



July 2005

Snags and Snarls



Committed To Coldwater Conservation

The Newsletter of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited

From the Secretary

Dear fellow members. At the time of this writing members from the Pisgah Chapter are engaged in the Rivercourse Camp at Lake Logan Episcopal Center. Our President, Craig Larson, extends his greetings and reports that the camp is a great success despite the near miss by Tropical Storm Arlene.

I want to extend thanks to Chapter Members, Steve Herring and Bob Daubert, who also lent their expertise and organizational skills for the entire week. Thanks to Bill Lemke, Jack Frisch and Wai Syn for their assistance as guides. Many of the guides also took part in last year's camp and expressed interest in repeating this rewarding experience. I was impressed by the enthusiasm of the campers during the fly tying sessions. The sharing of

From the Secretary
Continued on page 3

ANNUAL PICNIC

Our annual picnic will be held on Saturday, July 16, from noon to 3 p.m. at the 50-acre UNC Asheville Kellogg Center.

The Kellogg Center is at 1181 Broyles Road, five miles west of Main Street in Hendersonville. The Center is one mile north off Route 64 (Brevard Road) west, or two-tenths of a mile south off South Rugby Road south of Route 191 (Haywood Road).

Please bring a covered dish to share. Chapter 34 will provide everything else. Park in the first lot to the left and walk around the building where you'll find a big stone patio and spacious lawn. We'll have tables and chairs on the patio, and a few picnic tables on the lawn. Also, we'll need a couple of grills for hamburgers and hot dogs. Please e-mail me if you can bring one and arrive a bit early to fire it up. We're hoping to have live bluegrass and other music from the band Sassafras. We'll also have some fine door prizes. Hope you all can make it!

Norris McDowell - normac@mchsi.com - 828-891-7317

MEETING NOTICE

DATE/TIME: Thursday, August 11, 2005
7:00 p.m. Social • 7:30 p.m. Meeting
PROGRAM: **Speaker:** Mike Adams - Fishing Guide from Tennessee. Mike runs float trips on the Watauga and South Holston Rivers
Topic: Fishing the Watauga & S. Holston Rivers

A Chapter Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 3, 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.

William Arnold Diane Claybrook Alan Brookshire
Cris Law Carroll LeeCase Jimmy Gaiennie Joyce Beschta

 *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. July 2005, Vol. 59, No. 7. Address comments to: Snags & Snarls, P.O. Box 841, Hendersonville, NC 28793-0841.

Gone in a Flash

Norris McDowell

It was May 26th, noon approached, and John Barsotti cast a #16 parachute sulfur upstream near the narrow wooden bridge. He'd been doing so for an hour, catching a few small trout. Reeling in, John mopped sweat from his forehead and began thinking it might be time to head home. Then he heard a woman's voice from above.

"I'd love to see you catch that big one behind the rock."

She must be on the bridge, John figured, but he couldn't see anyone up there. He shrugged, cast across the shallow stream and watched his fly alight softly and slip by a submerged log. He retrieved and cast again, only to see his yellow sulfur run out of drift and vanish in the current.

A woman's voice called, again from above: "Not the log, man, the rock. He's there right now. I can see that big boy real good."

John looked again, but saw not a soul on the bridge. He shook his head, retrieved and cast again, this time straight across to the downstream side of the only big rock in sight. The fly settled and began drifting. Then, a fish boiled up from under the rock, smacked the sulfur and ran downstream with John splashing along in its wake,

rod tip on high, hook set, somehow keeping his balance in the rushing water.

Thirty yards later the trout darted behind a fallen limb lying near the stream bank. Huffing, reeling as fast as he could, John moved in. He thrust his bowed rod skyward with his right arm and slid his wood-rimmed landing net under the fish



with his left. The trout bucked and flopped out twice, but John's third attempt to capture it paid off. Catching his breath, he plucked the fly from the trout's jaw then hoisted the fish chest high like a weight lifter curling barbells. A camera flashed, and a split second later the trout wriggled free, sprang to the water and swam away. Grinning, John rinsed his hands in the stream as applause rang from the bridge.

