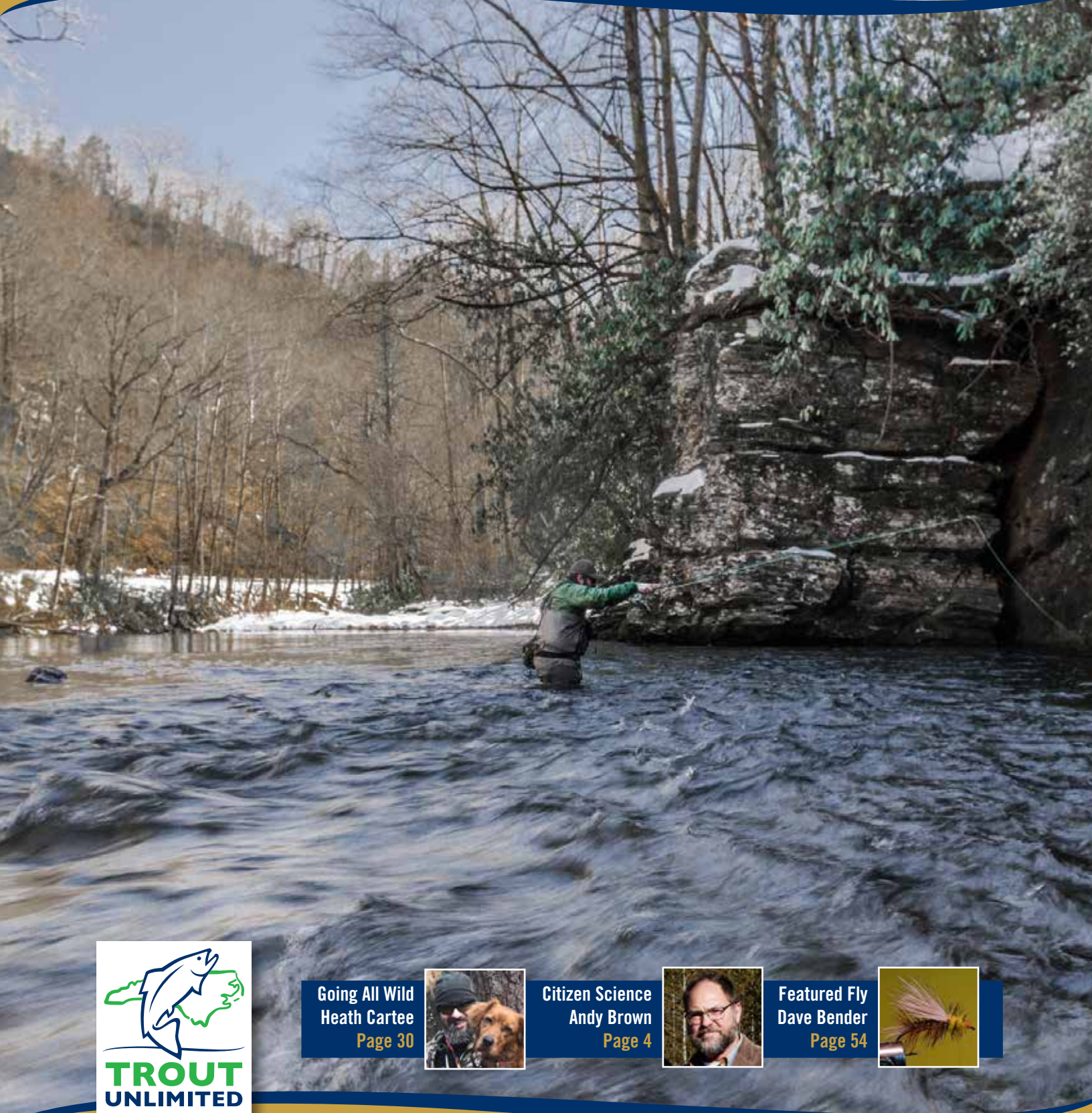


# THE DRIFT



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**Contact Information:** North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited • P.O. Box 2351 • Brevard, NC 28712  
**Council Chair:** Mike Mihalas (mike@mihalas.com)  
**Editor and Manager:** Charles Crolley (charles@coldriverstudio.org)  
**Graphic Design and Layout:** Suzanne Crolley (suzanne@designsbysuzanne.com)

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**Heath Cartee**

# A MESSAGE FROM MIKE

**MIKE MIHALAS**, *STATE COUNCIL CHAIR*

**W**elcome to the first issue of “The Drift”, the newsletter of the North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited!



North Carolina is home to over 4,500 TU members and fourteen TU chapters. The purpose of the state council is to support those chapters in strengthening our coldwater conservation efforts throughout North Carolina; the purpose of “The Drift” is to highlight all the great things TU has going on in our state and to share its conservation successes and challenges.

My term as council chair began just a few months ago, but I have been involved in coldwater conservation organizations most of my life. As a kid, I was taught to cast and tie flies by members of the Housatonic Fly Fisherman’s Association. That organization was responsible for restoring wild trout in the Housatonic and getting the best trout water on the river designated as catch-and-release, transforming it from a put-and-take fishery to a first-class trout stream.

I saw early on that it is possible to make a difference.

After college, I became involved with Trout Unlimited and have served as a volunteer leader with chapters and state councils in South Carolina, Wisconsin, and now North Carolina, where I am a past-president of the Pisgah Chapter. My involvement in Trout Unlimited arises from a desire to conserve our abundant coldwater fisheries for future generations, and to honor those who have worked so hard to conserve them in the past.

I strongly believe we can make a difference in the present — not just conserving, but improving our trout streams.

NCTU plans to bring a renewed focus on conservation to both the state council and to the chapters it serves. We are currently planning a NC Trout Conservation Workshop for chapter conservation leaders. Our Citizen Science program is collecting valuable data so we can establish conservation priorities. Our council’s Rivercourse and Trout in the Classroom programs continue our successful youth conservation education efforts.

We have lots of work to do. Thank you for being a part of it.

**Mike Mihalas**  
Pisgah Forest





# TU'S SOUTHERN CITIZEN SCIENCE

Focusing on “Sky Island”, Wilson Creek Wild and S

In this issue, we sit down for a visit with Andy Brown, TU's Coldwater Conservation Manager for the Southern Appalachians, about his exciting new all-volunteer citizen science program to give TU and its conservation partners the tools and data they need to plan and prioritize coldwater restoration, rehabilitation and preservation projects over the next 5–10 years.



# N APPALACHIAN NCE PROJECT

Scenic Rivers and the Upper Doe River Watershed.





## Please tell us a little more about this Citizen Science project.

Trout Unlimited is collaborating with the US Forest Service and NC Wildlife Resources Commission on a citizen science program to help fill important data and information gaps on coldwater species and habitat management issues in the southern Appalachians. We feel that we have a lot to offer in this collaboration — from the thousands of our members who may have an interest in learning and employing scientific protocols to aid in trout management to the ability to raise funds to help get surveys and assessments done, and ultimately conservation projects on the ground.

We are currently performing surveys and monitoring on two items: A) stream crossings to identify whether culverts, fords or bridges are barriers to fish passage; B) roads and trails to identify significant erosion and sedimentation sources that are delivering sediments to coldwater streams.

Ultimately we may also monitor water temperature and perform eDNA surveys to identify presence/absence of native brook trout on streams where we lack that information. The end game is to develop with the Forest Service and State Wildlife Agencies a list of priority conservation projects that we can help them construct over the coming 10 years or so.

Two such projects might include road or trail remediation or replacing stream crossings that are barriers to fish passage with aquatic organism passage (AOP) friendly stream crossings. There are other types of coldwater conservation projects that we might also engage in — from riparian and stream restoration to native brook trout re-introduction work.

We have two focal areas — the Wilson Creek Wild and Scenic River watershed in Avery and Caldwell Counties, NC; and an area that some of us are calling Sky Island. This name came about because of a need to describe the area that comprises the headwaters of Catheys Creek and the Davidson, N and S Fork

Mills, Pigeon and Tuckasegee Rivers in Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe, Haywood and Jackson Counties.

We also want to monitor the site-specific and cumulative impact of our work and be able to tell the story of how our coldwater conservation projects are delivering benefits to trout, trout habitat, and the anglers and communities downstream who depend on cold, clean water and access to larger acres of habitat. Please note — while this is a program of Trout Unlimited, we are actively recruiting all types of people in the surrounding communities. A person does not have to be a member of TU to participate.

## How did the idea for this project come about?

Soon after I was hired, I knew that I needed to focus my efforts in certain places in order to be most effective with my time and the resources available to me. The region I am responsible for includes north Georgia, east Tennessee, western North Carolina and upstate South Carolina. I am only one person but TU has over 30 chapters and thousands of members in this region — many of whom are equally as or more passionate and technically competent than I.

While speaking to various chapters in the region, many people asked me where and how they could get involved. So I was thinking about that while at the same time I was building a Native and Wild Trout Conservation Planning Map for Western NC using a lot of relevant ecological and socio-economic data. Some of the data sets selected for this mapping process included: native brook trout presence, native brook trout habitat patches, USFS roads and trails, stream crossings, USFS priority watersheds, and municipal water supplies among others.

Once my team put all of that together, we could see where some of the more robust native and wild trout populations exist combined with large acreages of high quality habitat. We could also see how the road and trail network bisected many of these habitat patches. And only



at a few places did we know if the stream crossing was blocking fish passage or not. And at other places we had heard reports from hikers or bikers of eroding trails delivering sediment to streams.

So it was a matter of trying to connect persons from TU interested in coldwater conservation with our agency partners who have needs for data and information that can help drive their management priorities. And we are doing just this. TU, National Forest in NC and NC Wildlife Commission staff are training volunteers on certain protocols. Some of those protocols are methods that we have developed. Others have been developed by other partners such as the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership.

Jeff Wright (TU's new hire in the area) and I are coordinating the volunteers' monitoring activities and guiding them into the areas where we have needs. TU's science team is managing the data in GIS.

## Overall, what's the most important thing for this program to deliver? Tell us a little more about its goals and objectives.

Our end game is getting good, effective coldwater conservation on the ground. And hopefully in a manner where a



number of projects are constructed in the same watersheds so that each builds off the success of the other such that there is a net cumulative benefit at the bottom of the watershed.

So from that perspective — the citizen science is intended to deliver good conservation. But there are so many other goals. One of our goals is to engage effectively the TU membership who wants to be involved in work like this. Trout Unlimited speaks of 'One TU', which means that the staff-persons and the membership are all working together well.

That is my aim, and I must say that I am enjoying getting to know more of the TU membership in these on-the-ground activities and am excited about the capacity to do this work that we, as a grass-roots organization, actually have.

Another goal is that we want to bring demonstrably added-value to our US Forest Service and state wildlife agency partners. They bring incredible expertise. And at the same time, they have more to do than they can realistically get done. Our coldwater conservation missions overlap so well. TU gets a chance to not only help them get the work done but also to help drive where the work gets done, which is incredibly exciting.

And not only that but the volunteer hours and information generated by our citizen science program gives me a very strong platform to stand upon when I ask private and public funders to join us by investing in this high elevation, source-water conservation.

You know — while I call it coldwater conservation, the work that TU is doing is really SOURCE water conservation. We are helping our agency partners protect, clean up and steward the source waters upon which so many people downstream depend for their drinking water supplies, economies and recreational outlets.

So another outcome or goal that I want to achieve from the citizen science is an enhanced fundraising capacity.

### **What's the biggest challenge you've faced as you've pulled the project together?**

Time. There really is only one of me and this work is really about relationship building. And relationships take time. I don't want to treat anyone as an object, such as a data-gatherer, who is a means to an end. Because as I've mentioned, there are many goals that we want this program to achieve.

But there is always a person behind the protocol. And these persons join together as groups in our training — all with different backgrounds and personal histories and different comfort levels with what we are teaching. And for this program to be successful, I need to invest in each one of them and be as responsive to them as much as possible even after a training. But it's what I want to do. I think it's hugely important, and at the same time, the citizen science program is one of several other of my core job responsibilities.

### **Is the project funded? If not, how can people contribute?**

Both the Land of Sky and Pisgah Chapters of TU have pledged to contribute to the program for the next 3 years. We recently received a \$57,000 grant from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, in part to support the citizen science and the coldwater conservation plan for the Sky Island area. The National Forests in NC have contributed funding and in-kind services from their biological, hydrological and engineering staffs. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission is also contributing staff time to the project.

## You've worked to build partnerships with other people and organizations. Tell us a little bit about them, and how they're pitching in.

**Lorie Stroup** is the Fisheries Biologist for the Pisgah National Forest. **Brady Dodd** is the Forest Hydrologist for the National Forests in NC. **Scott Loftis** is the Mountain Aquatic Habitat Coordinator for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. **Jake Rash** is the Coldwater Research Coordinator for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

All four of these people have contributed significant time to survey design and methodology development as well as to the teaching on-the-ground of the protocols to our citizen scientists. Jake has helped tremendously in putting our sedimentation surveys into an electronic format for use on hand-held devices. Trout Unlimited's GIS Analyst **Matt Mayfield** is helping to manage the data on the back end and create maps and other visual displays. The project is also widely supported in the National Forests in NC office by the Forest Supervisor, **Allen Nicholas** and Staff Officer **Barry Jones**. USFS Engineering and Recreation staff will ultimately be involved as we develop and execute trail remediation and AOP projects. For AOP work specifically, we have partnered with the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership and have adopted their protocol for stream crossing survey work.

## Our area is home to many active conservation groups. Have you looked at tying this program into other efforts, like Mountain True's water quality study?

I think it's great what other groups are doing. I am aware of Mountain True's work and would like to collaborate more with them. And there are even other groups out there doing similar things. At some point, there comes a time to simply 'get started' while at the same time being

welcome to adaptations and inclusions that might be necessary when we learn of other complimentary efforts. I think that is where we are. We are moving forward on our work with our specific objectives in mind, knowing full well that there are others who we could collaborate with and being open to those possibilities.

## It's clear that the success of the program relies on volunteer involvement. Tell us more about the training you're offering for volunteers who want to participate.

I envision this being a 3 year program. We'll hold more trainings in the winter and spring of 2019. And probably some more in the summer and fall. Sky Island and Wilson Creek are our current focal areas. I am open to expanding in other areas as my own person time and sanity, as well as other resources will allow. The sedimentation survey trainings take about 5 hours. A person could do one training and be competent enough to employ the protocol in a team environment. For safety reasons foremost, we do require that each person who participates with us do the work with at least one other person. The stream crossing survey trainings take 1-1/2 day. We require at least 3 people join together in a team to do this work. When we employ the water temperature data collectors, that will likely require a two hour training.

Okay, so after the training what should a volunteer expect? How does the actual data collection take place and how is it reported?

Volunteers should expect to see in fairly real time the fruits of their efforts — combined with the larger program work — mapped in GIS and available for review. Volunteers will not be able to manipulate the data but can participate with me and our agency partners as we analyze the data and develop prioritizations. Some of these priority projects that we identify through this angler science effort

might be tailor-made for a chapter to undertake on their own. And so some volunteers might get the opportunity to participate in a project from the initial data gathering through the planning and prioritization to the ultimate outcome of conservation on the ground.

## How many TU chapters have provided volunteers so far? Are you recruiting from other groups, too?

Thus far, we have had participation from both South and North Carolina chapters. SC chapters include: Saluda and Mountain Bridge. NC chapters include: Tuckaseegee, Pisgah, Land of Sky, Hickory, Table Rock and Rocky River. I am recruiting from all TU chapters in NC and SC thus far.


I am also recruiting from various watershed groups and conservancies around the focal areas such as the Mills River Partnership, Watershed Association for the Tuckaseegee River, and Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina. Others are welcome to join us! I keep putting the word out.

## How can we learn more? Are you willing to speak at TU chapter meetings, or are there handouts and other materials for interested volunteers?


