



March 2005

# Snags and Snarls



*Committed To Coldwater Conservation*

## The Newsletter of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited

### From the President

What a month February has been – I'll be glad when it's gone! The Board of Directors and I have been scrambling around reassigning tasks and re-scheduling the Banquet due to work commitments and illness.

The Banquet/Auction has had to be postponed until October since the ability to get everything done in time for March seemed highly unlikely. April, May and June are the busiest months for the chapter and July, August and September are not very good months in which to hold a major chapter event, so October was the best choice for holding the Banquet. This, actually, is probably the best time of year to have it at any rate. The weather is good and then we aren't as busy as we are in the spring months. I asked Terry

**From the President**  
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### MEETING NOTICES

DATE/TIME: **Thursday, March 10, 2005**  
**7:00 p.m. Social • 7:30 p.m. Meeting**  
PROGRAM: To be advised

DATE/TIME: **Thursday, April 14, 2005**  
**7:00 p.m. Social • 7:30 p.m. Meeting**  
PROGRAM: **Speaker:** Carl Kittle  
NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
**Topic:** Permit requirements for stocking fish (or other aquatic organisms) in public waters  
(See page 8 for more information)

**A** Chapter Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 6, 2005** at 6:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Kanuga Road. All members are invited. ↗

### PLEASE NOTE

The Annual Trout Unlimited  
Banquet and Auction

**POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER 2005**

### Welcome to our New Member

**W**e are happy to welcome the following new member to Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Kenneth Boyd



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# What is a Riparian Buffer?

*Dale Klug*

**A** riparian buffer is vegetated land adjacent to a stream or water body. The vegetation benefits water quality and habitat by helping to regulate temperature, add organic matter (leaves and twigs), assist in pollution reduction and provide wildlife habitat.

In North Carolina, natural riparian buffers are forested. The most stable and effective riparian buffers include a combination of native trees, shrubs, grasses and herbs that form a plant community adjacent to a stream or water body.

**How do riparian buffers work?** To understand how buffers work, it's important to understand how water moves. Surface water flows over the land and can carry sediment, nutrients, pesticides and fecal coliform bacteria into streams. Pollutants can affect an aquatic ecosystem in a number of ways. Excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) can cause algal blooms, fecal coliform bacteria can be an indicator of waste-borne disease and pesticides can kill or sicken fish and aquatic invertebrates. Buffer vegetation slows and filters runoff water above ground, causing sediment to settle out and be deposited in the buffer. If runoff water doesn't spread over a buffer, it cuts channels and flows directly to the stream, rendering the buffer ineffective for reducing sediment and sediment-attached pollutants.

Water also percolates through soil into the shallow ground water which, in many locations, moves toward streams. Subsurface water often carries nitrate-nitrogen and sometimes pesticides. Nitrate that moves in the shallow ground water is diluted in the riparian area. Plants also use it but, more importantly, it is changed to nitrogen gas through denitrification. Nitrogen gas poses no harm to the environment.

**What are a riparian buffer's benefits?** Buffers perform many environmentally, economically and socially significant functions. They maintain and improve water quality by protecting water resources from non-point pollutants such as sediment, nutrients and pesticides from both urban and agricultural activities. Buffers shade streams

and regulate fluctuations in water temperatures, to help maintain fish habitat, especially for cold-water fish such as trout that can't tolerate high stream temperatures. Buffers can increase the amount and variety of game because they provide a wider range of habitat and food. Buffers reduce stream bank erosion, which helps keep valuable acreage from washing away.

**What is the best kind of riparian buffer?** Scientific debate continues on how to choose the best buffer. Researchers consider a buffer's design, effectiveness, width, management and associated vegetation. They also factor in site characteristics of the area to be buffered, such as hydrology, topography, geology, land use and value.

Wider buffers are better for water quality and wildlife, but buffers that are too wide could unnecessarily limit adjacent land use. Narrow buffers might not effectively reduce non-point source pollution.

