

# Snags & Snarls *October 2009*



## The Flood of 2009

### PCTU October 2009 President's Letter

It is hard to believe on this extremely rainy weekend of over five inches of rain, that just a year ago we were still commenting on what a long, hot, dry summer it had been. Now the rivers and streams are more than full again and the fall season of fish stocking is almost upon us.



As the seasons begin to change from summer to fall and as Linda mentioned in last month's newsletter, change is upon us in many ways. At last month's meeting, we marked the end of Linda's two year term as President. On behalf of the entire Pisgah Chapter, I would like to thank her again for

both her leadership and guidance, along with the countless hours she contributed to the many projects and initiatives that the Chapter is involved with. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Wai Syn for his many years as an

extremely active Board Member. Wai has graciously agreed to continue his leadership role on the two Kids' Fishing Days for next year. I, along with the rest of the Board, am looking forward to Linda and Wai's continued involvement with the Chapter in the upcoming year.

October and November are both shaping up to be active months with a number of both interesting and fun events. Some of the bigger events include:

#### **October 8<sup>th</sup> / PCTU Monthly Chapter Meeting**

The featured speaker will be Emilie Johnson from the Pisgah Wildlife Education Center who will give us an update on all of the new and current educational programs that they are offering in the coming year.

#### **October 17<sup>th</sup> / New Member Orientation**

Dale Klug will be hosting a New Member Orientation session at the North Mills River picnic area starting at 10:45 am. This will be a great opportunity for not only new members, but also any other members who would

to learn about all of the various projects (timing / details / volunteer opportunities) that the Chapter actively supports. Reminder: Bring your own lunch and fishing gear since the fishing before or after the session ought to be terrific. If you would like to register or need more info, you can contact Dale at (828) 243-6783 or [daleklug@bellsouth.net](mailto:daleklug@bellsouth.net).

### **October 30<sup>th</sup> / PCTU's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Help us to celebrate 40 great years of the Pisgah Chapter's support and involvement with a wide variety of programs serving the coldwater fisheries of Western North Carolina. The covered dish supper will be held from 7 PM to 10 PM at the Opportunity House on 25N in Hendersonville. Admission is free to all members and their spouses...all we need is to have you bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to share. Watch for your invitation in the mail!

### **November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> / Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Expo**

The WNC Fly Fishing Expo will be held on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the WNC Agricultural Center from 9 AM to 5 PM. Our chapter will be sharing a booth with TU / NC State Council and the Land-of-Sky Chapter. We will be providing information about our various programs like Trout-in-the-Classroom, Rivercourse, and the Fly Fishing School. More details will be provided at the next chapter meeting.

Hope to see you on the streams or October 8<sup>th</sup> for sure.

Tight lines.  
Kiki



**47 members and guests listen to Bob Bailey's talk.**



**The speaker for the September 10th meeting was Bob Bailey from Columbia, SC who is a expert at fly fishing for smallmouth bass.**



**Thank You Al Rogers  
September Fly Raffle - PCTU collected  
\$121**

## Tribute to Jim Heller

I was recently invited to the Board of Directors retreat by Linda. While at the retreat, I was listening to the concerns of the current board and officers and it reminded me of my time in the same position years ago. When I joined Trout Unlimited 20 years ago, our chapter was struggling to say the least. There was very little money in the coffers and very few projects that I can remember; the highway cleanup and the fly fishing school. We were lucky to get 10-15 members at a meeting and programs at the meetings were nil. I felt the chapter was on the verge of collapse. Then along came a very talented and motivated man named Jim Heller. Jim was recently retired from Kodak and he and his wife, Fran landed in Hendersonville. The Pisgah chapter members should be grateful. Jim transformed the chapter into a dynamic group of volunteers. During his presidency, he changed the meeting format to what it is today. Jim is responsible for changing the newsletter from a one page meeting notice to an 8-10 page format that we sent out for years prior to our current electronic format. We also went through the arduous task of distributing the newsletter through bulk mail, saving the chapter hundreds of dollars. Jim also sent our newsletter to the national headquarters for awards. We did not win, but if I remember correctly, our newsletter was beat out by another that had color printing. We just couldn't afford it at the time. Jim also changed that. He started building our bank account by saving money, making more money from the fly-fishing school and grants for new projects. We also started to mail our surveys to the membership for feedback on what they wanted from our chapter. Needless to say, it wasn't long before we started to prosper and meeting attendance tripled in no time at all. With increased attendance also came more people to help with projects. It didn't hurt that Jim is just a great guy and natural leader. Ask anyone from the past years about Jim and you will only hear wonderful things about him. Jim Hoskinson heard me bragging Jim Heller at that board retreat and asked me to write something for our newsletter and the timing couldn't be better. If it had not been for Jim Heller I am not sure any of us would be around to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. So, here is to 40 more years and hopefully more members like Jim Heller. Thanks Jim. I will have life-long memories from TU because of you.

