a must. A double air bladder, a floatation seat, and back-rest cushions are mandatory. Sharp fish fins, hooks, and submerged sticks can pop a cell. It's difficult for that to happen, but it has occurred. Some municipal waters require a personal flotation device (PFD) in addition to the built-in floatation.

Seat height is crucial. Inflatable cushions offer a smaller deflated profile, but can cost a bit more. Several angling buddies add another cushion to get their butts a bit higher out of the water. Every inch helps your vision, but can change your angle of thrust and make it easier to slip off the cushion.

Propulsion is backward, and the thrust angle can influence efficiency a great deal. Short guys probably don't want to be really high. I splurged last spring and bought a pair of Force Fins after buying and trying three different brands over a number of years. Experiments number 2 and 3 went onto the swap table at our fly club. My new fins give me another 25 percent efficiency, which really helps, because I'm a big guy and have weak legs from my disability nerve loss. They also do the duck walk a bit better on shore. Some don't like them. How easy is the pair that you select to put on and take off? It can make a big difference. Borrow a pair and try them out before buying, or get an agreement on a merchandise return from your dealer.

Does the pair that you select have or need safety straps? It's tough kicking back to the shore with only one fin.

I like to wear some type of a lightweight boot over my waders' stocking feet that allows me to walk distances if I have to portage or if the wind leaves me stranded away from my entry spot. It can happen, and a comfortable boot for the walk back is invaluable. The Gold Country Fly fishers recently held a float-tube clinic where members could try different tubes and different fins. Another good source for information is your local fly shop. They know from customer input what works. Your big-box or mail-order palace may not be able to give you the information that helps you make a wise and money-saving decision. Don't forget to ask your buddies. Many have used different models and know what works best.

For me, breathable waders need to be loose enough so that I can comfortably address the "pee" issue that arises from prolonged minutes on the water. I can't speak for the gals, but the reality is that you will have the need to get out of the tube every once in a while or find another solution. Where there is a will, there is a way. Small plastic or metal cups, and modified wide mouth plastic water bottles do work!

Most float tubes come with stripping aprons that have a built ruler for measuring your catch. Some have straps to hold one or more rods while you fish, and this can provide a huge advantage. It's easy to slip, drop, and lose a rod or reel when trying to change a spool, and it's a plus to be able to switch rods and capitalize ASAP on a changing angling situation. I carry a rod rigged with a floating line as well as a rod rigged with a clear intermediate line. I fabricated a rod carrier out of Velcro straps that use the "D" rings built into a good tube, adding a plastic clip for insurance. An extendable catch-and-release "measure net" tucked in behind my backrest helps with landing fish before lactic acid build-up compromises their recovery. It also tells you reasonably accurately how long your fish was. A jacket and a sandwich in a lightweight dry bag can tuck in behind the backrest, as well. Safety-related items that I bring include a "boating" whistle, an extra air valve, a small flashlight, a pocket knife, a walkie-talkie, a cell phone if there is likely to be a signal, a length of quarter-inch cord, and a water bottle. A float tube is a small watercraft and should be operated with good sense and safety always in mind. Keep an eye on the weather. Ask yourself before you get in, "If the wind comes up, what can I do?" And as time goes by, ask "Is it really a good idea to be this far out?" Stories circulate about anglers who get blown across a lake.

Use good sense if the water is cold. Hypothermia comes quickly and can kill, even in the summer. If the water is cold, say, 41 degrees, think about whether you should really be out there. Pull on your fleece pants, even if your first impression is that you won't need them.

Think about what will happen if you have an accident. You're not in a 40-foot yacht. Start out on a small body of water and get your sea legs. Consider fishing with one or more partners. Take breaks on a regular basis to rest your legs and avoid cramping.

I have been tempted to use my float tube in the ocean, but I know that an angler in a float tube with legs dangling underneath looks a lot like a seal. In Northern California, seals are

the great white shark's favorite food. Besides, open-water tides and sudden offshore winds are treacherous and overpowering. It's a long way across the Big Pond. River running seems intriguing, but currents can trap you against snags or rocks, and rapids can flip you. Can you walk out of a canyon if a problem rises? Exercise prudence if you perceive even the tiniest risk. Thorough knowledge of a river might not be enough to keep you out of trouble.

