



May 2006

# Snags and Snarls



**Committed To Coldwater Conservation**

## The Newsletter of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited

### From the President

There has been a lot accomplished by the membership in the past few weeks and quite a few more projects are on our plate for the coming months. First, I'd like to thank everyone who participated in making the Fly Fishing School a success. I received many phone calls and e-mails from students who expressed their appreciation to the chapter for hosting this school. While there are always 'lessons learned' in this type of endeavor, I am happy with the way all the instructors and administrators stepped up and professionally negotiated the hurdles in putting this all together.

The Davidson River work day went quite well thanks to Skip's and Bob's leadership. Lorie presented both Skip and Bob with a

### From the President

*Continued on page 5*

 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 Sam Davis. May 2006, Vol. 60, No. 5. Address comments to: Snags & Snarls, P.O. Box 841, Hendersonville, NC 28793-0841.

### MEETING NOTICES

- DATE/TIME: **Thursday, May 11, 2006**  
 7:00 p.m. Social • 7:30 p.m. Meeting
- PROGRAM: **Speaker:** James Hrynshyn  
**Topic:** 'Everything's on the line: Angling in a climate of change'
- DATE/TIME: **Thursday, June 8, 2006**  
 7:00 p.m. Social • 7:30 p.m. Meeting
- PROGRAM: **Speaker:** Karen Cragolin  
 Director of Riverlink  
**Topic:** Riverlink and TU Partnering

**A** Chapter Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 7, 2006** at 6:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Kanuga Road. All members are invited. ➤



*Photo courtesy of Ed Klein*

**B**ill Lemke teaches 'Introduction to Casting' at the 2006 Fly Fishing School sponsored by Pisgah Chapter Trout Unlimited held at Camp Ton-A-Wandah, Flat Rock, NC. ➤

# New Zealand Odyssey

## Six Weeks of Wandering and Wondering

*Steve Herring*

**A**long with Alaska, Canada, and Argentina, going to New Zealand has been a dream for me all of my fly-fishing life (twenty plus years, that is). So when my wife and I found what seemed an ideal tour for us, offered by the Sierra Club, that was the stimulus for us to make the commitment to go. My idea that a trip to New Zealand would have to be at least three weeks was a little short as we planned the itinerary. We settled on six weeks.

The flight to Auckland after an overnight stop in Los Angeles was pleasant for thirteen hours in a metal box. Having friends in LA is a definite plus. Auckland was a nice surprise, starting with residents returning on our flight giving us a lift to our hotel. Then there was a harbor festival going on by chance, including tall ships, an open-air concert on the dock, and street performers. The harbor and surrounding area is really neat, reminiscent of Baltimore.

We flew to Nelson, on the northern tip of the South Island, and made the short trip to Motueka Lodge by car. Our stay there definitely stretched the budget, but turned out to be the best fishing of the trip. Two days of guided fishing netted five trophy browns and rainbows up to five and one-half pounds, most in quite small streams. I recall the guide's comment when I had the first hook up (after loosing a huge rainbow): "You've got this big fish in a small stream; so what now?" With some downstream interference by the guide we landed a nice four and one-half pound rainbow. This kind of experience with a five-weight rod and fifteen-foot leader is probably 'as good as it gets' for a small stream lover. Georgia meanwhile was getting introduced to driving on the wrong side of the road, which came in handy later on our independent travel days.

Next was the eleven-day Sierra Club trip, in a group of seventeen. We began at Abel Tasman National Park with sea kayaking and hiking. We traveled down the west coast of the South Island, enjoying numerous day hikes, glacier climbing, and lastly an overnight stay aboard-ship on Doubtful Sound (like Milford but less crowded). The only fishing during the tour was a disappointing half-

day on the Clutha River, which served mainly to introduce me to the scourge of didymo, algae introduced to New Zealand from the U.S.A. It is a mess, but that is another story.

We finished the tour in Queenstown, the outdoor activity and bungy-jumping capital of New Zealand. It is a pleasant place to be, even if you don't go to prove your physical prowess. We selected a jet-boat ride up the Dart River, site of Middle Earth in the film 'Lord of the Rings.' I have to admit that we were spectators only at the birth-place of bungy-jumping.

The scenery in that area, including sparkling natural lakes and the 'Southern Alps,' is truly magnificent, as it is in much of the country. New Zealand is a unique travel bargain because it offers great diversity of natural beauty and adventure, from sub-tropical beaches to geysers and glaciers. While these features are available in other locales, including our own country, they are not all concentrated in an area the size of Montana.