Steve Fromholtz

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER  
No New Members**

**The speaker for our  
November 12th Meeting  
will be Jim Casada**

Jim is the author of more than 3,500 magazine and newspaper articles and columns on hunting, fishing, firearms, conservation and other outdoor-related topics.

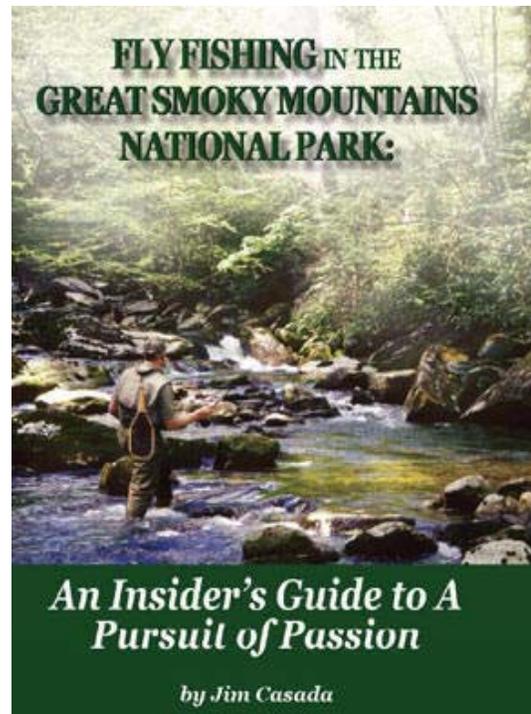
His latest book is: Fly Fishing in the Great Smoky Mountains

This month's article Jewels of High Country Streams - Mountain Trout on page 8 was supplied by him.

Next Month: Mountain Trout - Traditions.

**General Meeting Location  
and Directions**

Our new meeting location is at the Pardee Health Education Center inside the Blue Ridge Mall. Anyone travelling I-26 use Exit is 49A. The Blue Ridge Mall is located at 1800 Four Season's Blvd, ( US 64) Hendersonville, NC 28759

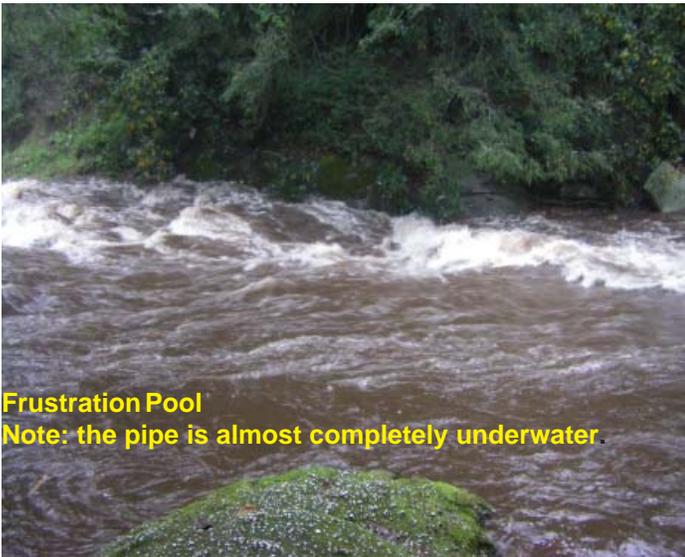


**OUR VISION**

Pursue a future where healthy populations of native and wild coldwater fish thrive in the Western North Carolina region for following generations to enjoy.

**OUR MISSION**

Conserve, protect and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in the Western North Carolina region.



