



**November/December 2005**

# Snags and Snarls



**Committed To Coldwater Conservation**

## The Newsletter of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited

### From the President

I'd like to take a minute to thank everyone that attended the banquet. Although attendance was a little thin this year everyone was enthusiastic and, all-in-all, it was a successful event. The proceeds from your participation help support our chapter's operating expenses. As well, many thanks to the businesses that donated items. Please continue to support them in their effort. Also I'd like to take a moment to thank Terry for putting together this year's event. He had considerable assistance from Art, Sogi, Woodley, David, Stu and, of course, Bob. Without their help and contributions the whole affair would not have been possible.

There were a few relatively unfamiliar faces in attendance,

**From the President**

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### MEETING NOTICES

DATE/TIME: **Thursday, November 10, 2005**  
7:00 p.m. Social • 7:30 p.m. Meeting  
PROGRAM: **Speaker:** Crae Dalton of Diamond Brand  
**Topic:** Fishing Platforms for WNC Rivers  
Discussion on the pros and cons of different types of Fishing Platforms for use on WNC rivers.

**A** Chapter Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 4, 2006** 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

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

Mark Coffin  
Chuck Huggins  
Alfred King  
Glenn Bowles

Gene Potts  
Daniel Wankel  
Chris Olson

Gene Boetticher  
Tom Thompson  
Teri Muir  
Frances Demoretcky

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## Angling the Catalogs (Part II)

*Jim Heller*

For those of you who persevered through my previous essay you will remember that we covered flies, leaders, fly line, rods and reels. You probably hoped I would never make good on my promise to cover the rest of the catalog. However, the holiday season is approaching, and it seems reasonable to continue our journey. Of course, this is just to get your wish list completed so that whoever is buying you a gift will know what to get you when they patronize the wonderful outfitters that advertise in Snags and Snarls.

Before I took up fishing with flies and joined Trout Unlimited, my visualization of the perfect angler was from PBS Mystery which featured a series based on Dorothy L. Sayers Lord Peter Wimsey Mystery Stories. In one of the episodes Lord Peter Wimsey was on a fishing outing. He was properly dressed in knickers, Oxford button-down shirt, public (in the U.S. we would call it a private) school tie, waistcoat, Harris tweed jacket, and a soft tweed Irish hat. At lunch time his manservant, Bunter, set up a picnic table by the stream with starched linen table cloth, china, silver flatware and crystal goblets from which his favorite wine was quaffed.

I will be the first to admit that everything covered in my previous essay from the fly to the rod was pretty boring stuff. Now we will examine real interesting stuff: sunglasses, tools, vests, apparel, wading shoes and waders. As before, we will look at this from the viewpoint of the Purist and the Wannabe; we will also add another dimension when appropriate, that of Lord Peter Wimsey.

### Sunglasses

Both the Purist and the Wannabe would agree that sunglasses are a must, but for different reasons. The purist requires polarized sunglasses to cut glare off the water, allowing him/her to see the fish below the surface. The Wannabe requires sunglasses (polarized would be nice but not required) so as to protect his/her eyes from getting hooked. L.L.Bean offers models such as Headwater, Sweetwater II, Breakwater, Bruneau, Passage, Vector, Guide's Choice and Fishbone. The price range from \$65 to \$159. Cabela's offers pretty much the same selection plus some additional bar-

gains: Fitovers, starting at \$24.95; Fisherman Eye wear, at \$49.95; and Cabela's brand, starting at \$9.99 and folding knot-tying glasses at \$12.99.

Of course, Lord Peter Wimsey would eschew all of the above since he does not have to see below the surface to sense where the quarry lurks, does not have to protect his eyes from being hooked since he casts perfectly 100 percent of the time, and can get along quite nicely with his monocle when he has to tie a knot. Also, he has his man, Bunter.

### Tools

This is where it is really fun for the Wannabe - acquiring all of those absolutely necessary tools that are proffered by the catalogs and outfitters. Forceps, zingers, nippers, scissors/pliers combo, Quick-Tye, Ketchum Release, stream thermometer, Streamlight Trident, etcetera. When you read this list out loud it sounds just like one of the medical TV shows where the surgeon is requesting instruments from his assistant. These items can be acquired from L.L.Bean for a mere \$115 and we have just listed the must-haves. Cabela's features the same items in greater varieties and sizes so as to increase the decision process by orders of magnitude. However, they do feature an item not found in L.L.Bean, the collapsible wading staff which folds into a holster and is always with you in an emergency. While these tools are essential for us Wannabes, the purist probably requires just the nipper if they are unable to cut the line with their teeth. Lord Peter Wimsey has all these tools and more available to him in a custom designed mahogany case with numerous felt-lined drawers with ivory door pulls which is carried around by Bunter.

### Vests

In order for the Wannabe to keep all of the aforementioned tools accessible, it is imperative to pay attention to the vest. L.L.Bean offers a starter vest called, appropriately, the Emerger, for \$35 with eleven pockets (\$3.18 per pocket). The next step upward is West Branch for \$59 with thirteen pockets (\$4.54 per pocket). The Cadillac of vests is the Magalloway for \$89 with 28 pockets (\$3.18 per pocket).

