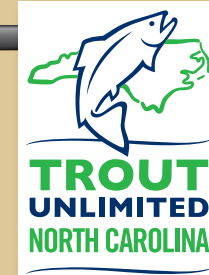
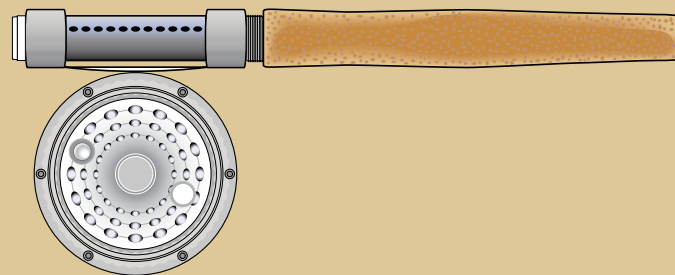


# TheMend

VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 1 • FEBRUARY 2019



## Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Update



After years of service as our council Trout in the Classroom coordinator, Don Davidson has stepped aside to pursue other interests. Longtime

council member Joyce Shepherd has agreed to serve as interim coordinator of the program, and is taking care of the filing requirements with the NCWRC to secure the permits required to release the classroom trout into our streams.

You may contact Joyce at [jjshepspie@yahoo.com](mailto:jjshepspie@yahoo.com) with any questions you may have about the release permits and plans, or general questions about the TIC program.

If you're interested in stepping up to take over the TIC state coordinator role, please contact council chair Mike Mihalas — [mike@mihalas.com](mailto:mike@mihalas.com). The time demands aren't heavy, but the work is very important and requires good organizational skills as it involves working with individual chapter coordinators and

the NCWRC. Experience with a TIC program is desirable, but not required.

Another development in TIC is our adoption of a new "bulletin board" system for program coordinators, classroom teachers and others to share questions and information. The council was able to replace a service costing around \$45/month with a better service that is available to us for free through our Google For Non-Profits account.

If you're a classroom teacher or coordinator, look for an email soon with access instructions and "how-to" tips. The new system is easy to use and doesn't require special logins, accounts, or software, and individual participants may invite other members to join in the conversation.

We'd like to say a big "thank-you" to Don Davidson for his many years of devoted service to Trout in the Classroom, and for helping make the program so successful in classrooms all across North Carolina.



With nearly 90 systems in the field and 9 of 14 chapters actively participating, it's safe to say Trout in the Classroom is one of NCTU's most popular efforts.

Look for a big feature piece on TIC, including some great new ideas for extending and enhancing classroom tank systems, in the Spring Edition of "The Drift."

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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- Council and Committee Contacts
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### About "The Mend"

"The Mend" is the monthly newsletter and update of the North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited. It is meant to work in concert with our quarterly feature magazine, "The Drift" to keep our membership informed about and engaged in what's happening with Trout Unlimited here in the Old North State

### Connect with the North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited

**On the web:** <https://northcarolinatu.org>

**On Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/northcarolinatu.org>

**Via Email:** [news@northcarolinatu.org](mailto:news@northcarolinatu.org)

The North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited  
P.O. Box 2351  
Brevard, NC 28172



## Panel Discussion on Public Fishing Access

Mark your calendars today and plan to visit the Hickory Chapter (Hickory, NC) on March 19, 2019, at 6:30 P.M. The Hickory Chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting an expert panel discussion about how to deal with the loss of public access to trout fisheries.

The panel will include Ron Beane, Board Chairman of the Foothills Conservancy; Doug Besler, Mountain Region Fishery Supervisor for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC); Andy Brown, Southern Appalachian Stream Restoration Manager for TU; Mike Johnson, Commissioner, NCWRC; Mike Mihalas, Council Chairman, North Carolina TU, and Jacob Rash, Coldwater Research Coordinator, NCWRC.

Members of the trout fishing and outdoors communities in North Carolina have become alarmed at the loss of public access to large areas of NC rivers and streams. Many factors seem to contribute to this problem.

The panel will discuss the causes of loss of access and explore possible solutions. Thanks to our friends at Hickory TU for bringing this important issue up for discussion and for setting up the meeting!



## Meet our New Council Diversity Coordinator

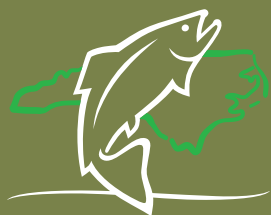
We're pleased to announce that longtime TU member and lifelong western North Carolina resident Jessica Whitmire has agreed to serve as our Council Diversity Coordinator! Jessica started fishing with her great grandfather along the West Fork of the French Broad and enjoyed fishing for catfish on his pond. Upon graduation from Rosman High School she attended Brevard College where she was graduated with a degree in Environmental Science.



After a brief teaching career she returned to Headwaters Outfitters in Rosman where she manages the day-to-day operations of that thriving and growing business. Jessica is an avid angler, hunter, conservationist and outdoorsperson, and is one of the founders of the successful women's group PAWFF (Pisgah Area Women Fly Fishers) homed in Brevard.

The group meets monthly, holds regular outings and has built a close-knit community of adventurers and friends. PAWFF is an excellent model for chapters who are exploring better ways to recruit and retain underserved demographics, including women, across the fly fishing and coldwater conservation communities; and will no doubt be part of one of the many ideas Jessica brings to the table as we develop an extended program toolbox for North Carolina chapter diversity coordinators.

Please join us in welcoming Jessica and thanking her for taking on this incredibly important role with our council. If you know her at all, you know she'll pull out all the stops to build one of the premier diversity programs in the country, and we couldn't have asked for a better person for the job.



### Citizen Science Program Training Restarts



Now that the shutdown is over, TU's Andy Brown has restarted his Citizen Science Training Days for those of us interested in this exciting project, which the

several of our chapters are supporting with funding. (Hint: there's room for about 12 more!)

Right now there are two areas of training and focus: Fish Passage Barrier Surveys and Temperature Monitoring, each requiring different commitments of time.

If you're not familiar with the program, you can learn more by **reading the flyer**, or read Andy's interview in the current issue of "The Drift".



#### Fish Passage Barrier Surveys

Training takes 1½ to 2 days. The following days are scheduled for fish passage barrier survey training. They each fall on Thursdays and Fridays and start at 9 A.M. on Thursday. Day 1 will end around 4 P.M.

- **February 7 and 8** (Sky Island – meet at Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education)
- **February 28 and March 1** (Wilson Creek – meet at Visitor's Center)
- **March 21 and 22** (Sky Island)
- **April 11 and 12** (Wilson Creek)

#### Temperature Monitoring and Data Logging

A training event will be held Monday, February 25 at the Western Carolina University Biology Department Conference Room (#123) from 6 P.M. – 8 P.M. Snacks



and beverages will be provided.

See the draft list and map of sites as of this moment. It will be refined as the program develops.

To get involved in this exciting project contact Andy Brown, Stream Restoration Manager – Southern Appalachian Region (abrown@tu.org / (828) 674-1067).

### TU in the Southern Appalachians — Annual Performance Report

Many of you know of or have met Andy Brown, TU's Asheville-based Stream Restoration Manager for the Southern Appalachian Region. If not, he was interviewed in the winter edition of the Drift (pardon the subtle plug for readership). For those who've been around for a while, Andy took Damon Hearn's place and is expanding that role significantly. As part of an ongoing agreement with the US Forest Service, TU is required to submit a report of its activities and performance on forest service land.

Recently, Andy was good enough to share a copy of that report with the state council and we thought you might enjoy reading more about the many great things Andy has already accomplished and quite a few more he's got in the works. He's doing a terrific job for all of us, and this report only begins to scratch the surface of his many efforts.

**You can download a copy right here**





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## Southeast Regional Rendezvous

All NCTU members and volunteer leaders are heartily encouraged to attend The Southeast Regional Rendezvous. Anglers and non-anglers alike will come back from the event excited about what's going on with TU and filled with new ideas, energy and a real desire to get involved in TU and coldwater conservation.

We're sharing this now because there are some limited fishing opportunities available on Friday, and lodging reservations may be made now at a discounted rate. If you're interested in attending and participating it would be smart to make your reservations soon — the official registration form should be available shortly.

Last year's accommodations were first-rate, and the weather didn't cooperate but the fishing looked like it could have been terrific. The food was awesome, the seminars were well-done and covered a wide variety of interesting topics, and Sweetwater Brewing knows how to throw a launch party.

But the best thing was the people — getting to know folks from all over the southeast and to put faces and personalities with the names we see so often.



For my time and money, there was no better investment I made last year in my love of fishing and conservation than attending the rendezvous. I met great new friends, learned a lot, connected some of the mysterious dots in the TU scheme of things, and had a truly wonderful time.

I was treated to a "sneak peek" at this year's agenda and it looks even better than last year. I hope to see a whole lot of our NCTU family — including you — there.

Be sure to check out the information below and the information we've included later in this newsletter about setting up your Friday fishing experience.

Join friends and fellow TU members and volunteers for the 2019 Southeast Regional Rendezvous on May 3–5 at The Dillard House in Dillard, Ga.

