

January 2006

# Snags and Snarls



**Committed To Coldwater Conservation**

## The Newsletter of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited


### From the President

As 2005 comes to a close, I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who has stepped up to the plate in support of our chapter. There are many relatively new members of the chapter who volunteered to take an active leadership role when they could easily have kept silent. As well, I appreciate the support and vote of confidence of the tenured members in providing me with guidance and assistance in what may be viewed as a less than ideal assumption of this position. To all of the members of our chapter I encourage everyone to please let me, or any of the members of the board, know of ideas or suggestions that you believe may improve the way we do business.

I'd like to especially thank the long range planning committee for the work they are doing. I

**From the President**

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### MEETING NOTICES

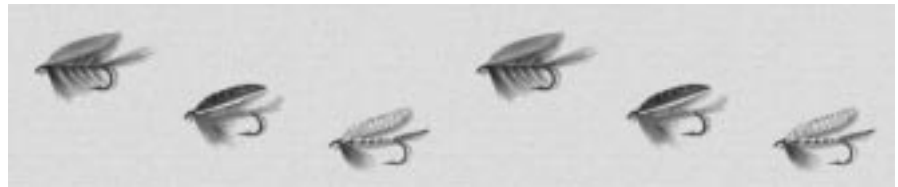
- DATE/TIME:** Thursday, January 12, 2006  
**7:00 p.m. Social • 7:30 p.m. Meeting**
- PROGRAM:** **Speaker:** Lorie Stroup - U.S. Forest Service  
**Topic:** Davidson River Project  
 Lorie is Zone Fisheries Biologist for the Pisgah National Forest. She will discuss the Davidson River Project (DRP), with which Chapter 34 has been heavily involved. A fine speaker, Lorie has put a lot of work into this presentation, which covers DRP goals and accomplishments. This should be of high interest to our members, especially new ones, so come on out!
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- DATE/TIME:** Thursday, February 9, 2006  
**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, February 1, 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.

James Halbkat  
William Hastie



## Double Taper vs. Weight Forward Fly Lines Which Is Really Better?

Few fly line subjects have been discussed more than which is the better taper - double taper (DT) or weight forward (WF). The answer, according to Bruce Richards, fly line product engineer for 3M Scientific Anglers, is "neither is inherently better, but one may be better than the other for you." Richards has designed fly line tapers for Scientific Anglers for more than 20 years. There are not many in the fly fishing industry who possess Richard's knowledge on fly lines - and he shares the following on the DT vs. WF question.

A lot of generalizations are made about these two tapers based on outdated or incorrect information. All fly anglers have heard that double taper lines are more delicate, give better control, roll cast better, etc. In some cases these performance features of double taper fly lines are true, but not always.

Delicacy of delivery is determined by the mass of the front part of a fly line. This is determined by line diameter (which relates directly to mass), and taper length. A line with a small diameter tip and a long taper has much less mass up front than a line with a large tip and short taper. Don't be misled by taper length alone - a line with a long front taper but a large tip diameter will not deliver delicately. A DT and a WF line with the same taper and tip diameter will deliver the same.

For many years most DT and WF lines were made with the same tip diameter and front taper length so there was no difference

in how they delivered, although many claimed there was. Today, many of the DT lines are actually designed specifically for use in spring creek-type fishing and do have longer tapers and/or smaller tips.

Anytime a fly line (or any product for that matter) is designed to do one thing very well it usually has a shortcoming somewhere else. Lines that are designed to be very delicate have little mass in the front to carry larger or heavier flies, and will not handle windy conditions well. It takes a better caster to throw the kind of loops it takes to make these lines perform their best. And no, DT lines are not a more 'accurate' casting line - that is entirely in the realm of the skill of the caster.

It is very true that DT lines are easier to control and roll cast at long distances than WF lines. At shorter distances, there is no difference. The key to line control and roll casting is to make sure the large diameter line belly is in the rod tip. If the small diameter running line is in the tip, it's nearly impossible to transmit enough energy through it to the belly to make the line do what you want. What many fly anglers don't consider is that WF lines control and roll cast as well as DT lines at the distances most of us fish.

Almost all WF lines have heads that are 35-40 feet long. Add a 9-foot leader and the distance to the fly from the end of the head is 44- to 49-feet. Up to this distance when both DT and WF lines control and roll cast the

same. There are not many typical trout fishing situations that require longer casts. What this all means is that DT and WF lines work pretty much the same at the distances we fish most often. Certainly, if someone fishes a big river that requires a good deal of long distance roll casting and mending, a DT or a WF line with a long head should be considered. Either a Mastery Series XPS or GPX double taper or Mastery Series XXD weight forward taper would work well.

Everybody knows that WF lines are better for distance than DT lines, but is that really true? Well, yes, but the difference isn't as big as you might think. Because of their small, light running lines, WF lines shoot better. But remember, this benefit starts at 44- to 49-feet when the running line is in the rod. If your fishing situation calls for many long casts, it is certainly a little easier to do with a WF line - but don't think that DT lines won't shoot. They will, just not as far.