I am willing to speak at chapter meetings. I have a flier that discusses briefly the program. But the best way for a person to get more information is to come to a training and get involved.

To learn more about the project, please visit <https://northcarolinatu.org/citizenscience> or contact Andy directly:

**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 



A photograph of four men in fishing gear standing in a forest. The man on the far left is wearing a tan cap, sunglasses, and a plaid shirt with a fishing vest. The man next to him is wearing a plaid shirt and a fishing vest. The man in the background is wearing a plaid shirt and a fishing vest. The man on the far right is wearing a tan cap, sunglasses, and a tan shirt with a fishing vest. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a forest with yellow and orange leaves.

WANT TO  
MEET THE  
ONE THAT  
GOT AWAY

&

THE REST  
OF HIS  
BUDDIES?

# START WITH THESE GUYS

KEVIN HOWELL AND HIS STAFF HAVE BEEN FISHING THE SURROUNDING 500 MILES OF PRIME TROUT WATERS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA SO LONG, THEY KNOW ALL THE FISH ON A FIRST NAME BASIS. AND THEY'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO MAKE A FEW INTRODUCTIONS.



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# GEARING UP FOR THE SEASON

Kevin Howell, Guide and Owner, Davidson River Outfitters

**W**hether you are a mountain biker, hiker, fly fisherman or any other type of outdoor enthusiast, you rely on your gear to provide a quality experience and keep you safe. As we approach the start of a new season in the great outdoors, it is time to inspect all of your gear and perform routine maintenance to keep things functional for the year to come. Also, by inspecting your gear early you can avoid being number 135 in line to get your reel or rod serviced. Not waiting until the last minute will keep you from fighting the hordes of people wanting the same thing done at the same time.





# Here are the top things to examine when getting your gear ready for the season.

## Check all of the guides on your rod for nicks and burrs

These small nicks will cut fly lines or leaders and tippets and may cost you the fish of a lifetime or force you to buy a new line or leader more frequently. To check for burrs, take a small piece of nylon pantyhose and pull it back and forth through your guides. If it tears or hangs, you have a burr or nick and that guide needs to be replaced. You can have guides easily replaced at your local tackle shop or outfitter.

## Check all of your ferrules

Look for cracks in epoxy or graphite that may signal some type of fracture in the ferrule. Rods with worn or cracked ferrules will need to be returned to the manufacturer for repair. Lubricate all of your ferrules with the appropriate wax.

## Check your fly line

If it is cracked then replace it. The cracks in the line allow water to infiltrate the core and make the line sink. Dirt will also build up in the cracks costing you distance on your cast and making the line sink below the surface, making mending and fly manipulation very difficult. Also, take the time to redo nail knots or loop knots that are over 1 year old to prevent a failure while on the stream. Clean your entire line with mild soap and water and reapply your favorite line dressing. You will be amazed at how much this helps your old line.

## Check your reel

Does the line strike have a groove in it that may cut or damage fly lines? It can be filed or sanded out or sent back to the manufacturer for repair. Does it need to be oiled and lubricated (check manufactures recommendation for your reel) for the season? If it does need to be lubricated then use an appropriate lube like Whale's Spit or Reel Lube. Are all of the screws securely fastened? A small drop of clear fingernail polish behind a screw will help it hold tight for the season. Is it catching or binding anywhere? Either your spindle is bent or you have dented the reel by dropping it on a rock or a similar hard surface, and whichever the case you will do better to have your reel professionally serviced at a local fly shop or return it to the manufacturer.





**Check your leaders and tippet**

Most monofilament tippet and leaders will break down in about 6 months after being exposed to UV (sun) light. If you are like me and have dropped your tippet in the water, then it is going to be weak and definitely needs to be replaced. When testing tippet, be sure to test the knot strength as this is the first place that tippet tends to show weakness. Nothing is more frustrating than losing fish because of bad tippet. Leaders will dry rot and should always be tested prior to fishing.

**Check your waders**

Look for any leaks or dry rot that may have occurred over the winter or since the last time you fished. Turn your waders inside out and fill them with water or get in a dark closet and shine a light down in them and look for leaks or pin holes. You can either patch the leaks you find or take your waders to your local shop and have them patch them. Keep in mind that leaks due to pin holes are easily repaired while leaks due to material decay cannot be repaired and the waders will ultimately have to be replaced. Also, examine your wading boots. Is the felt usable and in good working order? If it is coming unglued or is worn thin this can cause you to fall or not have traction in the water.


**Check your flies**

Remove flies with rusty hooks that you may have fished or dropped in the water. That rusty hook is a sure indication that the hook will break with a little pressure from the hook set. There is no worse feeling in the world than missing three fish in a row, only to examine your fly and realize that the hook broke off on the first fish.

**In addition to your gear, give yourself a tune up**

If you have not fished since last spring, a quick casting lesson at the local fly shop or in the backyard may be just what you need to get the year off to a great start.

One thing is for sure, even if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow and predicts 6 more weeks of winter weather, spring is just around the corner and with it comes some of the best fishing of the year.

Make sure you and your gear are ready for it. 





# COMMON

## FOR THE

M a r k B

**M**y grand-daughter received a lifetime North Carolina fishing license. It was her father's gift to her for her first birthday. He has assured us that there are at least two things she will learn from him — how to cook and how to catch trout with a fly-rod. I am certain that he will teach her well. He's a damn good cook and is quite decent with a fly-rod to boot. All I ask is that he not teach her to smoke a cigar while




# GROUND FUTURE

y i n g t o n

fishing. I can envision her attending NC Rivercourse in a dozen years. Her trout fishing options in North Carolina much beyond her teens, however, are a bit murkier.

It's easy to be nonchalant about global climate change where we live, as our region of the Southern Appalachians is experiencing fewer of the weather





extremes that are regularly occurring in other parts of the country and world. Yet, on May 18th an unprecedented rain event unloaded on the Pacolet River Valley outside of Tryon where I live, shocking the community as landslides off Warrior Mountain destroyed homes and property and killed a 59-year-old citizen. Twelve days later, two people lost their lives when a landslide engulfed their home in Boone. Freak, isolated events you say? Perhaps. The problem is the increasing frequency in which “freak” events occur.

A report by scientists from 13 federal agencies concludes that Americans are feeling the effects of climate change right now. The report was completed last year and is part of the National Climate Assessment, which is congressionally mandated every four years. The report states that since the third U.S. National Climate Assessment published in 2014, stronger evidence has emerged for continuing, rapid, human-caused warming of the global atmosphere and ocean. The report also says that the last few years have seen record-breaking, climate-related weather extremes, the three warmest years on record for the globe, and continued decline in arctic sea ice. These trends are expected to continue in the future over climate (multidecadal) timescales.

You can access the full report at <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/3920195/Final-Draft-of-the-Climate-Science-Special-Report.pdf>.

I am a naturalist, not a scientist, but the implications for trout fishing are clear to me. While short-term minor temperature changes alone are not likely to affect healthy trout populations in cooler regions and higher elevations, the edges of trout supporting waters in the Southern Appalachians will quickly recede as temperatures rise. The problem right now is not so much the regional temperature as it is extreme weather events such as drought, drought-caused forest fires, and torrential downpours. As most of us know, sedimentation is the bane of healthy trout streams and flooding and landslides abruptly destroy trout and micro-invertebrate habitat with streambed scouring and subsequent sedimentation.

In the longer term, overall rises in average temperatures will not bode well for future fishing.

While it is understood by the scientific community that even if an immediate, drastic reduction in the burning of fossil fuels was to occur, the impacts to the climate already in place will be felt for decades or centuries to come. It is also widely

agreed that to do nothing will cause a continual escalation of catastrophic effects.

Aside from the obvious need for the universal demand for climate change legislation, what steps can be taken now to protect coldwater biodiversity?

Land trust organizations such as the Open Space Research Institute (OSRI) have been prioritizing land conservation and protection on what is being termed resilient landscapes, defined as those that will most likely be able to adapt and support biodiversity in the face of a changing climate. This approach to resilience has found that to protect diversity we must focus on three elements: the complexity of landforms, the connectivity of natural systems, and a variety of geology types. Local organizations like Conserving Carolina have accessed the OSRI data and maps to help prioritize land conservation efforts. Placing critical habitat in conservation ownership or easements is the most important element of climate change mitigation to coldwater habitats outside of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Trout Unlimited (TU) approach to resiliency has long been to ‘Protect, Reconnect and Restore’ coldwater habitats. A recent article by TU’s Jack Williams cited an effort by scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey, Trout Unlimited and the Illinois Natural History Survey, who reviewed the status of native trout across the planet as part of an upcoming book on trouts and chars of the world to be published by the American Fisheries Society.

Williams described how the review results were so striking that the scientists wrote a letter, recently published in the prestigious journal “Science”, calling for global action to save these imperiled groups of fishes. In that letter, the group calls for progressive conservation efforts to protect native trout diversity



and ameliorate ongoing and future threats. It further states that “(t)o preserve these unique fishes, we must protect ecological and genetic diversity, which are critical for long-term resiliency, viability, and adaptation in the face of rapid environmental change.”

Specifically, there are numerous ways in which the resiliency of trout habitat in western North Carolina can be strengthened at the grassroots level (such as the Pisgah Chapter of TU). Staying connected to and aware of public forest management policies and plans has been and is a good way to provide feedback. While limited logging for forest management is proven to aid forest health and increase fauna diversity, preventing clear-cut operations and maintaining large buffers at all streams must be demanded.

The greater threats to trout stream from logging occur on un-conserved private lands. Mountainous terrain that is left devoid of trees and with deep gashes from road cuts is highly susceptible to erosion and landslides from extreme events. These open areas also invite non-native invasive species. This is where state legislatures need to be lobbied to place greater restrictions and requirements on logging and subsequent road building on private lands in mountainous terrain than exists in other parts of the state.

TU and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission have been involved in efforts to remove or replace forest service road culverts that are providing impediments to fish movement along and between tributaries. Having the ability to move up and downstream and within a watershed is critical to trout resiliency and genetic diversity. We should be looking at every

approach possible to remove barriers to fish movement and improve stream flows. Finally, we must be poised and ready to restore trout streams damaged as a result of increasing extreme weather events.

Every action mentioned here is not going to happen unless we all make it an immediate priority. These days it is hard to find common ground. Yet, our ancestors recognized that some things are important to the well-being of the community, and they fought to overcome pride and prejudices to protect that common ground.

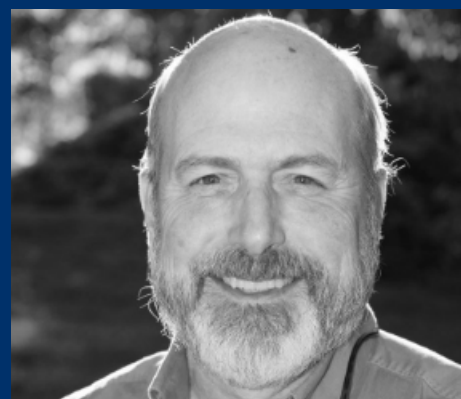
The focus on trout habitat in the face of climate change seems trivial but it is not without merit. Trout are indicator species of healthy coldwater systems, capable of thriving in only the cleanest headwater streams and rivers. These same waters make up the drinking supply for millions of American and global citizens. Fresh water is where trout live and fresh water is important, to say the least. Trout health and our health are truly intertwined. This seems like common ground to me.

I hope that one day, I might enjoy fishing with my grand-daughter. More importantly I hope we will be fishing in the mountains of Western North Carolina for Southern Appalachian Brook Trout. That will mean that at a critical moment in human history, common ground was defended and common sense prevailed.



## ABOUT MARK BYINGTON

Mark has been practicing landscape architecture since graduating from The University of Georgia in 1983 with a Bachelors of Landscape Architecture. Mark is a lifelong environmentalist. He and his wife Linda enjoy the beauty and serenity of Southern Appalachian trout streams and are actively involved in their community of Tryon, NC. Mark is immediate Past-President of the Congregational Church of Tryon, Past-President of Pisgah Chapter Trout Unlimited, and currently serves as a Director of Conserving Carolina.





A close-up, macro photograph of a fish's eye, likely a salmon, showing intricate details of the iris and surrounding scales. The eye is large and prominent, with a dark pupil and a golden-brown iris. The scales around the eye are silvery and have a fine, textured appearance. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue, suggesting water.

# WHAT IS THE STATE COUNCIL?



**T**he North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited (the state council, or NCTU) is a group of officers and representatives selected by and from our 14 individual Trout Unlimited chapters across North Carolina.

As a national organization, Trout Unlimited has several “layers” to deliver resources to its chapters and members, and to facilitate a free two-way flow of communication. Loosely, the TU “hierarchy” looks something like this: TU National -> National Leadership Council -> State Council -> Chapter -> Volunteer Leaders -> Grass Roots Volunteers.

From top-down, the sole purpose of this structure is to empower individual members with a vast array of tools and resources for coldwater conservation, each layer of the hierarchy working together in this common cause in a concept referred to as “OneTU.”

As your state council, the North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited’s purpose is to coordinate conservation efforts between our state’s TU chapters and partner organizations, provide resources and support to our chapters, and act as intermediary between the national organization and local chapters.

The council has other official duties as well – developing volunteer leaders and programs, starting or restoring new or dormant chapters, initiating and supporting statewide programs like Rivercourse, STREAM Girls, Trout In the Classroom, and Trout Out of The Classroom through our network of chapters and volunteers.

The council meets 3 or 4 times each year, more if necessary, to conduct business. Each chapter may send up to two designated representatives to the council meetings in addition to its elected council officers. The only requirement is that the representatives be duly appointed by the chapter boards; the individuals do not have to be chapter officers or otherwise qualified. To ensure that each chapter has a voice at the table and in the direction of the council, all chapters are encouraged to send representation.

In addition to the designated representatives, the core of the council is made up of its officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, the National Leadership Council (NLC) Representative and the Rivercourse Administrative Director. The officers are elected at a regular meeting of the council and all terms are for two years, with the exception of the NLC Representative term which is one year. The most recent election was held in October, 2018 at Bryson City, NC.

The operation of the state council is governed by a set of bylaws, available on the redesigned NCTU website.

As of this writing, most of the state council’s funding comes from the sale of our state’s TU “Back the Brookie” license plates and rebates from membership payments received by TU. The rebates are shared with chapters according to membership;

the license plate revenue is used to fund council operations including support for Rivercourse, conservation projects and modest conservation program grants, grants to chapters and to other organizations and other needs as financially feasible and deemed appropriate by the council.


The state council is a great place to engage in solving some of our shared difficulties and issues – particularly recruiting and engaging young people and a more diverse group of adults; and identifying, developing and sustaining volunteer leaders. These are difficult issues we all face, and we’ll all benefit from working on them together.

Beginning this year you’ll see a renewed effort to communicate with our membership regularly, more resources made available to support and encourage volunteer leaders across the state, improved state-wide focus on conservation and outreach projects, seeking grants and sponsor funding for projects at the state level, enhancements to calendar and event sharing, improved access to information and several other improvements intended to make the council more relevant and of greater service to TU in North Carolina.

The council is a strong partner to engage if you’re considering an application for Embrace-A-Stream grants and challenge funding, as our officers have been successful in these campaigns and are willing and eager to share what they’ve learned to help your

chapter in the application and grant-writing process; plus the council has access to many of the key players within our government and NGO conservation partners.

The combined strengths of TU grassroots volunteers, your chapter and your council will help you take on projects of increasing scale and complexity with confidence.

With more than 4,000 miles of streams to care for and nearly 5,000 dedicated members serving in 14 chapters, NCTU and its members have a unique opportunity to make a meaningful difference in coldwater conservation, ensuring clean, cold waters that will host thriving populations of trout to be enjoyed by many generations of anglers. 



