



May 2005

Snags and Snarls



Committed To Coldwater Conservation

The Newsletter of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited

From the President


Hello folks. By the time you receive this newsletter, the Fly Fishing School will have been held. I want to thank Linda Campbell, Terry Foxworth and Dave Maxwell for the great job they did. Almost a capacity class! That is really something.

Don't forget about the three Kids Fishing Days coming up on April 30th, May 14th and June 4th. These are all Saturday events.

The rest of this report is going to talk about communications, which is essential to having an informed membership. We rely on a number of ways to relate information: telephone, email, meetings, web site and newsletter. Each has its place and its limitations.

Although telephone conversations (or in person contacts) are

From the President
continued on page 4

 *Snags and Snarls* is published eleven times a year by the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a nonprofit organization, for its members and supporters. Produced by Carol Ten Broek, Linda Campbell and Art Hudson. May 2005, Vol. 59, No. 5. Address comments to: Snags & Snarls, P.O. Box 841, Hendersonville, NC 28793-0841.

MEETING NOTICES

- 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
-
- DATE/TIME: **Thursday, June 9, 2005**
7:00 p.m. Social • 7:30 p.m. Meeting
- PROGRAM: **Speaker:** Starr Nolan
Topic: Casting for Recovery

A Chapter Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 1, 2005** at 6:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Kanuga Road. All members are invited. ↘

Welcome to our New Members

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

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Bruce Lowery | Erwin Hoadley | Gloria Clouse |
| Robert Hartzog | | Samuel Laughter |

April stocking of the Green River

Approximately 1400 lbs. of rainbow trout were released into the Green River by the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited for 'catch and release' fishing. Part of the project included picking up trash along the section of road where the release was made. Shown on pages 4 and 5 are group pictures along with Carlton Murray, of Curtis Wright Outfitters in Saluda (up in the tree), and Carlton's young daughter being assisted by Dave Maxwell.

Photographs courtesy of Woodley Murphy ↘

A KNOT STUDY

Jim Hoskinson

We've all encountered a large fish that has separated us from our fly, leaving us frustrated and searching for a better knot.

My first experience with knot problems occurred about five years ago. The blood knot I was using failed on a large trout. I went directly to my local fly shop and explained my problem. He sold me a TIE-FAST tool which is used for tying nail knots. To join tippet to leader with this tool a double nail knot or splice knot is recommended. I have used this knot faithfully until recently but not without problems.

When I received the November/December issue of American Angler I was especially interested in the article by Art Schrek titled "The Weakest Link". He tested many different knots in monofilament and fluorocarbon to come up with the best knot for joining leader to tippet. I decided to conduct my own knot tests to once and for all find the best knot. I started with about 8" of 4X monofilament and to each end I tied about 8" of 6X fluorocarbon using a different tippet knot. At the completion of the knot I used chap stick as a lubricant, and pulled the knot tight. Using needle nose pliers on each end of the tippets I pulled until one of the knots failed - recording the results.

The first thing I discovered was that years ago when I switched from the blood knot to the double nail knot that I switched from a good knot to an inferior one. The correct answer to my problem should have been to increase the number of wraps and lubricate the knot well. I did find that the 6 wrap double nail knot was superior to the 3 wrap and the 6 wrap blood knot was superior to the 3 wrap. The double surgeons knot tested poorly and the triple surgeons knot was somewhat better than the double. If you plan to continue to use any of these knots it's worth the effort to add the additional wraps to improve the strength. Art Schrek liked the Orvis tippet knot. I seemed to have erratic results with this knot. My testing showed the blood knot with 6 wraps to be superior to the Orvis tippet knot.

One knot that consistently beat all others in my testing was the ligature knot. This is truly an amazing knot. When I first started tying this knot I

thought it might be too complicated to tie on the stream. However, after tying it about 25 times, I found that I now can tie it fairly easily. With some practice you'll probably find the same thing.

In the next issue of American Angler "Terminal Strength" by Art Schrek looks for the best knot for attaching fly to leader. Once again, I conducted my own tests using the following method: 8" of 6X fluorocarbon tied to a hook at each end with different knots, using chap stick as a lubricant. I hold the hooks with needle nose pliers and pull until one of the knots break, again recording the results. Incidentally, I keep the chap stick (unscented of course) in the same pocket as my tippet material to lubricate my knots on the stream.