Cabela's offers similar varieties plus a model

labeled 'our most technical vest'. The A.F.T. (Advanced Fly-Fishing Technology) fly-fishing vest costs \$89.95 with fourteen front pockets (\$6.43 per pocket). But wait!!! Also included are: two water-bottle pockets on the back to keep yourself hydrated during a hard day on the stream; back zippered pocket expandable to carry bulky extra gear such as spare reels, lunch, cameras, etcetera.

We Wannabes probably need to purchase the most features that we can afford. Purists probably need, at most, a Modular Fishing System (L.L.Bean) or a Fanny/Chest Pack (Cabela's). Lord Peter Wimsey would never cover his stylish waistcoat and doesn't need to because he has Bunter to carry everything.

#### Apparel (L.L.Bean), Clothing (Cabela's)

We will narrow the investigation of apparel/clothing to items useful in warding off insects, since we are fishing in an environment filled with insects. L.L.Bean features shirts, crew necks, zip-leg pants, convertible pants, hiking socks, zip jackets and sun hats all with their 'exclusive' BUZZ OFF technology. Cabela's features the same BUZZ OFF technology along with BUG OUT outerwear, '#1 in bug protection'. Purists and Wannabes both will probably be in need of these items. Lord Peter Wimsey's previously described attire, hand-stitched by Saville Row tailors, would not be covered with other garments; also, there are no bothersome insects in England.

#### Wading Shoes (L.L.Bean), Boots (Cabela's)

There are a myriad of choices for wading shoes/boots in both catalogs. The important thing is to get a pair that are comfortable. Also, there are three different sole materials. According to Cabela's, felt will give you a stable grip on virtually any bottom type. Some super-slick covered surfaces will require a metallic studded sole. A lug sole is ideal for gravel or mud bottoms. The sole type is immaterial to me however since my biggest problem is stubbing my toe over a rock. Lord Peter Wimsey wears a special leather 'Hightop' much like we used to wear in the winter when we were kids. However, his 'Hightops' lack a jackknife pocket that we were fortunate to have. This was essential for us boys who constantly needed our jackknives to play 'Mumblety-Peg' on the school playground. Of course, in our enlightened present age, this is no longer allowed along with marbles because we don't want to harm the self-esteem of any contestant who doesn't win.

#### Waders

Both L.L.Bean and Cabela's offer the greatest thing since sliced bread - breathables. Talk to anyone who owns a pair and be prepared for at least a half-hour dissertation on the benefits of the breathable wader. Ask if there are any minuses and, after being told that there are none, you will hear another half hour of plusses. Best to have this discussion in the car on the way home from fishing. This miracle material was not available to Lord Peter Wimsey; however, his knickers were tailored from the finest wool which is noted for its wicking properties.

These waders are appropriate for both Purists and Wannabes. There is one exception, however, for a special subset of Purists. That is for the individuals who like to wet-wade in their special nylon pants. They claim that the water inside the pant surrounding the leg has the insulating properties of dead air space. This allows this special breed of angler to use these pants comfortably year-round except for the period from the middle of December to the end of January. These pants are also very useful because these anglers usually feel that they must hike at least seven miles to get to a satisfactory fishing site.

Remember, these suggestions should serve as only a beginning to get your wish lists started for the holidays. As I have said before, the greatest selection and greatest values are to be gotten from the advertisers in the back of Snags and Snarls. ♪



## From the President

*continued from page 1*

or at least unfamiliar to me. One person in particular that I was happy to meet was Al Rogers who always provides a superb fly selection for our regular meeting raffle. Thanks Al, and it was a pleasure making your acquaintance. We all are sincerely sorry for your loss and hope to see you again at the monthly meetings.

Delayed harvest has begun and, for those of you that participated... well, I hope you have dried out by now. I happened to be helping out on the North Mills and it rained pretty good on us. I know those of you on the Green had a long day in the rain as well because the hatchery truck was in need of repair and still at the North Mills parking lot at 11 a.m. But, hang in there, as the first week of November will be here before you know it and we'll

be out there again. I've begun to think the worst weather day of the week during delayed harvest is the day we're scheduled to stock.

On a little different note, for those of you that don't subscribe to Fly Rod & Reel, I recommend you try and get your hands on a copy ([www.flyrodreel.com](http://www.flyrodreel.com)). In the November/December edition, Keith Gann wrote a good article called "The Envious Life of a Retired Trout Bum." The article is complete with humor and tips for the retiring angler. Also in the issue is an article by Jim Rielly "12 Top Fly-Fishing Retirement Towns" and, of course, Asheville is one of them. Anyway, since the weather is cooling off a bit, it's a good way to pass the time until the first week in November when we'll all be back on the water stocking again... perhaps in the snow this time!

That's it for now. I'll see you on the water.