Located near the banks of the beautiful Chattooga River, and nestled in the raw lands of the Nantahala National Forest, this location provides a perfect mix of scenery, great fishing, opportunities to engage in hands-on trainings and more!

We will begin our event with the optional

Friday fishing day hosted by local volunteers from the chapters in Georgia and South Carolina. Featuring a mix of private water options and special public waters, you'll have a great opportunity to get up close and personal with the region's most outstanding resource.

**Click here to see the fishing location options.**

All spots are reserved on a first-come basis when you register.

On Saturday, we will have a packed agenda featuring guests from our grassroots leaders, partners and agencies, Trout Unlimited national staff, and more!

On Sunday, we'll wrap up the in-class sessions and then head to the stream for an optional, hands-on training on some of TU's latest tools and technologies for assessing stream health and identifying conservation opportunities!

## REGISTRATION

The total cost is \$130 and includes:

- Friday hosted fishing day (Additional \$20 for box lunch)
- Friday night pig picking, bonfire and SweetWater Brewery Launch Party
- Participation in all seminars and workshops on Saturday and Sunday
- Breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday
- A dinner fundraiser for the Georgia and South Carolina Councils on Saturday night

\*You can register for the entire weekend, or register for one day only at a discounted rate

\*\*Attendees may also bring spouses/guests to the dinner on Saturday night

## LODGING

The event will be held at The Dillard House, and reservations for the event can be made by calling (706) 746-5348. Trout Unlimited has arranged a block of rooms for the weekend at a discounted price of only \$127-\$149 per night! To take advantage of this great deal, please be sure to reserve your room no later than April 2, 2019, after which time our discounted block of rooms will be released and may be unavailable.

## SCHEDULE

Friday May 3 — Full day hosted Fishing

Friday Night — Pig picking, bonfire and SweetWater Brewery Launch Party

Saturday May 4 — All day seminars at The Dillard House

Saturday Night — Fundraising Diner for the GA and SC Councils

Sunday May 5 — Morning workshops and optional, afternoon conservation training in the field



## Budgeting for FY 2020 Council Finances Underway

By John Miko, Treasurer NCTU

As some of you may be aware, TU is shifting its fiscal year to one that begins on 1 April. We are currently in FY2019 which is acting as a “transitional period” between the old and the new calendar. This gives us about two months to prepare a budget for TU FY2020.

Preparing and operating to a budget will encourage us to look and plan ahead, set goals, establish priorities and track our financial progress through the upcoming year. It also makes operating much easier when foreseen expenditures are part of an approved budget and don't require ad hoc discussion and board approval each time they come up. Of course, we will come across a few unforeseen (unbudgeted) items as we go forward. But the better job we've done of crafting our budget, the fewer of these “pop-up” items we'll have to deal with.

The Budget and Finance Committee needs your help in making sure the budget reflects everyone's needs. Please look through any financial history you have on your area of responsibility, consider anything you plan to accomplish during FY2020 and submit your input to [jlanko@charter.net](mailto:jlanko@charter.net) by February 15. In addition to amounts, if you can include what NCTU mission area it supports, and any info you have about the timing of the expense, that would be very helpful. The same goes if you expect your activities as a Council member to generate revenues (it's okay to bring money in, too!).

### John Miko, NCTU Treasurer

John currently serves as the Treasurer of the North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited. He is the immediate past president of the Land O'Sky Chapter and is also actively involved with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.

John is the founder and owner of Unreel Fly Fishing LLC, an Asheville based guide service dedicated solely to tenkara style fly fishing. He is part of Tenkara USA's Registered Guide Network and a member of the American Fly Fishing Trade Association. John teaches, guides and speaks on tenkara throughout WNC and the upstate of South Carolina. John moved to Asheville some years ago following a career as a Coast Guard helicopter pilot. Starting as a boy in Key West, FL, he has spent his entire life fishing, 30 years of it fly fishing, the last 8 of which have been focused almost exclusively on tenkara.



Chapter Leaders, we are particularly interested in any FY2020 plans you have that might involve a request for Council financial support. (NCTU matching funds for an Embrace-a-Stream might be an example.)

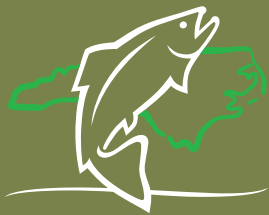
Once we have everyone's input, the Budget and Finance Committee will put together a draft budget for council review. You will have at least a couple of weeks to review and suggest changes or corrections. We will put together a “final” version for review and the Council Chair can bring it to a vote at a council meeting or via electronic means.

A budget is like a train, it only has so much room, doesn't wait for stragglers and the best time to get on is before it leaves the station. After that, it gets infinitely more difficult and eventually impossible. I'm calling “All Aboard!” If you think you'll need NCTU money in FY2020, now is the time to make your request.

As NCTU Treasurer, I am here to help in any way I can. If you have questions, problems or need information I may be able to get for you, Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. I look forward to working with you all.

Thank you for all you do for Trout Unlimited.





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## Start working on those EAS Projects and Grants!

Now is a great time to start discussing potential EMBRACE A STREAM (EAS) projects for the 2019 funding cycle!

Start developing project ideas with your chapter so that your team is ahead of the game when the next requests for project proposals comes out. Keep in mind that funded proposals for the 2019 EAS cycle should plan to start their projects after November 2019.



## 2019 Embrace A Stream Dates

**March 19:** EAS Webinar — Learn more about the EAS funding opportunity including timeline, tips and resources!

**April 15:** EAS Representative Deadline — Share your EAS application intent with your regional EAS representative

**May 15:** Draft EAS application due

**July 15:** Final EAS application due via online submission

If you are an experienced grant writer but your computer skills are not as solid, consider building an EAS team. By recruiting a tech savvy individual to assist, you can coach a future grant writer and they can assist with the online application. It's a great mentorship opportunity!

As you prepare for your 2019 EAS application, you may find these resources helpful:

- **EAS WEBPAGE** with a complete listing of regional representatives, eligibility and deadlines
- **EMBRACE A STREAM SOCIAL MEDIA** channels, especially #embraceastream
- **SUCCESSFUL EMBRACE A STREAM PROPOSAL** discussion with examples of previously funded proposals
- **EAS TIPS** includes a robust dialogue from funded applicants



## Snorkel Surveys for Eastern Hellbender Yield Record-Setting Results

(NCWRC Report)

Eastern hellbender breeding surveys conducted by Wildlife Diversity Program (WDP) staff last year produced record-setting results. Over a nine-day span in 10 different streams, staff documented at least 118 active adult hellbenders engaged in breeding activities, such as fighting, congregating around nesting habitats and males defending their nests. All of this was captured on underwater cameras last year as part of the Wildlife Commission's annual hellbender monitoring and inventory surveys.

The hellbender, a large aquatic salamander, is listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the N.C. Wildlife Action Plan, a state Special Concern species and a federal Species of Concern petitioned for listing. Finding so many hellbenders in a short time was exciting news for WDP biologists. Learn more about the important projects and programs conducted by WDP staff on behalf of nongame and endangered wildlife by reading the **Wildlife Diversity Program Quarterly Reports**

# 2019 Committees and Leadership Contacts Directory

NCTU Committees	Name	Email
NOMINATING	Mike Mihalas, Chair	mike@mihalas.com
	Tim Schubmehl	schub444@gmail.com
	John Kies	johnkies@bellsouth.net
BUDGET AND FINANCE	John Miko, Chair	jlanko@charter.net
	Cliff Albertson	clifford.albertson@verizon.net
	Brian Esque	bcesque@gmail.com
	Ned Jones	emt.trout@gmail.com
YOUTH EDUCATION	Joyce Shepherd, Chair	jjshepspie@yahoo.com
	Reba Brinkman	tu.rivercourse@gmail.com
	Charles Crolley	charles@coldriverstudio.org
	Suzanne Crolley	suzanne@designsbysuzanne.com
	Sam Ogburn	dryfly@triad.rr.com
CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT	Sam Ogburn, Chair	dryfly@triad.rr.com
	Don Brannon	don.brannon@gmail.com
SPECIAL PROJECTS	Rusty Berrier, Chair	rustyberrier@outlook.com
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	John Rich, Co-Chair	troutstalker01@gmail.com
	Ned Jones, Co-Chair	emt.trout@gmail.com
CONSERVATION	Mike Mihalas, Chair	mike@mihalas.com
	Brian Esque	bcesque@gmail.com
	Ned Jones	emt.trout@gmail.com
	Sam Ogburn	dryfly@triad.rr.com
	Tim Schubmehl	schub444@gmail.com
VETERANS SERVICES	Lynn Marilla, Chair	lmarilla@eaglerockcamp.org
	Sam Ogburn	dryfly@triad.rr.com
	David Vigue	david_vigue@bellsouth.net
COMMUNICATIONS	Charles Crolley, Chair	charles@coldriverstudio.org
	Rusty Berrier	rustyberrier@outlook.com
	Chick Woodward	chick_woodward@yahoo.com