From Queenstown, we gradually wended our way across the island and then north up the east coast and central plain. During our stay at Kaka Point, we enjoyed a taste of everyday local life, including a sheep shearing contest, visits to the local pub, and lunch at the home of the local electrician, cum fishing guide. However, my day of guided fishing netted zero fish, in spite of sighting quite a few.

We found a delightful B&B at Dunedin on the Otago Peninsula, home of the rare yellow-eyed penguin and site of the only accessible nesting ground of the royal albatross - quite good examples of the country's commitment to saving the native fauna.

Our first 'farm-stay' was next, on a deer farm in Canterbury, the plains area west of Christchurch. Although sheep still predominate, there are many farms on the South Island that include the European red deer as livestock. We highly recommend this type of experience for getting to know the local people and ways. Fishing in that area is excellent, but going out on my own one day provided me

with reinforcement of the idea that it is a waste of time and money for a visitor to fish un-guided. Another tip is to hire the best guide you can find. A local person is likely to be the best choice as far as locating lots of big fish. However, first getting with an internationally known guide to learn technique would be the best-case scenario.

A very nice highlight was meeting my U.S. fishing partner in Christchurch for two days of fishing together. In spite of having one of the best-known guides in New Zealand, who took us west into Canterbury, we caught a total of two fish (a four and a half pound rainbow and a five and a half pound brown). The only reason that I was able to hook the brown was that he atypically allowed me to fish over him for an hour before lunch and thirty minutes after lunch. The rumor that one gets only one or two casts per fish is true the vast majority of the time.

We then made our way farther up the east coast for a three-hour ferry crossing to the capital city of Wellington, on the North Island. Georgia and I thoroughly enjoyed our second farm-stay, on a remote sheep station half way between Wellington and Rotorua. (We intend to spend time in France next year on a very small group trip with that lovely couple as guides.) As I had contracted severe bronchitis while in Christchurch, I had to cancel

out on fishing plans there, on the Rangitikei River.

Shortly before our departure from New Zealand, I was able to engage a guide and to fish in the Rotorua area on the most unbelievable small stream I ever expect to see. This fifteen-foot wide overgrown farm stream literally contained at least a five-pound trout every 20-30 yards. We sighted several fish in the 15-18 pound range. Those beasts appeared as dolphins or sharks to me, and at first view I had trouble accepting these masses as fish, instead of logs or other structures. Catch of the day: one two-pound rainbow. This day summed up my take on New Zealand fly-fishing: it is fun to fish over a lot of huge fish if you can be satisfied with catching only a few of them.

The most frequent query is: "What did you enjoy most?" Both of us agree that the friendliness and openness of the people and a prevailing positive tone, evidenced even in the road signs, was the best part of the trip. Things we appreciated included the absence of trash on the roadsides, non-litigious attitudes, readily obtained medical care at reasonable fees (\$20 for an office visit), helpful people everywhere, and almost-universal concern about preserving their countryside, heritage and lifestyle. We marveled at this, wondering during our trip and since: "Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to describe our own country this way?"

---

## FLY FISHING SCHOOL HAS RECORD ENROLLMENT

*Karl Kauffmann*

**O**ur Pisgah Chapter hosted 36 students over at Camp Ton-A-Wandah in Flat Rock on Saturday, April 15, 2006. Thanks go to our chapter members who distributed posters and brochures and recognition goes to Ed Klein for his relationships with civic organizations and to his fine media press relationships and releases.

Ed expanded the school's visibility to the print media. He was a resource used in several featured press articles including the Hendersonville Times-News outdoor columnist, Harry Hoots, who highlighted PCTU and the Chapter's fishing school. Ed was also a featured speaker at a 'Senior Friendships' meeting at Opportunity House in

Hendersonville where he promoted the school.

Our members' efforts were all part of this year's increase in student enrollment in the 1½ day Fly Fishing School. Thirteen students came from Asheville, twelve from Hendersonville, five from Columbus/Tryon, four from Brevard/Etowah and two from Spartanburg.