Dale 🐾

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## Fly of the Month

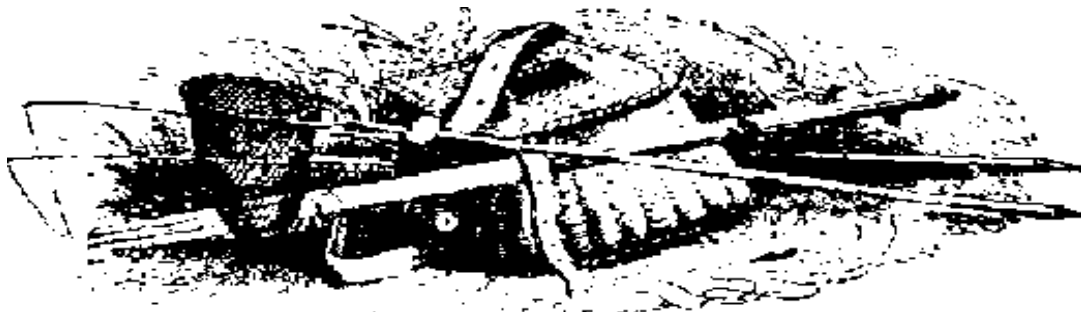
### Copper John

#### **Recipe:**

Hook: TMC 100 #14-#20  
Thread: Black 8/0  
Tail: Ringneck pheasant fibers  
Abdomen: Copper wire (brassie size)  
Thorax: Peacock herl  
Wingcase: Pearl Flashabou  
Legs: Pheasant tail fibers or woodduck fibers  
Head: Beadhead-copper or gold



**Notes:** Place bead on hook. Start thread, tie in a few pheasant tail fibers for tail. Tie in copper wire (brassie size). Wrap the wire for body keeping the spirals as tight and close together as possible. Tie in a single strand Flashabou for wingcase. Tie in a few strands of peacock herl and wrap to form a thorax. Pull Flashabou wingcase over thorax and tie down. Tie in a few strands of the pheasant tail fibers or wood duck fibers on each side of the thorax to represent legs. (Optional) Tie in a few strands of Flashabou Accent (pearl) on top just behind beadhead and trim to approximately 1/2" to 3/4" . 🐾



## Stocking of the Green (A Miserable Day)

**T**hursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> was about as miserable as it could get. The rain was coming down, the river was high and roily. About 22 brave volunteers had gathered at 10:00 a.m. at Fish Top Access for the first fall stocking. The time for arrival of the truck from the hatchery is unreliable, thus the time of gathering. We even had guests, Mary Heyer and her 4 children. After waiting until well after 11:00 someone finally called the hatchery to find out the status. It was learned that the truck had broken down and that the fish had to be transferred to a new truck which would arrive at around 12:00. Many with other plans for the day departed - and there are no bad feelings for that - we still had plenty of volunteers. Mary Heyer and her boys hung in there and contributed measurably to the task at hand.

It's impossible to name all the participants in this instance simply because the sign up sheet got very wet and made names impossible to read. So, rather than leave someone out it seems appropriate to list a few special contributors.

Roy Conrad, a PCTU member who has been inactive left the scene and drove to Saluda to get coffee for all the drenched and cold folks. He returned with a coffee dispenser, which he borrowed from a restaurant, and cups, sugar and a quart of Half & Half. That was a major contribution.

Mary Heyer, our guest, stuck with the task at hand, even riding in the back of a pickup truck, sitting on the bed with her brood,

and getting soaking wet. She and her children carried their share (and more) of buckets of fish. Her children, Dakota, Chris, Gage and Cody deserve a special thanks for service from outside of our chapter. Maybe we have some future conservationists and fishermen in this bunch.

Don Sain, just returning from a much needed vacation, took charge of the stocking in his usual masterly fashion, and ensured that the fish were properly dispersed. Don also had members of his family present as usual. It sure does help to have the "Green River Man" around for the stocking of the Green.

Matt Champion from Champion Outfitters in King's Mountain drove all the way over to help out, and did his usual good job. Matt has filled in for Don in times past when Don was working the third shift.

It was agreed by all directly involved with the stocking that the stated quantity of 1000 lbs. seemed a little short, and that 1000 lbs. may not be sufficient for this river. We finished the stocking in record time and skipped many areas that we usually stock. When we got down below the

first bridge we were essentially out of fish. This is unusual and those of us who have been stocking this river for a long time pretty well know how far 1000 lbs. will go. Additionally, the driver told us that the East Fork of the French Broad is getting 1300 lbs., and it is smaller than the Green. The Green gets a lot of pressure from Greenville, Spartanburg, and even Charlotte. Access is close to I-26, the route taken by many from the south to the mountains, and it draws a crowd. Accordingly, serious consideration should be given to contacting the state fisheries biologist about increasing the amount of fish stocked in the Green.

Special thanks to all who came out and braved the elements and the long wait for the hatchery truck. We started off with only 5 volunteers and ended up with well over 20. Now, let's don't think that just because we had a crowd for this one the next one will not be a problem. The next stocking of the Green is scheduled for November 3<sup>rd</sup> and we will need help. Maybe not 20 but it's good to have about a dozen or a little more.

*David Maxwell* 🐾



Photo courtesy of Art Smith