NCTU Committees	Name	Email
COORDINATORS AND TU-DEFINED ROLES		
5-Rivers Coordinator	handled at chapter level	
Advocacy Chair	John Rich	troutstalker01@gmail.com
Climate Change Coordinator	Nick Mermigas	nmermigas@bbandt.com
Conservation Chair	Mike Mihalas (interim)	mike@mihalas.com
Council Archives	Tim Schubmehl	schub444@gmail.com
Financial Reviewer	John Kies	johnkies@bellsouth.net
Fundraising Chair	open	
Newsletter Editor	Charles Crolley	charles@coldriverstudio.org
Social Media Coordinator	Charles Crolley	charles@coldriverstudio.org
TIC Coordinator	Joyce Shepherd	jjshepspie@yahoo.com
Veteran Service Coordinator	Lynn Marilla	lmarilla@eaglerockcamp.org
Webmaster	Charles Crolley	charles@coldriverstudio.org
Women and Diversity Initiative Coordinator	Jessica Whitmire	jessica@headwatersoutfitters.com
Youth Education Coordinator	Joyce Shepherd	jjshepspie@yahoo.com
NCTU REPRESENTATION IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS		
Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership	John Rich	troutstalker01@gmail.com
Mills River Partnership	Jay Hawthorne	johnhawthorne@gmail.com
French Broad Partnership	Jay Hawthorne	johnhawthorne@gmail.com
The Pisgah Conservancy	Mike Mihalas	mike@mihalas.com
RIVERCOURSE CONTACTS		
Administrative Director	Reba Brinkman	tu.rivercourse@gmail.com
Camp Director	David Vigue	david_vigue@bellsouth.net
Volunteer Coordinator	Joyce Shepherd	jjshepspie@yahoo.com
COUNCIL OFFICERS		
Chair	Mike Mihalas	mike@mihalas.com
Vice Chair	Tim Schubmehl	schub444@gmail.com
Secretary	Charles Crolley	charles@coldriverstudio.org
Treasurer	John Miko	jlanko@charter.net
NLC Representative	Rusty Berrier	rustyberrier@outlook.com
Rivercourse Administrative Director	Reba Brinkman	tu.rivercourse@gmail.com
Immediate Past Chair	John Kies	johnkies@bellsouth.net

**Editor's Note:** Each month, we make requests to chapter leadership for news and upcoming events. We also follow each chapter on Facebook and monitor chapter websites in a best effort to try to keep all of our members in the know about what's going on in other chapters across the state.



## Blue Ridge Chapter

The Blue Ridge Chapter meets every 3rd Tuesday at the Carolina Ale House on Hanes Mall Blvd. We get together at 6 P.M. to eat, drink and, socialize and then at 7 P.M. we start with our chapter events followed by a speaker. We adjourn at 8 P.M.

Our February speaker is Patrick Sessoms from Due South Outfitters in Boone, NC.

On Wednesday evenings from 6-8 P.M. we have our fly tying and rod building classes at the Southfork Community Center on Country Club road.

March 2, 2019 from 5:30-6:30 we'll have our **Conservation Fundraiser Banquet** at the Elks Lodge, 2585 Griffith Road in Winston-Salem, NC. Presale tickets (before 02/14) are available for \$40, after which the cost goes to \$50. PHW Veterans and youth under 18 may attend for just \$30 each, Table rates and sponsorship opportunities are also available.



We will have many door prizes (including a RING doorbell and an iPad!), bucket drawing prizes, raffles and a silent and live auction. Our speaker will be from Casting Carolina and will present on the fly fishing's healing power for cancer patients. Be sure to visit our website for more details, and see the flyer at the end of this publication.

We are also working on a conservation project of restoring the Mitchell river and putting Access into the stream especially after the heavy flooding in 2018.



## Cataloochee Chapter News

Nancy Lux, CPA of Ray, Bumgarner, Kingshill, & Assoc. P.A. Certified Public Accountants from Waynesville, NC will be the guest speaker at Cataloochee TU's February 12th chapter meeting, taking place at the Rendezvous Restaurant in Maggie Valley.

Now you say to yourself "What does Accounting have to do with Fly Fishing?". Nancy is going to speak on donating to non-profits, and give some basic tips as to when a donation is readily deductible and when we might want to think twice. We give of ourselves both in time and energy but we also provide much needed financial consideration in the form of our hard earned and saved dollars so non-profit charities can survive and perform the wonderful work they do, so this is a topic that affects all of us.

The swap meet and social hours start up at 5:30 P.M. You're encouraged to arrive early and eat because the food is great, and bring any disused gear you might want to sell at the swap meet. The official meeting gets underway with "truthful" storytelling at 6:30 P.M. Bring some greenbacks to support our 50/50 drawing – tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

We will begin the meeting with a story telling session that is always entertaining and truth full.

The social hour will include a Fly Fishing Flee Market to sell your old and new gear. We will have a 50X50 drawing to support the chapter. Tickets are \$1 each and 6 for \$5.





## Dogwood Anglers Chapter

— No Report



## Hickory Chapter

The Hickory Chapter has its next meeting set for Tuesday, February 19 at the Market on Main Cellar, across from 325 1st Street SW in Hickory. The meeting kicks off with a buffet dinner (\$10) at 5:30 P.M., followed by a 6:30 program and wrapped up by a 7:30 P.M. “mini” board meeting.

The topic for the February meeting is “Drift Fishing the Catawba” and will be presented by John Zimmerman. John’s presentation will focus on fishing tactics from a drift boat, general float fishing tips, and the Catawba River fishery in Morganton, NC. Many are not aware we have an excellent year round fishery on the Catawba River below the Lake James dam. Water is released from the bottom of the lake so is relatively cool year around.

Several years ago the Wildlife Resources Commission began developing a trophy brown trout fishing section on this water from Muddy Creek to the water intake in Morganton. This water was recently reclassified as Special Regulation trout waters. Each year 10,000 brown trout are released into the waters. There is very limited shore access to this section of river so drift fishing is the primary method of fishing here. There are reports of excellent fishing with a normal day of 30 brown trout for a two person drift. A 28” brown trout has reportedly been caught there.

We were very pleased to have one of our largest groups of attendees at our last meeting on January 15. Among them were Dr. Ralph Griffith, a professor at Lenoir Rhyne University, and three students enrolled in one of his classes this semester.

After the meeting, Dr. Griffith and his students met with members of the Hickory TU Board of Directors to discuss a process of taking an internal look at of all aspects of our current chapter life, programs and processes.

There will be three students (graduating seniors) working with Dr. Griffith to provide insight on possible improvements to the way we operate. Potential improvement areas include chapter membership, meeting and event attendance, fund-raisers and community involvement.

This important work is being done by Dr. Griffith and his team as a learning experience for the students, and at no charge to the chapter.



## High Country Chapter

Spring is almost here and now is a great time to prepare for hitting the water. Come out to the Park (2892 Broadstone Rd) to swap your favorite pattern and hear from local anglers about the patterns they love. Swappers should bring 6 or more flies to trade. These can be one-of-a-kind hand tied creations or well-known patterns from your favorite shop's bins. Anyone interested will be invited share their favorite with the group and why it is their “go to” when the weather finally warms.

Pizza will be provided. This event will be BYOB (bring your own beverage). Feel free to bring your favorite soft drink or beer to share or a reusable water bottle to fill up. Social time starts at 6 P.M. Swap will start at 6:30 P.M. Share will begin at 7 P.M.

We want to see if we can pack out the Valle Crucis community center again! Come join us!

**SPRING FLY SWAP & SHARE**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 6 - 8 PM**  
**VALLE CRUCIS COMMUNITY PARK**





## Land O' Sky Chapter

The Land O' Sky Chapter meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, usually at the REI store in Asheville's Biltmore Park. This month, Justin Hunt from Rivers Edge Outfitters in Cherokee will speak at the February 12 meeting about the fishing opportunities in Cherokee and the Smoky Mountain Park Water surrounding Cherokee. Justin is the shop manager at Rivers Edge Outfitters in Cherokee.



This month, chapter members and friends are encouraged to participate in the "Paddle and Plant" workdays sponsored by our friends at MountainTrue in the Asheville and Boone areas. Volunteers are helping to reduce the amount of sediment that flows into our rivers by planting live stakes along eroding riverbanks. Come hop in a boat and help us reduce erosion along our local rivers! Upcoming dates are (Asheville) February 8 and 19 and (Boone) February 9 and 16. [Sign up here.](#)



## Nat Greene Fly Fishers

The next meeting of Nat Green Fly Fishers will take place February 12, Tuesday at 7 P.M., Leonard Recreation Center. Capt. Chris Siess has been fly fishing and tying flies for over twenty years, picking up the long rod in middle school to chase bass in Virginia farm ponds near his childhood home. In 2009 he began his guiding career in Aspen, Colorado, working full time on the Roaring Fork River and exploring numerous other waterways around the state.

Chris will be discussing Redfish behaviors, tactics and flies for shallow water pursuit, specifically focusing on the Carolina coast. You can find more

information on his website, [www.knotthereelworld.com](http://www.knotthereelworld.com), Facebook page or on his Instagram account, @knotthereelworld. \*\* Chris is donating flies which will be raffled at the meeting.

