



February 2006

Snags and Snarls



Committed To Coldwater Conservation

The Newsletter of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited


From the President

There are a lot of things coming up in the next few months for the chapter. Delayed harvest stocking resumes in March and continues through May. I will announce the dates for our area at the February meeting. It appears March will be a busy month as the long range planning meeting is scheduled for the 4th and there will also be a road clean-up. Please volunteer to help out with both the stocking and road clean-up by getting your name on the sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

I'd like to thank Bob Cornelisen for volunteering to mentor new members. If you are interested in adding your name to the mentor list, please contact me. I encourage new members to call any of the mentors and tap

From the President

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MEETING NOTICES

DATE/TIME: **Thursday, February 9, 2006**
7:00 p.m. Social • 7:30 p.m. Meeting
PROGRAM: **Speakers:** Toby Jenkins and Joe Storey
Wildlife Officers
Topic: NCDNR and cold water fisheries

DATE/TIME: **Thursday, March 9, 2006**
7:00 p.m. Social • 7:30 p.m. Meeting
PROGRAM: **Speaker:** Michael Miller, Watershed Specialist,
RiverLink
Topic: Lessons learned from the floods of 2004

A Chapter Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 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 Member

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

Brad Schnyder

First Spring Stocking Of The Green

Surely a sign of spring is the stocking of the Green. It is scheduled for Monday, March 6th, with a meeting time of 10:00 a.m. at Fish Top Access. If we have enough participants we will include a highway cleanup with the stocking. For those who have not participated in this event the location is off I-26 at the Saluda exit. Coming from the west, take a left turn (away from Saluda) at the bottom of the ramp, go under the highway; and turn left on Green River Cove Road. Follow Green River Cove Road down to the bottom and Fish Top Access (a graveled parking area) will be on your left. It's always good to get together with everyone and trade experiences from the winter doldrums. ➤

Road Trip

Terry Foxworth

I don't know about you, but it is at this time of the year when I start thinking about warm weather fishing and road trips. My wife thinks I'm nuts for keeping all those catalogs and old fishing magazines around but, low and behold, about February those things come in handy. I find myself thumbing through well worn pages and looking for hours at pictures taken last year on the such-'n-such river. I flip to the calendar and see what day July 20th falls on and imagine where I may be six months from now.

My favorite way to vacation is the road trip. It's American, and a great way to see this country. For the fishing traveler it has some huge benefits, mainly being able to drive to where the fish are. There is an art to a good road trip. It requires some planning, extra time off, a sense of adventure and a combination of good and bad luck. I started road tripping seriously in college when I was too broke to pay for airfares. I had just taken up fly fishing and the magazine articles all talked of the mythical trout that lived west of the Mississippi. Huge rainbows rising only to dry flies, rivers upon rivers, and skies that never end. I was able to save a couple of GI Bill payments and scrape together enough extra cash to make a trip to Durango, Colorado. It was a simple drive; turn left on I-40 then right in Albuquerque. No reason to make it complicated. There was also an abundance of public land that meant free camping and some good looking fisheries. I had no idea how good until I got there and started land-

ing fish within my first hour. That trip still lives in my mind as one of the best vacations ever. I think that I spent a grand total of \$400 and fished for two weeks.

Needless to say I was hooked on the road trip. Last year was the first time since then that I have not loaded up a car and headed west. I've made the trip with great friends and my favorite traveling partner, my wife. Believe me you can work some life issues out when you spend 30 plus hours in the car with someone. We have made some big decisions somewhere between Kansas and the Colorado border. The year my wife was pregnant with our first child she did not feel up to the trip so I recruited a buddy of mine who had recently gotten into fly-fishing, meaning he had just bought a rod. We headed for the Wind River Range in Wyoming for five days of backpacking and fishing. We left after work on a Friday and were pulling into Wyoming within 28 hours. Stopping in Laramie for gas and I noticed a fly shop across the road. Needing a break from the car I strolled over and struck up a conversation with a young guide behind the counter. After a few minutes of conversation he suggested that we head over to a wilderness section of the Platt. Heck it was only 2 hours in the opposite direction from our original destination. The guide sketched a map out for us and we headed for the river. By the time we found the place it was mid-day and hot. I was angry that we had wasted a day on a wild goose chase and we discussed our next

move. My buddy talked me into fishing during the hottest part of the day which, I insisted, was a bad idea. We spent the next two days catching large rainbows on tiny dry flies. It was some of the most incredible fishing I have ever done. We eventually had to leave when I ran out of 22 to 24 tricos.