## 2018-2020 COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Chair

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**Reba Brinkman**  
Rivercourse Administrative Director

**John Kies**  
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# ALAS







# UP A CREEK

WITH SAM CATHEY

**A**laska is an amazing place with beautiful water, majestic mountains and many fishes. Most fisherman would love to go to Alaska so what's the hold up? It's cost. You have airfare, lodging, guide service, food and transportation. This can add up to quite a hefty chunk of change. But don't despair for it can be done.

A good place to start would be the Kenai Peninsula. It is known as a Fisherman's Paradise and has endless fishing opportunities. 40% of all sport fish caught in Alaska are landed in its bays, lakes, rivers, and creeks. You can fly into Anchorage and then drive to your fishing destination. There are also fly out opportunities with different outfitters.

First thing — if you're going, plan way ahead. Sometimes rental cars/vans are hard to get. And you'll need to shop around because they are a major expense. You might want to consider an RV to tool around in and live out of. Because you can cook all your meals in them, they are a viable option. However, you'll need to reserve your parking space in the rental lots way ahead of time.

Once you determine your mode of transportation, then decide where you want to stay. What we have done before is to rent a car and camp out of it. There are a multitude of camp grounds on the Kenai. Two of my favorites are the Russian River Campground and the one on the spit in Homer. You will be fishing on your own unless you contact guide services in the area you will be staying. We've had good weather when we've camped, but don't count on it. If you go the RV route, the weather won't be as much of an issue. We've rented one





before and driven all over the Kenai. It was a hoot! Just be sure that you like your traveling companions because your space can be limited. We had a 28-footer for three people and for me 4 would have been a push.

You can spend a lot of money renting a house or staying at some resort. But we're looking to save a buck or two. There are "camps /resorts" that you can stay at for a very reasonable rate. They are not fancy and you do all your own cooking. We have gone to Alaska, stayed 7 days, had 4 guided trips for \$1,000/person. Plus, there was sockeye, dolly, and rainbow fishing at the fishing camp on the Kenai River. That camp, the Funny Moose, is no longer with us, but I do know of another one. It is called

the Silver Buddha located on the Kenai River, 17 miles out of Soldotna. I'm sure the rate has changed, but the last time I was there it was very reasonable. The river fishing at the camp is not as good with access as the Funny Moose was, but they do offer guided fishing services. Some of these are half day trips. If you want all day talk with them. Most of their trips are on the Kenai fishing for salmon or rainbows. They also offer a halibut trip out of Homer on the Cook Inlet. Check with them to make sure you are not put on a larger boat. They can also arrange fly outs and more involved access fishing trips.

So. Now. Where do you fish? This can blow your mind. There are five species of salmon that run in the Kenai. You have rainbows (some giants in the Kenai), Dolly's, Char, Grayling, pike, etc. That doesn't include the fish species in Cook Inlet. I'll give an itinerary that we have followed. We fly into Anchorage, rent a car and drive to Cooper Landing on the Kenai where we rent rooms. Next day, I hire a guide and wade fish the Russian River (the guide is to watch for bears) — big bows on big dries. Or, we do

# Bears! Bears! Bears!

**W**hen my Dad and I first went to Alaska we were pretty wet behind the ears. We were driving around and camping. Well we ended up in Cooper Landing where the Russian River flows into the Kenai River. The Russian is world renowned for its sockeye runs and its rainbow trout fishing. We asked around and were told to hike into the Russian Falls to fish for both. It was a mile or so in. We got to the trail head and spied these fellows walking out. We started talking to them, and this one guy showed us his busted up 8-weight. A big red had got him turned around. No one mentioned bears.

We hiked in to the Falls. At the base it looked like you could have walked from one side of the river to the other on the backs of the sockeye. The Russian runs clear and cold and is not a big as the upper French Broad. There was a fellow there who said he had been watching a brown bear fishing for a good while. It was gone when we got there. You have to hike downstream to fish reds (sockeyes) so Dad went on down. I started fishing for rainbows at the Falls headed down stream to hook back up with Dad. Not a thought given to bears. I caught some nice rainbows

and then hooked into a lighting bolt salmon. Even though they are fish sometimes will strike a fly. They run around 12 for a really big one. Potatoes are the hardest fighting fish I have. The fight is vicious.

I worked my way on down to the head start fishing reds and it looked like on maneuvers. There were 20 or so everyone of them was armed — 44 swiveled stock shotguns, etc. Well I we all saw the bear. It was a young bear down the wooded slope on the other. When you catch a red you clean it it throw the carcasses in the water. They down to feed. Dad and I started ba Those other boys didn't bat an eye that bear got to close they started c And yelling. Not a one pulled a gun on the other side of the river and t while and then got tired of it. He t ambled off. Dad and I were nervou out.



a float on the upper Kenai. Then we drive to our fish camp. We have prearranged where and what we'll be fishing for. When we're not on their schedule the options are endless. I like to fish the Anchor River (size of upper French Broad with 20 to 40-pound Kings in it). Deep Creek, steel head run and cohos. Crescent Creek, Quartz Creek, and maybe the Russian again. Or you could go sightseeing/hiking. On all your outings in the bush I highly recommend bear spray. I've seen bears, brown and black every time I've been there. I've been pushed off the Russian several times. The number of places to fish on the Kenai are endless. Do some research and see what you can come up with.

Over all, reds are the hardest fighters and best eating, Silvers are next. Humpies are ok if you smoke them. I don't mention Kings for the King stock is in trouble (that is a whole other story). Rainbow fishing can be epic. Also, if you don't know what combat fishing on the upper Kenai is go google it. It ain't pretty. I'd stay away. If



you wish, you can get your salmon flash frozen and then check it on the plane when you come back. Word of warning – fishing regulations in Alaska will differ from river to river. They will differ within stretches of the same river. Write Alaska Fish and Game to send you the regulations before you go.

When you're fishing a 7wt for bows on the Kenai and something latches on that tightens your line all the way through the backing, and then line erupts off the reel you get kind of excited. And when that 9 lb. red blasts from the water you get real excited. 🇺🇸

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There are 30,000 brown bears in Alaska. That is 98% of the U.S. brown bear population. We should have done our research and carried bear spray with us. Whenever I'm on the water in Alaska now, I carry it or have a guide who carries some. There is also a lot of loud talking going on.

Another time we were fishing the lower Kenai River with our guide, Jason. We had fished the Canyon section which leads into Skilak Lake. We had to beach the boat and hike out 1.3 miles due to high winds on the lake. We were four people in waders, one can of bear spray and 12 lbs. of fresh salmon fillets. And what did we first spy but a big old pile of steaming bear scat. 100 yards further up the trail, another pile. On our way out, Jason soothed our nervousness with this tale.

Jason and his buddy had been floatfishing Willow Creek for salmon. Fishing had been good so they stopped to cook some for lunch. His buddy set up the stove on a gravel bar and Jason moved the cooler into the shade where he was sitting on it. A boat came by and let them know they had seen a sow with cubs

up river a bit. About five minutes after the boat had passed Jason heard a "meow". Looking down beside the cooler he spied a grizzle cub. The cub looked at him and gave a squall. At that point Jason said he heard what sounded like a train coming through the woods. Saplings busting, big grunts and then the mother burst from the tree line headed for his buddy on the gravel bar. She hadn't seen Jason. Jason had a .357 magnum with bear loads. At about 20 yards away he jumped in front of the sow and fired above her head. She was so startled that she went into a slide which took her another 6 or 7 yards. Jason said, "She stopped and begin shaking her head, popping her teeth and slinging slobber." They faced each like that for some seconds, his buddy yelling, "shoot her! Shoot her!" A cub squalled in the woods, the sow turned and took off on a dead run.

Close call, huh? We didn't see a bear on our walk out (and we looked very hard) until we came to the road. It was a small black bear. We've seen bears (brown and black) in the bush every time we've been to Alaska. If you go make sure you are bear aware. Read up on it before your trip. 🇺🇸









# UPGRADE YOUR CASTING SKILLS

Mac Brown, Instructor and Guide

I embarked down the path of all things fly fishing after graduation from Westminster College in 1986. It enabled me to pursue my passion angling with the added benefit of numerous global opportunities fishing in beautiful destinations. One of my favorite things has been the people I have met that also share this passion. For some it is just the camaraderie of being in a pristine place, passing it on to others, or the challenges in observation that fly fishing overall will offer you.

Part of the issue in the decline of the sport is due to many not knowing what to do for the next level, and have to remain content with beginner skills for a lifetime. Folks typically buy equipment with the free lesson from the big brand stores. This is a necessary part of the beginner journey. A huge part of the regression in North America is in part due to everything being driven by retail entertainment over education.

Google trends offers insight into the numbers that the term “fly fishing” has been on a decline for the past 15 years. This is also evident with the masses at shows all over the country.

I began teaching on the show circuits in 1993 doing demos, classes, and instructional courses. It was an incredible opportunity for me to meet many individuals that were legends. There is better gear and instruction today than ever before, yet overall the sport for the masses is in a downward spiral. It is my belief that education and instruction is the

only way to create folks with a deeper appreciation of what our sport entails.

## Oversimplification to Drive the Retail Machine

A good friend of mine in Asheville named Frank Smith owns a fly shop. He offers free lessons for all of his customers and told me the other day that no one comes back to learn some basic casting fundamentals. I am sure many of those folks will pursue other sports in short order out of frustration.

Part of the issue why we see more and more folks on the waters in Western NC with beginner skills is because most of the larger “big brand” institutions constantly talk about the sport being “so easy” and the attitude that everyone can do it. Why take a lesson with feedback when you can watch YouTube?



We are trapped in an era of “everybody gets a trophy nowadays”. I am not advocating that casting a line on a bendy stick is rocket science. I can assure you that to become adept with your casting you will have to commit at some point to truly understand it. All of my close friends globally made a serious commitment to become competent.

## Fly casting is all about YOU. It is not about your gear.

and books is they lack direct feedback. One of the biggest problems globally in teaching the kinesthetic action of fly casting is that it perhaps has been oversimplified!

There are real skill sets out there to attain. Why attempt the slow path of getting where you want to be by remaining self-taught? What if you jump

start your learning curve by understanding what you desire first? Distance, accuracy, roll casts and all of the other controlled fishing casts are derived from the execution of the same basic fundamentals. Get a strong foundation with these first to grow.

### Learn the Fundamentals of Practice

For years I have heard instructors use the phrase practice, practice, and more practice. Along with that, I would suggest having a specific itinerary of what fundamentals are necessary to progress. There are many out there that focus on a singular thing in practice and become good at that thing. For most beginners that equates to the hope of just getting it out there anywhere without the dreaded knotted mess.

The course itinerary at <https://macbrownflyfish.com/certified-fly-casting-instructor-training-schools/> should provide you plenty of motivation to move ahead. Get your team of flies out there with purpose to accomplish something for better presentation!

### Consider the Advanced Fly Casting 2-Day Course

One of my favorite classes to teach is the advanced fly casting 2-day course. Think of it as an alternative to avoiding the 60 year plan for getting better at your own fly casting. It is designed to teach the understanding behind your fly casting with drills and skills. The environment is about teaching the progression.

Fly casting is all about YOU. It is not about your gear. Sure nice gear makes some things easier to accomplish. Both my 9 and 12 year old sons are so far ahead of me at that same age because they learned simple concepts correctly in the beginning. My progression was definitely from the school of hard knocks.

Golfers often begin the journey with many visits with the golf pro to establish the basics of the game. In fly fishing, usually, folks remain self-taught for years with little instruction. The main issue with this approach is that bad habits become difficult to get rid of over time. Learn to teach and perform effectively from the beginning.

Many will think they can watch YouTube videos for everything they need to know. The problem with just watching videos

The value of this information is priceless in regards to what folks gladly pay in equipment and exotic fishing destinations. The casting instructor community needs your help to grow the evolution of the sport in the proper direction! You can raise the bar much higher than where it is set today for your community! These micro niches of communities are where all of the change eventually reaches out globally. This has occurred time and time again in comp style angling, Spey casting, and many others. It is what drives the sport overall. You are the essential part of the equation!

Certified Fly Casting Instructor Training Schools main location is in the beautiful town of Bryson City, North Carolina. Home of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of the most beautiful areas in North America.


The class will run two full days and includes all of the test preparation with emphasis on the teaching skills. Many mock lessons to apply what you have learned to promote teaching skills. The venue may vary in location hence no accommodations.

You will receive a Certificate of Achievement and my fly casting book Casting Angles.

### Cost

The tariff for the 2-day class in Bryson City, NC is \$1250. This saves you \$1750 off the normal rate (\$125 per hour) typical throughout the year. These have been filling a class ahead of schedule. The one day classes across the country vary in price. Email [macbrownflyfish@gmail.com](mailto:macbrownflyfish@gmail.com), text or call **828-736-1469** for booking a slot.

### Instructors

Mac Brown, Eric Cook, and Tom Rueping will conduct the Certified Fly Casting Instructor training schools. Their track record preparing successful candidates is 100% for the CI and MCI testing over a long period of time. 



# WILSON CREEK SUPPORTERS GATHER TO CELEBRATE WILD AND SCENIC NC RIVER

by Mark Taylor, Eastern Region Communications Director for Trout Unlimited



**T**he Wilson Creek area of Caldwell County continues to grow in popularity as more people discover the area's rugged beauty and recreational offerings.

On November 3, several hundred people gathered at the Wilson Creek Visitor Center throughout the day to celebrate the area





on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The event included a morning of stewardship activities, with volunteers fanning out to pick up litter and to work on area trails. Afternoon activities included conservation group displays, fly casting and tying demonstrations, live music and great offerings from food vendors.

The celebration concluded with remarks from regional dignitaries and several people who were involved in planning the event, as well as with presentations of plaques of appreciation.

Andy Brown, the Southeast restoration coordinator for Trout Unlimited, headed a large event-planning committee.

"The Wilson Creek area is growing in popularity because it has so much to offer," Brown said. "It was great to come together to celebrate the area's history, and also to look forward to ensuring that it remains a special place."

Dozens of volunteers arrived early to help with stewardship activities.

A group of mountain bike enthusiasts spent the morning working on the Wilson Creek Ridge Trail, clearing branches and shaping the trail (above) to reduce the possibility of

erosion during heavy rain events.

Meanwhile a hiker group did similar work the popular Harper Creek Trail, which sees a steady stream of backpackers and day hikers.

Kayakers spent the morning picking up litter in the creek's well-known "Gorge" section, a popular paddling stretch where the water tumbles raucously through a steep canyon.

"We had a great time with the river clean-up," said volunteer Jack Henderson. "I counted around 13 folks helping out, and we collected 15 bags of trash and also some big ticket items, including an old grill."

In the afternoon at the Visitor Center, a steady stream of visitors worked through tables manned by conservation groups







such as Wild South, the U.S. Forest Service, Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and the Northwest North Carolina Mountain Bike Alliance.

As the event was drawing to a close, Brown presented plaques of appreciation to some of those integrally responsible for securing the river's Wild and Scenic designation in 2000.

Andy Brown and Cavan Fitzsimmons of the U.S. Forest Service presented a plaque to D.D. Weaver, daughter of former Congressman Cass Ballenger, in appreciation for Ballenger's advocacy and authorship of the wild and scenic bill for Wilson Creek.

Also honored was Ron Beane, former Caldwell County Commissioner who championed the Wild and Scenic designation from its inception to its

culmination, including other conservation successes that have made this place truly special.

Brown said Trout Unlimited has plans to undertake some stream restoration and protection work in the Wilson Creek watershed, in which the headwaters feature populations of native brook trout.

That work will include addressing areas where erosion is occurring, and also replacing undersized culverts to reconnect stream sections and to improve flood resiliency.

In the near future Trout Unlimited and partner groups will work with citizen scientists, training the volunteers to, among other things, collect data on sedimentation from roads and trails, and to assess fish passage barriers at stream crossings.



**Editor's Note:** The Hickory, Rocky River and Table Rock chapters of Trout Unlimited each contributed many hours of volunteer time and a wide range of resources to make this event a huge success. Our hats are off to all of you!