For as long as I can remember I have used the improved clinch as my knot of choice. In my testing I found the Trilene knot to be superior in strength to both the improved clinch, and the clinch, and no harder to tie.

The next level of knot quality was from the Frog Hair web site. The Eugene Bend Knot, Sixteen-Twenty Knot, and the Uni-Knot (a.k.a. Duncan Loop) gave acceptable results, but not outstanding, and are all somewhat complicated to tie. The Non-Slip Mono Loop Knot is better suited for streamers and poppers than fine tippet with small trout flies.

The Orvis knot is the best of the knots I tested, but will require some practice at the kitchen table before tying on the stream.

Recommendations. Use those rainy days when you can't fish to practice tying the ligature knot and the Orvis knot. While you're at it perform a few tests of your own with the knots you're currently using and I'm sure you'll see the improvement. I feel that once you start using these knots your incidents of losing large fish will diminish.

If you have questions or want clarification please contact me at ifish2xs@bellsouth.net. The Ligature Knot can be seen at www.froghairfishing.com. On the right hand side of the home page see Common Knots, Ligature. The Orvis Knot is demonstrated at www.orvis.com. Click on Fly Fishing, under Fly Fishing Tools you will see animated knots. 🐟

Trout Unlimited Awards \$5,000 Embrace-A-Stream Grant To Help Restore North Carolina's Davidson River

WASHINGTON – The national conservation organization Trout Unlimited (TU) today announced a major grant award for a North Carolina watershed restoration project to help stem erosion on the lower Davidson River.

Under heavy use from the many people who enjoy and share the Davidson River corridor, the Davidson's stream banks are diligently monitored and salvaged by the Davidson River Project. The project teams the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Brevard College and the Pisgah Forest Rotary Club to help keep the Davidson River healthy.

"The Davidson River Project has shown what a great group of volunteers can do," said Tim Wilhelm, Chair of the North Carolina TU Council. "I'm proud of what they've done to protect this great piece of water."

Embrace-A-Stream is the flagship grant program for funding TU grassroots fishery and watershed conservation efforts. Funding for EAS is provided by TU members, the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration, corporate partners and foundations. An Embrace-A-Stream Committee comprised of TU volunteer representatives and scientific advisors evaluate all proposed projects.

In 2005, Embrace-A-Stream will provide more than \$175,000 for 33 projects that address water and fish habitat quality, native fish restoration, in-stream flows, youth education and fish population research. Since 1975, Embrace-A-Stream has funded some 800 projects totaling about \$3 million.

"Our grassroots members are the heart and soul of Trout Unlimited," said Chris Wood, TU Vice President for Conservation Programs. "Embrace-A-Stream grants help them to protect and conserve our precious coldwater resources."

Trout Unlimited is North America's leading coldwater fisheries conservation organization, with 135,000 members dedicated to the conservation, protection and restoration of trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. ↘

2005 Fly Fishing School

The day dawned sunny but cool on our 2005 Fly Fishing School with 22 students and nearly as many Chapter members enjoying hot coffee and doughnuts before beginning seven hours of rigorous instruction and serious fun. After the traditional welcome and housekeeping by director Linda Campbell, Craig gave the participants an overview of the Pisgah Chapter and what it does to conserve cold water fisheries here in western North Carolina. Steve Fromholz and Bill Lemke, both past Chapter presidents, began the day with introductions to equipment and casting, respectively. Our sincere thanks to these two very busy members for taking their time to help. Groups of 7 or 8 people then proceeded to spend 1½ hours in each of three sessions devoted to Line Systems led by Dave Maxwell, Stream Tactics with Bob Daubert and a casting clinic with several Chapter members. (I dare not list their names for fear of leaving someone out.) Meanwhile, Joe Carpenter once

again tirelessly demonstrated fly tying throughout the day. After a great lunch of burgers and dogs, Carlton Murray of Curtis Wright Outfitters set up shop in the sunshine with an array of tools and equipment every new flyfisher needs along with coupons for a 15% discount for school participants. Follow-up evaluations by the students indicated that this was again an excellent school with an overall score of 98.75%, not bad for a group of dedicated volunteers. Thank you all very, very much.

Linda Campbell ↘

Thanks to

Al Rogers for donating 88 flies and
Diamond Brand for donating a landing net
for the April meeting raffle.
A total of \$85 was raised for the Chapter. ↘

From the President

continued from page 1

probably the most comprehensive way of conveying information, they are also the least efficient in terms of time. This is perfectly acceptable when you only have to pass information to a few people, but is very time consuming beyond that point.