If you are thinking of planning a road trip I would suggest that you plan just enough to know where you're headed. However, allow enough flexibility so that you can take advantage of changing conditions. I usually leave town with several guide books for different areas and a Gazetteer for each state I am traveling to. The Gazetteer is an excellent resource for the outdoor traveler and has river access, trails, and camping information. I love to camp, so tent, camp stove, cooler and camp chairs always make the trip. I also like to throw my fly tying box in. Every time I don't take it I regret it. You should also pick your travel companion carefully. If you are driving from here to Yellowstone it's a long time to be in the car with someone you're not sure about. Finally, don't forget a sense of adventure. A good attitude will get you through flat tires, and wildfires, both of which I have encountered.

If you are thinking of a fishing and/or backpacking road trip to Colorado, Wyoming, Montana or New Mexico and would like information please give me a call, I may have information that would be helpful. Like where to get a free shower! ☞

High water and slick rocks not the only dangers of Tennessee tailrace fishing

Bill Cochran

Warning! If you fish the trout-rich tailrace waters of Tennessee you are at risk. Sudden water releases and slick footing aren't the major dangers. Thieves are.

The South Holston and Watauga tail-waters have become a hotbed of thieves who steal rods, reels, flies, clothing, camping gear — anything they can get their hands on. Even vehicles.

That's what anglers are reporting, and they say they are fed up with the situation. There are threats to boycott the area and complaints that law enforcement personnel in the area display little concern and crack few cases.

"In the five years I have been fishing the South Holston I have heard of at least one dozen break-ins from people I know and heard of numerous other thefts second hand. I have never heard of any property being recovered or any arrest being made," said Dan Genest, who lives in Richmond.

Genest is the president of the Fly Fishers of Virginia, an organization that is planning a trout fishing trip to Tennessee for 20 of its members in the spring. But that outing is in jeopardy.

"I can not in good conscience recommend that FFV members risk the loss of vehicles and/or gear," Genest said. "Doesn't make sense to spend \$500 on a trip and lose \$2,000 in gear."

Genest said he was aware of an Alabama angler losing a Loomis fly rod and reel valued at

\$525 in early November. Later that month, a North Carolina angler lost a SAGE fly fishing outfit along with other gear and clothing valued at more than \$2,000.

Frustrated anglers have been highlighting the situation on the chat line of the Southern Fly Fisher's Forum. They appear to be making progress. A front page story recently appeared in the Bristol Herald Courier. The Tennessee Valley Authority and the Sullivan County Sheriff's office have indicated that they are beefing up patrols. Greg Powers, outdoor writer of the Johnson City Press, has been established as an anglers' contact to coordinate the extent of the problem. So far, few incidents have been reported to him, Powers said.

The Tennessee tailrace fishing attracts fly fishermen from miles around, including Virginia. TVA authorities say anglers spend \$2 million a year fishing it. It is that good.

"I have fished several times in Montana, and would match the Holston with any of the famous rivers out there," said Genest, who writes for several angling publications and fishes in Tennessee three or four times a year.

"That is one of the reasons so many of us are upset by the vehicle thefts and break-ins," he said. "We want to fish the Holston, Watauga and other waters."

The typical nonresident fly angler comes loaded with expen-

sive equipment, including extra rods, reels, flies, waders and clothing. Just one good fly rod outfit can be worth \$1,000. Anglers often try to keep their gear out of view by putting it in the trunk of their vehicle or by covering it with blankets. Some say they are bringing less gear with them, which can mean they don't have extra dry clothes to put on if they take a dunking.

"But the crooks are smart enough to know that a vehicle parked along the river is probably loaded with gear," Genest said.

The thievery is a threat to tourism in the region, a fact that anglers have pointed out to tourist officials and state senators and delegates in the area. One guide service has reported its business is down because of it.

"Our goal is not to cause trouble, but to try to establish an ongoing dialogue with law enforcement agencies and state officials on how to address this problem, Genest said. In the early going, "the feeling of most of the anglers who have been victims or who have tried to create a dialogue is that these thefts have been ignored or treated with indifference at best," he said.

Now it appears that at least some progress is being seen thanks to the tenacity of anglers who will not go away quietly.

The above column was reprinted with permission. Bill Cochran is a columnist at Roanoke.com. ☞

From the President

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into their talent and experience.

Another effort that is well underway is the long range planning meeting which, as I mentioned, will be on March 4th. The purpose of this session is to clarify the chapter's mission and vision, as well as outline goals and strategies that utilize our limited time and resources in the most effective manner. We are fortunate in that we will have representatives from TU National, state and other local chapters. There is a good chance that Gary Berti will also be in attendance. Gary has been hired by TU to head-up the Back

The Brookie program. I would like to thank Woodley Murphy and the LRP committee for their effort in pulling this together.