Later in the month, Nat Greene Fly Fishers is hosting our "Spring Banquet and Seminar" on Saturday, February 23. The event will be held at Bur-Mil Park Clubhouse, 5834 Bur-Mil Club Rd., Greensboro. The seminar portion of the event runs from 9 A.M. – 2 P.M. and will feature speaker Patrick Fulkrod presenting his secrets of "Catching Big Fish on Little Flies."

Patrick is the founder of the South Holston River Company. He is a local to Northeast Tennessee and has been fly fishing since age ten. 2019 will be his 13th year guiding, and a normal year includes 200+ days on the water. Patrick's resume features an impressive list of credentials and accomplishments, including national recognition as the 2014 Orvis Endorsed Guide of the Year.'

The evening banquet portion of the event will be held from 6:00 – 9:30 P.M., and those in attendance will have the chance to bid on live auction items including guided trips, rods, reels, artwork and others; participate in a \$1 bucket raffle for flies, gear and non-fishing items while enjoying a delicious dinner buffet with a cash bar.

The presentation at the banquet will be on The South Holston River, considered by many to be the southeast's premier wild brown trout fishery, offering 6,000 trout per river mile with a population mix of 84% browns to 16% rainbows.

Tickets for the seminar including lunch are \$25. Tickets for the banquet including buffet dinner are \$35 in advance/\$40 at the door / \$25 for youth under 12.

Please see the flyer toward the end of this newsletter for more information, or contact **Neal Mitchell, 336-643-5001**, to reserve your seat today!



## Pisgah Chapter

— No Report



## Rocky River Chapter

Thursday, February 21 the Rocky River Chapter will host its 38th annual "Friends of Rocky River Benefit. The benefit is the major fund raiser for the chapter each year, and in 2019 takes on even more significance as we

did not receive a grant which typically funds a substantial portion of our chapter Trout in the Classroom (TIC) and Rivercourse activities.

The funds raised will go to support those important efforts, plus our conservation programs and partnership with Casting Carolinas.

As always, we'll have an assortment of goodies including trips, gear and other items up for auction or raffle. We're doing the live auction again since it was so well-received last year, and here are just a few of the things up for grabs: a Trophy Water Guide Service full-day TN float trip, a River Girl Fishing Company 1/2 day guided trip, a Gary Jones 9' 6wt bamboo fly rod, a wing shooting trip, a selection of craft beer from Nantahala Brewing, flies from our local pro, tying supplies and lots of other choice goods.

A \$10 door fee per adult covers free entrance for minor, a BBQ Dinner served during the program, a chance at a pair of private water passes from Davidson River Outfitters and the opportunity to get involved in all of the auctions and raffles.

To register for the event, visit: <http://events.r2o.constantcontact.com/register/regform?oeidk=a07eg0y3k2h33f91bc9&c=b08259c0-169d-11e9-906b-d4ae52a82222&ch=b0903c70-169d-11e9-906b-d4ae52a82222>

Please also see our website (<http://rockyrivertrout.org>) and the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more details.



## Stone Mountain Chapter

We are excited to announce that Kin Hodges, the district 7 fisheries biologist for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, will be presenting at our February meeting. He will be giving us updates on trout disease control and local stream health. He will also be informing us about some exciting new programs that are going to be taking place in local fisheries soon.

Mark your calendars for February 5, 7:00 P.M. at the Foothills Arts Council in Elkin. You do not have to be a member to attend!

Our chapter is holding a FLY-FISHING WORKSHOP on Saturday, March 23 from 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. at Kernersville Lake Park, 6408 Old Valley School Road, Kernersville. Come learn everything you always wanted to know about fly fishing, from the experts with the Stone Mountain chapter of Trout Unlimited. Drop in to ask about fly tying, casting techniques, and advice on how to get started (what equipment one needs, where to go, etc.). It's free and it's hands-on, so you really can learn to cast a fly!



## Table Rock Chapter

— No Report





## Triangle Fly Fishers

For those of you in and around the Triangle, be sure to make plans now to check out Triangle Fly Fishers' showing of the International Fly Fishing Film Festival on March 25. Doors open at 6:30 P.M. and the films start at 7:15 P.M.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Tickets are available online by visiting <https://www.showclix.com/event/if42019raleighnc/tag/widget> or from Triangle Fly Fishers Board members.

For more information about the films, visit: <https://www.flyfilmfest.com>, and be sure to check out the awesome preview reel, here: <https://vimeo.com/307334561>

Proceeds will help support our conservation and education programs. For more information about the event, please contact Chapter President Terry Hackett ([flyfishing-hackett@msn.com](mailto:flyfishing-hackett@msn.com)).



## Tuckaseegee Chapter

The Tuckaseegee Chapter will be hosting a showing of the International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4) on February 23 at the Quin Movie Theater in Sylva, N.C. Seating will begin at 6:30 P.M. and movie to begin at 7pm. There will be raffles to giveaway as well. All proceeds are raised to fund the Tuck TU Trout-In-The-Classroom programs across Jackson and Swain Counties.

Tickets are available at Tuckaseegee Fly Shop in Sylva and Bryson City, in advance for \$15. Remaining Tickets will be available that evening at the door



## Unaka Chapter

Recently our Chapter has been working to revive a 2012 proposal for NC Wildlife Resources Commission to establish a DH on 2.8 miles of the Valley River in Cherokee County, NC. Although WRC is in favor of the new DH (and was in 2012 as well), apparently we will still be waiting a while because the Setzer hatchery is in need of a complete overhaul and trout will be in short supply while the renovations are happening.

At our February 25 meeting, Powell Wheeler of NC Wildlife Resources Commission will provide our program to tell the group more about the hatchery renovations and what it will mean for stocking in our area. We meet at 7:00 P.M. at Sweetwater United Methodist Church (108 Sweetwater Church Rd., Hayesville, NC 28904). All members and prospective members welcome!

At our January meeting (we meet on the 4th Monday of every month) members reported about a project we did last fall. Some students at Tri-County Early College high school in Murphy, NC did a project to raise awareness about hellbenders and the impacts of moving the rocks around in the stream. Once they received approval of their design from the US Forest Service and permission to post them at Fires Creek Wildlife Management Area, our chapter paid to have the signs made.

Hellbenders are an important part of our coldwater aquatic ecosystem and preventing disturbance of their habitat also protects disturbance of trout habitat.



Pictured L-R:  
Jacob Odell,  
Cassie Lowrance,  
Sireen Hargett, and  
Marley Kelly.



## 2019 Southeast Regional Rendezvous

May 3-5 in Dillard, Georgia

Information & Registration: [www.tu.org/southeast-regional](http://www.tu.org/southeast-regional)

### Friday Fishing Day Options & Information

Welcome to the Southeast Regional Trout Unlimited Fishing Day which will be hosted by members of both South Carolina and Georgia Chapters. If you are not familiar with the wonderful trout fishing in the area this will be your chance to taste some of the best of both private and public waters in our states. When signing up for the fishing day, your \$20 fee includes boxed lunch and transportation. Your host will contact you to discuss details in advance.

We're excited to be offering opportunities to fish private waters with no additional rod fee, as well as selected special and limited public waters. All fishing spots will be filled on a first come basis and are limited.

A Georgia Fishing license and trout stamp are required at all locations and may be purchased online at [www.georgiawildlife.com](http://www.georgiawildlife.com) it is recommended that you follow this process rather than attempt to purchase upon arrival.



Equipment suggested for these medium sized waters is 8 ½ to 9 foot 5 and 6wt rods with leaders in the 4x and 5x range. Several of the private waters we would suggest using 3x leaders to handle larger fish.

### Fishing Opportunities:

#### Dukes Creek at Smithgall Woods



This is a true gem of state managed waters which remains mostly wild with a little help. These fish are easily spooked and a challenge to even the most experienced angler. Rod spots are limited each week. Special regulations require catch and release only and all flies in your fly boxes must be barbless. This trip will be a half day per state requirements. There are 4 spots available

#### Rivers Edge on the Soque - [www.riversedgeonthesoque.com](http://www.riversedgeonthesoque.com)



This wonderful private water offers big fish and plenty of them. These waters will make your fishing dreams come true with chunky brown, golden or rainbow trout. It is suggested that you consider using 3 or 4X leaders. There are 2 spots available.





# TROUT UNLIMITED ([www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org)) in the Southern Appalachians

is developing teams of volunteers to collect data in-the-field that are essential to quality management and conservation of our region’s coldwater fisheries.