**Frustration Pool**  
Note: the pipe is almost completely underwater



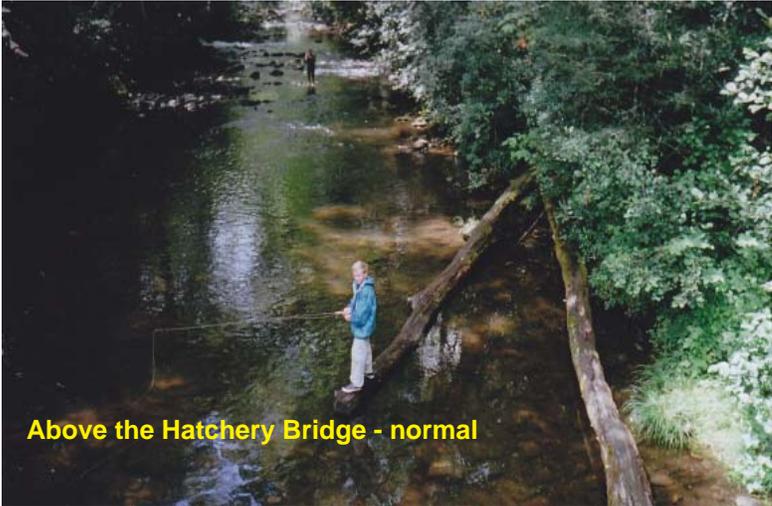
**Below Parking Lot**



**Above the Hatchery Bridge**



**Hatchery Bridge**



**Above the Hatchery Bridge - normal**

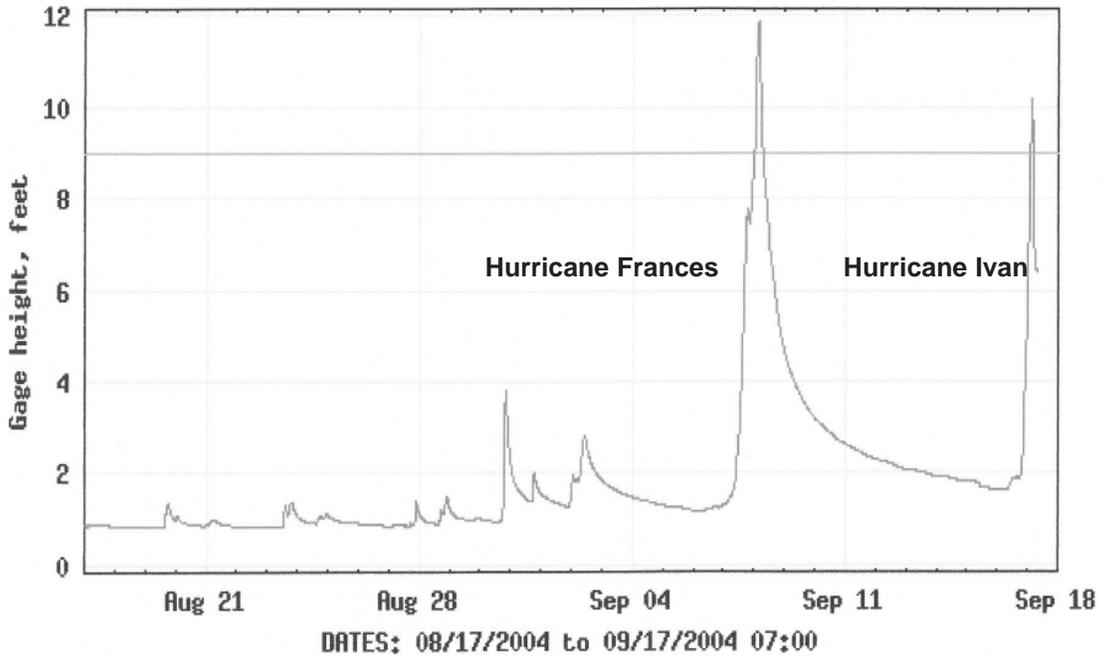


**Below Hatchery Bridge**

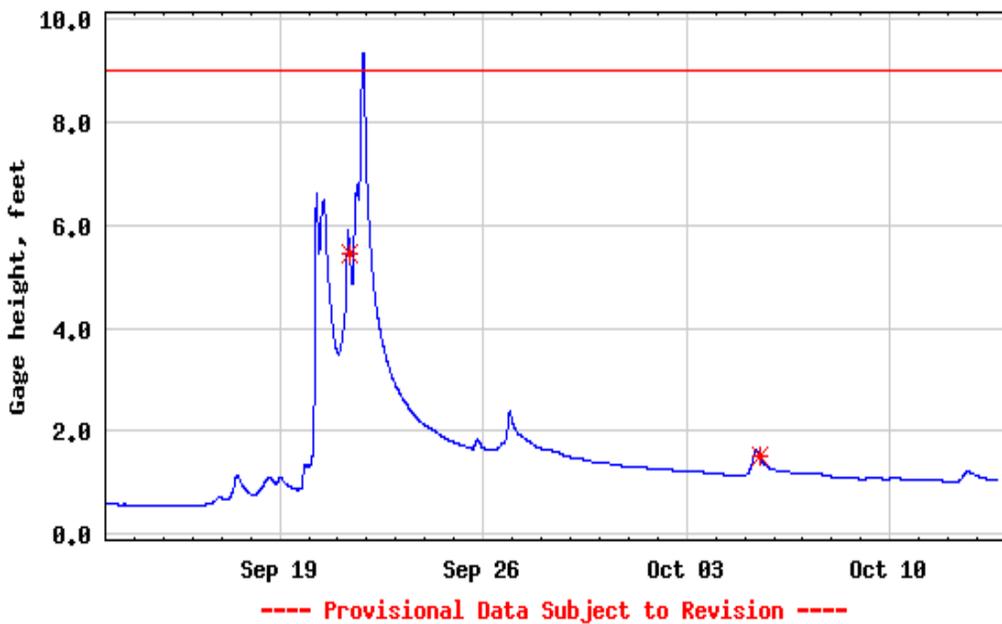
# A Comparison of the Floods of '04 and the Flood of '09



USGS 03441000 DAVIDSON RIVER NEAR BREVARD, NC



USGS 03441000 DAVIDSON RIVER NEAR BREVARD, NC



## The McGinty



In the annals of Fly-Fishing there are many, many patterns, which have fallen into the abyss of obscurity. It is sad so many of us are trying to fool our favorite quarry with our own concoctions, and relegating to the ages so many beautiful and effective flies of years gone by.