He peered up there, still saw no-one, but snapped a salute. "Thanks!" he shouted.

Nobody answered, but a sudden wind gust stirred the water and rustled pine boughs as it cruised through the tree-

tops. Then, as before, all was calm.

So, how big was the trout? Ask John, or the angel on the bridge. They know. 🐟

Prevention

The warm weather is upon us and the local insect population is once again very busy. Don't forget to take an extra minute or two for yourself and apply sunscreen and insect repellent before hitting the water. If you fish the small streams, stop and look twice before giving your line that hard jerk to free it from the bankside tree or bush. You just might avoid stirring up the hornet's nest. 🐝

From the Secretary

Continued from page 1

expertise between the students and instructors was mutually beneficial. Steve did a great job of organizing the fly tying materials.

Consider helping out with next year's camp. The programs on stream ecology and conservation are informative to both the councilors and students and this is a great way to prepare the next generation to become active in cold water conservation.

Our new board member, Richard Burns, reported about future work on the Davidson River Project. Currently we have approval for a work site for the August work day that includes the Brevard College kids. We will be putting up fences and steps in the Davidson River campground/Job Corps site area. Bob Daubert and Skip Sheldon have also been working with the USFS to get approval for work on sites for 2006 and beyond.

We had a terrific set of Al Rogers' flies to auction at the last meeting. We split these into two groups and had two drawings that brought in \$78. This is always a highlight of our monthly meetings. Considering that I can only tie about 5 flies an hour I would love to see Al in action. Thanks Al for your wonderful contribution.

In closing, I never cease to be amazed at the dedication and caliber of our club members. I encourage our new members to join in club activities to enrich your membership experience. I hope to see you on Saturday, July 16th, at our annual PCTU picnic.

Chris Ellis 🐾

Thrill of a Lifetime

It's about kids, and the attached photo says it all!

Young Jonathan Rees, of Travelers Rest, SC, was delighted when he caught this beauty at Stuart Cohn's forested pond on May 14th. Jonathan and his siblings were among the thirty or so youngsters whose parents brought them to fish that fine day. And fish they did, landing more than a hundred trout. They laughed, ate hot dogs, and went home with grins on their faces and trout on ice.

Chapter 34 members pitched in to help the kids bait their hooks, free up the inevitable snags and snarls, fix and serve lunch and, of course, clean the catch. Many thanks to all who participated, especially to Stu Cohn for opening his pond twice each spring so kids can thrill to tight lines and thrashing trout.



Photo snapped by Mary Rees, Jonathans' mom. 🐾

Women Fishing Together

Linda Campbell

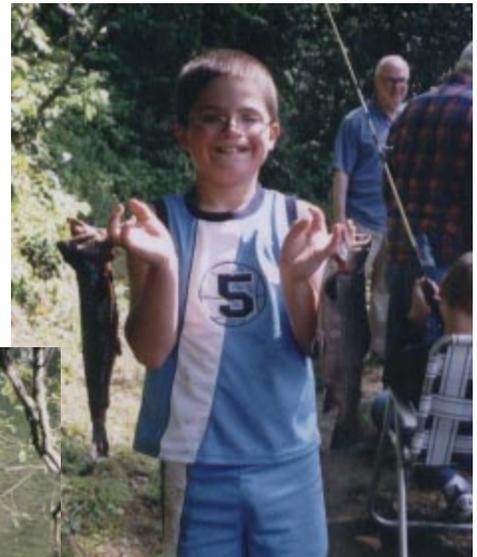
Several women have inquired recently about a women's group for fishing expeditions. This might involve a contact list to locate another woman to go fishing with; or it might be a regularly scheduled outing; or it could be a group who would get together for educational purposes (maybe to learn fly tying or for a casting clinic); or it might be a group who would plan a trip to fish outside our area. The group could include not only Pisgah TU members, but others in the area. There are several reasons why

you might desire other women to fish with, including non-fishing husbands and fear of going into the woods alone. There are other women's groups nearby: Women in Waders in Spartanburg, Women on the Fly in Charlotte. If you are seriously interested in forming an as-yet-undefined group in the area, please send an email to lpcampbell@alltel.net. Let me know your interest level and the best time for you for a get-together to meet other women fly fishers. 🐾