Andy Brown (right) and Cavan Fitzsimmons (center) of the U.S. Forest Service presented a plaque to D.D. Weaver (left), daughter of former Congressman Cass Ballenger, in appreciation for Ballenger's advocacy and authorship of the wild and scenic bill for Wilson Creek.



Honored was Ron Beane (left), former Caldwell County Commissioner who championed the Wild and Scenic designation from its inception to its culmination, including other conservation successes that have made this place truly special. Andy Brown (right) and Cavan Fitzsimmons (center) of the U.S. Forest Service.





# Going AIN

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# Mind?

## CANDID AND SUBJECTIVE VIEW)



“We ultimately fish because we want a relationship with nature, and we go to wild fish because we want that relationship to be honest.”

—Jim Posewitz

(Retired Biologist, Montana Fish and Game)

I was recently asked to give a presentation for the local Pisgah TU chapter at their opening meeting for the year. What follows is hopefully a more organized and concise version of the scattered and shuffled, yet passionate, op-ed performance that I gave at the opening meeting on Thursday, September 13th. If you weren't there for the experience simply read the following text with a Willie Nelson guitar solo playing in the background and you should get the feel.

Lets begin with a little background about me. Not that writing is a narcissistic exercise (it is), but more that you should at least know where this is coming from, and be able to weigh appropriately what follows. I am not a fisheries biologist. I am a fishing guide, and have been guiding in the Pisgah area for over a decade. I am not qualified to speak on the science of

### Heath Cartee

Fishing Guide and Owner,  
Pisgah Outdoors





wild or stocked fish. I will include some information, that I encourage you to read by clicking on the hyperlinks, such as this article from **Montana Outdoors, The Magazine of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks**, that will speak to the effects of stocking trout on top of wild trout populations. I am qualified to speak on the effects of fishing for Wild vs Stocked fish on anglers from both my own fishing, and from observations I am able to make about other's fishing while I stand in the background holding a net, and trying to appear useful.

Now that you have some idea of who you are dealing with, lets move onto the topic at hand. There is nothing more zealous than a reformed sinner. I cut my teeth on stocked trout. I guided over stocked trout for many years (and still do from time to time). I have even managed a private piece of stocked water at one point in my "career." I would never go so far as to say that stocked streams are useless. They do have their place. They are wonderful for beginners and kids. They are not absolutely necessary for beginners and kids, but they do build confidence quickly and confidence catches fish. It is this quality about stocked trout that turns out to be the double edge sword that makes them so detrimental to the fishing of an experienced angler. Taking a day off and running down to the local DH will not ruin you, and you have not committed some mortal sin that requires you hang your head in shame. You do not need to seek out your local misanthropic, bamboo fishing, dry fly only curmudgeon and confess your actions so that you might obtain absolution. You took a break from getting your ass kicked and whacked some stockers, good for you. Moderation is the key here. A good micro brew (or two or five or six) at a local pub, or a cold Coors (or a 6 pack) on a float down the river never hurt anyone, but I'm sure that we could all agree that making a daily habit of this would probably lead to some problems.

For the experienced angler the stocked trout becomes a detriment rather than a benefit. Stocked trout allow the angler

to get away with all kinds of bad form and still receive the reward of a caught fish. This leads to all kinds of bad habits, habits that will often inhibit the angler's ability to even get close to wild fish, much less catch them. During the presentation I was asked by a fellow guide in the audience that "If the state stopped stocking fish all together, wouldn't that make my job harder?" This of course was a soft ball question lobbed right over the plate so that I could take my time, wind up, and hit it as hard as I could with a resounding "NO!" For the very reasons that I mentioned above, stocked fish actually make my job harder, not easier. Many times I encounter experienced fishermen who cannot understand why they are not catching fish. I've been over what they are doing wrong, I've demonstrated how to do it correctly (even caught a fish to drive the point home) and still, there is a look of confusion and an inability to grasp the difference between what I am doing and what they are doing. This is no real fault of the angler. He or she understands perfectly well what I am asking them to do, they understand why it works (I tend to go into great pedantic detail), they just cannot do what I am asking. Their brain understands but their arm does not. It is a simple thing to explain to someone how to catch a wild fish with a fly and fly rod. The mind only needs to hear it once. The arms, legs, hands, eyes, and body however need it to be repeated a thousand times, and if its antithetical to what was previously learned, ten thousand times.

Wild trout are exacting creatures. For those who are accustomed to fishing for wild trout this seems a laughable statement. To them, wild trout do not seem the least bit persnickety. They have developed the proper habits and so operate on stream in an exact and precise manner, not out of effort but out of practice, and they catch fish. It's easy to them. However, if you are accustomed to catching fish while walking downstream dangling a woolly bugger with an egg dropper in the current, or waiting for that slashing strike just as your squirmy wormy begins to swing up







toward the surface...wild trout are going to seem a bit taxing. If you are a year or two into your fly fishing (or guiding) and the floor board of your vehicle is littered with used thingamabobbers... if mending is something you do just because you are supposed to, or if you have no idea what I'm talking about when I say mend... if you are using every bit of strength you have to launch that rig ten feet in front of you... if a fly or indicator making a wake across the surface looks right to you... if setting the hook requires the use of your hips... if your first cast is always to the far side of the river... if you've never seen a fish rise, or caught one on top... if your leader is a four foot section of ten pound test mono... if your fly box is mostly eggs, worms, girdle bugs, and an old rusty stimulator... I could go on, but you get the point and I already sound like an asshole.

I gave this presentation right after the local chapter announced that they would no longer assist or participate in the stocking of fish? I wasn't sure when I stepped up to speak if I was preaching to the choir or stabbing a stick into a hornets nest as this issue has, at times, been a contentious one in our area. In 2011 the National Leadership Council of TU met in Bend, Oregon and resolved that:

the NLC is opposed to Chapters or Councils stocking of non-native hatchery trout on top of native trout populations

They went on to add in their resolution:

It is scientifically well established that the stocking of hatchery trout over a native trout population is harmful to that native trout population. The NLC passed the resolution, which was endorsed by the Board, with the purpose of ensuring that TU Chapters and Councils are not participating in or supporting such stocking activities in furtherance of TU's mission to **protect and restore wild and native trout.** (emphasis mine)

**Wild fish were defined as:** "Individuals of a species that persist through natural

reproduction. (Wild fish are not necessarily native species.)"

The resolution goes on to say:

The prohibition on Chapters and Councils participating in the stocking of non-native hatchery fish on top of native trout is to further TU's conservation policy of protecting and restoring native fish. The policy applies to native trout, but not to non-native wild trout or to salmon or steelhead. (emphasis mine)

While this resolution does seem to leave the question of whether TU is pro or anti stocking up in the air it should be noted that **Trout Unlimited's North American Salmonid Policy: Science-Based Guidance for 21st Century Coldwater Conservation** states under policy recommendations (page 30,31) that TU should:

- A. Support hatchery production and stocking of salmonids only as part of an integrated program that first seeks to correct problems with habitat, hydro, and harvest.
- D. Oppose stocking (or supplementation) in waters where healthy, self-sustaining salmonid populations or stocks exist.
- G. Support stocking of unsustainable or non-self reproducing salmonids only where there is a low risk, based on an assessment, of ecological, environmental, or genetic harm to adjacent or resident native fish or other native species of concern.

This document also states that:

The mission of Trout Unlimited (TU) is to conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. The long-term goal implicit in this mission statement is achieving self-sustainability of salmonid populations and species (as opposed to simple short-term enhancements of abundance).

So where does all this leave us mere mortals when it comes to should we or shouldn't we stock trout? I have





no answers for you. Nor do I want to answer this question for you. I have my subjective views about the stocked trout, and I'm still naive enough to think that they are for the most part unnecessary in North Carolina. I'm bothered by the amount of money that is spent on food, space, salaries, etc. for the rearing and stocking of fish. Money, that in my opinion, would be better spent on habitat restoration, land acquisition, regulation enforcement and dare I think it...funding for research. I am also bothered by how pervasive the idea of simply making some trout whenever we feel like we need them, and dumping them into the river, has become amongst the angling community. Ask any economist what happens when you print too much money and dump it into the system, it loses its value. The comfort we have developed with fiat fisheries now has us teaching and indoctrinating young students into this way of "management." To be fair, Trout in the Classroom has a multitude of lesson plans that involve teaching students about habitat, stream ecology, stream invertebrate studies, etc., but by and large the main teaching tool that students are exposed to are the rearing tanks in the classroom. I know that this particular project is quite the pet of many a TU member, and I'm not trying to slaughter a sacred cow, but I feel that some careful thought and consideration is in order. To show up with a basket of eggs and a tank and allow kids to think that this is where trout come from is no real reason to pat ourselves on the back. The **stated long term goal of Trout in the Classroom** "... is to reconnect an increasingly urbanized population of youth to the system of streams, rivers, and watersheds that sustain them." This is a wonderful and fairly easily accomplished goal when you have such a captive audience, just take them out and let them put their feet into the rivers and watersheds that sustain them. They will pick up a rock and find the bugs without much encouragement, and when they develop interest in the bugs, they have developed interest in habitat. The trout are secondary, bugs (i.e. habitat) come first.



Im hopeful that if we choose wild fish over stocked fish that it would lead to a group of anglers and communities that are more concerned with what happens to their rivers, instead of when the next big dump of stockers are due to hit the water. Maybe we would not simply accept a greasy fast food burger and fries when what we really wanted (and deserved) was filet mignon. We might see jobs created with all that extra cash when it comes to stream and bank restoration, and the guy or gal who ran the back hoe on one of those projects, concerned when they saw something negative happen to that piece of water. Anglers may be better educated about what spawning fish on a redd look like, and know not to fish for them or step on the clean oval shaped pea gravel where next years fish are currently incubating beneath the flow. When the relicensing agreements for dams on our local tail waters are up for negotiation, we as a group might ask for better flow and more water (the very life blood of good habitat) rather than reduced flows so that it will be easier to wade out and catch our stocked trout. It's

possible that we might think about cold, clean, clear, fish laden water as a constant concern and reality in our lives rather than something we think about according to a stocking schedule, if at all. When we begin to depend on natural reproduction in a river for our fisheries it will put the onus on us to act when those fisheries are threatened or in need of help, and will reduce the apathetic mantra of "well its marginal habitat anyway, so lets just stock it."

Toward the end of the presentation I stepped off my soapbox for a minute and let some folks who could say it better take over. And so I will do that here with this video from Trout Unlimited **Wild Trout: A Montana Fish Story**. After the video, I was tossed one more high hanging soft ball question and one curve ball.


"What do you say to those who would say this isn't Montana?"

To which I answered, "I'm sure someone in Montana said in the 70's, that this isn't Alaska. Why can't this be like

Montana? Whats stopping us from having healthy, self sustaining wild trout fisheries as the draw and face of angling in North Carolina, rather than the melee of opening day and protracted battle of DH season?"

And the curve ball. "What can we do to change this?"

To which I sputtered and stammered, "Demand more." I think I said that. I want to think I was at least mildly eloquent.

Demand is what will determine whether we have a stocked "Put and Take," "Put, Play With, and Take," or a Wild fishery as the image of angling in the state of North Carolina. Demand will determine whether we are able to chase a hatch or are relegated to chasing a truck. Demand will determine whether we will continue with a fiat fishery, or if we will return to the gold standard of wild trout. Demand will determine if our relationship with our rivers and streams, and the fish that swim in them, will be an honest one. 



**PISGAH OUTDOORS**

**HEATH CARTEE**

OWNER AND GUIDE

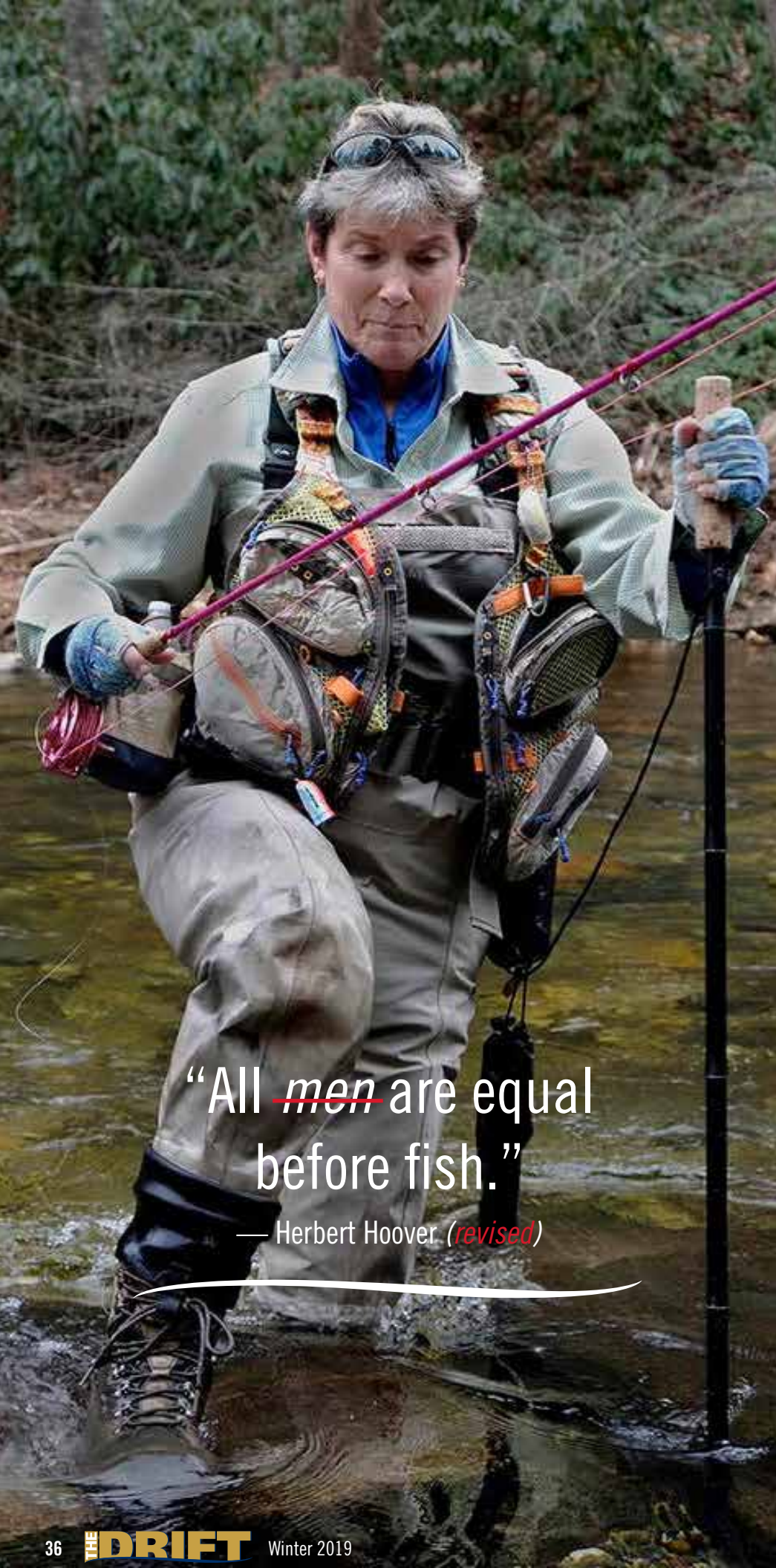
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“All ~~men~~ are equal  
before fish.”

— Herbert Hoover (*revised*)

# Div

“I’m a white male in my mid-40s with thinning hair. Take a look at me at a meeting, and you’ll probably recognize that description. “Look for me” is a good way of telling people to find me at a chapter meeting. I’m a bearded white guy drinking a beer.”

“Well, that really narrows it down, but I’ll allow yourself to admit it, it was probably not there’s nothing wrong with being a white guy. Like me have carried a lot of water for the sport.”

What’s troubling is the lack of more diversity different from our own and the people who have passion, commitment and ability to lead. We do as an organization, to broaden the appeal of our sport’s appeal as a whole.