## Our Needs: Volunteers and Funding

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



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



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

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



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

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



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

## TROUT UNLIMITED SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM CONTACT

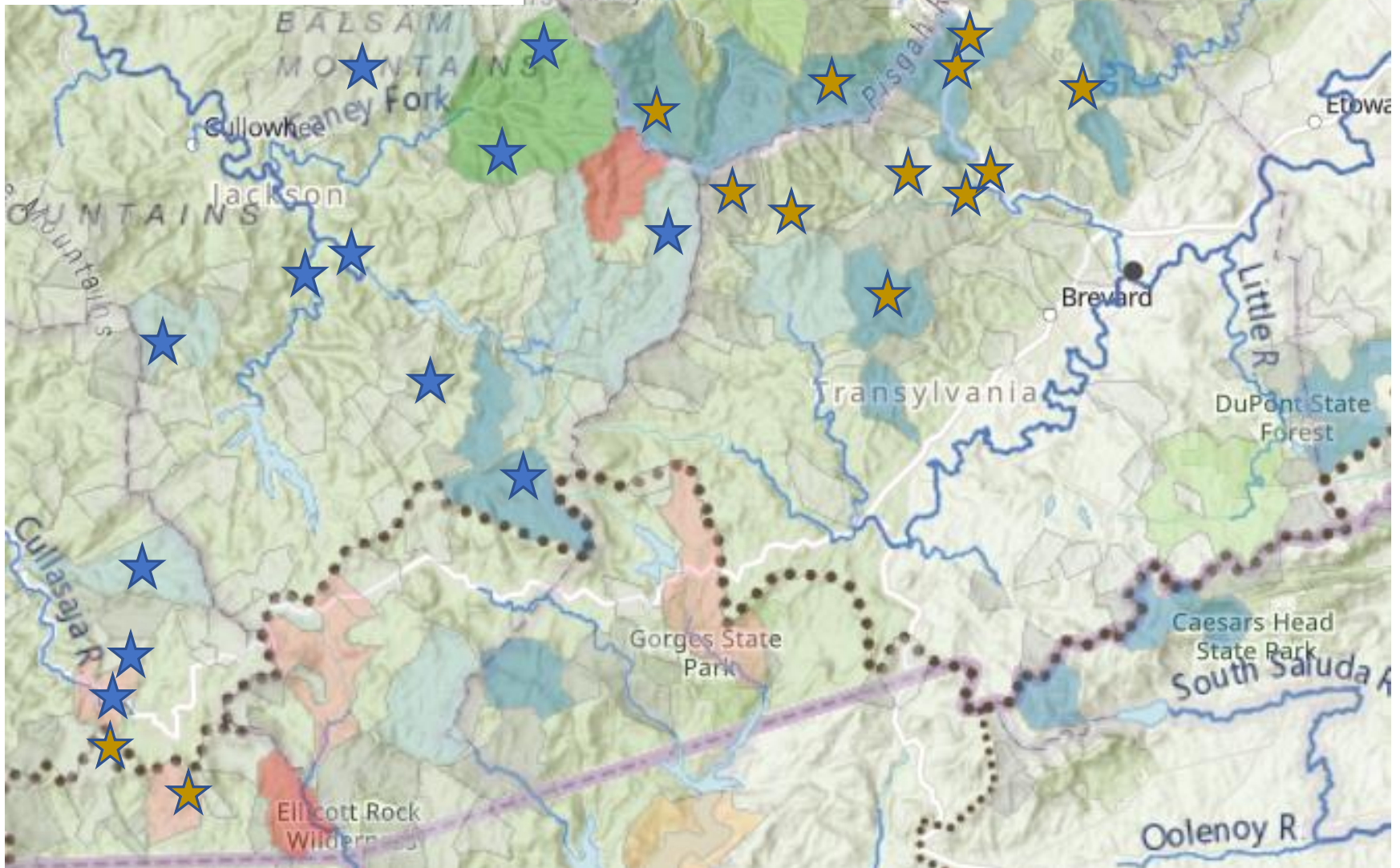
Andy Brown, TU Coldwater Conservation Manager for the Southern Appalachians  
(828) 674-1067; [abrown@tu.org](mailto:abrown@tu.org); 160 Zillicoa Street, Asheville NC 28801



University of Georgia & Trout Unlimited  
Prospective Temperature Monitoring Stations  
(Approximate Location)

★ - Sites in Little Tennessee Basin

★ - Other Sites in Sky Island



**Potential Stream Temperature Data Logging Stations**  
**TU - Citizen Science Program**

<u>Stream</u>	<u>Watershed (1)</u>	<u>Watershed (2)</u>	<u>Near/Road</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
Moses Creek	Caney Fork	Upper Tuckesegee	at Happy Face Aly or Moses Cr Road	south facing
Sugar Creek	Caney Fork	Upper Tuckesegee	at Sugar Creek Road	high elevation headwater trib; northeast facing
Mull Creek	Caney Fork	Upper Tuckesegee	at Caney Fork Road	south-southwest facing headwater trib
Tanassee Creek	Tanassee Creek	Upper Tuckesegee	at intersection Charles Cr road	high elevation headwater trib; southwest facing
Pantherthown Creek	Pantherthown	Upper Tuckesegee	FS Road (will need key) before start of Tuck River	high elevation headwater trib; north facing; hanging valley w meandering tribs
Slatten Branch	Robinson Cr	Upper Tuckesegee	on David Adams property	recently completed project; private land w some clearing
Cullowhee Creek	Cullowhee	Upper Tuckesegee	Cullowee Mtn Road near confluence w Dodgen Creek	headwater trib; northeast facing; interconnected habitat patches
EF Tuckaseigee	EF Tuckaseigee	Upper Tuckesegee	below Bear Creek Lake outside of dam influence	big water; northwest facing; in EF drainage; dam upstream
WF Tuckaseigee	WF Tuckaseigee	Upper Tuckesegee	below Lake Glenville outside of dam influence	big water; northeast facing; in WF drainage; dam upstream
Cullasaja River	Cullasaja	Upper Cullasaja	immediately below dam	interest in coldwater release from dams is growing
Skitty Creek	Cullasaja	Upper Cullasaja	above Cliffside Lake (at Lake or upper at Flat Mtn Rd)	FS coldwater release potential project on Cliffside; Brook trout restoration?
Brush Creek	Cullasaja	Upper Cullasaja	at NF Road 4535	southfacing streams feeding Cullasaja
Buck Creek	Cullasaja	Upper Cullasaja	at Buck Creek Road	southfacing streams feeding Cullasaja
EF Overflow Creek	EF Overflow	Overflow Creek	above Glen Falls on Glen Falls Rd	south facing trib to Chatooga; picking up SC inputs; potential private lands watershed project
Clear Creek	Clear Creek	Overflow Creek	at Highway 28 (Walhalla Rd)	south facing trib to Chatooga; picking up SC inputs; potential private lands watershed project
Courthouse Creek	Courthouse Creek	NF French Broad	at end of Courthouse Creek Road	high elevation south facing headwater trib
Cedar Rock Creek	Catheys Creek	Catheys Creek	at Catheys Creek Road	just finished AOP; high elevation headwater trib facing southwest
Daniel Ridge Creek	Davidson	Davidson	at end of national forest service road	headwaters of Davidson
Davidson River	Davidson	Davidson	at confluence with Rockhouse Creek	middle Davidson in PNF
Davidson River	Davidson	Davidson	at confluence with Looking Glass Creek at Highway 276	lower Davidson in PNF after Hatchery
Looking Glass	Looking Glass	Davidson	at confluence with Davidson River at Highway 276	lots of rain gardens and AOP work scheduled upstream; high rec value w Sliding Rock
Pounding Mill Creek	Looking Glass	Davidson	at Highway 276 near FS 475B	lots of rain gardens and AOP work scheduled downstream; high rec value w Sliding Rock
WF Pigeon River	WF Pigeon	Upper Pigeon	at Blue Ridge Parkway and Highway 215	
WF Pigeon River	WF Pigeon	Upper Pigeon	immediately below dam on Lake Logan	lot of TU activity on WF Pigeon
Shining Rock Creek	WF Pigeon	Upper Pigeon	at Little East Fork and confluence w WF Pigeon	headwater stream out of wilderness area; north facing
EF Pigeon River	EF Pigeon	Upper Pie	at Highway 276	headwater stream off BRP; north facing
SF Mills River	SF Mills	SF Mills	at Highway 276	why not collect here while collecting other sites on 276? Sky Island
SF Mills River	SF Mills	SF Mills	at SF Mills River Rd	downstream in watershed
NF Mills River	NF Mills	NF Mills	at Recreation Area	raingarden, rec area
Fletcher Creek	NF Mills	NF Mills	at Fletcher Creek Road	headwater high elevation trib east facing

Gray Shaded Streams - to be paid from UGA Project Funds

Others - to be paid as other TU funds make available

**TROUT UNLIMITED in the Southern Appalachians**  
**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT: APRIL 1, 2018 – DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**Submitted 1/9/2019**

**Agreement 117-PA-11081117-015**

**Project Code: SEFSR8**

**Southern Appalachian Aquatic Habitat Connectivity Partnership**

The terms of this cooperative agreement stipulate that Trout Unlimited (TU) is to provide ANNUAL performance reports to the US Forest Service (USFS) related to the terms and expectations set forth in the agreement. The last performance report was submitted on May 22, 2018. This one is being submitted on January 9, 2019 and captures the work performed for the remainder of the 2018 calendar year. From this point forward, performance reports will adhere to the end-of-calendar year format.