Reality is that float tubes are very safe if common sense is used. That's why insurance rules allow float tubes or pontoon boats and not prams on some lakes.

Trent Pridemore

ADVICE FROM THE VISE

Suddenly it's cold. The DH stocking is in full swing across the region and there are some nice trout out there to evaluate your fly – and the prowess of your drift. Chick reminded me that we are fast approaching the holidays so thought I would present a fly that has its inspiration with my kids and their year round love for all things Rudolph- as in the Red Nosed Reindeer, when they were little.



This is a really effective perdigon pattern, and perfect for late fall and winter euro nympling. I give you the Yukon Cornelius. It's a very simple perdigon pattern featuring a silver wire rib over a gold tinsel body- and a painted bright red bead. From #18 to #8, it gets noticed and makes a great dropper or point fly or a tandem pair on the euro rig.

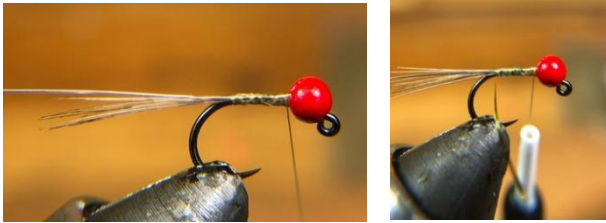
Using a perdigon jig hook, this is the Saluda Beads 202 in #14 with a 3.3mm red bead. Tailing is Coc de Leon light pardo, beastie size silver wire and Sulky metallic gold tinsel for the body wrap. Thread is light tan 14/0. I like to keep the thread to 14/0 or 16/0 with perdigons to minimize any bulk and keep the profile slim.

Dress the hook from bead to bend and tie in the tailing.



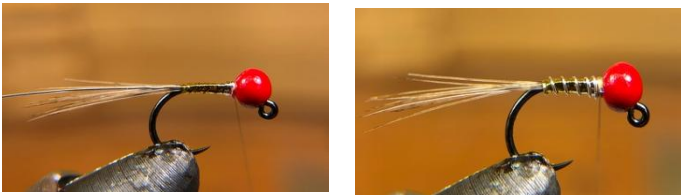
I tie a sparse tail, but keep it long, about the length from the eye to the bend as a guide.

Next tie in the wire rib. I use the brassie size as I want a significant rib on this fly to contrast with the gold body. Tie in the gold tinsel from bead to bend. I usually just leave that on the spool and feed it using the rotary feature of the vise. If you don't have rotary- cut a 4-6 inch piece.



Take touching turns with the tinsel to the bead, and repeat back to the bend and again to the bead to ensure you have good coverage of the body and a slight taper.

Rib the body with some fairly tightly spaced wraps to create segments.



Helicopter off the wire and whip finish the fly, and give it a light UV resin coating. I preferred the Solaris Ultra Thin Bone Dry for my perdigon pattern. It keeps a nice profile and cures quickly.



For the wing case, a small application of black UV resin applied just to bridge the bead slot and the body finishes the fly with a nice profile.



Fall and winter are excellent times to break out the euro rod. Fish are holding the bottom, looking for food with a minimal amount of energy expended. Give it a try and get down with this style- if you have not yet- it's a wonderful technique- and it puts fish in the net!

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

Dave Everhart

NOVEMBER STOCKING

Planned Week [2025 DELAYED HARVEST STOCKING WEEKS](#)

Actual Day [Daily Trout Stockings](#)

TIE FOR A CAUSE - A YEAR-END SUCCESS!



36 tiers from many clubs, Trout Unlimited, and friends came together for the final *Tie for a Cause Saturday* of the year. Sponsored by the **South East Council of Fly Fishers International (FFI)** and with lunch provided by **Stray Dogs**, we tied an incredible **1,800 flies** to send out to charities.

