



October 2005

# Snags and Snarls



*Committed To Coldwater Conservation*

## The Newsletter of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited

### From the President

I thought it would be appropriate to take a few minutes and introduce myself to the membership, and briefly outline the course I'd like to see our chapter take in the near future.

My introduction to fly fishing and tying began to run its course in 1972 under the tutelage of my algebra teacher. It was a time and place when extra curricular relationships between a teacher and a student were encouraged, not suspect. His favorite haunts were the Middle Fork and South Fork of the Salmon River and the North Fork of the Payette River so, naturally, that's where my casting instruction and fly fishing mentoring took place. Looking back at the situation I realize it was a pretty decent place to learn to apply my fledgling skills,

### From the President

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### MEETING NOTICES


**P**LEASE NOTE that there will not be a general meeting held during the month of October. See below for details on the Annual Banquet and Auction.

DATE/TIME: **Thursday, November 10, 2005**  
**7:00 p.m. Social • 7:30 p.m. Meeting**  
PROGRAM: **Speaker:** To be announced  
**Topic:** To be announced

**A** Chapter Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 2, 2005** at 6:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Kanuga Road. All members are invited. ➤

### October Banquet & Auction

**T**he Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited Annual Banquet and Auction will be held on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Laurel Park. This event is always a Pisgah Chapter favorite and our main fundraiser for the year. Bring your family, favorite covered dish, and your checkbook, and plan on a great evening in October. We are currently collecting auction items so if you have a business or business contact that has an item or service that they would like to donate please let me know. Remember, we are collecting fishing and non-fishing items and services. This is our primary fundraiser and we hope to raise \$5,000 to help with our conservation and educational opportunities. Please call me, Terry Foxworth, at 828-691-1485 for more information. ➤

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# Fly Fishing By Numbers

Jack Frisch

Last month Dale Klug asked about the weights listed on a fly rod (A Question of Weight). I am not sure that the weight listed on the fly rod in ounces and/or fractions of ounces serves any real useful purpose. It is not found on all fly rods. As a matter of fact none of my many fly rods have any indication of their actual weight any place on the rods, and this includes my old South Bend 359, 8½ ft. bamboo rod. I think that it is purely a vanity thing. You can brag that you own an Orvis 'One Ounce'; a 4wt., 7 ft. fly rod. St. Croix will sell you a 7 ft., 4 wt. Imperial that weighs 2.7 ounces. Perusing many catalogs I noticed that most of the rods for sale are not listed with their weights on them. Lets face it, you buy a rod to meet a specific need. This need is based upon the casting characteristics that you want. Are you going to fish in a small stream and only have the need for short, accurate, casts or are you going to fish large rivers where wind is a major factor? Do you need to cast long distances from a flats boat in saltwater and need a very powerful rod? These are the factors that come into play when we purchase a fly rod. Another major factor is how many rods do you plan to own? Only one or one for each specific situation?

What numbers should we look for on a fly rod and what do these numbers mean? A fly rod must be matched to a particular weight fly line. What does this all mean? Back in the 1950's and 60's one usually bought a fly rod according to its length. I remember that 7½ ft. fly rods were generally designated as 'trout' rods while 8½ - 9 ft. rods were generally designated as 'bass' rods. If one lived in the East then a 7 ft. rod was the order of the day. If you lived out west where you have big rivers, then an 8½ ft. rod may have been the choice. You had the choice of either bamboo or fiberglass, both with generally 'slow' or 'full flex' actions. Fly lines were sold with alphabetical designations on them indicating the diameter of the line. 'A' was the heaviest line (its diameter was .060inch), while 'I' was the lightest (.020 inch), although I have never seen a level line lighter than a 'F'. Lines came in level, double taper or 'torpedo' taper. The introduction of synthetic fly lines posed several problems. The old silk lines were pretty uniform in their size, the new synthetics did not match in weight the old braided silk lines. An HDH line from one manufacturer did not match the weight from another manufacturer. Then, as now, the line had to 'match' the casting characteristics of the particular rod. A

general rule of thumb was that a 7½ ft. rod took an HEH line, an 8 ft. rod used an HDH, an 8½ ft. rod used a GBG line. But this all changed with the introduction of the synthetics lines.