The partnership between Trout Unlimited and US Forest Service Region 8 has produced numerous gains over the last year in support of good management of native and wild trout and the coldwater ecosystem in the southern Appalachians on national forest system lands and neighboring properties. TU is pleased to report on the following accomplishments:

- Two coldwater conservation projects constructed – private lands adjacent to Cherokee National Forest (CNF)
- One Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) project in process of design - Wolf Creek in the CNF
- Citizen Science program developed and started
- Wilson Creek Wild & Scenic River Initiative developed and started
- All Lands Initiative on-go
- \$57,500 Awarded from grant for Sky Island Citizen Science & Coldwater Conservation Plan
- Proposal submitted to National Forest Foundation for Treasured Landscape projects in Wilson Creek and Sky Island focal areas
- Active communications with TU Chapters & Councils in the region

We used USFS and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy dollars to construct the coldwater conservation projects. We used USFS and a broad array of private funders to kick-off the Wilson Creek Wild and Scenic River initiative. The 20% matching requirement under this agreement has been far exceeded (see financial report).

**I. Construction of 2 Coldwater Conservation Projects**

**A) Hampton Creek Cove Farm Access Path Re-Construction**

TU partnered with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy to re-construct a farm access path and ford at the Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area and Working Farm in Carter County, Tennessee, which is property that backs up to the Cherokee National Forest at the Roan Highlands in the upper Doe



River watershed. The project was on Left Prong Hampton Creek, which is a Brook Trout stream that was the subject of a Brook Trout restoration project several years ago undertaken by the Tennessee State Wildlife Agency. The project area is located squarely in the middle of a 7,841 acre Brook Trout habitat patch that was assigned an 'Enhance Stronghold' conservation strategy in TU's own GIS-based Brook Trout Conservation Portfolio and Range-Wide Assessment. Other partners on the project included the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. TU contracted this project for a cost of \$8,480 and sub-contracted the construction to South Core Environmental, a heavy equipment landscape contractor from Asheville, NC. The project's primary purpose was to remove a significant sediment source to Left Prong Hampton Creek from the heavily eroded farm path and concentrate livestock access across the creek to one stable ford. Fencing is to be undertaken at a later date (potentially by the Overmountain Chapter of TU) to keep cattle out of the creek elsewhere on the property. Long term plans include the installation of pedestrian bridges on the Overmountain Victory Trail across the creek to facilitate hiker access to the Roan Highlands. TU may be asked to install these bridges, which will serve a dual function of protecting streambanks.



#### **B) Little Cove Creek Collapsed Bridge Removal & Temporary Access Re-Build**

The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy owns a conservation property several miles away from the Hampton Creek Cove project site on another Brook Trout stream called Little Cove Creek in the upper Doe River watershed. The Little Cove Creek project site is also in Carter County and backs up to the Cherokee National Forest at the Roan Highlands. During a hurricane in 2016, their bridge was washed out, falling into the stream and damming up the creek which then spilled over into their gravel access road creating severe gully erosion that washed back into Little Cove Creek. This stream is also native Brook Trout waters and in fact was the stream from which Brook Trout were collected for the

restoration at Hampton Creek. The project site is located within a 3,778 acre of Brook Trout habitat that has been assigned the 'Restore Persistent Populations and Habitat' conservation strategy. The purpose of this project was to remove the collapsed bridge so that it would no longer serve as a dam during high flow events, remediate the gravel road and build a temporary bridge in place of the old one so that the Conservancy could access and maintain the property. Road remediation involved regrading gullies, re-gravelling the surface and constructing water bars and wing ditches to move water off the road prior to it becoming an erosion hazard. SAHC paid TU \$12,585, which we then used to contract with South Core Environmental to construct the project. Our work removed a sediment source and ongoing hazard to the stability of this stream and its banks. If this project were not undertaken, the floods in late December 2018 would have likely caused catastrophic bank failure and sedimentation problems in this otherwise stunningly pristine native trout stream. Eventually, SAHC will build a permanent stream crossing and TU stands ready to assist them should they need it.

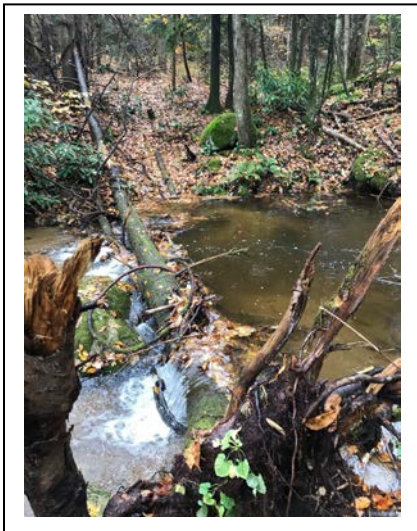


## **II. One AOP in Process of Design**

Wolf Creek is located in the French Broad River watershed in the Cherokee National Forest in Cocke County, Tennessee. As part of its watershed condition framework planning process, the CNF identified the Wolf Creek watershed as a priority watershed for restoration. Over several years, the CNF has accomplished all of its action items except for removing the culverts on upper Wolf Creek and replacing them with an aquatic organism passage (AOP) friendly crossing. Wolf Creek is a Brook Trout stream and the project is located in a 2,322 acre Brook Trout habitat patch as identified in TU's own GIS-based Conservation Portfolio as a 'Restore Other Populations' conservation strategy. The CNF has entered into agreement with TU for survey and design assistance, allocating \$9,272 toward the effort thus far with



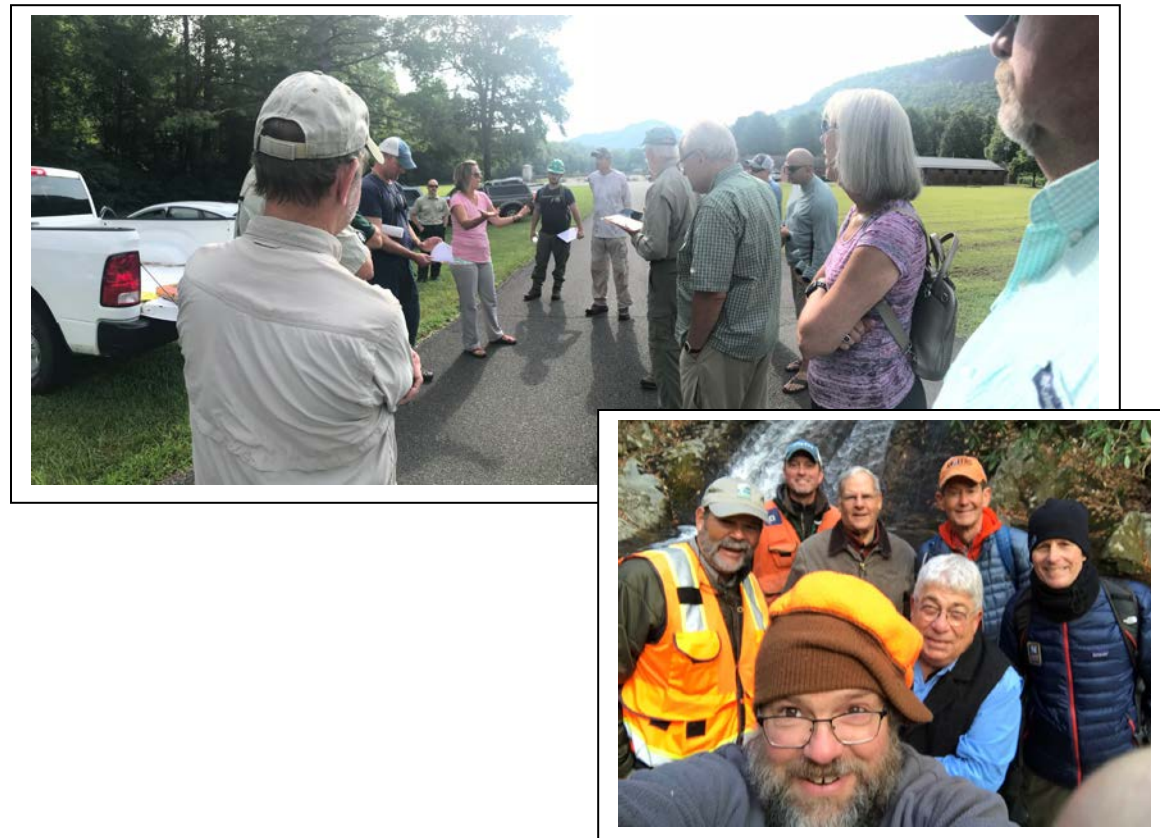
TU's responsibility to raise the remaining funds for design which will likely cost a total of \$15,000~. TU has contracted with Wildlands Engineering out of Asheville NC who specializes in this type of work. Wildlands has surveyed the area and is in process of developing a conceptual design to share with TU and the CNF by late January 2019. The intent, after obtaining a final design, is to take this project to construction in the summer of 2019. The current estimate for construction is \$75,000. Once complete, this AOP project will ensure  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of passage for Brook trout in the headwaters of Wolf Creek (a substantial waterfall is a natural barrier downstream) and will enable the CNF to move confidently to other watersheds with the recognition that they have implemented every project outlined in the Wolf Creek restoration plan. This watershed contains a lot of Hemlock that are dying off and dropping into the stream. While the adverse consequences of massive Hemlock die-off are not being underestimated, perhaps the silver lining – at least in the relative short term - is the amount of coarse woody material dropping into the stream and creating habitat diversity that may well be a boon to the Brook Trout populations.





