



April 2005

Snags and Snarls



Committed To Coldwater Conservation

The Newsletter of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited

From the President

It's sure nice that winter is over even though it wasn't particularly bad weather-wise. I hope that some of you who haven't helped out with stocking the Delayed Harvest sections of the Green River, the Little River, and the East Fork of the French Broad will find the time to do so.

One of our major events is coming up on the weekend of April 16th. Our Fly Fishing School is considered top-notch by most of the attendees. I urge those of you who are new to fly fishing to sign up for this school. You won't regret it.

At the end of the month, we will have the first of two kids fishing days at Stu Cohn's pond. We will host the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County on Saturday April 30th and a group of special needs kids two weeks later.

From the President
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MEETING NOTICES

- 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
- DATE/TIME: **Thursday, May 12, 2005**
7:00 p.m. Social • 7:30 p.m. Meeting
PROGRAM: **Speaker:** Bob Twomey
NC High Level Extraction Rescue Team
Topic: Safety in the Outdoors

A Chapter Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 4, 2005** at 6:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Kanuga Road. All members are invited. ↘

A Very Special Thank You

goes to Al Rogers for tying and donating flies for raffles at our Chapter monthly meetings. Thanks to Al's generosity the March meeting raffle raised a total of \$46. Since October 2004 a total of \$338 has been raised from raffling Al's flies.

Welcome to our New Members

We are happy to welcome the following new members to Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Carlton Murrey | William Begg | Timothy Robinson |
| Newell Doty | Mike Williams | William O'Dell |
| Rick Henderson | Aaron Whitt | Sam Davis |

We currently have 264 members in the Pisgah Chapter. ↘



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Notes from Dave Brant's Intermediate Casting Course

Steve Herring

I have volunteered, as have many of you, to take beginners fly-fishing and to give casting instructions. My slowly evolving conclusion, in spite of multiple sources of personal instruction in the past, is that I know almost nothing about teaching the art.

So, I signed up for Dave's course at the recent fly-fishing show in Charlotte. Here are some of the highlights that 'connected' for me, as aids to helping me to teach others.

THE GRIP

1) Check to see if the student is 'strangling' the grip. Hand pressure should be very light except during the snaps. Also check on general relaxation of the arm and stance.

2) Either the thumb (preferred) or the forefinger should remain on the top of the grip. Watch for either to slide off to the side during the cast.

LOADING THE ROD (back cast)

1) Get the slack out of the line. Use the 'freight train' example to get this point across. Visualize those couplings banging together.

2) Begin with the rod tip pointing down. This gives you more distance in which to generate power for loading.

3) Start out slow and accelerate to a stop. Use the zz—i—i—i—i—ii-P! sound to vocalize this motion.

New students often tend to use the wrist to pick up the line. It is necessary to foster the concept of using the arm to load the rod (or 'move the line') and save the wrist energy (snap) for the end of the cast motion. Here the hammer motion is a useful example, but don't assume that every student has actually used a hammer.

It is interesting to note that in most of the activities in which we use acceleration a sudden stop is not part of the object. Most of us are programmed to end such activities (e.g. throwing a ball) accelerating through the entire motion. Thus the snap at the end seems unnatural.

I think it helps in understanding the next two subjects to see these as basically different methods for achieving distance casts. The object of shooting line is to use the rod energy inherent in the cast to elongate the cast. The object of the haul is

to lengthen the cast by increasing line speed using the hand energy of the haul.

SHOOTING LINE. According to Dave there are three opportunities in a cast to shoot line. (This is a little confusing as he actually includes a false cast.) Begin with the length of line easily handled by your particular rod (say 20 - 40 feet) already out of the rod tip. Then pick up the line and do a false cast. This is the first opportunity to shoot line on the forward cast and accounts for about 1/5th or so of the total line to be shot. Next is to shoot another 1/5th or so on the back cast. The remainder is shot on the final forward cast. This method divides the total line to be shot (say 30 - 40 feet) into manageable increments. The timing of shooting is 'right after the snap'.

SINGLE AND DOUBLE HAUL. As with shooting line hauling requires accurate timing. In contrast to shooting line the haul is done with the snap.

A critical point in hauling is control of the line tension with the off hand. The off hand moves up with the casting hand in a complementary motion to maintain line tension and to keep the off hand in a position relative to the casting hand allowing efficient performance of the haul motion. Watch for slack between the hands or the guides. The hands should be perhaps a foot or so apart during this maneuver.