Charles McGinty conceived the McGinty in 1883. McGinty was from Chicago and came up with this as a bass fly originally. Do not be deceived however, trout of every description absolutely love it.

It has the appearance of a wasp or perhaps a bumblebee, which having fallen into the river is now part of the forage, which help fish grow into the monsters of our dreams.

Bounced off of a rock or bank, thrown into a stream side bush and being allowed to plop onto the water, is the sound of the 'dinner bell' for many a carnivorous fish. Dead drift this fly in the current and you may be amazed at what you can put on the end of your fly line.

### Materials

**Hooks:** 3906B sz 6 to 12.

**Thread:** Black 8/0 thread (heavier if you do not have 8/0).

**Tail:** Red Hackle Barbules.

**Body:** Alternating Yellow and Black Chenille.

**Beard:** Brown Hackle Barbules.

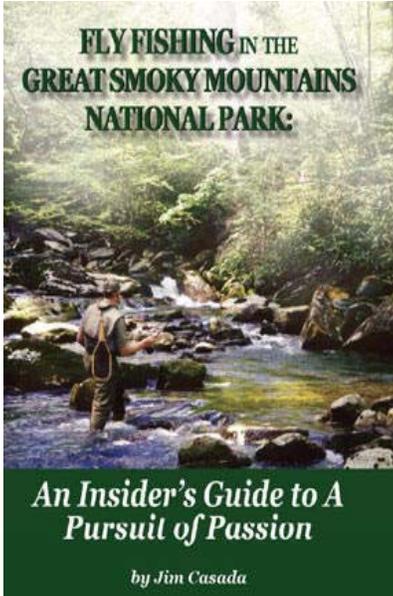
**Wing:** White Tipped Mallard Quill.

Jack Frisch

## JEWELS OF HIGH COUNTRY STREAMS: MOUNTAIN TROUT

Jim Casada

They go by many names—brook trout, speckled trout, squaretails, specks, natives, or my personal favorite and the term I most frequently heard as a youngster, mountain trout. The species is the original inhabitant of mountain streams, brought here when the last Ice Age pushed their range far south. As such they are the only truly “native” trout in the southern Appalachians. To complicate matters a bit further though, they are not true trout but rather members of the char family.



Matters of terminology aside (and I’ll take the easy route and call them trout), one thing is undeniable. Staunch sons of the mountain soil have long been passionate about these lovely fish. On more than one occasion I’ve heard highlanders argue, with some vehemence, that brook trout and specks have little in common other than a preference for cold, clear streams and a somewhat vague physical resemblance to one another. They dismiss hatchery-raised brook trout with disdain, giving them descriptive, demeaning names such as “soap heads” and “dough bellies” while pointing to dramatic differences in coloration and shape.

As it turns out, their observations may well be right. Recent research suggests that at least some brook trout found in the Park are a distinct subspecies with marked differences distinguishing them from brookies found elsewhere along the spine of the Appalachians. Therein lies one explanation of the considerable energy and investment Park officials and organizations such as Trout Unlimited have devoted to protecting and perpetuating brookies.

### MOUNTAIN TROUT IN MOUNTAIN HISTORY: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

Call them what you wish, these incredibly lovely fish are the essence of all that is wild and beautiful about the high country. Fragile, with their original Appalachian range now dramatically reduced, mountain trout have little tolerance for the human presence. Today, they are, with few exceptions, found only in remote upper reaches of streams lying somewhere back of beyond at elevations above 3,000 feet.

Further complicating matters is the fact that mountain trout do not co-exist particularly well, at least in this part of the world, with imported cousins. As a youngster I invariably heard these stocked interlopers described as “California trout” (rainbows) and “German” or “Loch Lomond trout” (browns). Today you seldom encounter those geography linked descriptions, but they accurately indicate that both ‘bows and browns are rank imports. After being stocked in some streams, they “took holt,” to use mountain parlance. Once established, for decades browns and ‘bows have expanded their range, often doing so at the expense of mountain trout.

Unquestionably, and for reasons far transcending competition from other species of trout, specks have long needed help. The history of their troubles dates back to the earliest pioneer settlements. Trout in general do not interact well with the humans, thanks in large measure to our unfortunate propensity to foul our nests. Specifically, siltation produced by clearing land and putting it to the plow, along with warming water temperatures resulting from the removal of streamside cover, produced problems for mountain trout well before the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Far more devastating, however, was extensive logging which took place in the region now embraced by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Most of this occurred between the turn of the century and the creation of the Park. It would have been devastating under the best of circumstances, but what were then commonplace logging practices made matters even worse.