Buffers work better when they contain a diverse mixture of plants since different plants have different rooting structures. Root diversity is helpful because most within the top several inches of soil are fibrous, while others, such as taproots, penetrate the soil more deeply. These roots remove nutrients and stabilize stream banks.

An ideal mountain land buffer consists of a continuous forest along the stream or water body. However, for non-forested land, you could use a two-part buffer: a primary buffer consisting of a forested strip next to the stream or water resource, and a secondary working buffer between the non-forest land use and the forested buffer. This buffer can consist of grasses, shrubs or additional forest, and would be available for nonintrusive uses such as haying, logging or taking cuttings for horticultural production.

Sediment, fecal coliform bacteria and nutrient levels all significantly increase when livestock are kept near a stream. The stream bank and buffer benefit greatly from removing or reducing livestock access in the stream bank buffer. ↘

## CHAPTER FLY FISHING SCHOOL SET FOR APRIL 16 & 17

**W**orthy organizations like Trout Unlimited are always hard-pressed to find the funds to continue the worthwhile projects we undertake. One of Pisgah Chapter's most successful efforts has been our annual Fly Fishing School, a program which not only introduces new men, women and adolescents to the delights of our trout streams, but also reaches out into the community and brings new members into our Chapter. These new members provide a wealth of ideas, experiences, and hard work toward accomplishing our goals in terms of both conservation and recreational opportunities. This year's school is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, at Camp Ton-A-Wandah in Flat Rock. Students will break into groups and rotate through sessions dedicated to casting, knots, stream tactics and equipment and enjoy a delicious al fresco lunch at mid-day. On Sunday, April 17, or a day mutually agreed to, students will have a mentored ½-day trip to one of our local trout streams, all equipment provided. As in previous years, our volunteers will be what makes this one of the Chapter's most successful projects and one of our biggest sources of income.

For those who are unaware of the history of the Fly Fishing School, it was started in the mid-1970's by, among others, Wallace Lockwood, one of the founding fathers of our Chapter. So you can see that we have a long history. There have been various locations, among them Blue Ridge

Community College. Now we have the privilege of conducting our school at a beautiful summer camp with a lake for casting practice and a wonderful open-air dining hall. Each year we have strived to enhance our offering and entice new people to enroll. This year will be no exception. We have received rave reviews from previous students who have been to other fly fishing schools in the area, and they agree that ours is superior to any other.

Volunteers are needed to help with all aspects of the school. We need folks to take our posters and brochures to establishments that are frequented by potential students and have them prominently displayed. We will need experienced casters to help with the one-on-one practice sessions on the lake. We will need mentors to take students fishing for ½ day after the April 16 training is completed. We will need members to greet students and direct them to the appropriate places on April 16. We need someone to register students by telephone or e-mail prior to the school. We need someone to coordinate equipment availability for mentored ½-day fishing trips. We need someone to make sturdy signs directing students to the camp. Most of all, we need you to tell everyone you know, friends, neighbors, colleagues, about our school. For more information, contact Linda Campbell at 828-859-2828 or Dave Maxwell at 828-894-0308. 🐟

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### From the President

*continued from page 1*

Foxworth if he would be the director in charge of the Banquet/Auction and he was glad to take it on. Two of our newer members, Woodley Murphy and Art Smith, have volunteered to work with Bob Daubert and Jack Hastings to ensure that come October we will have a well prepared Banquet/Auction. Thanks Woodley and Art!

Art Smith has also volunteered to be in charge of the Road Cleanups. He will be shown the ropes by Dave Maxwell who had the responsibility not so long ago. I want to thank Art for taking this on in addition to helping with the Banquet.