Kids' Fishing Day

June 4, 2005



Here are some pictures from the Kids' Fishing Day at Cliffside Lake courtesy of John Barsotti.



Thanks go to the U.S. Forest Service for hosting the event, the Tuckasegee Chapter for working with our chapter to make it happen, Dale Klug for his fine coordination efforts, and to Wal*Mart for donating the food.



Fly of the Month - The Case Caddis

Terry Foxworth

This is one of my favorite early season flies, though it can be found in streams all year. I first took notice of them during the Davidson River Bug studies. They're just cool to look at. Crusty case, chewy inside, and that alien green head sticking out. I've been tempted to try one myself. My understanding of their behavior is that at certain times of the day they release in mass and relocate downstream. Though I tend to fish them when I'm on new water and when I see nothing else going on.

Fish them on the bottom, lots of weight, dead drift. Look for subtle strikes. Usually I weight my nymphs with lead wire, however with the addition of a new child to the house I have become more and more cautious with lead. It's bad enough having a size 22 hook get away from you, the last thing I need laying around my tying desk are lead scraps.

Ingredients:

Hook: Nymph hook 2 of 3XL 12,14

Thread: Brown or Olive 6/0

Worm: Green or Chartreuse dubbing

Legs: Partridge

Body: Natural rabbit's fur



** Picture credit goes to Hatch Guide for New England Streams, Thomas Ames, Jr. Copyright 2000.*

Instructions:

1. Debar hook
2. Tie in thread and wrap toward bend even with hook point.
3. Dub Green/Chartreuse worm.
4. Tie in partridge feather wrap around hook at base of dubbing so that legs face toward hook bend. Secure with a couple of wraps trim excess.
5. Now hears the fun part. Dub your rabbit fur thick, or in a dubbing loop. Start with a generous amount and taper forward. Or have a uniform body. It's up to you. Variation: take some pheasant tail scraps, and tie them in with the dubbing. It looks like little sticks sticking out. Be creative. Sometimes I trim the body into a rectangle, sometimes I don't.
6. After you have dubbed to hook eye, tie off your thread, add some head cement and place in your nymph box with pride. 🐟

Highway Cleanup

The roadside cleanup on June 14th went well. The weather was great. Unfortunately, no-one went fishing as the Davidson River was still quite high and cloudy from the recent heavy rains. Thirteen people participated. I brought coffee (Sumatran, Irish Cream and French Roast) and two different kinds of muffins and everyone seemed to enjoy them. There were no leftovers.

One big plus for me is that I have learned how to number the

sections to Dave's satisfaction. As with the March event all sections were walked but did not yield a lot of trash. We'll probably find more after the tourists leave in September. I plan to hold the next cleanup on Tuesday, September 20th.

Those attending were Sam Davis, Stu Cohn, Erwin Hoadley, Dave Maxwell, John Carney, Ed Klein, Wai Yun Syn, John Wynes, Mike Hanesworth, Norris McDowell, John Barsotti, Skip Sheldon and myself. After the

cleanup everyone stayed and discussed some of their favorite (if not secret) spots and which flies work. There was a small competition to see who was fishing the smallest pattern. One of the guys opened his fly box and showed off size 24 flies that he uses for wild trout. This is one of the only sports where something so diminutive gets such rave reviews. Everyone groaned and asked how he could see the eye, let alone thread it. Old guys!

Art Smith 🐟