Members left their footprints on the scope of the school's draw by distributing over 90 posters containing more than 350 brochures in 10 towns and areas. Thanks go to Sam Davis for distributing

**Fly Fishing School**

*Continued on page 4*

## Fly Fishing School

*continued from page 3*

posters in Tryon, Ross Fox in Landrum, David Maxwell in Columbus, Joe Moore in Saluda, Chris Grose in Greenville, Woodley Murphy in Hendersonville, John Carney in Brevard, Norris McDowell and Al Rogers in Etowah, and Dale Klug in Arden/Fletcher. I distributed the posters in Asheville.

Special recognition goes to our school's instructors and fishing mentors without whose talent and time this school would not have been possible. Their abilities make it 'Western North Carolina's Premier Fly Fishing School'.

Steve Fromholtz designed his course on 'Equipment Selection and Maintenance' in short and to-the-point fashion to accommodate the limited time allotted. Similarly, Bill Lemke was limited to a half hour in his 'Introduction to Casting' and still gave students his six casting principles and laid the foundation for the students' 1½ hours of lake side casting. He really inspired them with his majestic style of casting.

Fly line management is fundamental to the sport of fly fishing. Learning basic line knots contributes to an angler's self sufficiency and is integral to implementing fly selection out on the stream, and was taught with authority by Dave Maxwell and Wai Yun Syn with assistance from Chris Ellis, Steve Herring and Dale Klug.

Bob Daubert designed and presented his course on 'Stream Tactics, Entomology and Fly Selection' in a practical and down-to-earth fashion. He combines a rigorous scholarship of the subject with an organizational clar-

ity and a demeanor that leaves his students impressed by his knowledge and a spirit that reveals his gentle manner and love of the sport.

The 'rubber hit the road' when students were challenged to apply the basic principles of fly casting learned earlier from Bill Lemke. They were engaged by Chapter members as their casting instructors for 1½ hours of fly casting from the shore out over Lake Ton-A-Wandah. Special thanks go to Linda Campbell, Mike Hainesworth, John Kies, Ed Klein, Joe Moore, Al Rogers and Skip Sheldon for making this kind of knowledge and practice integration possible.

Heart felt recognition is given to the students' fishing mentors who dedicated a half day or more to one or more students out on the water: Andy Anderson, Bob Daubert, Chris Ellis, Jack Elmore, Terry Foxworth, Jack Frisch, Steve Herring, Ed Klein, Dale Klug, David Maxwell, Norris McDowell Joe Moore, Wai Yun Syn and Bob Wolfe.

Matching all 36 students with a fishing mentor in a seamless fashion was executed with the organizational talent and solutions worked out by Woodley Murphy and John Salmon. They handled registration smoothly and pulled it off without a hitch, which included supplying everybody with donuts for their coffee.

Other important components of a smoothly run school are those road directional signs put up by Bob Daubert, those who directed students to the parking area, setting up and cleaning tables and chairs, done by Jack Soyak, Karl Kauffmann, Woodley Murphy and others; and Norris McDowell for lunch money collection.

Lastly, without the preservation of many records and course content papers from earlier Fly Fishing Schools, the quality of this year's school would have suffered. That did not happen, and it didn't happen because of Linda Campbell. Linda took the time to pass on the records and her experience from running the school for three years. She was invaluable to me in her conversations, and was critical in helping coordinate this year's school.

Plans for future schools are being discussed by chapter leaders and in the near future will involve the Board, school and casting instructors, fishing mentors and other interested members. ➤

Special thanks to  
**Al Rogers**  
for his donation  
of flies for the  
April meeting raffle.  
\$64 was raised  
for the PCTU.

**Sycamore Flats  
CLOSES  
for Restoration**

PLEASE NOTE that the Sycamore Flats picnic and recreation area in Pisgah National Forest will close May 8 to May 31 for restoration work to be done on the Davidson River stream banks. For exact closing and opening dates for Sycamore Flats call the Pisgah Ranger District at 828-877-3350.

## From the President

*continued from page 1*

nice White River fishing vest with the Forest Service emblem embroidered on it for their service, leadership, and dedication regarding this project. We had a rather pleasant surprise in that about a dozen guys from a California fire fighting team assisted with the effort. Many thanks to those hard-working young men for their assistance not only in the work day, but for all they do for us here in Western North Carolina.

Rivercourse is scheduled to get underway the 18th - 23rd of June. The chapter will sponsor one camper at this event. Additionally, Stu Cohn has graciously established the Craig Larson memorial fund in support of Rivercourse which will also sponsor one camper. More information regarding Rivercourse can be found at [www.NCTU.org](http://www.NCTU.org) or by contacting Bob Daubert.