For most fly anglers in normal fly-fishing situations, it probably doesn't make a lot of difference which taper you use. Most of us fish at distances less than 50 feet, which is where weight forward lines start to shoot better, but with less line control. Most of us don't have the need, or the ability, to roll cast longer than 45 feet.

So, how do you decide which is the right taper for you? Double taper or weight forward? For

**Double Taper**  
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## Double Taper

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short to medium casting range situations, there is no reason not to have a DT line rigged and ready. If you are consistently throwing longer casts, you can make them with fewer false casts with a WF line. But, if the need arises, you lose the ability to do long roll casts and mends. For most, it doesn't make much difference which taper is used most of the time. Base your decision on DT versus WF on how much small fly, short distance fishing you do - when a delicate DT line like a Mastery Series XPS would offer advantages, against how much fishing you do where longer casts are needed - and the advantages of a WF line.

Scientific Anglers offers taper diagrams on all its Mastery Series fly lines - providing the length of tip, front taper, belly and rear taper, and the total head length and running line length - on its web site at: [www.scientificanglers.com](http://www.scientificanglers.com) ~ Bruce Richards, Scientific Anglers.

*Dale Klug* 🐟

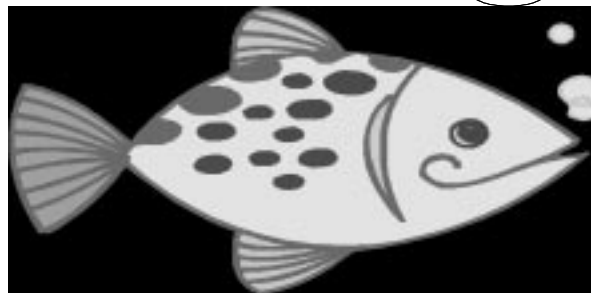
## Fly of the Month Griffiths Gnat

Hook: Dry Fly - Sizes 18-22  
Thread: Black  
Rib: Fine Copper wire  
Body: Peacock Herl  
Hackle: Grizzly, palmered

**Uses** - A simple tie, the Griffiths Gnat imitates an adult midge and is useful during midge hatches. While trout feed primarily on pupa during a midge hatch, they are often receptive to a well-presented Griffiths. 🐟



**Happy Holidays  
and good luck in the  
new year .....  
hee, hee, hee.....**



## North Carolina Casting Championships Invitation!

**G**reetings fellow NC TU chapter presidents. I want to invite you and the members of your TU Chapters to come compete in a Casting Tournament that our fly shop is having in Cherokee, NC, on February 4th. The tournament is called the North Carolina Casting Championships and will feature separate venues for both fly casting and bass casting. If you would please let your members know about the tournament in your meetings or e-mailing your chapter members. The bragging rights to the best casters in North Carolina is up for grabs so come on out and give it a shot!

You can find out all the information about the tournament at the link: <http://www.southernflyfishersforum.com/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl?board=news>

We also want to encourage you to register as members to the Southern Fly Fishers Forum. Our board is dedicated to fly fishing the Southern United States and serves as a wealth of information to new and experienced anglers alike. We'd be glad to welcome you onboard!

Thank you, and Good Luck in the Championships, may the best man or woman win!

*Eugene Shuler*

<http://www.smokymountainflyfishing.com>  
Hiawassee TU Chapter President 🐟

## My First Cutthroat

One of our sons moved to Vancouver, Washington, a few years ago. Each call back home always ended with asking when we would visit him. My wife does not care to fly so a trip to the west coast could be quite an ordeal. But wait! If we drive out and take I-90 we would pass through quite a bit of Montana. And to pass through Montana without fishing would be next to committing a sin.

I am a bit of a detail person so I volunteered to develop our itinerary. Does it surprise you that we drove hard pulling our camper for four days and then stopped to rest for four days? That just happened to put us in Bozeman, Montana. God must like fly fishermen. The KOA Campground we had selected was near the Gallatin River, at Gallatin Gateway, a little crossroads on Hwy 191 on the way down to West Yellowstone. The Fins and Feathers Fly Shop just happened to be at the crossroads! A quick trip to the shop got me a two day fishing license, a dozen dry's and a local map of the area's streams. The nice young man working there marked four streams for me to try and recommended trying H&L Variant and Yellow Humpy's. He recommended Spanish Creek highly. However, he commented that access for the first seven miles would be difficult, since that part of the stream passed through the Flying D Ranch which was owned by Ted Turner. Big red signs warned not to leave the roadway. Having to keep looking over your shoulder isn't for me, so I didn't try this one.

With several antique stores in the area it wasn't hard to con-

vince my wife to set me out the first day where Squaw Creek joins the Gallatin River, and promise to come back for me, of course. I began in the Gallatin, which proved to be too big and fast for me, so I began working up Squaw Creek. For the next four hours I had a piece of paradise to myself. Rainbow, Brown and Cutthroat (my first) seemed to go crazy over the #16 H&L Variant I floated by them. Thirty-six fish later I was approaching the bridge where my wife was waiting. A short cast to an undercut bank and the water exploded. Only 13" long, but to catch a fighter like this with someone else watching - wow.