For me, this is the most difficult to describe of all casting techniques I have learned so far. A most helpful exercise is to practice the hauls separately, using a horizontal cast and allowing the line to straighten out on the grass, before executing either the forward or the back cast haul individually. Then put the two together once you 'feel' the timing of each haul separately.

One of Dave's teaching tricks probably has been recognized by many who have tried to learn or to teach a motor skill. Dave uses a variety of ways to describe the same thing. Exposure to teachers who have made a study of 'collecting' descriptive word pictures by noting what works for different students is invaluable to would be instructors.

Notes from Dave Brant

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From the President

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If you haven't helped out at Stu's before, here's your chance. Those of us who had the opportunity to help out the special needs kids thought it was one of the most rewarding experiences in our lives. This may sound like a lot of hype but, believe me, it isn't.

Recently the Boy Scouts ended their association with Camp Hope in Cruso, NC. They have moved their facilities to Camp Daniel Boone in Canton. Camp Hope is managed by the Town of Canton on behalf of International Paper who owns the property. The Boy Scouts were leasing the camp for \$1.00 per year and were responsible for the upkeep of the property and buildings. The Town of Canton is looking for a non-profit organization to take over the lease and the Land of Sky Chapter of TU is making an effort to become that organization. Land of Sky currently stocks and manages over a half mile of the East Fork of the Pigeon River that runs through the camp property. If the property is leased to another organization, it is highly likely that LOS will lose access to the river.

Land of Sky has asked the Pisgah Chapter to become a partner in this endeavor. I have been to the camp and talked with the members of LOS involved in what is known as the Camp Hope Project. I am enthused about this, but there are many issues and concerns that need to be addressed. I would like to set up one or two meetings with LOS members at Camp Hope so that members of our chapter can see the property and ask questions. I will be sending an email message to chapter members advising them of the date(s) I am able to set up with LOS. If you don't get email messages from me at present and are interested in attending a meeting at Camp Hope, please call me.

Changing gears, an item that has been on the back burner for quite a while is finally going to be addressed. We are lacking both a short term strategic plan and a long-range plan for the chapter. I have asked our Treasurer, Jim Heller, to form a committee that will put together these plans. One of the main concerns the Board of Directors has is the distribution of money we have available to other non-profit organizations and projects. It's nice to have more money than we need for operation of the chapter, but we aren't trying to make a profit after all.

Some very good news for the chapter. In December Skip Sheldon, Bob Daubert, and I submitted a grant request to TU's Embrace-A-Stream program to help finance the Davidson River Project. I'm pleased to announce that we were granted \$5,000 which is the amount we requested. This guarantees that we have sufficient funds to go forward with the plans that we have for reparation projects this year. Bob and Skip will be providing information to the chapter about upcoming activities in future issues of the newsletter.

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

Craig Larsen ↗



Notes from Dave Brant

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So, you would be a teacher, Steve. In 'Tuesday's with Morrie', Morrie says something to the effect that learning to live is learning to die. Perhaps there is much in learning to learn that instructs us in learning to teach.

Tight lines— ↗

Fly of the Month - The Quill Gordon

Steve Herring

The Quill Gordon is the southern cousin of a Catskill Hatch and the first big mayfly to hatch in the spring on many of our southern mountain streams. According to Harry Murray, Quill Gordons start hatching in the Blue Ridge Mountains when the water temperature is more than 40 degrees for several days in a row. Generally these mayflies start coming off these streams around 1 p.m. The hatch may extend from mid-March to late April.

Quill Gordon nymphs move to the downstream sides of rocks several days prior to emerging and are exposed to the trout. At this time try a dead drift approach with a size 12 QG nymph.

The emerging form of the Quill Gordon is very important. The nymph pops its wings just prior to traveling to the surface and swims to the surface with its wings out. I have found that a sunken dry fly works well to imitate this form but the Mr. Rapidan emerger, or classic Hare's Ear wet fly, also are effective patterns.

The standard Quill Gordon described here is used to imitate the dun, or adult, mayfly. In mid-March this pattern was very effective on the North Mills River,

fished both dry and sunken. It hooked up with 15 or so feisty trout in a two-hour period.