Emails are a good way to pass information that does not have to be done with personal contacts. This could be a good vehicle for getting responses back for requests, but only if the recipients check their email frequently and take the time to respond. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. Also, not all members have internet access although the percentage increases with time. We will continue to use email as a way to get information and requests out to most of the membership. To help in this regard I am going to need your cooperation. I asked Tim Wilhelm, state council chairman, to set up an email list on the state TU internet service provider. I populated the list with the email addresses of members who have kept either me or national TU up to date with regard to their current email addresses. The majority of internet users have probably changed ISPs (Internet Service

Providers) at some time. If you don't change the national TU site information, or let me know you've made a change, then the email address on the list server will be invalid and you won't receive important email messages. The email addresses on the state's ISP are kept in confidence and are not released to companies that request email lists.

Membership meetings are another way to get information to our membership. However, this is probably about 20-25% of our total membership, so it has to be augmented.

Our chapter web site can be a very good way to get information to the membership. Bill Lemke did a very good job creating and maintaining the web site for a number of years. However, current commitments have prevented him from keeping current and he has asked to be replaced. Thanks for your years of service as webmaster, Bill. Dale Klug has taken over as keeper of the site and is working on improving it. When you get an opportunity, browse the site. If you think there need to be more changes or additions, use the email facility at the bottom of the home page to send Dale a message. We hope to keep the site current and a place for members to get up to

date information.

Probably our most important communications medium is this newsletter. Every member gets one mailed to him/her. We make a very concerted effort to ensure that the newsletter contains timely information as well as entertaining articles, reports on recently held events, and features such as Fly of the Month. Carol Ten Broek has been doing an excellent job as editor for the past few years. I think we can all be proud of our first-rate newsletter. It is with much regret that I announce that Art Hudson, who has handled the mailing of the newsletter for about 6 years, has asked to be relieved because of other commitments. Art has done an outstanding job. Thanks very much, Art! We are going to require an immediate replacement for Art and I would like at least two members to volunteer to do this essential task. Please contact me if you are willing to help us out.

The need for good communications is vital to keeping this chapter as strong as it is. I hope that you all make an effort to continue in this mode.

That's it for now. Keep on keeping on! *Craig Larson* 🐉



Fly of the Month - Flashabou Midge

Jim Hoskinson

This article could be titled 'Flies of the Month' as I'm showing three flies. However, since all three are variations of one fly - I'll stick with 'Fly of the Month'.

With summer approaching it's a good time to start tying those midge patterns. I've found these flies to be effective on heavily fished waters such as the Watauga River in Tennessee and the Davidson. The fish in these waters see a lot of pheasant tails and hare's ears in larger sizes so these smaller brighter flies usually work well.

Flashabou comes apart on only a few fish; therefore, I apply epoxy to extend the fly life.

MATERIALS:

Hook: Dai-Riki #135, Scud Hook, heavy wire - 18, 20, 22
Thread: Gordon Griffiths 14/0, - White
Bead Head: 5/64" Brass Bead in silver & gold -
Midge Glass Bead in pearl
Body: Flashabou or Krystal Flash in Black, Red, or Pearl
Wire: French Tinsel - small in gold or silver
Thorax: Ice Dub - Pearl
Dubbing Wax: Loon Outdoors - High Tack SWAX
Epoxy: Wal-Mart 5 minute epoxy
All of these materials are available at www.feather-craft.com.



TYING STEPS:

1. Pinch the barb.
2. Add Bead.
3. Wrap thread to the hook bend. Tie in tinsel first then several strands of Flashabou.
4. Wrap Flashabou up the hook. Leave a small space near bead for dubbing.
5. Wrap tinsel and tie off ready for epoxy coating.
6. Epoxy Coating Process: I cut aluminum foil into approx. 2" squares and fold to a small pocket. Add a drop of part A and a drop of part B epoxy and stir with a toothpick. Apply epoxy to the body of the flies working quickly. I usually have 6 or 7 flies ready for coating. After coating stick the hooks into Styrofoam for drying.
7. After epoxy dries. Wrap the thread at space between body & bead. Coat with SWAX dubbing wax and apply Pearl "Ice Dub". Whip finish & cement. 🪄