# COUNCIL & CHAPTER iversity

by Charles Crolley

late 50s, with a thickening waist  
look around at just about any TU  
only see an awful lot of folks who fit  
r me,” I’m fond of joking when  
er meeting. “I’ll be the old fat  
”

” is the typical response. If you’ll  
obably your first thought too. And  
n old white dude (OWD). OWDs  
for TU over the years.

e, new faces in our chapters. Faces  
ople behind them; the experience,  
hey could bring to everything we  
our reach in the community and







Rest assured this isn't an article bashing my own demographic of OWDs. And I'm just about as far as you can get from being PC so if you're already working on an email response you can skip the part about me being a whiny pink-o man-basher with my shorts in a knot over nothing.

About a year ago I caught holy #### from one of our chapter members who insisted that my Facebook share of a diversity article was tantamount to "gender treason," or some such.

Some folks are really on edge — like, way out there on edge. But I digress.

I noticed this diversity imbalance in TU a long time ago but never really gave it much thought — I mean, women and people of color are free to join and it's their choice not to, right? And our chapter welcomes all comers — shoot, we've even gone so far as to have women board members — and women presidents!

I started thinking more seriously about this recently as organizations like Orvis, Yeti, TU and others launched 50/50 campaigns encouraging more women to get out on the water. There was even an article in the New York Times last year regarding this issue; how manufacturers in the outdoor industry — particularly fly fishing — have suddenly awakened to a wide-open market demographic and are responding with products and programs specifically for women.

In my own defense, it had never occurred to me that while I can pick from a set of waders in man sizes extra-extra-short-extra-slim to extra-extra-long-extra-extra-extra-fat and shirts in

every manly-man color and pattern, women have had to make do with sizes and colors that don't always work for them. As an OWD, I try to imagine how welcome I'd feel in a sport where my gear size was a 12-petite and color selection was anything in the pink spectrum.

And our sport's language and labels are exclusive. Fly fisherman. Imagine how welcome you'd feel as an OWD showing up in a group of Fly fisherwomen. "Get over it," you may say. Yeah, I know; to an OWD worrying about labels that favor our demographic seems petty and butt-hurt.

That is, until you flip the script.

The truth is I'm far from fully-evolved in this. It's taken me a year or so to use the word "angler" instead of "fisherman" for instance, and on occasion I still manage to drop the "f" word.

But I'm trying. I recognize the tremendous strength in diversity. Not only that, but I personally know of many "non-traditional" anglers who could out-cast, out-fish and out-last me on the river any day of the week (admittedly, that ain't exactly a high bar). Not only do they all belong in TU, we NEED the capabilities, heart and perspectives they bring.







So I'm glad TU is working hard to figure out ways to create programs that appeal to a broader, more diverse audience. Women, people of color, young people, all people. At the national level, workgroups have been in place for several years studying this issue and creating resources; and now it's time for us as chapters and as a council to put them to work.

My friend Rusty Berrier made me aware of a wonderful Facebook group for women — "The Women of Trout Unlimited": <https://www.facebook.com/groups/48497943543>. If you fit that description and happen to be reading this article, I encourage you to check it out and join up.

Here in Brevard, some of our female anglers have joined together to create their own group — PAWFF (Pisgah Area Women Fly Fishers). It's like a mini-TU, but for women only (although men are welcome) and provides peer support, basic instruction, camaraderie, equipment loans and organized outings. It took off slowly but has really picked up steam in the last year — up to 125 members as of today. If you're in the Brevard/Asheville area, you should check it out: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/350902898753038/>




And if you're not in this area, think about getting your own small group together. Connected to your chapter or not, I'll bet your TU chapter and local outfitters would be happy to help, and the rock star women who put the PAWFF group together will pitch in too.

## Be An Integral Part of The Big Picture

Our council is seeking a volunteer to take on the challenging role of Council Diversity Coordinator. This is an opportunity to work with TU at a national level and with chapters across the state to build meaningful membership diversity programs: outreach, engagement, and volunteer leader recruitment and growth. The programs you build will be made available to chapters all across North Carolina.

The Diversity Initiative is a specific focus of Trout Unlimited, so the coordinator will have a chance to influence policy and programs not only in North Carolina but across the country. And you won't start from scratch. TU has created a whole set of resources including program plans, tips and other great ideas to get you started.

If you're interested, or if you can think of an ideal volunteer candidate with a heart for making a difference and the energy to lead the way, please drop an email to Council Chair Mike Mihalas. 



# WINTERTIME FISHING IN WNC

by Patrick Brady, Hunter Banks Fly Fishing

**W**ithout fail each year the most every shop and guide service sees the number of anglers begin to dwindle. But does that mean the fishing opportunities become limited? Or even worth the effort?

We will briefly take a look at the fishing quality and the gear you need to ensure that you have a fun, enjoyable, productive, and most importantly comfortable experience.

In many areas that are known for outstanding trout fishing the appearance of November can all but spell the end of the fly fishing season. However, the average winter temperature in western North Carolina can fluctuate depending upon the weather pattern, but averages out to 45-50 degrees during the day and can drop into the teens and twenties at night. This means that the majority of streams in WNC will stay well above freezing and provide ample opportunities to the adventurous angler.

With the colder temperatures anglers do tend to see far less dry fly action during the winter months, but that does not mean that it can be totally ruled out. Narrowing the focus and just paying attention to a select few insects will be far more productive than bring a big box full of bug and hoping one works. Keep a small winter time dry box with the ever-popular blue wing olive in sizes 20-16, Adams in sizes 20-16, Brooks Sprout midge in 22-18, and the small black stone in 18 and 16. The hatch size can vary, but rest assured you will get a dry fly bite in the winter months.

Taking into consideration the physical limitations of trout during our colder months, and that they have far less energy that earlier points in the year it might not be a bad idea to look into nymphing. With colder temperatures, the metabolism of a trout will drop and result in a lazier approach to feeding. So, if the angler can manage to deliver

the fly closer to the fish the success rate will greatly increase. When the water is cold and winter low and slow is the key, repetition is very important. Focus on the timing in which to deliver the nymph. Nymphing is a fun way to fish the nymph hatch. It provides an opportunity for a fish on the rise. Use a strike indicator or suspender. This is a great way to present a nymph on a slow feeding trout. Last but not least, nymphing or high stick method can be very effective due in part to the technique. This is the most subtle strike. So, when nymphing about carrying should be focused on. Use lotus sizes 12-16, Guides (in all colors) sizes 14-20, BWO emergers sizes 14-20, (in all colors) sizes 22-28, and warriors pearl sizes 12-18.

If the small bug game is of





Company


the chances of hooking  
nymphing during the  
name of the game and  
nt. There are several ways  
nymph. Dry dropper is a  
and still possibly have the  
the surface. Fishing with  
ension device is another  
multiple nymphs to  
at not least the European  
methods can come into play  
ues ability to detect even  
me of the patterns to think  
renchies sizes 12-16, Iron  
Choice Hares ear sizes  
es 20-16, zebra midge  
, RS2 sz22, and rainbow

no interest to the fish,

then sometimes using a streamer can produce.  
Again, the approach needs to be low and slow  
methodically working the water from upstream to  
downstream without quickly stripping the streamer  
back. Remember these fish are cold and may not  
have the strength to chase down a fast moving  
meal. Having a spread of small, medium, and large  
streamers ensures that you can cover any situation  
that you might come across in the winter months.  
Bring anything from the tried and true wooly  
bugger and slumbuster to some of the larger  
articulated streamers.

Having the right bugs really doesn't matter if you  
are not comfortable out on the water in the winter  
months. Layering up is very important and can  
weigh heavily on whether or not you are successful.  
If your mind is too preoccupied on cold hands  
and feet then that subtle take from a fish will go  
unnoticed.

In order to fully appreciate the winter fishing these  
are some of the layering pieces we recommend. A  
good set of waders and boots with enough room  
to allow the multiple layers. A shop favorite is the  
Simms G3 waders and G3 boots. Simms guide fold  
over mitt gloves for the morning when it really  
matters if you have gloves or not. A thick pair of  
thick thermal socks and maybe a thin liner sock  
as well. Any thin or mid layer poly pro/ capilene  
bottom and top layer goes a long way in preventing  
sweating and keeping you dry. A good breathable  
button up shirt underneath a Nano puff Patagonia  
jacket or hoody rounds it out.

Next time you are contemplating visiting WNC  
during our winter, take look over your gear and  
fly selection. Bring a few extra layers with a good  
attitude and we promise you will have a fun time  
trying your hand at winter fishing in WNC. 



# COUNCIL NEWS



**TROUT  
UNLIMITED**  
NORTH CAROLINA

## Panel Discussion On Public Access Planned

**Dr. Joel Miller, Hickory TU**

In the August edition of the Hickory TU chapter newsletter, available here: <http://www.hkynctu.org/past-newsletters/>, I wrote about a trip Chick Woodward and I took along the three great rivers of the NC High Country: Elk, Linville, and Watauga. In that piece, I shared our shock and concern about how much of all three of those great fisheries was now closed to public fishing.

Well, just complaining about it does nothing, so, at Chick's urging, I decided to convene a group of folks who need to hear from us about the problem and who can hopefully start to reverse the trend. At our chapter meeting on March 19, we will have an influential panel to discuss the problem of the loss of public waters.

I have recruited a stellar lineup of panelists: Mike Johnson, our regional commissioner on the NC Wildlife Resources Commission; Doug Besler, Mountain Region Fishery Supervisor for NCWRC; Jake Rash and Kinnon Hodges, NCWRC Officers from our area; Mike Mihalas, NCTU Council Chair; and Ron Beane, Board Chair of the Foothills Conservancy.

The loss of public trout waters should be of great concern to all of us. Mark your calendars for March 19 and **DO NOT MISS THIS MEETING!** Bring your friends and anybody else who should be concerned about losing our great places to fish.

The Scotts invented golf to keep the unworthy out of the trout streams. If we lose all the streams, we'll be stuck on a golf course!

State Council Meeting Set for January 12th in Morganton

The next meeting of the state council will take place January 12 in Morganton,

NC on Saturday, January 12, 2019 from 11 A.M. - 2 P.M. at the Friday Friends Restaurant, 315 Sanford Drive.

As detailed in the "State Council" article in this newsletter, each chapter is entitled to send two delegates to council meetings in addition to any chapter members who are council officers. Check in with your chapter leaders to make sure your chapter's voice is heard as we work on committee structures, budgets, plans and programs.

## Southeast Regional Meeting Set for Dillard, Georgia

May 3-5, the Southeast Regional Meeting of Trout Unlimited will be held in Dillard, GA, just across the state line and less than two hours from Asheville. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn a lot more about what's going on with TU in our state, throughout the southeast and across the country in a variety of breakout and social sessions tailored to get volunteer leaders off to a fast start by sharing ideas, asking questions and making peer connections.

### **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

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

<https://www.tu.org/southeast-regional>

## National Meeting October 2-5 in Rogers, Arkansas

Mark your calendars for the 2019 TU National Meeting. Rogers is close to Branson, Mo, the White River system, Norfolk, the North Fork of the White and the Taneycomo tailwater.

Some folks from here in NC may be going over a day or two early or stay a day or two late to get in some time on those waters, which are home to some really fine stocked browns and rainbows. The Norfolk tailwater also boasts some fine cutthroats and brookies, so it may be your golden opportunity to hit an Ozarks grand slam!

## Support Reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is America's most important conservation program, responsible for protecting parks, trails, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. For more than 50 years, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation

projects, access to recreation including hunting and fishing, and the continued historic preservation of our nation's iconic landmarks from coast-to-coast. LWCF does not use any taxpayer dollars – it is funded using a small portion of revenues from offshore oil and gas royalty payments. Outdoor recreation, conservation and historic preservation activities contribute more than \$887 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 7.6 million jobs.

LWCF, America's most important conservation program for protecting parks, forests, watersheds and open spaces as well as expanding access to recreational opportunities, expired at the end of September. The program now remains in limbo, losing \$2.5M per day needed for community-driven projects.

Bipartisan champions of the program have repeatedly called on Congressional leaders to take action. The outdoor recreation industry, governors, mayors, sportsmen, small business owners, conservation leaders, landowners, ranchers, farmers, and millions of Americans are united in the push for permanent reauthorization and full, dedicated funding for LWCF because it works.

As of this writing on December 31, the U.S. Congress has yet to reauthorize this important program, resulting in a loss of more than \$220,000,000 in funding for our parks. The state council has contacted our elected officials on behalf of TU members, and we ask you to add your individual voice. Please contact your senators and representatives today and let them know where you stand on this critical issue.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.lwcfcoalition.com/>

## “Uncle Salmo” Posters Available — FREE!



Have you seen NCTU's “Uncle Salmo” poster? It's a great takeoff on the famous Uncle Sam army recruiting poster and it's the brainchild of our own NLC Rep, Rusty Berrier.

“The original idea came while I was sitting in my den last winter looking at the ‘Santa Trout’ my wife had bought a couple years ago. I just got a vision of Uncle Sam given the same treatment as a TU recruiting poster. The next time we were in class I asked my co-instructor to give it a try and he nailed it!”

Thanks to our friends at CE printing, your chapter can have 25 imprinted with your chapter information for free. It's a great idea for hanging in your TIC schools, on community bulletin boards or where you hold your meetings.

For a small extra charge, they can be customized for specific events. Check with Michelle at CE Printing for complete details and get yours today! <https://www.ceprint.com/> or 800-222-3869.





## Cataloochee Chapter News

Tommy Thomas, Chapter President

The Cataloochee Chapter has been very active this last year with numerous conservation measures in Western North Carolina. Five times a year we perform the stocking of the West Fork of the Pigeon River in Haywood County. This

is done with the support of between 25 and 30 members and friends utilizing 5 gallon buckets to distribute the fish along the delayed harvest section of the river.

Two recent stockings were covered by WLOS TV Station in Asheville, NC with John Le and Rex Hodge performing the commentary with great publicity for the Cataloochee Chapter and Trout Unlimited.

Members of the Cataloochee Chapter donate our time to support Haywood Waterways in several different functions as well as donating our time to stream monitoring through out the Smoky Mountain National Park.

This year we had to reschedule our annual Christmas Party due to our major snow storm with the new date to be January 8, at 5:30 P.M. to be held at Rendezvous Restaurant in Maggie Valley. All are welcome to attend with door prizes, a 50X50 and the drawing for a Bamboo Fly Rod.

We have been very proud of our monthly meeting speakers this year with great participation and lively discussion including, for example, the Honorable Joe Sam Queen (North Carolina State Representative), Mr. Wes Eason (owner of Sunburst Trout Farms), Mr. Joey Walraven of Rivers Edge Outfitters in Cherokee (National Fly Fishing Champion), and Tanner Baldwin (Master North Carolina Wildlife Law Enforcement Office) to mention a few; with all initiating wonderful and lively discussion with great humor.

The Cataloochee Chapter meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 P.M. at the Rendezvous in Maggie Valley with the only exception we take off during the summer months for some needed stream time.



## Hickory TU Chapter News

### 50th Anniversary Of The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The day dawned a little chilly, but with blue skies and bright sunshine. By the time the main event started, it was comfortable and the winds were light.

The event truly was an amazing success. Over 200 people turned out to help celebrate.

Wes Starnes was a big success fly fishing along the river in front of the event. He was lucky to catch some fish with the viewers lined up along the banks watching, but he was able to get a beautiful 11" rainbow for the display aquarium.



The fly casting activities and the fly tying were well attended, but the marshmallow roast probably drew the most people. Cathy Starnes sold almost a hundred tickets for our TIC rod raffle.

There were several excellent speeches toward the end of the program including presentation of four of the original five Caldwell County commissioners who were active in getting the Wild and Scenic River Designation through the U.S. Congress.