MATERIALS

Hook: Mustad 94840 or Tiemco 100, Size 14

Thread: 6/0 black

Tail: Blue dun hackle fibers

Body: Stripped peacock herl

Wing: Wood duck flank feathers or dyed mallard flank

Hackle: Blue dun

TYING STEPS

1. Select a wood duck feather that has even tips. Tie the feather to the top of the hook with the tips pointing forward. Don't crowd the eye of the hook: allow ample room to wrap the hackle.
2. Trim the butt ends of the feather at an angle. Raise the tips up, and wrap a dam of thread in front of the feather.

3. Divide the feather tips into two bunches. Make a series of figure-eight wraps around the base of the wings.

4. Tie on about a dozen dun hackle fibers to form the tail of the fly. The tail should be about equal to the length of the hook shank.

5. Choose a wide peacock herl from just below the eye of the tail feather. Use your forefinger and thumb, or a rubber eraser, to strip the herl fuzz from the quill. Moisten the quill.

6. Tie on the quill at the base of the tail. Wrap a smooth underbody of thread to the base of the wings. Wrap the stripped herl up the shank to form the body; leave a small amount of space between the front of the body and the base of the wings to tie on the hackle. Tie off and clip the excess herl.

7. Tie on the hackle behind the wings with the dull side of the feather facing up. Wrap the thread to the hook eye.

8. Wind the hackle up the hook. Make two-thirds of the wraps behind the wings, and wrap the remainder of the hackle in front of the wings. Tie off and clip the surplus hackle. Make a neat thread head, whip-finish, and clip the thread. 🐟

Davidson River Project Spring Workday

Here is another chance to take part in this great project. On April 20th we will be building about 225 feet of rail fence and putting in a dozen trail steps at the picnic area on the

right about a mile before you reach Coon Tree. Meet at the Ranger station at 9 a.m. for a safety and orientation talk before we head off to work. Bring your lunch and spend the day with

some good folks doing some fun work that makes a real improvement to this great river. Sign up at the April meeting or call Bob Daubert (693-6262) or Skip Sheldon (891-3264). 🐟

First Stocking of Green River for 2005

The first of the year stocking of the Green River took place on March 4th. A total of 1483 lbs. of trout were well dispersed along this popular delayed harvest stream which equates to between 2500 and 3000 trout. PCTU members and some other volunteers worked hard to distribute the fish. Matt Champion (son of Rod) of Champion Outfitters in Kings Mountain was in charge of the stocking, did an excellent job of selecting the spots for input, and de-

termining the number of trout for each spot. Carlton Murray of Curtis Wright Outfitters in Saluda was also a participant. The participation of these outfitters in our activities is much appreciated. Altogether there were 14 volunteers, plus the driver of the hatchery truck, Cynthia Kroswek. Those helping were: Matt Champion, Carlton Murray, Wai Yun Syn, John Barsotti, Ed Destremps, Dick Fulton, Bob Daubert, Sogi Soder, Mike Hanesworth, Rick

Viehman, Dave Maxwell and one of our new members, Mark Smith from Mill Spring. In addition to the PCTU members Bill Laughter (Mill Spring), Rick Anderson (Pacolet SC) and Terry Hartley (Kings Mountain) pitched in and helped. Cynthia Kroswek did an excellent job of driving and filling the buckets for the many stops. The Green is in excellent shape for the beginning of delayed harvest season.

David Maxwell 🐾



Catch of the Day

Alaska in May? Close, but not quite. Actually, it is North Mills River in March. TU Chapter members Bill Jenks and Ron Smith had a terrific day at the river. It was time to get out and eat lunch but Ron invoked the 'just one more cast' rule. Ron thought that he was hooked on the bottom—but then the bottom 'started to move'. Five or so minutes later - BINGO! - Bill took the picture of Ron's 20" (best guess) 5+ pound Brookie. Who needs Alaska? 🐾

Fly Fishing School - April 16th/17th

Registration for this year's Fly Fishing School at Camp Ton-A-Wandah is strong, and we are again expecting a very successful program for the Chapter. The School is one of the largest moneymakers we have, and fills a need in our surrounding communities for a high-quality experience and a sound foundation for a lifetime of enjoyment.

Due to the dedication and hard work of a few Chapter members our school has been called 'better than the Orvis school'.

As we move closer to the date I need the commitment of a few more Chapter members to help coordinate the mentored ½-day of fishing as well as to volunteer to take one or two of the students fishing for (only) 4 hours on Sun-

day, April 17th (or possibly another date). Please come to the Chapter meeting on April 14th or contact me personally (lpcampbell@alltel.net) to volunteer your services. You will be making a valuable contribution to the Chapter, as well as meeting some potential new members.

Linda Campbell 🐾