On one watershed after another, virgin timber was cut on steep slopes. Then huge logs would be drug or “ball hooted” to creeks, leaving bare, scarred earth in their wake. With the first heavy rain, unprotected soil washed into the stream. This spelled doom for any fish eggs coated with silt and stressed trout that had to filter water through their gills.

Even worse, in that it lasted much longer, was exposure of Anakeesta rock in some areas. Sometimes known as “hot” or “acid” rock, this type of stone, when exposed to rain, leaches out acids which can be destructive to a stream’s entire ecosystem. Indeed, that fact was one of many logical arguments advanced against construction of the much-debated (and recently settled) “Road to Nowhere” through the GSMNP along Fontana Lake’s south shore. Yet damage of this type forms but a part of the overall story.

At higher elevations, so-called splash dams were a common way of moving logs downstream to a point where they could be transported via narrow gauge railroads or worked at small, readily erected sawmills. A stream would be blocked with a rough dam, with the pond it backed up then being filled with logs. When the backwater could hold no more, the dam would be blown apart with dynamite. The result was a veritable wall of water carrying logs downstream in a great rush. An obvious offshoot of this practice was destruction of habitat, washing away of redds (places where trout lay their eggs), and massive fish kills.

All this took a terrible toll on trout, but the damage did not stop there. As we have already noted, more adaptable rainbow and brown trout were introduced in well-intentioned but perhaps ill-conceived attempts to replace the depleted populations of mountain trout. In fact, in what now seems a supreme irony given the immense sums being expended on restoration, even Park officials would be guilty on this score. As recently as the late 1950s rainbows, along with hatchery-raised brook trout, were being stocked in Park streams. For years they were actually raised at hatcheries within the GSMNP, and as a boy I can remember catching these ugly, unwary, fin-rubbed creatures which had called concrete walls home.

Although realization was slow in coming, in this part of the world mountain trout just don’t readily coexist with either browns or rainbows. Already harmed in dramatic fashion by farming and logging over much of their original range, the last thing they needed was competition which grew bigger, was more aggressive, ate their fry, or drove them out of otherwise suitable habitat.

Eventually, matters came to such a sad pass that some feared mountain trout were doomed to take the same road to oblivion as the American chestnut. Two developments, neither of which gave more than passing thought to the fate of mountain trout, proved to be the speck’s salvation. These were creation of the GSMNP and national forests—the Nantahala and Pisgah in North Carolina and the Cherokee in Tennessee. Together the Park and the trio of national forests embrace more than two million acres, including vast tracts of the 3,000 foot-plus high country which was the last stronghold of mountain trout.

That didn’t mean a significant comeback was imminent—it wasn’t and it isn’t—but loving and saving the land did apply brakes on what had seemed a runaway environmental tragedy. Today mountain trout are holding their own in a number of watersheds, and there are even heartening signs of small expansions in their range. In that context, as someone who spends his fair share of time on high country streams (my wife would probably argue I spend my share and that of half a dozen others), I’m happy to report that in recent years I’ve caught the fish in several places in the GSMNP where there were no mountain trout two or three decades ago.

### **THE JOYS OF FISHING FOR MOUNTAIN TROUT**

Turning from the past and natural history to the undeniable pleasures of fishing, it is comforting to know one can still enjoy the incomparable pleasure of wading pristine waters while casting to these incredibly lovely little fish. For me, at least, epitomize the wildness and wonder of the Appalachians and beckon to the devoted angler with almost irresistible appeal. And why not? No maiden, be she ever so fair, can match the enchanting, ethereal beauty of a mountain trout. Adorned with crimson spots (hence the moniker “specks”) encircled by a light blue halo, with fins edged in white and backs featuring markings which would stir envy amongst creators of the finest of tapestries, they are, as my Grandpa Joe used to put it, “a glory to behold.” In the fall, mountain trout further enhance their loveliness through addition of red, yellow, bronze, and magenta spawning colors along their bellies.

To spend a day fishing for them is to wade waterways of sheer wonder. The nature of their habitat preferences guarantees surroundings wild almost to the point of primeval, while remoteness of place minimizes the likelihood of seeing many if any other anglers. Nor should the fact that mountain trout are comparatively easy to catch be overlooked. Indeed, their willingness to strike a well-presented fly or other lure has been yet another factor in problems encountered by mountain trout, because in days of yesteryear hardy “live off what the land gives you” folks would sometimes catch scores, even hundreds, of them for the table

Should you be so fortunate as to have access to pages of a rare book on mountain sport as it once was, Sam Hunnicutt's "Twenty Years Hunting & Fishing in the Great Smoky Mountains," you'll find delightful reminiscences of the author and others, including legendary angler Mark Cathey, dining on heaping helpings of mountain trout.