In 1961, the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association (AFTMA) took the suggestion of Myron Gregory, a West Coast Fly Fisherman, and standardized the coding of fly lines. This meant that a fly line designated as a DT5F was a double taper, 5 weight floating fly line with certain characteristics, no matter who manufactured it. This made matching the line to the rod a much simpler process. A line that is too light for a particular rod will not 'load' or bend the rod. Conversely, a line that is too heavy for a rod will likewise not 'load' properly. This means that the important number on a fly rod is the one indicating the line weight required to balance the rod. A 4wt. fly rod is designed to cast a 4wt. fly line approximately 40 feet. Of course, some of us can cast the same weight line further by employing various hauls, etc., but that is technique, not the characteristic of the fly line at work. So, what exactly do these fly line numbers mean? The AFTMA standards are for the first 30 feet of the fly line, exclusive of the tip on a tapered line. This is known as the working part of the fly line. This is the part of the line that actually loads the rod. The table below indicates the range of the weight of the line in grains.

## Fly Line Weights

	Weight	
Code	(in grains)	Range
3	100	94-106
4	120	114-126
5	140	134-146
6	160	152-168
7	185	177-193
8	210	202-218

Thus, a line marked DT5F is a double taper line (weighing 140 grains) that floats. A WF5F would indicate a weight forward floating line of identical weight. A fly line could be designated as 'S' for a sinking line and 'I' for an intermediate line.

Unfortunately the AFTMA has not standardized the other designations on a fly rod, although most manufacturers do use a similar designation. Most fly rod manufacturers will use the first number to indicate the length of the rod, the third number to indicate the correct weight fly line, the

fourth number (if there is one) will indicate the number of pieces to the fly rod, if more than two. Thus a rod designated as 704 will be a 7 ft., 4 weight, 2 piece fly rod. An 865-4 will be an 8½ ft., 5 weight, 4 piece fly rod. Sage will put the line weight first; thus a 386-4 will be an 8½ ft., 3 weight, 4 piece rod.

In conclusion, the important numbers on the fly rod are those that indicate the length of the rod and the weight of the line that matches it. The actual weight of the rod in ounces is of little consequence. In most cases the rod weight is not even listed. The line weight number has nothing at all to do with the actual weight of the rod. A 764 rod is not a 7½ ft. rod that weights 4 oz.; it is a 7½ ft. rod that is matched to a 4 weight line. 🐟

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## Little River News

*John Carney*

Last October the Little River in the DuPont State Forest received the first of several trout stockings under the Delayed Harvest Program. Since that time teams of Pisgah TU chapter members have worked hand-in hand with NC Forest Service and Wildlife Resources Commission personnel to distribute fish in all areas of the river. Stocking the Little River is an enjoyable and rewarding activity but it does require a serious effort due to the varieties of terrain and accessibility encountered in the forest. In making their treks to their new homes the trout may be delivered directly from the hatchery tanker and some may make longer runs over the trails via an off-road vehicle. For others, there are many places where shanks' ponies and bush-whacking are the only way to get the fish into prime waters. Our Pisgah Chapter members have done a great job in meeting these special challenges.

Reports by Forest Service personnel and fishermen on the river indicate that the Delayed Harvest program has been a real success in its first year. The program is continuing in 2006 and stocking will commence again in early October. In addition, on the positive side, it should be noted that during the past year efforts were made to improve access to the river and reduce sediment when possible. These are ongoing activities. The future prognosis for this relatively new state resource appears to be a bright one. Your chapter is helping to make this happen. 🐟

## Green River Stocking Thursday, October 6th at 10 a.m.

The Green River is the only river for which PCTU has assumed responsibility for stocking. Somehow the scheduled time for hatchery delivery and stocking was left out of the last newsletter. So, we need your help for this important stocking. Additionally, the attendance at the last meeting was low, and the sign up sheet has only 5 for sure sign ups.