Special thanks go out from the program committee to two very special people that made this such a wonderful event. First we would like to thank Roy Beane. Roy took the lead for Caldwell County in obtaining the designation and at the event shared some interesting history of it.

Second we want to thank Andy Brown, our SE TU Stream Restoration Manager. Andy was our committee chairman and did a tremendous job in bringing this all together. Thank you so much Andy.

And of course thank you to the great number of volunteers from our chapter who were there to help make it a great success.

### Hickory TU Helps Scouts With Fishing Merit Badge

Hickory TU members have helped with the Fly Fishing merit badge for Boy Scout Troop # 275. This has been quite an endeavor, but very rewarding for all of those who have been involved.



The troop conducted a field trip to the Asheville Fly Fishing Expo where have arranged help from several experts to assist with fly tying and casting on the pond. Carolina Fly Fishing Club in Charlotte, The Tuck Fly Shop in Bryson City and Starr Nolan from Asheville all pitched in to help.

The field trip gave the scouts a better idea of the Fly Fishing world. The Expo generously provided free entry not only to the Scouts but all Scoutmasters and parents attending with the troop.

## Chick Woodward's Fly Fishing Ornaments



If you're looking for a novel gift, fundraiser or craft Idea, I love tying flies and last year decided to make up several of these. They went like hotcakes. If you enjoy fly tying, I challenge you to spend some of that cold winter weather time at your fly tying desk.

A.C Moore carries the sand, globes, and ribbons and I'm sure Michaels does as well. I found a clear thin liquid glue that could be used to keep the gravel in place. Then all you need is your imagination and skill. Perhaps you may want to spread out some of the fun over the year and tie up something special for all the holidays (St. Patricks, July 4th, etc.) that will help raise some funds in raffles at your chapter meetings.

## Chapter TIC Program Now At 3 Systems and Growing



and science teacher Stoney Turner. Mr. Turner has been instrumental in the program by designing some improvements

River Bend Middle School was our first TIC participant and is now starting its 3rd year in the program under the direction of Principal Chip Cathey

to the tanks and instructions for the maintenance that he has shared with the newcomers to the program.

West Alexander

Middle School joined the program in 2017, so is now beginning their second year under the direction of Principal Chad Maynor and science teacher Ryan Rowe. We are very fortunate to have Mr. Rowe in the program. This past year he was named 7th District Science Teacher Of The Year by the NC Association of Science Teachers. Mr. Rowe now has a 24/7 webcam up and operating to observe the school's TIC system. The link seems to change periodically so the best way to access it is by going to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and searching for Ryan Rowe live stream.



You may notice in the photo that there is a second tank below the primary one. This year he will be setting that as a hydroponic tank with the flow directed through the fish tank. He hopes to achieve a better balance of the water purity and use fewer chemicals. Great idea! We can't wait to hear how it works out!

New to the program this year is Newton Conover Middle School under the direction of Principal Donna Heavner and science teacher John Gruber. We wish to welcome them and hope that they find the program as beneficial as have the other two schools.





## Land O' Sky Chapter News

### Smoky Mountain Brook Trout Population Studies and Restoration Results

Jay Hawthorne and Cliff Albertson



For two days in July, eight Land O' Sky Trout Unlimited chapter members worked with the Fishery Biology unit staff of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park sampling Big Creek and Cataloochee Creek. Both days were focused on Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) sampling.

Large stream IBI sampling takes place in lower elevation streams where the species diversity is greater. The goal isn't to enumerate all fish in the site, so no measuring or weighing. Instead, this sampling technique involves surveying different types of habitat for shoreline, riffle, run, and pool to determine what type of species are present and using those types of habitat.

Crews were broken up into different groups to survey the habitat. One crew shocked along the shoreline, while another shocked into a large seine located at the bottom of a riffle. The idea was to see what specific species of fish are occupying the different habitat (darters, shiners, bass, trout, etc.). Data were collected and will be used by the fishery folks for monitoring stream health.

Participating members included Parker Andes, Jane Margaret Bell, Ron Bradford, Jay Hawthorne, Krishun Karau, Neal Labrie, Rick Miale, and John Miko.



An additional four July workdays to study brook trout and restoration were rained out and rescheduled with chapter members Ron Bradford, Rick Miale, and Jay Hawthorne able to offer support to the GRSM Fishery Division. All work was focused on the Cataloochee watershed to further understand current fish populations and check 2017 restoration actions specifically on Little Cataloochee Creek.

The entire crew from GRSM, LOSTU, and other TU chapters were broken up into teams. We did three pass population studies on Rough Fork, Onion Bed Branch, Andy Branch, Woody Branch, and Conard Branch. (Those last three streams comprise Little Cataloochee Creek and were the focus of the brook trout restoration effort the chapter undertook with Fishery folks in 2017.)

The study findings were what we had hoped to see: no invasive rainbow or brown trout on the Little Cat!

While that was great news and confirmed earlier checking, the restoration activity had affected the brook trout population and the Fishery folks took an extra step to relocate genetically similar (southern Appalachian strain) brookies from nearby creeks after we completed our work to improve recovery.

The GRSM folks are already starting to think about what projects and streams to tackle next year. No special skills are required but some long walks and overnight camping will probably be involved. If you're interested in participating, contact project director Jay Hawthorne at [johnjhawthorne@gmail.com](mailto:johnjhawthorne@gmail.com).



## WNC Fly Expo Yard Sale a Big Success

Each year as part of our fundraising efforts, the Land O' Sky chapter hosts a booth at the WNC Fly show held in early December. The booth is used to tell people more about the chapter but also to conduct a "yard" sale of items donated by members and local businesses and outfitters.

This year was one of our most successful yard Sales ever, thanks to our new Fundraising Chair Neal Labrie and the crew he put together. All told we had a net profit of almost \$3,300!

We had a huge number donated items — so many that we needed over a dozen tables to display them all. And we sold almost everything!

Thanks to those who volunteered their time to help set up, take down, and staff the tables: Neal Labrie, Jay Hawthorne, Cliff Albertson, Dan Glidden, Chuck Dauphine, Ron Bradford, Jeffrey Skolnick, Curt Silver, Reba Brinkman, and the members who stopped by and helped out.

## Big Stocking Turnout Turns Into Trash Cleanup

On October 1st and 5th, members and friends of Land O'Sky TU stocked North Mills River in Henderson County and Spring Creek in Madison County. Member turnout was awesome for both events! We had 27 participants at North Mills River and nine at Spring Creek.

While 27 is a great number, it was hard to effectively utilize everyone for stocking so Land O'Sky TU's Vice President, Reba Brinkman, quickly organized some of the volunteers into a clean-up campaign. Trash was picked up on both sides of North Mills River campground area and up off Trace Ridge areas along the creek. (Good thinking, Reba!) Nine was a perfect number for Spring Creek as we could all ride on the stocking truck making logistics easy for those stocking sites.

We stocked around 2,000 trout in total at North Mills River along the campground area and downstream from the reservoir. At Spring Creek we stocked 1,200 trout since there are fewer stocking access sites due to so much private land along that stream. Both streams got some real piggies...browns, rainbows, and some sizable brook trout as well. The Setzer Hatchery folks supported us with good, helpful drivers and were pleased with the results. If you fish those waters, we think you will be pleased as well.







## Pisgah Chapter News

### Pisgah Chapter Updates Setzer Hatchery Kiosk

If you've fished the Davidson River in the past 20 years, you've probably seen the information kiosk located in the parking lot of the Center for Wildlife Education / Setzer Fish Hatchery. The kiosk was erected in 1998 by the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service.



This year, the Pisgah chapter decided to take on a long-overdue update of the kiosk. Several efforts have been made over the years to maintain an active bulletin board on one panel but those gradually fell by the wayside. Additionally, the static panels had begun to separate and fall apart, leaving the kiosk looking dated, run-down and generally pretty sad.

The chapter's first idea was to simply replace the sign boards in each kiosk panel, but after

taking a long, critical look at the overall condition of the kiosk it was decided that more was in order — new plexiglass, a fresh coat of paint, new signs — everything except the structure itself, which remains in remarkably good shape.

Over the summer, maintenance staff from the Forest Service pressure-washed the kiosk, freshened up the paint and did quite a bit of exterior cleanup. Shortly thereafter, a team from the Pisgah chapter set about the hard work of writing, creating and collecting content and graphics, with a focus on fishing, the fishery and two key species of concern: the eastern hellbender and the eastern hemlock.

Working with Jake Rash and Lorie Stroup from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the U.S. Forest

service, respectively, the chapter was able to create compelling informational narratives about those species and additional topics of concern; particularly habitat preservation, catch-and-release tips.

One of the goals for the kiosk was to make it useful and of interest to the millions of visitors who will see it over the next several years. The kiosk was rounded out with additional conservation topics, a look at the species of trout found in western North Carolina, a map of the Davidson watershed and a Hatch Chart, making it easier for visiting anglers to determine what the fish might be looking for at a particular time of day during a particular time of year.

Updates to the kiosk were fully funded by generous contributions from chapter members Rick Lawdahl, Skip Sheldon, Richard Smith, Steve Ledbetter and Tim Morris. Mike Mihalas, Tim Schubmehl and Charles Crolley served as content organizers and project managers, and Suzanne Crolley donated the layout and graphic design services.

The chapter also received permission from Dave Whitlock, a supremely talented angler and graphic artist, to use some of his amazing illustrations in the kiosk. They add beauty and interest that you'll just have to see to believe.

To show the updated contents in the best possible light, the chapter also replaced the plexiglass sheets that cover the content panels. The old ones, while still in decent structural shape





## TROUT SPECIES

Western North Carolina

**BROOK TROUT** (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

The Smokies Appalachians strata of brook trout are the only trout native to western North Carolina. They can be distinguished by the olive green coloration of the upper sides with mottled, dark green markings on their backs and tails. The lower sides are lighter, with yellow spots interspersed with a few spots of bright red, surrounded by solid blue. The lower fins are orange with a narrow black band near to a white leading edge.

**RAINBOW TROUT** (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Rainbow trout are not native to western North Carolina but have been introduced here in the last 150 years and have become widely established in many of our high-elevation streams. They can be distinguished by a dark olive-green back blurring into black or silver sides with a white belly, numerous dark spots, a red lateral line and a slightly forked tail.

**BROWN TROUT** (*Salmo trutta*)

Brown trout are native to western Europe and were introduced into western North Carolina in the late 1800s. They are now widely established in our high-elevation streams. Brown trout can be distinguished by their reddish-brown color and a mottling of black, red and orange spots, some surrounded by black rings, on their sides.

Illustrations courtesy of Dave Whitlock (<http://davewhitlock.com>)

## EASTERN HELLBENDER

(*Cryptobranchus a. alleghaniensis*)

The Eastern Hellbender is one of only three giant salamanders found in the world and is one of the largest salamanders found in North Carolina and the United States. On average, our Hellbenders grow to be 16 to 17 inches long but can grow as large as 3 feet and may weigh more than 3 pounds.

Hellbenders can live 50 years or more in the wild and are found in fast-running, clean water like those of the Deep River.

Exposure and sedimentation, habitat degradation, untreated sewage and chemical runoff from farms, fields, roads and parking lots contribute to hellbender population declines. The hellbender breathes through its skin, so any toxic substance in the water can have significant adverse health effects, while sedimentation hampers hellbender survival by suffocating eggs, filling in hiding places, and eliminating the hellbender's food supply.

Because hellbenders are sensitive to silt, sediment and other pollutants in their aquatic habitat, they are considered to be a biological indicator of water quality.

**HELP**

- Don't make noise in the water. Noise can startle a hellbender, so they may retreat to a sheltered area.
- Avoid stepping on a hellbender. Hellbenders are very sensitive to injury and can be killed by a single step.
- Avoid using a net to catch a hellbender. Hellbenders are very sensitive to injury and can be killed by a single step.
- Avoid using a net to catch a hellbender. Hellbenders are very sensitive to injury and can be killed by a single step.

**FACTS**

- Hellbenders are considered keystone species in their habitat. They eat insects, small fish, and other aquatic life.
- Hellbenders are excellent indicators of water quality and are part of a healthy river ecosystem.
- Hellbenders are not native to the Deep River. They were introduced in the 1930s to control the population of smallmouth bass.
- Hellbenders are not native to the Deep River. They were introduced in the 1930s to control the population of smallmouth bass.

Learn more at: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/hellbender>

## PISGAH TU

The Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Formed in 1969, the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited serves members across Transylvania, Polk and Henderson counties in western North Carolina, uniting them in the common cause of caring for our rainbow trout and their watersheds.

The work we do encompasses restoring and maintaining watershed systems, protecting and enhancing trout habitat, and providing support for our many dedicated Trout Unlimited chapter members and friends, and our ongoing cooperative partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

This land was created in 1998 and is managed by the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the U.S. Forest Service. We are grateful to the many organizations and the individual donors and volunteers who have contributed to this effort to restore the trout habitat and watershed in the Pisgah National Forest.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Donor: [Name], Amount: [Amount]

Learn more about Pisgah TU: <https://pisgahTU.org>

## FISHING OUR WATERS

Area Map and Regulations Summary

Upstream through the hatchery and downstream to Avery Creek, the Deep River has been classified as Class 1 water. Below the hatchery, the river is classified as Class 2 water. Below the hatchery, the river is classified as Class 3 water. Below the hatchery, the river is classified as Class 4 water.

**Catch and Release**

- Catch and release is required for all trout fishing in Class 1 and 2 waters.
- Catch and release is required for all trout fishing in Class 3 and 4 waters.

**Wild Trout Waters**

- Wild trout waters are designated as Class 1 and 2 waters.
- Wild trout waters are designated as Class 3 and 4 waters.

**Hatchery Support**

- Hatchery support is required for all trout fishing in Class 1 and 2 waters.
- Hatchery support is required for all trout fishing in Class 3 and 4 waters.

Learn more at: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/trout>

## MATCH THE HATCH

Hatch Chart for Southern Appalachia

Species	Month	Time	Location
Brook Trout	April	6:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Deep River Hatchery
Brook Trout	May	6:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Deep River Hatchery
Brook Trout	June	6:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Deep River Hatchery
Brook Trout	July	6:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Deep River Hatchery
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Brook Trout	May	6:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Deep River Hatchery
Brook Trout	June	6:00 AM - 8:0	





# DUE SOUTH



# FLY

# FISHING

# TOURNAMENT

**PUBLIC ACCESS FLY FISHING TOURNAMENT  
OPEN TO ALL SKILL LEVELS AND TYPE OF FLY  
FISHING - MARCH 9TH IN BOONE, NC.  
REGISTRATION JANUARY 11TH AT 9AM  
\$100/ANGLER TEAMS OF 2 OR INDIVIDUAL  
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.DUESOUTHOUTFITTERS.COM/BLOG](http://WWW.DUESOUTHOUTFITTERS.COM/BLOG)  
OR CALL THE SHOP AT 828-355-9109**



# ABOUT THE DRIFT

If you're enjoying this publication, we're glad! We also want to remind you that it belongs to each and every TU member in North Carolina, and it's up to each of us to keep it going and growing. And we need your help to do that.

**Maybe you're interested in contributing content of any type.** Whether it's original poetry, humor, opinion, a trip report, fiction, fishing tips, casting pointers, photography, observations on the angler's condition, conservation concerns — we want the magazine to be diverse and different each and every quarter. We'd love to hear from you and will treat all submissions with respect; we ask only that they be constructive, courteous and of interest and value to our audience. To submit an article or learn more, please contact [news@northcarolinatu.org](mailto:news@northcarolinatu.org).

**Some folks have asked us about ads.** Right now, the only ads that appear in the magazine are for TU business members and content contributors. We're also open to extending this opportunity to significant sponsors of council programs like Rivercourse. If you're interested in having an ad in "The Drift", please contact [news@northcarolinatu.org](mailto:news@northcarolinatu.org) to learn how you can partner with the state council to make a difference in coldwater conservation and reach your audience at the same time; at virtually no cost.