Don Sain is unable to continue to be the man in charge of the Green River stockings. Rod Champion has agreed to take over this job – thanks Rod! The March stocking is on the 4<sup>th</sup> so mark it on your calendar. The Little River stocking is scheduled on March 1<sup>st</sup> - call John Carney for more information. The East Fork of the French Broad River and the North Mills River are to be stocked on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### From the President

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## Fly of the Month

### The Henryville Special: A fly with special connections

*Dale Klug*

I couldn't resist submitting this article along with the fly of the month, as I found it both humorous and entertaining. I sure hope the little bugger fools a few fish and, if it doesn't, oh well, the article is still entertaining.

Some folks believe that fly anglers are so obsessively focused on their sport that nothing in the 'real world' is of interest to them. Of course, this is not true. Most fly fishers are very concerned with a much wider variety of issues, including new developments in science and medicine (as these relate to the physics of fly rods and medications to reduce pain from a casting elbow), politics (how the new Washington administration is going to regulate hydro-electric dam operation on western tailwaters), and finance (dividends on stocks influence cash available for fishing gear). Seriously, fly fishing often is connected, one way or another, to many important human events, past and present. As an example, this fly of the month has a very rich romantic history with connections to some of the world's greatest authors and several famously beautiful women.

The Henryville Special was developed about 80 or so years ago by anglers from the Henryville section of Brodhead Creek. Knowledgeable fly anglers know that Brodhead Creek is in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. The Poconos hold the distinction of having perhaps the greatest concentration of cute little honeymoon hotels of anywhere in the lower 48 states...

hence the obvious connection to romance. It may even be that the Brodhead waters are such excellent fishing because most of the visiting tourists are not focused on the streams or the fish.

But what about the connection to some of the world's greatest celebrities and authors? As it turns out, a variation of this fly was a favorite of none other than Jack Hemingway, son of the legendary author (and fly angler) Ernst Hemingway. Jack apparently made trips each year to the Henry's Fork of Idaho and had a version of the Henryville called the Sooty Sedge, subsequently called the Hemingway Caddis. The connection of this fly to famous authors is not limited to Ernst Hemingway, but includes others, among them the late 19th century author Henry Van Dyke, author of a famous little book, *Fisherman's Luck* (1899). Van Dyke wrote a ditty that mentions the famous water:

*Over the hill to Henryville  
Tis oft the fisherman's cry  
For I'll catch a 14 incher  
On an artificial fly!*

Let us not forget the connection to beautiful women... Jack Hemingway was, after all, the father of Margo and Mariel Hemingway. But I don't know if they ever fly fished.

Obviously the connection of this fly to accomplished and beautiful people is a bit whimsical. However, the Henryville Special should be taken seriously. This fly, developed by a Mr. Hiram

Brobst of Palmertown, PA gets the following accolades by modern fly experts "...the best caddis imitation every created." Or "our most effective dry caddis pattern"... or "This pattern is now universally accepted as the caddis pattern."

Why is it not more popular? In my experience, there are two reasons. First, it is a little difficult to tie (especially the wings...yes there are two sets of wings). Second, when the fish are going wild on a caddis hatch, the Henryville is a little fragile. Nevertheless, for a search pattern in smooth water and/or for selective fish, this fly is a must to have in your box.



#### MATERIALS

Hook: Mustad 94840, Tiemco 100 #10-20

Thread: Olive, or green

Ribbing: Dry fly quality grizzly hackle palmered

Body: Olive or green floss (poly dubbing is also an alternative - Red or reddish brown is used as well)

Underwing: Lemon barred wood duck flank fibers

Wing: Two duck quill sections tied down

Hackle: Medium brown dry fly hackle

**Fly of the Month**

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## Fly of the Month

*continued from page 4*

### TYING STEPS

1. Tie in thread about 2/3 up from the bend of the hook and lay down a layer of thread to the bend.
2. At the bend of the hook, tie in the grizzly hackle (at the stem) to be used for the ribbing.
3. Wrap the thread forward and tie in the strand of floss for the body.
4. Wrap the floss over the tie in point (backward) and then forward to a point about 30% of the shank length, back from the eye of the hook and tie off.
5. Wrap the grizzly hackle forward over the floss body and trim excess.
6. Trim the top of the grizzly palmered hackle so it is flush with the floss body.
7. Tie in a small bunch of wood duck flank fibers on top of the

hook, with the tips extending about 1/3 the length of the shank beyond the hook bend.