Today most anglers, recognizing that they are dealing with a precious resource richly deserving of protection, practice catch-and-release. However, as GSMNP biologists have recently recognized with regulations changes, keeping a few fish for the pan probably has no meaningful impact on mountain trout populations (the limit in the Park is five trout of seven inches or longer). So, if you wish, enjoy the occasional backcountry fish fry as a reward for the considerable energy you'll likely expend in getting to places where you can catch specks. You can do so without a sense of guilt. After all, mountain trout have a pronounced tendency to overpopulate in places where they still thrive, and most fish you catch will be smaller than specified size limits (whether in Park waters or those in national forests).

Knowledge of places where one can catch mountain trout tends to be information of the sort to be shared sparingly and with some reluctance. After all, as Grandpa Joe used to say when opining on matters related to fishing: "A man's got to have some secrets." In that regard, there are streams, especially in North Carolina's Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests, where I've had some wonderful days with mountain trout and which I'm not about to mention in print. On the other hand, I am willing to share some tips, along with mention of a few specific locations, on "glory holes" for specks.

As has already been noted, mountain trout are most commonly found at higher elevations, and by poring over topographical maps you can often pinpoint likely places to fish for them. Just look for places where blue lines indicating elevation change are close together, check to see if the drainage area in such spots is big enough to indicate a watershed holding a decent-sized stream, and then figure out a way to make a piscatorial pilgrimage to the spot. Better still, try to ascertain whether the stream in question has a major waterfall. These often provide barriers preventing upstream movement of rainbows and browns and thus protect mountain trout. In that regard, all streams currently in the Park's restoration program are defined by waterfalls or cascades which should prevent unwanted incursions by other species of trout.

A prime example of this sort of situation, and one I don't mind mentioning since it is already fairly well known, is upper Big Snowbird Creek in North Carolina's Graham County. For many miles upstream from where it flows into Lake Santeetlah, Big Snowbird is a typical high country stream with good populations of wild rainbows and browns (it is also heavily stocked up to a point known as The Junction where road access ends). From The Junction, a fairly easy three-mile walk along a trail following an old railroad grade leads the wayfaring angler to Mouse Knob Falls. Upstream from that point Big Snowbird is, for mile after glorious mile, exclusively mountain trout water. What sets it apart from typical speck water, which tends to be tiny, overgrown streams, is that Big Snowbird is still a creek of considerable proportions where the mountain trout habitat begins.

A second destination, and one which requires almost no walking, is the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River on the Tennessee side of the GSMNP. Its flow closely parallels U. S. Highway 441, and there are many places where one can park, walk a few yards, and begin casting. Upstream from where Road Prong enters West Prong (at the Chimneys trailhead), this is a creek primarily populated by specks, although you will still find some rainbows as well.

Wherever you venture to fish for mountain trout, or if you merely admire them as a cherished symbol of a special ecosystem, there's no denying their mesmerizing appeal. In enchanting fashion they take us back to another time, one of simpler days and simpler ways, when streams were pure, forests uncut, and the human presence minimal. To visit such a world, even for a brief span of fishing time, is to know the sort of inner peace and quiet contentment which makes mist-shrouded mountains both mystical and magical.

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**Editor's note:** Jim Casada, who grew up fishing the waters of the GSMNP, readily acknowledges having lost a corner of his soul to mountain trout. He is presently completing a book on fishing in the Park. To be placed on a list to be notified when it appears, or for a free subscription to his monthly e-newsletter, visit his website at

[www.jimcasadaoutdoors.com](http://www.jimcasadaoutdoors.com).

## A Visit to Spruce Pine Dale Klug

A couple of weeks ago I found myself in Spruce Pine looking around River's Edge fly shop, which by the way is a pretty decent place. I asked Joe Street (owner) a few questions about fishing and how business is currently, standard questions in a fly shop as most of you know. Anyway, he brought up the fact that the North Toe which runs right through downtown Spruce Pine is classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. Now I'm sure I've heard of the program, but like many other programs in North Carolina I simply didn't pay much attention to the particulars. The following passage is straight from the NCWRC website and explains the program pretty well; that is until someone begins asking questions regarding a license.

The Mountain Heritage Trout Waters program is a cooperative effort between the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and local governments to encourage trout fishing as a heritage tourism activity in western North Carolina cities that are designated as a "Mountain Heritage Trout Water City."

Currently, five cities are enrolled in the program. Each of these cities provides public access to a trout stream that runs through or is adjacent to the city. North Carolina residents and non-residents who want to fish in a stream that is designated as a Mountain Heritage Trout Water may purchase a 3-day license for \$5. The license is valid only for waters that are designated as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. Anglers with the appropriate fishing license and trout privilege license can fish in Mountain Heritage Trout Waters without a Mountain Heritage Trout Waters license.

The Commission offers two quick and easy ways to purchase a Mountain Heritage Trout Waters license using a credit card:

Call 1(888) 248-6834. Phone lines are open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. From May to September, phone lines are open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Sunday. **Important note:** The Mountain Heritage Trout Water license can only be purchased online or by calling the toll-free number above. Wildlife Service Agents do not sell this license.