**It's quarterly and online for a reason.** You may be wondering why we don't break the magazine up into more "digestible" monthly chunks of 20 pages or so, or just make it a downloadable pdf.

We want to make sure each edition has plenty of original "good stuff" in it, instead of recycled articles from the internet. The layout, editing and all of the articles are provided by volunteers, and it's more efficient for us to do a single large quarterly magazine than smaller monthly magazines. If you've ever produced a monthly newsletter, you know how fast the first of each month comes around.

Because it's larger, we encourage you to read it online from the link as a "flippable" magazine instead of scrolling through a large .pdf file. That said, we do offer a .pdf download option for those who prefer to take it in that way. Whatever your preference we encourage you to take it in over time.

However you read "The Drift", thanks for reading!







# NCTU'S RIVER YOUTH



## Goals For Campers

1. To leave with a lasting appreciation of the importance of preserving and protecting our environment.
2. To become committed as an active participant in efforts to ensure clean water and habitat for generations to come.
3. To learn about fly fishing, get outside, make friends and have a great time at camp.

**R**ivercourse is a high quality experience for boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 15 and takes place the Lake Logan Event Center near Canton, N.C.

The camp is open to all young men and women ages 13-15. Campers do not have to be North Carolina residents or Trout Unlimited members to attend. Only 12 young men and 6 young ladies are selected from among our many applicants each year.

Over a full week, Rivercourse campers receive instruction in specialized areas such as herpetology (amphibians), geology, entomology (insects), botany, wetlands ecology, stream restoration techniques and environmental policy.

Best of all, the Rivercourse experience includes lots of time on the water for campers to put what they've learned into practice in pursuit of trout on a beautiful western North Carolina stream, with personal advice, tips, and instruction from our group of experienced "ghillies", volunteers from Trout Unlimited chapters across the state and our partner organizations.

## A Day in Camp Life

**C**ampers start off learning the basics of equipment, casting, and getting into the team mentality, then get to stock the river with trout on Sunday night.

The schedule for an average day at camp looks like this:

- Wake-Up Call
- Fly Fishing Safety and Etiquette
- Breakfast
- Fly Tying
- Fly Casting Essentials
- Bugs & Flies
- Lunch
- Entomology On the Water
- Entomology In the Classroom
- Secrets of Flyfishing Success
- Supper
- Fishing
- Cabin Time
- Lights Out

While flyfishing is the camp's primary activity focus, campers get to enjoy some other unique, often once-in-a-lifetime experiences, like releasing a raptor (like a hawk) and catching it when it returns, a campfire, outside games, visits with conservation officials, fish sampling and many others.



# RIVERCOURSE CAMP



“

I think that I can speak for everyone at camp by saying that I was truly impacted by the people and the experience at Rivercourse, and I understand why you can only go once. It is because I'd go every year for new memories as dear as the ones I obtained.

”



## Accommodations

Camper lodging is fully chaperoned in well-appointed cottages at the beautiful Lake Logan Center near Canton, with three delicious meals served daily in a beautiful dining room setting.

The campers are lodged in cottages with four bedrooms. Each bedroom has a set of twin beds and a private bathroom. All linens and towels are provided.



## Want To Learn More?

If you know of a young person who would benefit from attending Rivercourse, we encourage you to check out the Rivercourse website for more information and a registration form. Check out the videos on our website at <https://rivercourse.org/videos> or email Rivercourse Administrative Director Reba Brinkman ([director@rivercourse.org](mailto:director@rivercourse.org)) for even more information.

All-inclusive camp tuition for 2019 is \$695. If you're interested in sponsoring a camper, please contact Reba for more information. This is a wonderful way to help a young person whose family may not be able to afford the tuition on its own. The actual cost per camper is a little north of \$1,000, and we request that chapters keep that in mind when considering a camper sponsorship. You can also make a tax-deductible gift to the program right from the Rivercourse website: <https://rivercourse.org/give>

“

As the parent of a camper, I was so impressed with the structure and leadership that was provided by Rivercourse. I was so thankful for all of the volunteers giving of their time and experience to these impressionable young people. My son came away with many great memories and a wealth of knowledge on fly fishing and conservation. He has always been interested in pursuing an education and career in the science field and I think that this week's experience will help to further refine his area of interest.

”





# FEATURED FLY

By Dave Bender  
(with an assist from Lou Barlow)



Since I am primarily a trout fisherman my philosophy is, “never leave home without a bunch of Stimulators in my fly box”. It’s one of the most popular patterns

used as one part of a dry-dropper combination and can be tied in a variety of sizes and color combinations. It’s a dry fly that floats well but sometimes gets pigeonholed as an “attractor” fly only, but it also works well to imitate hoppers or caddis. I generally carry stimulators in sizes ranging from 8 to 16 with yellow, tan and olive being my most popular

First, let me give a big Thank You to Lou Barlow for actually doing the tying. I had the easy job of sitting back, sipping on a nice scotch and taking pictures. Life is good!

So let’s pull up a chair to the vise and start tying.

For the example shown in these photos Lou is using a Dai Riki #280 hook in size 10, Veevus 6/0 thread, UTC copper wire, natural deer hair, FTD Golden Stone dubbing for the body and orange Ice Dub for the head. For the body he is using a brown/red hackle and for the head a nice stiff grizzly hackle.



I’ve made several using caribou tailing, body and leg material. I’ve even tied some with rubber legs. It’s basically katy-bar-the-door and anything goes. Just play around and whatever you do, have fun experimenting.



1 Start by properly securing the hook in the vise and laying down a nice thread base. Bring the thread to the back of the hook to just above the barb.



2 Clip, clean and stack a section of deer hair in the tail section on top of the thread base and using tight wraps build up the hair butts.



5 Prepare the body hackle by stripping the unusable fibers from the stem section. Tie in and secure the body hackle at the front of the dubbed body and clip excess stem.



6 Now spiral or palmer wrap the wire tie in point. Keep in mind to keep the wire from the front of the body. Secure the hackle.



9 Now secure your grizzly hair tie in point and clip the remaining hair.

10 Using Ice Dubbing, build a nice head tie in point to just behind the tail. Do not crowd the hook eye, as this will ruin a whip finish.



on of deer hair for the tail. Tie the hook just above the barb and a smooth underbody and trim



**3** Clip a section of copper wire and secure along the underbody. Allow the thread to hang at the tail tie in point.



**4** With the wire secured, dub and build a slim body making sure to cover all the underlying thread wraps and deer hair. Allow the thread to hang at the front of the dubbed body.



the hackle back to the tail/ and, the tying thread is hanging. We will be using the wire to



**7** Allowing the weight of the hackle pliers to keep the hackle tip section in place, spiral wrap the wire forward through the hackle to the front of the body. Usually 4 or 5 secure turns should do the trick. Keep in mind the hackle is being held in place by these wire wraps. Secure the wire at this point and clip the excess hackle tip and wire.



**8** Clip another section of deer hair for the wing. Clean and stack to align tips. Now secure this section of deer hair to the top of the hook. The hair points should extend to between the tail tie in point and the tip. Clip excess hair butts at the tie in point. It's a good idea to clip the butt sections at a taper which will allow for smoothly tapered head section.

hackle by the stem at the wing main stem.

nicely tapered head from wing the hook eye. Keep in mind, do you'll need a bit of space for



**11** Spiral wrap the hackle through the dubbed head to just behind the hook eye. Secure with a few thread wraps and clip excess hackle tip.



**12** Use a few thread wraps to smooth off the clipped hackle, whip finish and add a drop of head cement.



# TU MEMBERSHIP

We'd like to welcome all of the folks who've joined or transferred their membership to North Carolina Trout Unlimited in the last few months. We encourage you to get involved in your local chapter, where the real magic of happens.

Membership in your local chapter is included in your annual membership payment to TU. There are no additional dues or other requirements. You're automatically assigned to a chapter based on your billing zip code but you may choose to be a member of any chapter you wish – even if it's across state lines. Your chapter affiliation determines your council affiliation.

To save money and lighten our footprint on the environment most of our communication with members is done via email, so if your address changes (or if you're receiving this from a friend because you didn't receive a copy of your own), please contact your chapter president or membership chair so we can update our records and keep you in the loop. We also have a form on the state council website where you can subscribe to this mailing list even if you're not a TU member. TU will not share and does not allow chapters to share your information with other organizations for any purpose.

On occasion, we get questions from our members about membership renewal notices they receive from Trout Unlimited. TU usually starts sending these notices 3 months or so before your membership expires. If you're getting them more frequently, it may be that you have two (or even more) active TU memberships.

Your chapter president can do a quick record search to see if you have more than one active membership and if so, can combine them. We've provided a list of chapters and their presidents for your reference.

If you're not sure which chapter you belong to or have any other concerns, you can always contact our state council membership chair at [members@northcarolinatu.org](mailto:members@northcarolinatu.org) for help.

Thanks again for being a member of the North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited. Please be sure to contact a state council officer or chapter officer at any time with any questions, suggestions or concerns you may have. We're all in this together!

## NEW MEMBERS

### Tuckaseegee Chapter

Marty Barger

### Blue Ridge Chapter

Robert Doriski  
Stephen Kenyon  
Michael Kotula  
Charles Lott  
Robert Nixon  
Louis Pope  
Max Schnuck  
Dallas Settle  
Pudge Smith  
Robert Stott  
Phil Thomas  
Bradley Walker  
Donna Willingham

### Cataloochee Chapter

Pat Armitage  
Johnny Chastain  
Hayes Fisher  
David Vos  
Max Wicks

### Dogwood Anglers

Andrew Bartley  
Rick Baumberger  
Kathleen Bergeron  
W Fore  
Marty Hart  
Angela Lance  
Keith Madden  
Anthony Nero  
Thomas Overcash  
Richard Williams  
Tou Yang

### Hickory Chapter

Chanda Blitch  
Jeffrey Boggs  
Robert Dant  
Macie Greene  
Ralph Griffith  
Lane Herman  
Tyler Holden  
Jack Luse  
James Moody  
John Peet  
Jake Smith  
Jessica Winebarger

### High Country Chapter

Bennie Barker  
Brian Davies  
Ben Gailfoil  
Jimmy Langston  
Hayden Nance

### Land O' Sky Chapter

John Agnew  
Ben Bailey  
Linda Brown  
Rebekah Brown  
Raymond Buff  
Vishnu Dass  
Kenneth Dierks  
Kerri Dwyer  
Lucas Evanko  
Sakshi Gantenbein  
Russ Harrison  
Charles Harvey  
Wayne Hensley  
Thomas Hill  
Andrew Kabel  
David McIntosh  
William McIntosh

Joan Merrill  
Ben Miller  
Joey Miller  
Daniel Ornato  
Jennifer Rennicks  
Lorraine Sherlin  
Garth Smith  
Avery Sosebee  
John Sweets  
Davey Warren  
Randy Waugh  
Peyton Whitt  
Alan Young  
Doug Young

### Nat Greene Fly Fishers

Jim Bennett  
Kathy Carter  
John Crews  
Brett Davis  
Dirk Drost  
Mac Faircloth  
Delbert Fentress  
Eric Hudson  
Shannon Patterson  
Alex Rankin  
Richard Roessler  
David Smith

## Pisgah Chapter

red Bahnson  
ason Bennett  
Gary Carr  
ail Craig  
athi Lance  
Carol Maher  
Diane Mann  
an Mihalas  
Stephen Morse  
eal Nolan  
Anthony Oliver  
eter Schult  
Michael Slingluff  
David Sorrick

## Rocky River Chapter

rew Basinger  
usan Bednarick  
ohn Beiler  
ekah Bridges  
Greg Burkett  
Marty Chilton  
uke Christy  
arrel Collier  
Terri Conneran  
Andrew Crouch  
Daniel Delaney  
Stephanie Drum  
lan Earnhardt  
Don Eisenhart  
ohn Elwood  
ay Grant  
Howard Handley  
Harden  
David Haynes  
David Jackson  
William Kidd  
James Landreth  
ob Loren  
ill Lund  
dna McMonigal  
ennifer Meier  
Gina Melman  
David Rhodes  
ryan Riddle  
Frank Schall  
ohn Smith  
lyssa Stupping  
ai Stupping  
idan Swartz  
ohn Virostek  
ustin Ward  
randon Whelan

Kevin Whitehead  
Michael Woodward  
Will Wooten  
Rick Zaleski

## Stone Mountain Chapter

Tony Byrd  
James Huie  
Allen Johnson  
James Miles  
B Nelson  
Tim Stoltzfus

## Table Rock Chapter

Samuel Adkins  
Mark Causby  
Horace Coker  
Holden Johnson  
Robert Jordan  
Ryan McKinney  
David Triplett  
Leonard Watts  
Robert Wiseman  
Warren Zibelin

## Triangle Fly Fishers

Mark Ackermann  
Eric Allman  
Cole Barclay  
Janie Barnes  
Thomas Bartus  
Anne Benton  
Christopher Boucher  
Robert Bradford  
Jeff Bright  
Lleyton Buscher  
Matthew Catrine  
Joseph Cermak  
Steve Claggett  
Ben Cogsdale  
Joe DeMartino  
John Dodge  
Cheryl George  
Ruth Glaser  
Ellis Gutshall  
Sandy Harris  
Stephanie Hawkins  
John Healy  
Molly Herndon  
Jason Herold  
Gavin Howe  
Aiden Huckabee  
Jack Hutchison

Lucian Jakubowski  
Benjamin Karpowicz  
Bryce Kottermann  
Kevin Lapp  
Stephen Leach  
Raymond LeFrancois  
Jared Leonard  
Randall Mann  
Larry Maurais  
Christopher Mott  
Timothy O'Connor  
Tim Pastoor  
Andrew Peterson  
John Podolak  
Jerry Poole  
Grayson Rudder  
Sammy Sandow  
Richard Schramm  
Tracy Shultz  
Mark Sinor  
Noreen Slattery  
William Slayton  
Gerald Smals  
Sophie Suberman  
Lauren Sussi  
John Taylor  
Ken Timmerman  
Ken Tindall  
Charlie Vieira  
Walker Ward  
Gabriel Werner  
John Wooters  
Dana Yobst  
Kevin Zyvoloski

## Tuckasee Chapter

Craig Cutshaw  
William Green  
Joseph Hamby  
William McKee  
John Murdock II

## Unaka Chapter

Robert Allen  
Jeff Barnes  
Thomas Daly  
Kent Gibson  
Bobby Hand  
Connie Kuwamoto  
Billy Lackey

## TRANSFERS IN

### Blue Ridge Chapter

William  
Hutchinson

### Dogwood Anglers

Anthony Nero

### High Country Chapter

Bradley Peete

### Land O' Sky Chapter

Greg Clare  
Terry Dunlap  
Jimmy Lewis  
Paul Stoughton

### Nat Greene Fly Fishers

Daniel Baker  
Gene Merryman  
Patrick Parenteau

### Pisgah Chapter

Val Brunell  
Thomas Gerey  
Harry Hunkele  
Gerard Mascolo  
Brett McGreaham  
Ron Sentell  
Monalin Solan  
Bedell Tippins  
Kenley White

### Rocky River Chapter

Cory Czerwinski  
Robert Hicks  
Lindsey Hudson  
William Kerr  
Torsten Pieper  
David Reveley  
William Scott  
John Smigelsky  
Kirsten Wolfe

### Stone Mountain Chapter

john woodall

### Table Rock Chapter

Clay Turner

### Triangle Fly Fishers

William Baer  
Keith Bollt  
Christopher Boucher  
Leo Chylack  
Paul Dayton  
John Dodge  
Stephen Farina  
Peter Feldberg  
Richard Guilbert  
Carl Kollmer  
Jeremy Konar  
Randall McAlister  
Larry Reed  
Stephen Rogers  
Ted Rose