8. Select two perfectly matched sections from a duck's wing feather (one section from the right wing feather, one section from the corresponding left wing feather). These sections will be the mirror image of one another. These sections should be about 1/4 inch for a #16 and larger for larger hooks, and conversely.

9. Hold the two sections in the right thumb and forefinger with the convex sides opposing so the wings flare out. Hold the feathers so one feather is on one side of the hook and the other feather is on the opposite side, with the thumb and finger below the tie in point. The tips of these quill sections should extend the same distance as the wood duck flank underwing.

10. Pinch the feather sections over the top of the hook shank, just forward of the grizzly palmered hackle and bring the thread up, locking the quill sections in place. Make 3-4 additional wraps and snug down. If necessary adjust these quill sections to make them symmetrical.

11. Trim the butts of the quill sections and wrap over them and back to the point where they are tied in.

12. Choose and tie in a single brown (or ginger) hackle in front of the wing and make a couple of wraps forward leaving some room to finish the head. Tie off and trim.

13. Finish the head and cement.

If you have questions or comments contact Jim Abbs, FFF WebKeeper, at [webkeeper@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:webkeeper@fedflyfishers.org) or 608-238-5214. 🐟

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## From the President

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The Fly Fishing School is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>. Linda Campbell is running it again as she has the last couple of years. This is a first class event thanks to Linda's efforts and those who help out. For those chapter members that are new to fly fishing I strongly urge you to attend this school. Our members who teach the various sessions are top-notch.

There will be two Fishing Days at Stu's Pond coming up. Tentatively the dates are April 30<sup>th</sup> for the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County and May

14<sup>th</sup> for the Special Needs kids. Those of us that had the opportunity to help these kids fish last year had one of the most rewarding experiences imaginable. Please consider volunteering to help out with one or both of these events. Dale Klug will have more information on these events in the April newsletter.

The last weekend of April is the date for the annual Southeast Regional Trout Unlimited Rally to be held in Abingdon, Virginia. John Kies and I will be attending and there are a couple of other members who have expressed

interest. If you think you might want to attend please contact me for more information.

That's it for now. Keep on keeping on!

*Craig Larsen* 🐟



## APRIL MEETING

**O**ur April program will feature a speaker from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission: Mr. Carl Kittle. The Wildlife Commission is proposing the requirement of a permit for stocking fish (or other aquatic organisms) in public waters. Seems like a reasonable idea and I wouldn't expect a lot of opposition to this proposal, but people might like to know more about it and how it may be applied.

The proposal Carl will discuss is aimed at 'inland fishing waters', not likely to include small ponds, but definitely lakes and streams. The difficulty I see in the proposal is how broad it

could be. Conceptually it sounds OK, but what can be required in the permit is not limited or well defined. Theoretically, they could require a \$1,000,000 bond be posted or that you travel to the moon to pick up the permit! In the future they could charge a \$500 fee for the permit to stock a privately managed stream! I'm not suggesting they would behave this way, but once the requirement for a permit goes into effect, none of these items are excluded, and could be adjusted without further public scrutiny or input.

We have a >50 year history of public and private stocking of trout in NC without a require-

ment for a permit. It's not something we should jump into without reasonable discussion and careful consideration. Personally, I don't like to add regulations unless they are very well defined and are absolutely necessary to achieve a specific benefit.

This is just my 2-cents worth. Here's a link to NCWRC's current proposed regulatory changes. The permit proposal is F13. [www.ncwildlife.org/news\\_stories/pg00\\_NewsRelease/pg00\\_proposed\\_changes05.pdf](http://www.ncwildlife.org/news_stories/pg00_NewsRelease/pg00_proposed_changes05.pdf).

Information on sending comments can be found at: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/>.

*Jeff Hinshaw* 🐾