Grabbers will be available for those who prefer to do some road cleanup instead of hauling buckets. We don't know what time the hatchery truck will arrive but once it did arrive at 10:00 a.m., thus the time for our gathering. While waiting for the truck there is usually some sage advice on fishing and some good stories about recent experiences.

We need your help and look forward to getting together with all of you again. Please contact Dave Maxwell at [maxco2@alltel.net](mailto:maxco2@alltel.net) and let him know that you can make the stocking date.

Thanks.

*Chris Ellis - Secretary PCTU* 🐟

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## E-Mail Messages

We have been experiencing problems recently with the e-mail distribution list for the PCTU membership. Many addresses are being rejected. If you did not receive messages during the month of September - for example one with the following subject line: [pisahtu] From [nctu-council] TU's - Distinguished Service Award for Craig - then please forward your name and e-mail address to Chris Ellis at [chris.ellis@us.michelin.com](mailto:chris.ellis@us.michelin.com) so that the list may be corrected. Thank you. 🐟



## From the President

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and the 'classroom' was most all of the Boise and Sawtooth National Forests.

Since those years I spent some time in the Navy and retired from the Naval Reserve a few years ago. Additionally, my wife and I have owned a couple of businesses which we recently sold and decided to retire to the Asheville area. I soon realized that retiring, in my case, was simply an opportunity to do something else... something that is gratifying and 'FUN'. One of the fun and gratifying things I decided to do was become an active member of the local Trout Unlimited chapter. The Pisgah Chapter fit the bill. Although, just right now, I must say that this is not exactly the level of active involvement I had envisioned. Nevertheless, here we are.

There are several issues I'd like for us as a chapter to seriously consider. One of the issues is a matter of general chapter involvement. Now I completely understand that any involvement at all in chapter events is completely voluntary but, as a group, we have commitments and obligations that must be met. One of the things I'd like to see happen is submissions from the general membership regarding articles in Snags and Snarls. I don't view this type of participation as filler for the newsletter but as a mechanism to become better acquainted with each other. We have many relatively new members to the chapter and I'm quite sure they all have some sort of 'fish story' to tell. New member involvement is crucial in us meeting our commitments and obligations.

Additionally, some months

ago, Jim Heller addressed the group regarding items that the long term planning committee thought should be pursued. I plan to begin addressing and taking action regarding that outline as soon as possible. Should any of you have missed Jim's synopsis of the committee's recommendations, please feel free to contact me for more information. My contact information is in this newsletter or you may contact me via our website.

In the mean time there is plenty of organizational work that needs to be accomplished due to Craig's death and I appreciate everyone's assistance in material organization to hopefully prevent any important issues from being overlooked. He has left a huge vacancy in TU and will be missed. However, this must be viewed as an opportunity for both new members and long standing members to become involved and fill that vacancy.

There are a lot of commitments that need to be met in the coming months: stocking rivers, our annual banquet and auction on October 20th, as well as making some time to test both our skills and the newly stocked fish of this year's delayed harvest season. Please mark your calendar and remember there is no general meeting in October. A more complete schedule can be viewed on page 6 of the newsletter or on the website.

I'd like to welcome the new board members and sincerely thank those that have served this group before them. I'd particularly like to thank Jim Heller and Chris Ellis for staying on as a condition of my consideration in this position and all the hard work that they do. Thanks again for

your support and vote of confidence.

I'll see you on the water.