### Tuckasee Chapter

Jean Avent  
Mike Hodge  
Tim Richards

### Unaka Chapter

Kenneth Kloeblen  
John Whitehouse

## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Jimm Barbery	Blue Ridge Chapter
Tommy Thomas	Cataloochee Chapter
Bob Tolle	Dogwood Anglers
Jackie Greene	Hickory Chapter
Jeff Wright	High Country Chapter
Cliff Albertson	Land O' Sky Chapter
Ben Keller	Nat Greene Fly Fishers
Sara Jerome	Pisgah Chapter
Brian Esque	Rocky River Chapter
Colby Jones	Stone Mountain Chapter
John Zimmerman	Table Rock Chapter
Terry Hackett	Triangle Fly Fishers
Dale Collins	Tuckasee Chapter
Jeff Sabatula	Unaka Chapter



# Leadership

**“What if the headless horseman  
had a headless horse?  
That would be chaos!”**

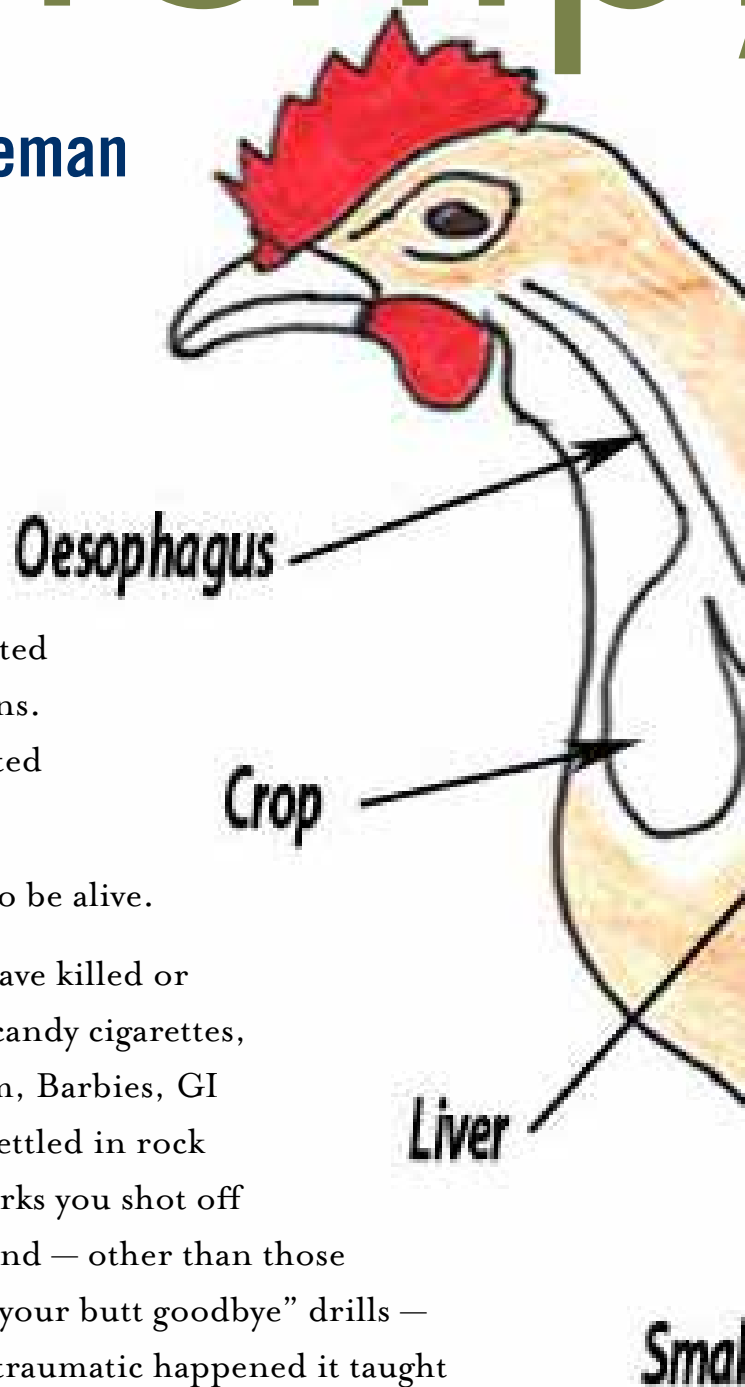
— MITCH HEDBERG

I spent my formative years in Rolla, Missouri — a small town comfortably situated on the northern edge of the Ozark Mountains. 1969 Rolla was a drowsy town, largely insulated from the problems of the larger world.

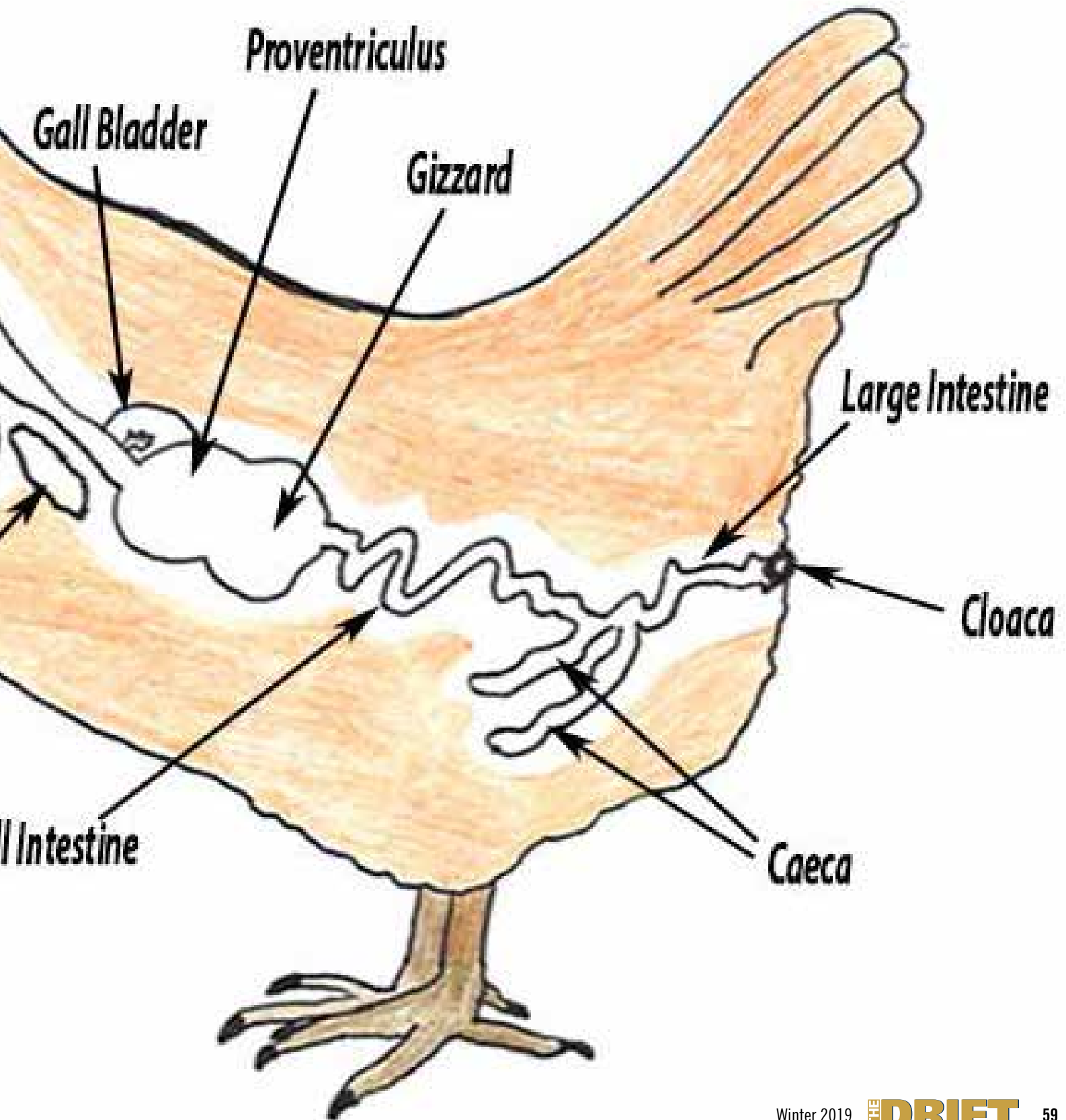
For most kids, it was a great time and place to be alive.

We had awesome toys that probably should have killed or at least maimed us but somehow never did, candy cigarettes, baseball cards with a stick of unchewable gum, Barbies, GI Joes, pop-rocks, neighborhood grievances settled in rock fights using trash can lids for shields, fireworks you shot off yourself, straws filled with snortable sugar, and — other than those troublesome “dive under your desk and kiss your butt goodbye” drills — few real worries in life. So when something traumatic happened it taught you lessons that stuck with you for a while. In the case of this particular incident, nearly 50 years and counting.

These were the days when Saturday morning was kicked off by the Bugs Bunny / Road Runner hour, when we were desensitized to cartoon violence and you actually got to see Wile E. blown-up or smashed into an accordion shape in the reliably unimaginable



# , Most Fowl







misfires of his ACME explosives and rocket-powered skates. But sooner than you'd like, the cartoons ended and an educational program came on, so you wound up casting about for something else to do.

Matt Pinkston was one of my best friends growing up, in part because his home could be reached by bicycle and there was always something going on at the Pinkston place. At the time, my family home was on the outskirts of town. The Pinkstons lived just outside those city limits on a small farm. Come to think of it, they may well have been one of the last houses in the county where a nighttime trip to the bathroom involved shoes and a flashlight; possibly a rearend-splinter-ectomy afterward.

(While this story is true, I've changed the names not so much to protect the innocent but to protect myself from a lawsuit should one of the "Pinkston" heirs have become a powerful

big-city attorney with extra time on his or her hands.)

As part of their subsistence farming, the Pinkstons raised chickens. They had the surliest, most foul-tempered (fowl-tempered?) rooster I've ever encountered. The damn thing would chase anybody it didn't recognize, half-run-half-fly at you and peck you like you were covered in syrup and corn or plump, juicy maggots.

One bright fall morning the plan was to slaughter a bunch of the chickens, process them and take them into town to sell. Matt said I should come help. I'd never been part of a chicken massacre so — after Bugs, Wile E. & company, I hopped on my Western Flyer and pedaled off to the Pinkston place. All the ride out I hoped that rooster would be the first to go, with me doing the honors.

I have to say I wasn't the least bit prepared for what I saw.

The doomed chickens had all been gathered in a fenced area of the Pinkstons' "yard". Sadly, the rooster was not among them. There was a hatchet stuck in a stump that would serve as the place of execution. Our job, as the young kids, was to apprehend the terrified birds and take them to Mr. Pinkston one-by-one, where he'd relieve them of their heads in a move that today would surely draw the condemnation of every animal rights activist, and most likely summon the wrath of the child welfare authorities.

Matt chased down the first one to show me the ropes. He delivered it to his dad and Mr. Pinkston deftly deposited the wretched bird on a stump and with a quick "thwack" the deed was done. Grisly, as I remember it. But not so simultaneously entertaining and horrifying as what came next. The bird got up and took off headless, careening around the fenced yard at just below the speed of sound.

I guess without the extra weight they can really go.

It bumped into the fence, crashed into the side of the house. Plowed into the other chickens, now really terrified because they got a glimpse of our plans for their demise. It veered all over the place. It seemed to go on forever. I read they can go on for as many as 15 minutes, and one in Colorado lived for a whole 18 months, part of its brain not quite removed and the doers of the deed, curious to see how long it would last, fed it with a tube and syringe.

One by one, we gathered up the doomed chickens. They got progressively harder to catch; partly because they were on to us, but mostly because we ourselves were distracted. It was really a show when two or three headless victims were banging all around the yard simultaneously, and as a young boy it's

something you can't just ignore; so the business at hand suffers.

I never did go back out to Matt's on chicken day, and it took a long while to get back my taste for poultry but today I'll eat it pretty much any way I can get it — broiled, grilled, home-fried, mangled and even Bojangled.

Bring it all on, hopefully with taters, biscuits and gravy. I draw the line at organ meat like gizzards or livers, and feet — which I've heard are delicious.

Now that you're either off chicken for good or scouring the house for KFC coupons, let me explain what this has to do with TU.

A council, chapter or program functioning without effective leadership and working as a unit is destined for the same dismal fate as the Pinkstons' doomed chickens operating without their heads. Our volunteer leaders give us direction, vision, and purpose. While most of us can understand that it takes effort to host monthly meetings, few of us fully comprehend the planning and thought involved — day after day, in making our combined efforts look easy.

Meetings are only the tip of the TU chapter iceberg. A lot more goes on under the surface than above: building partnerships with other organizations, strategic planning, outreach to under-served and under-represented demographics to enhance chapter diversity, youth service programs, veteran service programs, and most of all our conservation projects define who we are as an organization.

As I've served on our chapter board and otherwise become a little more involved in the TU volunteer leadership community, I've come to realize that almost every chapter and council across this country face the same central challenge: identifying, recruiting and challenging new leaders to step up, serve, and grow into more demanding — and ultimately — more richly rewarding leadership roles.

And we don't only need leaders — we need doers. When you think about it, most organic systems are run by committees of doers. There's the committee on locomotion (legs, thighs, wings), the committee on circulation (heart, arteries and vessels), the committee on reproduction (eggs and other parts we won't go into), the committee on food and beverage (beak, gizzard, crops and the like). Without each of these DOING their own irreplaceable service, the organism fails and eventually dies out.

It doesn't matter if you're brand new to TU or have been a member since the Hoover administration — your perspective matters. If you put me in a room with twenty novice fly tyers I'm pretty sure I'd turn out the worst flies of the bunch. If you put

The service opportunities  
are nearly endless, and  
vastly rewarding...

...there's a place for you in  
TU volunteer leadership.

me on the water with twenty novice casters the odds are pretty good I'd be the one used as an example of what not to do.

At a recent board meeting we were talking about the Davidson River Benthos study. We'd done a study long ago and it was named after the guy who did it. I figured this was the same deal, so I asked the question: "who is this

Benthos?" After a long, awkward E.F. Hutton moment, I was patiently informed that Benthos is the scientific term for the "floor" environment of a stream system.

I've been honored to pitch in when and where I can, I've made great friends, I've learned a lot. If all you can do right now is say "I don't know and I'm new at this, but if you'll help me I'll learn" — that's pretty much all you need to get started. It may be a little nerve-racking at first, as are all new experiences, but with the help of your chapter members and TU's learning resources it gets easy — and fun — very quickly. I speak from personal experience.

Talk to your chapter president, a board member or other leader about how you can get involved. Leadership in your chapter takes on many faces; whether it's showing a kid how to cast, helping someone tie their first fly, working on your chapter's strategic plan, passing out name tags at a meeting, serving on the board, managing a program or inviting a new member along for a day on the water. Maybe you've got an idea in mind for a new program, or want your chapter to start a Trout in the Classroom program with your child's school.

The service opportunities are nearly endless, and vastly rewarding.

Whether you're a brain, a gizzard, drumstick, foot or anything in between, there's a place for you in TU volunteer leadership.



— Charles Crolley  
NCTU Secretary and  
"The Drift" Editor





# THE DRIFT

"The Drift" is the quarterly publication of the North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited and is edited and managed by council secretary Charles Crolley. The stories and articles remain the property of their individual authors and are used with permission. Where no author name is indicated, the article is generally attributable to the editor.

All facets of the magazine, including graphic design, publication hosting, articles and content have been donated to our council membership by members and friends of Trout Unlimited in North Carolina.

If you have comments, concerns, questions or suggestions, they are most welcome at [news@northcarolinatu.org](mailto:news@northcarolinatu.org). We ask again that you be courteous and bear in mind that the magazine is meant to reflect a variety of opinions and interests — some of which you may not share. (Pro tip: if you object to a column, most of the time the answer will be to consider submitting a column from your point of view.)

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<https://northcarolinatu.org>  
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[info@rivercourse.org](mailto:info@rivercourse.org)