Most of these flies will go to **Casting for Hope** and **Casting Carolinas**:

- **Casting for Hope** provides support, outdoor retreats, and financial assistance to women and families affected by gynecological cancers.
- **Casting Carolinas** empowers women surviving all types of cancer through fly fishing retreats, combining counseling, medical education, and the healing power of time on the water.

For the five events this year and amazing 7,050 flies have been tied with 5200 donated to charities and the rest in reserve for groups like boy scouts, river course and other charities.

A huge thank you goes out to the **Southern Fly Tyers Guild** and the **Patterson School Foundation** for use of the beautiful **Cap Wiese Fly Fishing Center**—a home that makes gatherings like this possible.



And special thanks to **Stray Dogs** for providing lunch for the group. If your group needs someone to cater for an event in the greater Hickory area you can contact Nick Everhart at (910) 750-6384, straydogshotdogsnc@gmail.com. They offer a great selection of hot dogs.

Looking ahead, our next tying event will be **January 17, 2026**, when we'll join in the **National Tie-A-Thon**, hosted annually by **Terry Wittorp** and **Tim Scott**.

☞ If you'd like to attend and help us tie flies, please reach out to our on-site host, **Bill Jewett (The Fly Tying Santa)**, at theflytyingsanta24@gmail.com.

Together, we make a difference—one fly at a time! 🪁 ❤️

DONATE THAT OLD GEAR

Northeast Georgia TU

By Paul DiPrima

I was reading the Sunday comics and something hit home with me. The Snuffy Smith comic had Lukey and Snuffy running from Sheriff Tate with bags of loot. Snuffy said, "We ain't quite as fast as we used t'be Lukey but we ain't near as slow as we're gonna be." That goes for me too.

"Time stands still for no man", is a version of the proverb, "Time and tide wait for no man". This ancient saying means that time is a finite, unstoppable force that continues to pass regardless of human actions or desires. Time is catching up with me and my body is definitely losing the race and the ability to do some things.

I was cleaning my, workshop sorting things, clearing off shelves covered in dust and came across three 5mm heavy neoprene waders that had not been worn in at least ten years, maybe longer. There were also four pairs of wading shoes, three nets and two worn out creels. I told myself that these things need to go to someone who needs them and can use them. I looked closely at the creels and although they started as high quality, the creels are too worn out to be useful. I said to myself, these things need new homes because I will never use them again.

The creels are like me are pretty much worn out. The oldest came from the 1980's and I took it on every trip to the creeks, rivers and even the Florida Keys. The creels are premium, flax canvas from Colorado Tent Company. The only model now available is identical to my newest and sells for \$150.00. I am much like those old creels, once good, but now, wore out.

In the 80's I waded creeks and rivers every chance I had. In the summer after work, I fished creeks close to home. On weekends, I fished the mountains for trout. I planned all day wade trips and averaged about a mile of trout stream a day. I fished almost all of the streams with natural trout reproduction from Cleveland west to Alabama. For the all day wades my choice of rod was usually a seven foot spinning rod. I could cover each stream more thoroughly and quicker with the spinning rod. A fly rod would slow me to the point that I would never cover half as much creek in the same amount of time. On the long wades, I rarely kept any fish, carrying a dead fish for hours, the fish would spoil and be inedible.

In the 90's and early 2000's I would drive to a stream and then walk the trail a mile or more upstream to fish the tributaries. In the mountains, those small feeder streams can have some good wild trout. As the elevation increases, what was a small tributary of the main creek can, turn into series of decent sized pools, falls and runs that can hold bragging size trout. Back then I was strong, fairly healthy and I had enough stamina to spend all day on the creek with just a pack of crackers and a bottle of water.

About five years after my heart attack, I hiked down to Mountaintown Creek starting from the ridge. Going down was no problem. Going back up started ok but, as we made our way up the mountain I had to stop repeatedly. Ten years earlier the 600 foot elevation climb would have been easy.