*Dale* 🐟

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## Fly of the Month

### Breadcrust Nymph



I was first introduced to the Breadcrust while fishing for Brown Trout on the Arkansas River in Buena Vista, Colorado. Subsequently, I learned that it is an old 'Eastern' nymph pattern. The traditional tie uses brown hackle stem (stripped and soaked in a diluted glycerin solution to make it more supple) for the rib. I substitute brown embroidery floss for the rib. I also tie it with a beadhead. I generally tie it on a wet fly hook or a nymph hook in sizes 14 and 16. The thread is orange or brown. The body is rusty orange dubbing. The rib is a single strand of brown embroidery floss. The collar is soft grizzly hackle. The beadhead should be proportioned to the size of the hook.

*Jack Frisch* 🐟

Special thanks to Al Rogers for donating his tied flies for the September meeting raffle. \$63 was raised for the PCTU.

## Highway Cleanup

The fall Highway Cleanup was held on Tuesday, September 20th. As has been mentioned before, the new management for this event has made it into a special social occasion. Dick Fulton, who is a veteran of the cleanups, even showed up an hour early in anticipation of the haute cuisine muffins and specialty coffees. Actually, Dick read the time for the cleanup in the Snags & Snarls (9:00 a.m.), and it was actually changed to 10:00 a.m.

Art Smith, the overall manager, was away on Red Cross assistance to the Katrina victims. Erwin Hoadley quite capably carried on the new tradition with three types of fresh baked muffins and three specialty coffees (one was decaffeinated). Unfortunately the word about this event didn't get out in time for as many to participate as would have wanted. One reason was the relatively low attendance at the last meeting when the signup sheet was passed around. Also, I think that many feared a large crowd based on the new reputation of this event and just freaked out rather than have to stand in line for muffins and coffee. So, this is to remind you that Art and Erwin will accommodate all comers, and that you should not miss the next cleanup, probably in December.

Participants were: Erwin Hoadley, Skip Sheldon, Norris McDowell, John Barsotti, Wai Yun Syn, David Pierce, David Maxwell and Dick Fulton's presence in spirit. 🐟



## Fly Fishing Book Review

*Reviewed by Bruce E. Harang*

### **Dry-Fly Patterns for the New Millennium**

*by Poul Jorgensen, Editor*

Frank Amato Publications, Inc., Portland, OR, 2002  
87 pages, Limited Hardbound, Hardbound, Softbound  
Illustrated, Color

Suggested Price \$60.00, \$29.95, \$19.95

Two years ago the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum invited fly tiers the world over to contribute flies to create a collection that would present a snapshot of fly tying at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The result of that invitation is a collection of 1,886 flies from 792 fly tiers from around the world. The 366 dry flies in this collection are presented in this, the first volume dedicated to publishing the whole collection. It is not a book showcasing famous fly tiers, though they are here. It is, instead, a showcase of where fly tying stood on the eve of the new millennium. And, as such, it is a unique and valuable resource for all fly tiers and fly fishermen. In one volume is the expansive range of dry fly design, technique, theory, and materials. Every type of dry fly is here from classic Catskill quill bodies to outrageous foam creatures and everything in-between. The ideas, like the fly tiers represented, span the globe. There are flies from tiers in the United States, Canada, Spain, England, Scotland, Australia, Denmark, Belgium, Italy and South Africa to name just a few.

The bottom line is that here is

presented one of the most comprehensive and unique collections of dry flies ever published. Each fly is shown in a microphotograph and accompanied by the pattern recipe and notes on the tier, tiers location, and where given historical notes. No future fly tier or fly fisherman will ever have to wonder how the wing was tied on a Kaufman Stimulator, or what on earth a Double-Origami Daddy Long Legs was. It is all here and so much more.

The book overall is well put together and edited. There are a few glitches that should not have happened however for a work of this sort. There is one fly where the image and the recipe don't match, a couple where the recipe is not completely in sync with the image. And there are a number of images that are not to the standard of quality that one should expect in a book of this type today.

With several versions of the book available from softbound at \$19.95 to a special edition hardbound with a fly tied by the Editor, Poul Jorgensen, at \$60.00 there is a version in everyone's price range. 🐟