### III. Citizen Science Program Developed and Started

The citizen science program is moving forward full steam with particular focus in the Sky Island and Wilson Creek Wild and Scenic River focal areas. TU collaborated with Brady Dodd (Forest Hydrologist - National Forests in NC), Lorie Stroup (Fisheries Biologist-Pisgah National Forest), and Scott Loftis (Aquatic Habitat Coordinator-NC Wildlife Resources Commission) to develop a sedimentation survey protocol for use on roads and trails. After six versions, this survey instrument is complete. Jake Rash, NC Wildlife Resources Commission coldwater research coordinator, is collaborating with TU's GIS Analyst Matt Mayfield and taking the survey form and turning it into a hand-held electronic survey instrument using ArcGIS Online's Survey123 application. We have held three trainings involving 20 volunteers and had to postpone a fourth due to an 18 inch snow event. All totaled, our volunteers have contributed 120 hours toward this effort on the training alone, which has a value of \$2,896. In addition to the sedimentation survey, TU is also training volunteers on a fish passage barrier survey using the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) protocol developed and managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and various state wildlife agencies. We had four people attend one training in November. We had two more training dates scheduled for December for which six people were registered, but we had to postpone this event due to the massive snowstorm creating unsafe travel and field conditions. The NC Trout Unlimited State Council recently broadcast an on-line magazine, its first publication in over a dozen years, to 4,500 TU members statewide. This magazine had a feature article on the citizen science program with an interview from Andy Brown.



#### IV. Wilson Creek Wild & Scenic River Initiative Developed & Started

The Wilson Creek initiative is underway and a more thorough performance report is being submitted to the USFS under that specific agreement. For reporting purposes here, key information includes:

- The agreement has been signed, allocating \$475,000 in USFS funding to TU with the understanding that TU will generate an additional \$105,527 in cash and \$20,000 of in-kind services at minimum.
- In exchange for the USFS cash investment, TU will develop and implement a citizen science based watershed assessment, develop a list of priority coldwater conservation projects for long term implementation, construct an AOP on Thorpes Creek at the Mortimer Campground, remediate FS Roads 192 and 451, and close some non-forest system trails and build new steps in the Wilson Creek gorge.
- This agreement expires on October 31, 2023.

To kick-off the watershed assessment, TU convened 19 other partner organizations to plan and host a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the nation's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The event was held November 3<sup>rd</sup> in Wilson Creek. Approximately 300 persons attended. The in-kind contribution from these partner organizations has a value of over \$7,200. In addition to the partners who planned and host the event, we collectively generated financial sponsorships from 16 organizations who contributed \$8,639 in cash or in-kind sponsorships. The event ultimately had a price tag of \$6,197.38 and generated a cash revenue of \$6,441 for a total profit of \$243.62.



## **V. All Lands Initiative**

Allen Nicholas, Forests Supervisor for the National Forests in North Carolina, envisions a forest restoration, stewardship and management strategy that does not stop at national forest land boundaries but actively engages private landowners and state and local agencies that serve them. TU agrees with this sentiment. Since cold water and trout don't stop at the national forest boundary, neither does our attention. The NFsNC has held two meetings thus far involving the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, State of NC and mountain county Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NC Forest Service, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, The Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited to explore and develop this concept further. TU is in the process of collaborating on a written document outlining this vision and plan - focusing with Grandfather District Ranger Nick Larson and NRCS Regional Supervisor Mark Ferguson on the chapters associated with improving water quality and aquatic habitat. While talk of the All Lands Initiative has been going on for some time, the effort started gaining traction in October, November and December 2018. We hope to prototype the work on the ground perhaps in Wilson Creek and Sky Island focal areas. The federal government shutdown has put a temporary hold on this initiative.

## **VI. \$57,500 Grant Award**

TU applied for a planning grant from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund in February 2018 and after responding to questions and providing followup details throughout the year, we learned in November 2018 that our proposal – entitled Sky Island Coldwater Conservation Plan - was indeed funded. This grant will expire on April 30, 2020. The grant will fund citizen science efforts, landowner outreach, data analysis and the prioritization of a list of coldwater conservation projects, and preliminary designs for three projects – all within the Sky Island project area. As a reminder, Sky Island is a simpler way of saying the headwaters of the Davidson, S & N Fork Mills, Pigeon, N Fork French Broad, Tuckasee Rivers and Cathey's Creek. TU was awarded \$57,500 in exchange for a match of \$89,000 in cash and in-kind services from the US Forest Service, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Citizen scientists and several other sources.

## **VII. National Forest Foundation Treasured Landscape Proposal**

TU's Coldwater Conservation Manager for the Southern Appalachians, Andy Brown, met with the National Forest Foundation regional representative, Mark Shelley on two different occasions since the spring of 2018. Discussions were held about TU's vision, strategy and action items in the region and how they dovetail with NFF's Treasured Landscape Initiative. On December 6, 2018 TU submitted a list of immediate, shovel-ready coldwater conservation projects that are located either in the Wilson Creek or Sky Island focal areas and that have also been previously brought to NFF's attention by the National Forests in NC as Treasured Landscape projects. We are hopeful that NFF will bring some additional dollars to the table to extend NFsNC's investments planned for the following:

- Thorpes Creek AOP at Mortimer Campground (Wilson Creek) – OUR REQUEST \$60,000
- Pisgah Forest Rain Gardens on Highway 276 (Sky Island) – OUR REQUEST \$29,000
- Cove Creek Group Camp AOP (Sky Island) – OUR REQUEST \$80,000



#### **VIII. Active Communications with TU Chapters & Councils**

At last count, there are 36 Trout Unlimited chapters spread throughout the southern Appalachians in north Georgia, upstate South Carolina, western North Carolina and east Tennessee. Andy has a goal of attending/speaking at one chapter per month. Additionally, Andy is actively seeking ways of engaging TU chapters and councils in the work that he is involved with. Since March 2018, Andy has made presentations to the Mountain Bridge chapter in South Carolina and attended one SC Council meeting. In North Carolina, Andy has presented to the Unaka, Tuckaseigee, Land of Sky, and Table Rock chapters. Additionally, Andy worked extensively from July until November with the Rocky River, Table Rock and Hickory Chapters on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the nation's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act held at Wilson Creek on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. As well, Andy is actively recruiting volunteers from South Carolina chapters in the citizen science program and is developing relationships with SC chapter members at the various trainings. Andy routinely communicates with the current NC Council chair, Mike Mihalas. Conversations over the last year have revolved around hiring TU's new volunteer operations coordinator for the southeast, decisionmaking for TU's coldwater land conservation fund for the southern Appalachians, and an upcoming weekend conservation workshop that NCTU wants to put on for TU membership in the region in 2019. Andy was also present and presented at the USFS-NCWRC-TU Cooperator's Meeting in April. Unfortunately, current work demands as outlined in this report have precluded Andy from establishing relationships in North Georgia. And while there is work going on in east Tennessee, Andy's relationships with TU chapters there have been limited. Getting into north Georgia and east Tennessee and building relationships with the membership there is a high priority for 2019, as well as helping to develop some projects with TU chapter members and Forest Service biologist Keith Whalen in South Carolina.

Nachoochee Bend on the Chattahoochee River – [www.unicoioutfitters.com](http://www.unicoioutfitters.com)



Located in Helen Georgia, this is one of our anglers favorite and is a privately managed water. The Chattahoochee is the backbone of Georgia and its headwaters only a few miles north of the Bend. It then runs through metro Atlanta and dumps into the Gulf of Mexico. While fishing here you will see deep pools, riffles and runs and slow smooth water runs. Nachoochee Bend offers great fishing with the opportunity to land a large rainbow or even the occasional Pike. There are 8 spots available

Hatch Camp and Art Farm – [www.hatchcampandartfarm.com](http://www.hatchcampandartfarm.com)



Located in Clayton Georgia on Warwoman Creek. This is a private water on a smaller waters but trout that reside there don't know they are supposed to be smaller! The river offers the opportunity to catch a truly spectacular rainbow or brown trout. There are 4 spots available

Chattooga River Delayed Harvest



This river which borders SC/Ga and is one of the few freestone rivers in the Southeast that has no dams to restrict flow. This river was made famous by the movie Deliverance so you may even hear a banjo off in the distant hills. We have two sections available, Section 1 is the stocked Delayed Harvest area located above SC Hwy 28. This is a stocked stream that holds rainbows,

brook and brown trout which are eager to take a fly. Section 2 is located above Burrell Ford and will require some hiking to reach the deep pools and tributaries that make it a wonderful area for wild rainbows, browns and brook trout and little pressure.

There are 8 spots available

If you prefer wild trout streams there are many in the area you can find within an hour's drive in the hundreds of National Forest acres in the area. The Tuckasegee Tailwaters in close by in NC if you prefer a float trip. [www.tuckflyshop.com](http://www.tuckflyshop.com) will be happy to make arrangement. These will not be hosted trips.