Last summer cervical spine surgery forced me to be extra careful not to slip or fall. At 76 years old many things that were easy have become difficult and it is time to pass on the fishing gear that I will no longer use. I gave most of my camping gear to a cousin and have given away some fishing tackle. I still fish and I have all the rods, reels, flies and lures I will ever use. In the upcoming years I will pass these things along to those who are deserving and willing to share.

At the last Georgia TU Council meeting two of the leaders of Trout Unlimited 5 Rivers Fly Fishing clubs addressed the Council updating us on what is going on with their clubs. They said there is a need for waders, boots and assorted good used rods and reels. The UGA, Georgia Tech as well as the North Paulding High School club are very active doing stream work, fly tying, taking both fishing and camping trips and more. I know where my waders, boots, nets will be going. If you have good used tackle or outdoor gear that needs a home contact me and I will get it a good home. More about 5 Rivers soon.

Editors Note: If you have gear or materials you are no longer using please consider donating it to one or more of these groups.

- Your local TU chapter
- Any of the organizations that use fly fishing as a therapy. See them in the [August Newsletter](#).
- Fly tying equipment and materials to the Southern Fly Tyers Guild. Contact Bill Jewett at theflytying-santa24@gmail.com.
- Any unique or antique fishing or fly tying equipment to Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians. Contact Alen Baker at alenandscottie@aol.com.

Table Rock TU Members From Alan Clark

I wanted to update you all on a donation we received for our TU Chapter to use as a fundraiser to support a local project.

Kay Zarrugh contacted me to donate her late father's fishing and fly tying gear and supplies. His name was Edward Hairfield III and in the past he was a very active member and supporter of our Chapter.

It's a lot of stuff, here is [a link to some photos](#). The most significant (I assume) are 8 Sage fly rods with matching reels. There is also about 17 bins full of fly tying materials, vices, tippet and fly line, and lots of books, DVDs and VHS's tapes. In addition there are 3 pairs of waders and 1 pair of boots. Here is a list if the rods and reels.

Sage 9/0 10 wgt	Lamson large arbor reel with Rio
Model Xi2 1090-4	Cold Water Clauser #10 line
	Lamson large arbor reel ULA
Sage 9/0 8 wgt Model	Force 3.4 with Rio Clauser 8 wgt
Xi2 890-4	line
Sage 9/0 6 wgt Model	
Xi2 690-4	Lamson reel with line
Sage 7/10 00 wgt	
Model TXL 00710-3	Lamson reel with line

Sage 7/0 4 wgt Model

TXL 479-3

Lamson reel with line

Sage 11/10 5 wgt

Model Z-Axis 5110-4 Lamson reel with line

Sage 13/6 7 wgt

Ross Momentum LT #6 reel with

Model Z-Axis 7136-4 WF8F 8 wgt line

Sage 12/9 9 wgt

Model TCR 9129-4 Tibor Spey by Ted Juracsik 11-13

She would like us to use it to raise money in support of a local project in honor of her Dad.

I would love to get your thoughts on how to best manage a fundraiser and any ideas for a special project. I expect an online auction will give us the best results as long as we promote it widely to other TU Chapters and fishing groups.

Thanks in advance for your help and support. We will need significant volunteers to help catalog and photograph the items to create lots for the auction.

Alan Clark 828-403-9600



BEST DOG NAMES IN FLY FISHING

Naming a dog is just as important as picking the right fly. You want something that lets the world know that you actually fly fish. Sure, you could go with “Buddy” or “Rex,” but where’s the fun in that? We’re fly fishermen, we overthink everything. So why not overthink dog names too? Here are 15 fly fishing–inspired names that’ll make your pup the talk of the boat ramp.

1. WINSTON



Often a distinguished gentleman, Winston is always by your side. He prefers chewing on the most expensive tennis balls, retrieving the finest of sticks, and wearing leather collars over nylon ones.

Named after one of the longest-standing fly rod manufacturers, Winston is a companion any fly fishing angler would be lucky to have.