Casting for Recovery is seeking financial support for this year's event as well as mentors to help with the on-the-water experience. The first local event of 2006 in North Carolina is at the Lake Logan Center the 12th - 14th of May. For more information regarding CFR or to volunteer contact Starr Nolan at 828-215-4234 or [www.castingforrecovery.org](http://www.castingforrecovery.org).

The first week in May is the final delayed harvest stocking of the Spring. See the Calendar of Events for dates.

Kid's Fishing Days at Stu's are scheduled for May 6th and May 20th. I will call everyone that signed up to help out with this a few days prior to the event to confirm participation. Please plan on bringing some ice, a spin-

ning rod, bait, bobbers, sinkers, hooks (without hackle) and some large zip-lock bags. Two other items that are a necessity at these events: a rain jacket and a good sense of humor!

The Trout in the Classroom program has taken a huge step forward thanks to the work of Chuck Pressley and others. To date, approximately \$5,000 has been raised to fund this effort by the sale of bamboo rods and some reels. There are about a dozen rods yet to be sold in this effort that are still available for sale. Many thanks to Chuck in this

effort!

The annual picnic is tentatively set for July 22nd at the Kellogg Center. For more information about the picnic or to volunteer with the event, please contact Norris McDowell.

Thanks again to everyone for their hard work, both in the lime-light and behind the scenes. I know that many of you are tremendous ambassadors for our chapter and what you do often goes unnoticed. It is, however, greatly appreciated.

See you on the water!

*Dale* ➤

## Davidson River Project Workday



*Photo courtesy of Ed Klein*

**T**he mighty fence builders of the Pisgah Chapter turned out in force on April 18<sup>th</sup> to install another 150 feet of rail fence and build a set of steps at the Art Lobe trail head parking area on the Davidson River. Lending their talent were Tom Clyde, Jack Soyak, Ron Wingo, Wai Syn, Milton Milner, Walt Hill, Emery McDonough, Steve Herring, Dale Klug, Richard Burns, Ed Klein, Art Smith, Edwin Headley, Sam Davis, Ross Fox, Norris McDonnell, Karl Kauffmann, Skip Sheldon and Bob Daubert. We were greatly assisted by a 10-member fire crew from California who had come in for fighting the recent forest fires. It's truly amazing how much easier the work goes with young folks helping. Forest Service leadership was provided by Lorie Stroup and her intern Keri. A big THANK YOU to all. The workday was part of the Davidson River Project and completes the efforts on this section of the river. It will have a tremendous impact on helping to keep silt and parking lot run-off out of the river. The next time you are driving up the Davidson in the Pisgah Forest, turn into the Davidson River Campground road and take a look at how great this job looks.

*Skip Sheldon* ➤

# Fly of the Month - Parachute Caddis Emerger

*Steve Herring*

This pattern, a variation of the Klinkhamer (pictured), has been highly successful for me in local streams when fish are rising but refuse dry fly presentations. I have tied them in tan, olive and gray. Variations include adding wings, a la Stalcup, or legs of partridge or hen hackle. One of the distinct advantages of this pattern is that it is more visible than most emerger patterns.

Hook: Partridge K12ST (or equivalent emerger hook)

Thread: Black or brown 6-0

Abdomen: Dubbed or small vinyl rib (omit ribbing)

Thorax: Dubbing (same as body or black), peacock herl or built up thread wraps

Ribbing: Single strand of pearl or peacock crystal splash



Hackle: Light dun rooster

Wing: White calf body hair, turkey flats or poly

Trailing husk: Small clump of z-lon fibers cut to varied lengths

Tying steps:

1. Tie in thread one hook eye space behind eye.

2. Tie in para post wing two hook eye spaces behind eye. Trim butts at an angle.

3. Wrap thread up and down wing to form base for hackle.

4. Wind thread to hook bend binding down wing butts.

5. Tie in trailing husk.

6. Tie in crystal splash.

7. Dub body  $\frac{3}{4}$  distance to wing post.

8. Palmer ribbing (delay this step to include thorax if using peacock herl).

9. Dub thorax.

10. Tie in hackle along side of wing base fixing hackle butt in front of post with several wraps of thread.

11. Wind hackle down wing post and tie off in front of post.

12. Wrap head and finish with half hitches and head cement. 🐡