The next two days were spent fishing the other two streams marked on my map, Hyalite Creek and Rock Creek. The Variant paid off with sixty-seven fish being caught.

Several things come to mind as I reflect back on this part of our trip. The people I met out west were very friendly and eager to help. The old saying, "trout don't live in ugly places" is very true. You can have a ton of fun catching a lot of fish in streams you probably will never hear about. And, other than the trip out, I had three days of fantastic fishing for only \$63.

*Luck Shepherd* ↷



Special Note from John Carney:

When Luck told me that he was going to make a trip to the Fisherman's Paradise, I made a mental note to follow-up for a possible newsletter article. His success story is a fine example of a great do-it-yourself flyfishing adventure, and the amazing fact is that he did it for only \$63.00 (plus 'travel expenses'). Based on Luck's fishing success, and his demonstrated frugality, we should all chip in to send him, with a few side bets, to the One Fly fishing contest next year. Looks like a sure winner from here. ↷

••••• University mourns loss of noted Professor. Dr. Rick Maas died on December 12, 2005 at St. Joseph Hospital in Asheville. Rick had been quite ill for several weeks and had spent much of this time in hospital care. Dr. Maas was a gifted natural scientist, a teacher truly dedicated to his students, and a regional, national and international leader who cared deeply about science-based environmental reform. Dr. Maas's work has made a profound difference in the world. UNC Asheville has benefited immeasurably from his dedication and collegiality. ↷

## From the President

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plan to fully support the direction they have outlined. Our chapter has been fortunate to have had leadership that chose projects that have been both consistent with cold water conservation and forward thinking in developing youth and new member programs.

Looking ahead into my Davidsonus mykiss restoreus crystal ball I see Bob and Skip have an aggressive schedule planned for 2006. The Davidson River Project and the work we, as a chapter, perform on the Davidson River is an 'all-hands' effort; supported by the USFS, Park Service and the NCWRC but, most importantly, by the membership. So, I encourage our 'regular' DRP supporters to contact a new or not-so-regular TU member to participate in one of

the workdays.

There are many additional projects, such as the Kid's Fishing Day at Stu's, road cleanup, and stocking initiatives that we also support. All are worthy projects with their own reward. It has been my experience that all the projects are worthwhile and just plain fun. So, again, I encourage everyone in the chapter to contact a new or not so regular member and have a little fun volunteering with some like minded people in preserving and promoting coldwater conservation and education. And the next time you see Stu, take a minute to thank him for all he does regarding the Kid's Fishing Day that he sponsors!

One of the 'old' programs that I believe remains worthwhile is the mentoring program. It has not seen as much 'activity' as perhaps it deserves. Please up-

date your information if you want to mentor a new member or an out of area TU member. I plan to make the mentor list available to all new members of our chapter through the website. There is a personal motivation regarding this effort as some of you mentors may have forgotten the technique of effectively retrieving flies from tree limbs! ;-)

Further, one of the 'new' programs is the new member orientation. We have plenty of new members who are not only new to TU, but to fly fishing. So, take the opportunity to volunteer to orient them to the area, and perhaps even to take them along to one of the meetings.

I wish everyone a happy holiday season and a fruitful 2006. God bless and keep safe our military; and I look forward to seeing you on the water.

Dale 🐟

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## From the Veep

Two fly-fishing ladies from the Hendersonville area came to our November 10th Chapter meeting, which was their first. Hope they enjoyed it and that they return. We need more women (and more of everyone else) to help us keep Western North Carolina streams clear, cold and troutful. Please invite your family members, friends, neighbors, or anyone else you think might enjoy it, to one of our monthly meetings. They'll sure be welcome and might even be lucky enough to take home a box of gorgeous flies tied by our own Al Rogers. Also, each attendee will have the chance to buy a ticket that might win a \$650 fly

rod at our picnic next July. Whoa! Let me hasten to add that no invitation is necessary for anyone who'd like to join us. All they need do is show up around seven o'clock on a meeting night, say "Hello", and we'll treat 'em right.

By the way, if anyone has suggestions on possible incentives or other things we might do to attract new members please share them with me.

Also, let me know if you think it would be a good idea to profile one of our Chapter 34 members, maybe even a couple, in each issue of Snags and Snarls. As a relative newcomer I find myself wondering about the ca-

reers and/or accomplishments of those in our ranks. It's a good bet we have folks with fascinating backgrounds.

Finally, I've been asked to 're-start' the fishing outings that traditionally have taken place on the third Thursday of the month. I'll gladly give it a go but lack the knowledge to do it alone. I'd like to know whether anyone who is knowledgeable would be willing to pick spots to fish, to lead a group there, etcetera? It would be great to bring in new year '06 with resumption of these outings and to announce the first one at our January 12th meeting. How about it?

Norris McDowell 🐟

## Green River Stocking November 3rd



Photo at right  
by John Barsotti.  
Transport courtesy  
of Dave Maxwell.



Photo at left by  
Norris McDowell.