2. TROUT



Does your dog wiggle like a fish trying to escape a net? Well, they might be a Trout. Trout is a dog that is loved by everyone but contained by very few. Dogs named Trout can often be found soaking wet from impulsively diving into the nearest

body of water, but they are the goodest of good boys & girls.

3. BROOKIE



Is your pup small but stunning? The name Brookie might be the perfect fit. Brookie disappears into the woods on walks and only reemerges when bribed with snacks—much

like trying to find an actual wild brook trout in a headwater stream.



4. RIVER

River is an all-time classic name for your fishing companion. Majestic, powerful, and capable of absolute chaos. River loves long walks, but also floods your house with mud,

wet dog smell, and pawprints after every fishing trip. Just like the real thing, you love it anyway because who doesn’t want their own personal force of nature?

5. SAGE



You didn’t choose Sage; Sage chose you. This dog knows they’re expensive and acts accordingly. He refuses to sit for anything less than the good treats, carries himself like the ultimate net man, and somehow makes

you feel underdressed even though he’s naked 24/7.

6. DOLLY



Sweet as can be, with a wild streak that will chase anything that moves (bonus if it’s three times her size). Just like her namesake, she’s part beauty queen, part brawler, and all heart. Expect her to steal the spot-

light at the dog park and probably your lunch, too.

7. WOOLLY



Scruffy, a little buggy, and somehow always producing results. Woolly is the kind of dog that looks like he’s never been brushed but still gets compliments from strangers. Much like a Woolly

Bugger, he’s versatile, ready for a nap on the couch, a swim in the river, or begging for snacks at the dinner table.

8. TIPPET



Meet Tippet. Tippet is fast, unpredictable, and has a knack for snapping at the worst possible time, usually when chasing a squirrel. He can often be found tangling up the

most mind-blowing knots in the back of the raft. Cute, yes. Reliable? Only until the next distraction comes along.

9. BUGSY



Bugsy lives to chase things; hoppers, beetles, cicadas, the occasional UPS truck. Expect him to spend most of the summer trying to eat stoneflies, only to spit them out dramatically in the middle of the

living room. Just like the real thing, he’s most active when the

hatch is on. If you like to dabble in entomology, Buggy might just be the perfect name for your pup.

10. DRAKE



At times majestic, at times a total goofball. One minute he's strutting like a prize winner, the next he's face-planting into the river. Much like a mayfly drake, he'll soar beautifully... right before crashing head-

first into something solid.

MAKE FISHING EASIER AND BETTER

At the Hickory TU meeting in October we asked everyone to share an item that they discovered that makes their fly fishing easier and/or better. We had several people step up and share items with us. In this article we will share that with you so you might be able to make your trips to the river better as well. The price checks are not necessarily a recommendation, but are a simple reference. You should use your own searching for the best quality item and price.

Magnetic Fly Rod Holder

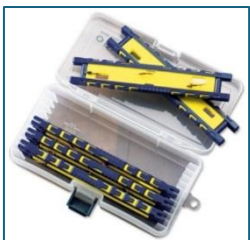


How many times have you leaned your fly rod up against the car and had it fall over. And some of you may have ended up with a broken rod that way.

As long as you don't own a 1950s Corvette made of fiberglass, this magnet will hold your rod in place and prevent that from happening again.

[Check the Price](#)

Orvis Dropper Rig Fly Box



You can lose a lot of fishing time tying a new dropper rig every time you break off a fly or decide to change up to a different set of flies. To save time you can tie up a variety of dropper rigs at home before you head to the river. Then when you need to put on a new rig you

simply pick one out of your dropper rig fly box and with a single tie you're back in business. [Check the Price](#)

Magnetic Net Release



If you just hang your net by your side it often gets in the way of the line drifting or the hook catching on it and you have to slide it off your shoulder to net the fish. A magnetic net release allows you to hang it behind your back to get it out of the way.