Just as a point of interest the Fly Fishing and Rod Builder's Show will be in Charlotte February 25th (9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) and 26th (9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Admission is \$14, or you can get a two day pass for \$24. There will be plenty to do both days with both Walker Parrot and Kevin Howell giving presentations. For more information, go to: www.flyfishingshow.com.

I was given information that may be of some interest to the women in our membership. It's

regarding the IWFF: International Women Fly Fishers, www.intlwomenflyfishers.org. Ellen King is the local contact and will be more than happy to answer any questions regarding the IWFF. Ellen can be reached at armstrongellen@msn.com.

On a final note, I must apologize for not updating the website for the past couple of weeks. My computer decided it wanted a mind of its own and it may be the 1st of February before I'm able to update the site, so please bear with me.

See you on the water.

Dale 🐾

A Good Time Was Missed By All

Due to a communications glitch, no one (not even the 'Muffin Man' Dave Maxwell) showed up for the Winter Solstice roadside cleanup on December 20th. Too bad. The weather could not have been better for a little exercise along the beautiful Davidson River.

Connie and I arrived at Coon Tree at about 9 a.m. The temperature was in the high 20's with the sun just showing through the trees. We sampled the coffee and muffins and then cleaned up the two sections near Coon Tree, hoping that the psychic members of the club would arrive by 10 a.m. Oh well, how many delicious blueberry muffins can two people eat? Luckily, we were not alone in the woods that morning. We discovered an archeological team working just across the road from the Coon Tree parking lot. Hurricane Ivan had caused the toilets to contaminate a well and when the

Forest Service began digging a new one, they discovered artifacts, some dating back to 6,000 BC. We convinced them that muffins and coffee would speed their work on a cold morning. Their leader Scott pulled out the 'show and tell' box and showed us arrowheads and pottery. Some of the arrowheads were made of stone that is only found in the Piedmont or in eastern Tennessee. They feel this shows that people had been traveling to the Davidson to hunt and fish for thousands of years.

After our history lesson we proceeded with the cleanup. As usual there was not a lot of trash. We ended up with four small bags. There must have been a Redneck picnic in the area because we picked up lots of Bud and Mountain Dew containers. The strangest item was a used can of Slimfast. A little food, a little drink and then you diet! Some picnic. All this food and

drink made us hungry so we hit the local BBQ place.

We had a great time, much of it unexpected. We were sad that no one knew about the event. I promise that this will not happen again. If you go to the Davidson stop by and see the dig. It will give you a different perspective on the river we all love.

Art Smith 🐾



Art Smith with the day's haul

Fly of the Month - Scud

Terry Foxworth

Here is an easy to tie pattern for Tennessee tailrace streams. Fish in weedy slow water, weighted with a slow retrieve.

Hook: Scud or shrimp size 18-22

Thread: Match body

Tail: Hen Hackle or synthetic tail fibers

Back: Plastic wing case material

Rib: Fine wire

Body: Scud dubbing or angora goat. Olive or grey.

1. Tie your tread on and wrap to hook point then back to eye.
2. Tie your ribbing wire, and then wrap thread back toward hook point.
3. Tie in several fibers for tail extending down.
4. Cut an oval piece of plastic and tie facing back
5. Dub body evenly to hook eye.
6. Pull plastic shell forward to eye of hook; tightly wrap wire over shell back toward the back of hook.
7. Tie off wire, whip finish at back of fly.
8. Take your scissors and pull dubbing to form legs. ➤



Picture courtesy of Randall Kaufmann

Very special thanks to
Al Rogers
for donating his
tied flies for the
January meeting raffle.
\$159 was raised
for the PCTU.



Connie Smith, the second of the Cleanup crew

Pisgah Chapter Long Range Planning Session

The Trout Unlimited Pisgah Chapter Board of Directors will conduct an all-day Long Range Planning Session on Saturday, March 4, 2006 at the Highland Lake Inn in Flat Rock, NC. Participants will include all Board of Directors members as well as Chapter members who are actively engaged in projects and operational activities. The BoD will also invite some of the Chapter's local and regional partners as well as State and National TU Officers and representatives to participate.

The purpose of the session is to gather input for developing a long range plan and planning process for the Pisgah Chapter so that it has an effective vehicle to guide their activities toward

achieving their Mission and Vision. The BoD plans to keep the membership updated on the status of this work and the direction of the Pisgah Chapter.

The Planning Team responsible for designing and organizing the meeting includes Woodley Murphy (BoD and Chair), Jim Heller (BoD and Treasurer), Chris Ellis (BoD and Secretary), Linda Campbell (Member and Publishing), Ed Klein (Former BoD), John Kies (Member), and Fred West (Facilitator and Riverlink BoD).

If you have any questions or input for the session please feel free to contact any Board of Directors member or Design Team member.

Woodley Murphy ➤