Now that everything is perfectly clear regarding licensing, let me simplify it a little: one does not need a special license to fish the Mountain Heritage Trout Waters if they possess a valid fishing license and trout stamp. I suppose I must have skipped reading the fifth sentence of paragraph two above, because it was still not crystal clear to me the whole time I was fishing the two mile stretch in Spruce Pine. However, I knew I was safe as I had my newly minted \$5 permit in hand. By the way, the four other cities in North Carolina that currently have a Mountain Heritage Trout Waters designation: Newland; Waynesville; Bakersville and Maggie Valley.

At this point, I must say the fishing in Spruce Pine was quite a treat as it is a beautiful little place just about an hour North of Asheville. However, the water fished like most Delayed Harvest water does in September... dismal. I'm looking forward to fishing this section again around the middle of October when DH regulations are in affect. Some additional recommendations you may want to consider should you decide to make a day of it in Spruce Pine: 19E from I26 to Burnsville is under construction and has been for years; stop in for lunch at DT's Café on Locust Street about a block South of River's Edge fly shop... excellent food and a good place to ponder why you spent \$5 on a license you didn't need.

See you on the water.

Dale

## Fly Fishing Forums and Other Sources of Interesting Information by Frank Forrester

**Blue Ridge Fly Fishing Forum** - Local fly fishing information and reports by local fly fishers. Also lists Trout Unlimited activities and programs.

<http://www.brfff.com>

**Carolinas On The Fly** - Has a "Let's Go Fishing" forum, Tips and Tricks forum, Backpacking forum, trout fishing reports, and much more.

<http://wnctrout.com>

**Curtis Wright Outfitters** - Fly Fishing Reports

<http://blog.curtiswrightoutfitters.com/>

**Davidson River Outfitters** - Fly fishing reports and local information. Subscribe their DRO Newsletter.

<http://www.davidsonflyfishing.\>

**Hunter Banks** - Check out their fly fishing Hatch Chart.

<http://hunterbanks.com/>

**Fly Fish North Carolina** - Loads of information and starting place for new to NC fly fishers.

<http://www.flyfishnc.com/>

**Fly Fish America** - An online fly fishing magazine.

<http://www.flyfishamerica.com/>

**Fly Fishing Community** - A guide to fly fishing in the United States including fishing reports, videos, forums, blogs, and classifieds. Contains descriptions of over 1600 fly fishing waters.

<http://www.flyfishingcommunity.com/>

**Southeast Fly Fishing Forum** - Contains 15 forums on fly fishing topics

<http://www.southeastflyfishingforum.com/>

**Fly Tying Forum** - A fly pattern database and a forum on popular fly fishing topics. Also contains fly tying videos.

<http://www.flytyingforum.com>

**Bazz Fly Fishing** - a European based fly fishing forum loaded with interesting information mainly in English and Swedish.

<http://www.bazzflyfishing.com>

**Trout Nut** - Beautiful pictures of aquatic insects and forums on trout behavior. Also articles and video clips on trout foods.

<http://www.troutnut.com/>

## Montana Trout Fishing Trip

In early August Bob Wolfe (PCTU member) and Mike Severide fished the Big Horn River. The trip was described as Excellent! Around 10:00 to 10:30 in the morning the sun would be up, the breezes would begin to blow hoppers into the water from the tall grasses on the river. A grasshopper that suffers the fate of landing in the river doesn't last long. The trout range between 16" and 20" evenly divided between browns and rainbows explode on the flies. The hopper fishing remains in full swing until around 4:00 when the bright sun disappears. Then the black caddis (size 16 - 20) would appear. There were no rises or dimples. The guide said "watch for heads". The caddis hatch was harder and more technical.

Ernest Hemingway once said "Heaven is a trout stream and you're the only one who could fish it."

I have a feeling that this is what Hemingway had in mind. I know it works for me.



The famous "Drive-In Pool" on the Bighorn River. In the early 60's the banks of the river were lined with 50's vintage junk cars to prevent erosion.



Last Stand Hill



Headstones of some of Custer's men. Custer's remains are at the US Military Academy at West Point.