## BLUE RIDGE TROUT UNLIMITED CONSERVATION BANQUET

Saturday, March 2nd, 2019  
5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Elks Lodge 449  
2585 Griffith Road • Winston Salem, NC

### TICKET SALES:

Pre-Sale Adult \$40 if purchased by 2/14/19 (*Includes 5 free bucket raffle tickets*)  
Adult \$50 after 2/14/19  
PHW Veterans & Children Under 18 \$30  
Table for 8 \$280

### SPONSOR SALES:

Gold Level Sponsor - \$500 • Silver Level Sponsor \$250 • Bronze Level Sponsor \$125

Games • Bucket Raffles • Prizes • Silent Auction

All banquet attendees are entered for a chance to win **one of these fabulous door prizes:**

## Apple iPad



## Ring Doorbell





# NAT GREENE FLY FISHERS

*Present*

## Patrick Fulkrod



Patrick is the founder of the South Holston River Company. He is a local to Northeast Tennessee and has been fly fishing since age ten. 2019 will represent Patrick's 13th year guiding, and a normal year includes 200+ days on the water. Patrick brings a lineup of credentials and accomplishments to his resume including national recognition as the 2014 Orvis Endorsed Guide of the Year. Patrick was also recognized as a 2012, 2013, and 2015 Orvis Endorsed Guide of the Year Finalist, 2007 Graduate of the Western Rivers Professional Guide School, Orvis-Endorsed Fly-Fishing Guide since 2007, and a Clackacraft Drift Boat's Pro Staff Member. Patrick's favorite method to catch a trout is on a #20 midge.

## Spring Banquet and Seminar Saturday, February 23, 2019



**Bur-Mil Park Clubhouse**  
**5834 Bur-Mil Club Rd., Greensboro**

**To Reserve a Seat**  
**Neal Mitchell 336-643-5001**

### Seminar - 9 am to 2:00 pm – Catching Big Fish on Little Flies

Patrick specializes in fooling trout with tiny midges. Come and learn his secrets.

**Seminar Tickets**  
**(Including Lunch)**  
**\$25**

### Evening Banquet - 6:00pm to 9:30 pm

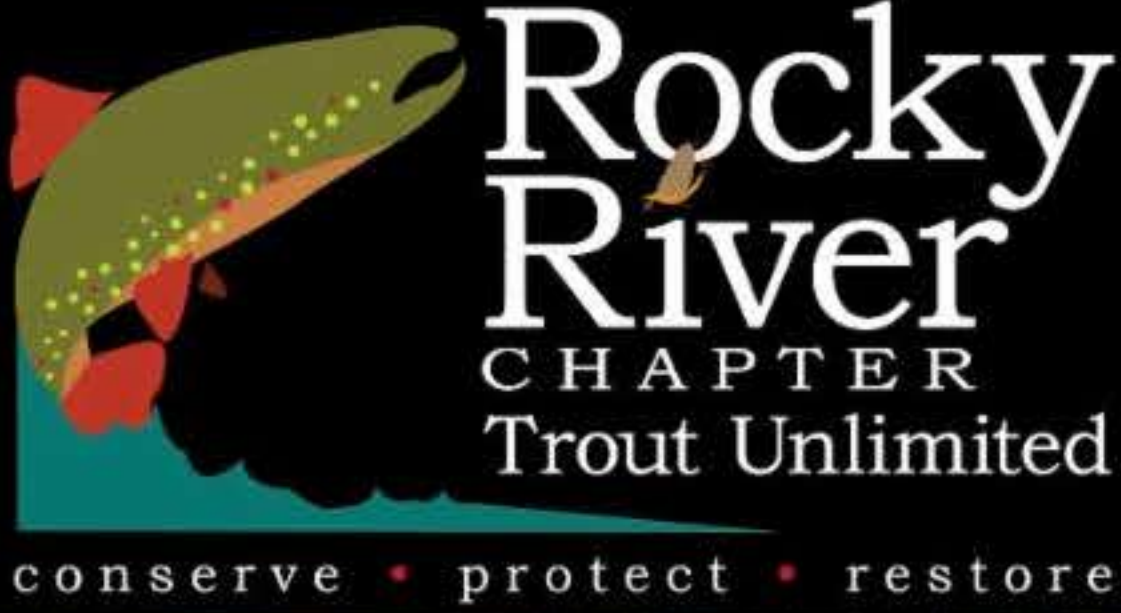
- Bid on live and silent auction items (guided trips, rod, reels, artwork, etc.)
- Drop \$1 tickets into the bucket raffles (flies, gear, and non-fishing items)
- Enjoy a delicious buffet dinner with a cash bar

**Banquet Tickets**  
**(Including Buffet Dinner)**  
**\$35 in Advance**  
**\$40 at the Door!**  
**Under 12 are \$25**

### **Evening Presentation – The Southeast's Premier Water - The South Holston River**

The South Holston River is considered the best wild brown trout fishery east of the Mississippi River, offering 6,000 trout per river mile and containing an overall population of 84% Brown Trout / 16% Rainbow Trout.





## **Register to RSVP Now!**

[I can't make it](#)

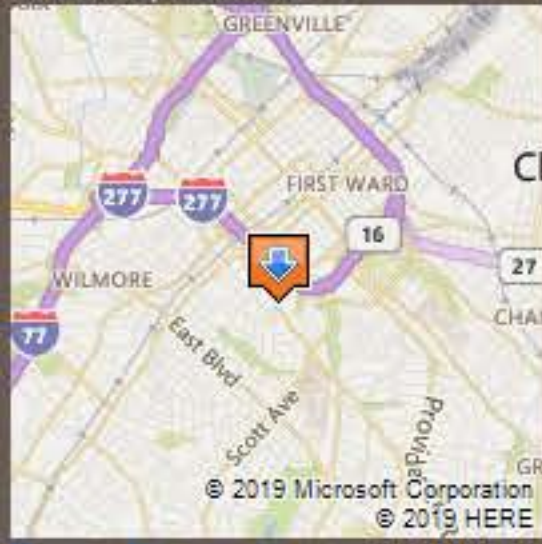
## **Friends of Rocky River 2019**

### **When**

Thursday, February 21, 2019 from  
6:00 PM to 8:30 PM EST  
[Add to Calendar](#)

### **Where**

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Fellowship Hall**  
1000 East Morehead Street  
Charlotte, NC 28204



[Deanna Davidson](#)

Dear Charles,

**This is a reminder, with a listing of some new items in the FORR auction. Please Save the Date, Thursday February 21st for the 38th annual Friends of Rocky River Benefit.**

This event is the major fund raising activity for our Chapter's activities.

Most of the funds raised will support Trout in the Classroom (TIC), Rivercourse, Casting Carolinas, and Project Healing Waters. Along with these initiatives, funding helps with the yearly Alarka and streamside events, as well as participation in other TU activities.

As always, we will have trips, gear, and other fun items up for auction, with a few twists this year. If you have items to donate for the auctions or raffles, please contact [Stephen McClure](#) to arrange for listing.

We have already identified several float trips, Craft Beer, rod outfits, and fly tying items for auction. Updated list of items includes:

- Ecota Overnight Condo, Twin Rivers Fishing - Private Water
- [Trophy Water Guide](#) Service Gift Certificate full Day TN Float trip
- [Watauga River Lodge](#) Full Day Guided TN Float trip and Lodging!
- [River Girl Fishing Company](#) 1/2 Day Trip for Two
- Striper Fishing Trip with Steve Craig
- Yadkin River Club - Full Day Guided Trip
- Wing Shooting Trip with Tim Ramsey!
- [DRO](#) Private Water Passes Door Prize
- Nantahala Ale Craft Beer
- Build your own Bamboo Rod
- Tom Adams Flies!
- Gary Jones 9' 6 wt Bamboo Rod
- Sage One Rod and Reel Outfit
- Cortland 7' 3wt 4 piece rod
- Syndicate 10' 3 wt 4 piece rod
- Various Artwork
- Simms Waist Pack
- Fly Tying Tools, Materials
- Fly Tying Table Top
- Fly Fishing Books
- Tying Supplies
- Gift Cards, Tying, and Fishing Supplies from our great friends at [Jesse Brown's](#), [Carolina Mountain Sports](#), [The Sporting Gent](#), and [the Great Outdoor Provision Co.](#)

A \$10 per adult entry fee at the door covers:

- Free entrance for all children.
- A delicious BBQ dinner, served during the program.
- Entry in a chance to win a pair of passes for the [Davidson River Private Waters](#).
- Opportunity to participate in all auctions and raffles.

Please use the Register Now links at the top or bottom of this page to RSVP. In the event you cannot make it, please use the "I can't make it" link at the bottom to let us know. Feel free to forward to a friend.

Thanks for your attention, we look forward to seeing you at the event!

Thanks for your attention, we look forward to seeing you at the event!

Sincerely,

RRTU Board  
Rocky River Trout Unlimited  
[rockyrivertroutunlimited@gmail.com](mailto:rockyrivertroutunlimited@gmail.com)  
[704.994.7889](#)