When you are ready to net a fish you just grab the net and give it a jerk to release the magnet land your fish and then lift the net back up behind your back to reattach the magnet. [Check the Price](#)

Tippet Rings

Tapered leaders can be expensive, especially the fluorocarbon ones. I discovered a way to hugely reduce that cost. If



you buy a tapered leader, each time you change a fly you lose a few inches of it and it doesn't take long until you need to replace the entire leader. Enter the tippet ring. I have found the better way is to get a 7.5' tapered leader and tie a tippet ring on the end of it. You then tie to that a 2.5-3' piece of tippet material. When it gets too short you simply replace it with another piece of tippet. As a plus when you get a snag on the bottom it usually breaks below the tippet. Unless you hang the leader up in a tree and break it, that leader will likely last you a long time. I use a nylon leader for both dry fly and nymphing and just change out the tippet for the type I'm doing. The tippet rings are so small, they float with the line when you are dry fly fishing. [Check the Price](#)

Magnifying Glasses



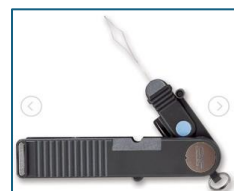
My eyes are getting a bit older and I need magnification to tie my flies. I tried sunglasses with a bifocal lens and didn't take two steps before I nearly fell over from the distortion of looking down. The simplest way to solve this is to get a pair of lenses that attach to the brim of your hat. They fold up out of the way when not in use and quickly flip down when it's time to tie a fly. [Check the Price](#)

New Zealand Strike Indicator Kit



This is a strike indicator made of wool that you tie to your leader. The wool indicator lands softly and is less likely to scare the fish. It is super sensitive and detects the most subtle takes that often would not show up with a hard indicator. For your initial purchase, be sure to purchase the kit that includes the tying tool. For later purchases you can just buy the wool material. [Check the Price](#)

3-in-1 Clipper Threader



This is a great tool to help you tie on your flies. Clipper, threader and eye cleaner in one combo tool. Built-in magnet holds the blade securely. The clipper has a built-in threader holder, and the eye cleaner and threader inside are useful for changing flies during low light hours. [Check the Price](#)

Ty-Rite Jr. Knot Tying Tool



The Ty-Rite Junior makes tying flies onto your leader much easier by holding the bend of the hook while you tie it. It allows you to tie a clinch knot with ease and is great for midges & Nymphs, size 14 to 24 flies. [Check the Price.](#)

And if you tie flies there are also many things that can make it easier for you:

Squeeze Scissors



them back down. [Check the Price](#)

Fly Tying Thread Spool Stand



If you do much fly tying, over time you will end up with several spools of thread. A spool stand is a convenient way to store all those spools. You can buy one on line or if you are a bit of a carpenter like me, you just take a small board, and drill 1/8" holes for the pegs. [Check the Price](#)

Portable Fly Tying Bench



A small tying bench like this one used along with a regular fly tying desk allows you to keep the things handy for tying the current fly. Along with the tools you need you can put the current hooks, beads, etc. In addition, if you love going to the Tie-a-Thons, this is a convenient way of taking what you need to the event. [Check the Price](#)

Roll Top Desk



I tie a lot of flies for fresh and salt water which requires a ton of different hooks and materials. The best investment I have made toward fly tying is this roll top desk. With the vast amount of storage I have been able to organize everything. Note that even with a dedicated desk I still use that smaller desk organizer mentioned in the previous item. It makes it all a lot easier. You can find a lot of places that sell roll top desks, but I think I got a great deal through [craigslist](#). With a quick check I found many, with one as low as \$45. For your location go to [Craigslist.org](#) and find the city closest to you.

Fly Rod For Travelers



If you take many fly fishing trips you either have to buy a large suitcase (mine is a 28") or carry the rod onto the plane with you. Recently I discovered the Pescador 6 pc rod that easily fits into a carry on bag. I was quite concerned that a 6 pc might be too stiff to cast well. In fact I found that this casts much better than my regular 4 pc. I was able to cast about 25' farther with this rod. The details of this rod are included in the July newsletter. [Check The Price](#)

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM UPDATES

The hatch at North Lincoln High School



Testing for clean, clear, and cold water at Burns Middle School



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