*Snags & Snarls 13*

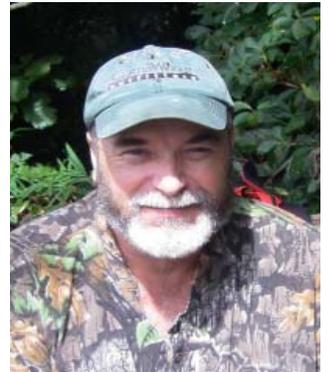
# Davidson River Fishing Report

Joe Moore as interviewed by Jim Hoskinson

*Summer and early fall fishing in Western North Carolina can consist of fishing small mountain streams, long drives to Tennessee or Cherokee and of course joining the crowds around the Davidson River Fish Hatchery. Or as many do - wait for Delayed Harvest Season. (By the time you read this article DH will be in full swing.) Joe Moore offers yet another alternative – fishing the lower section of the Davidson between Avery Creek and Looking Glass Creek. My personal experiences last summer were many days without fish or or at best an occasional small fish. Certainly not a Top 100 Trout Stream. Until listening to Joe I was a believer that this section of the Davidson River had been severely affected by the droughts of the last several years. Joe Moore (Joey) has offered to share his experiences during early September of this year as well as his successful fishing technique. Joe is a member of Pisgah TU and is regarded as one of our top fly fishermen.*

In early September of this year Joey and Charlie Dotson fished the area between Shut-In and Looking Glass pool and according to Joey their worst day would consist of 14 to 15 fish! The fish can be as small as 2" to over 20" with the average around 14 inches. During this period they encountered only one other angler. When he fishes he covers only a small amount of water, fishing all of the water thoroughly.

Joe uses an 8 ½ foot rod with 4 weight double taper line. He commonly uses a 12 foot 7x tippet. He will go to a 20 ft. leader when “it’s required.” His fly of choice is a size 14 inchworm (as shown). Joey has found the inchworm to be his best performer. “The inchworm doesn’t float, as it hits the water it begins a slow descent in the water” He will begin using the inch worm in May and will continue to fish it until the first big frost in the fall. He prefers not to use a dropper. He uses a strike indicator – the smallest he can get away with. He does not use split shot in the shallow riffles or the calmer flat water. In the deep pools he will add a small split shot such as a size 8 or size 6.



Recently Joe was standing on the sandbar at the back of the Coon Tree pool at mid-day. He made a cast toward the rocks on the far side and caught a fish. After waiting a while, he made a roll cast toward the rocks, and while he watched his fly descend he saw a fish come out from the rocks and grab it. Joe’s advice “Just because you just caught a fish in a certain spot - don’t assume that’s all you’ll catch.”



*Joe is a volunteer at the Wildlife Center where he teaches fly tying, fly casting, plus on-the-water fly fishing. He also guides on the river.*

For those of you who remember the July issue - this inchworm pattern closely resembles the one tied by Dale Klug.

# Pisgah Chapter Directory

## Officers and Board

President .....	Kiki Matthews	828-696-1599
	<a href="mailto:kikimatthews@bellsouth.net">kikimatthews@bellsouth.net</a>	
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Secretary .....	Chris Ellis	864-458-6240
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Treasurer .....	Dick Millonzi	828-595-3905
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Past President..	Linda Campbell	828-817-2681
	<a href="mailto:pctupres@windstream.net...">pctupres@windstream.net...</a>	
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Director (2010)	John Kies	828-698-5207
	<a href="mailto:johnkies@bellsouth.net">johnkies@bellsouth.net</a>	
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	<a href="mailto:castawaync@gmail.com">castawaync@gmail.com</a>	
Director (2011)	Mike Dennis	
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Director (2011)	Jim Hoskinson	828-891-8440
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## EVENT CALENDAR

September	30	Board meeting @ 6:30 PM (Kelsey's)
October	1	Delayed-harvest stocking begins
	3	Cradle of Forestry Forest Festival Day
	8	General meeting @ 7PM
	17	New Member Orientation @ 10:30 North Mills lower parking lot.
	30	40 th Anniversary Celebration 7:00-10:00
November	4	Board meeting @ 6:30 PM (Kelsey's)
	7-8	Fly Fishing Expo @ the Ag Center
	12	General meeting @ 7PM
December		No board or general meeting

## FALL 2009 DELAYED-HARVEST SCHEDULE

	October	November
E.Fork French Broad	2	5
Little River	2	4
West Fork Pigeon	5	4
North Mills	5	6
Tuckaseegee	6	3
Nantahala	7	4
Big/Shelton Laurel	1	2
Green River	1	5

## Mentors List

Chapter Members listed below are available to accompany one or two members who would like to learn more about fly fishing in our streams. If you are just beginning to fly fish, here's an opportunity to get help from some knowledgeable anglers.

Bob Daubert	693-6262
Steve Fromholtz	674-2450*
Dave Maxwell	894-0308
Steve Herring	749-9352
Dale Klug	243-6783

Legend: \* weekends only

## Reference Phone Numbers

NC Wildlife Violations 800-662-7137

NC Wildlife Resource Comm. - Doug Bessler 828-659-8684

Fish Biologist - Lorie Stroup 828-877-3265 ext 219

Fish Hatchery Kiosk - Jim Medford 828-699-8593

Water discharges on the Green Rive 800-829-5253

Water discharges on the Nantahala River & Tuckasegee River 866-332-5253

National Trout Unlimited [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org)

Pisgah Chapter Trout Unlimited [www.main.nc.us/PCTU](http://www.main.nc.us/PCTU)



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