

Celebrating 40 years - 1969-2009

Snags & Snarls

February 2009



President's Letter

Will winter ever end? Yes, it always does. In a little more than a month we will be stocking delayed-harvest again. In two months the fly fishing school will be upon us. Not long after, all those Trout-in-the-Classroom hatchlings will be set free to go forth and multiply. Then there's the Banquet/Auction in May which will be better than ever. Ah, Spring! It's just around the corner.



Speaking of the Banquet, local businesses are struggling along with those all over the country. This is a perfect opportunity for them to get free publicity, reduce taxable inventory and get a tax deduction for their donation of goods or services. You don't need to be on the Banquet Committee to ask a business you frequent to make a donation. Every day we shop at numerous businesses, from barber shops to hardware stores, from grocery stores to shoe stores. Lawn care companies, artisans, chiropractors, coffee shops—they are all feeling the crunch. And when they do, we do. So help out your chapter by bringing in at least one item or service that we can auction at the Banquet. Contact John Kies at 828-698-5207 with the good news!

MEETING NOTICES

All Meeting times 7:00 Social, 7:30 Meeting

Thursday February 12 - Robert Blankenship - head of the Cherokee Tribal Waters Hatchery Program will speak about the hatchery and the new Trophy Trout Fly Fishing Only Section.

Thursday March 12 - Mike Dennis of PCTU Backcountry Camping and Fishing Hazel Creek with plans to sign up a group from the chapter to go this year.

Thursday April 9 - Kevin Howell of Davidson River Outfitters and co-champion of the Flyfishing Masters 2006 national tournament at Noontootla Creek in Georgia. Kevin is the first angler from the Eastern US to win the event.

February's program will have Robert Blankenship talking about fishing on the Cherokee lands in Western North Carolina. I have been told that they have some big fish over there.

Congratulations to John Spooner for winning the drawing during the N.C. Back-the-Brookie license tag campaign.

Tight lines,
Linda

LITTLE YELLOW FLIES

By Steve Herring

It occurs to me that in the vast majority of time fishing in North Carolina, I end up going to pretty much the selection of flies. There's the Adams parachute, various attractors, caddis (never yellow) prince and pheasant-tail nymphs, and an occasional black or brown stone fly.

Several occurrences have set me to spending more time and



interest in various "little yellow flies." Once, fishing the Green River, I noted a very few brilliant yellow # 12 duns on the surface. I presume that these were some sort of sulfur. They were yellow from head to tail and exceedingly beautiful. I had nothing in my fly boxes to imitate them.

Again, in Deep Creek, several times I have come across a decent hatch of yellow sallies. While little yellow mayflies would result in some takes, it was evident that the trout preferred some emerger form. Nothing in my vest seemed to satisfy that preference.

Then there was the time – while not a North Carolina experience – when my guide on the Snake River in Idaho discovered a pod of rising fish at the mouth of a side channel. He guessed they

were feeding on PMD emergers. Between us we had two # 16 bi-color nymphs with yellow thorax and brown body. When we lost those to vigorous strikes, we had nothing else the fish would touch.

So began my quest for more imitative yellow flies that might lead to success in such situations. Here are a few of my finds.

On one of my journeys west, I discovered an extended body fly constructed of golden yellow deer hair. This was a real challenge for me to copy, being my second-ever attempt to build an extended body. This fly can be fished as an in-film dry or emerger.

Hook: standard #14-16 dry fly

Thread: 6/0 yellow

Body: dyed yellow deer hair, tied in behind the hook eye and folded back and folded back to form the head; body tied over stiff mon core

Tail: two or three deer hair fibers left slightly long; red ink on last segment of body

Underwing: sparse Krystal Flash

Wing: white CDC

This fly works for yellow sallies if the trout are not biting top water, and I believe would do for sulfurs (perhaps in a lighter yellow) and for western PMDs.



This next fly is also a copy of a fly shop find. It seems to work best for our hatches of smaller yellow sallies.

Hook: # 18 TMC RBL

Thread: 8/0 red, left uncovered at the butt end or one turn of red floss

Tail: sparse barred hackle fibers, light brown to cream

Body: PMD beaver dubbing or similar

Hackle: cream or pale yellow hen

Wings: white goose biots, trimmed to shape

Thorax: PMD dubbing

Antennae: mottled yellow turkey hackle



Last is a creation to prepare for the next time the guide has only one bi-color nymph for trout keyed on PMD emergers. The examples shown are tied with biot tails to try on yellow sallies, but I will tie up some with short hackle tails before returning to Idaho.

Hook: #14 – 16 Daiichi 1260 bead-head nymph or similar 2XL nymph hook; TMC 2312 will do

Thread: 6/0 yellow

Tail: brown goose biots or hackle fiber

Body: brown stretch tubing, small

Thorax: light yellow dubbing

Legs: mottled yellow hackle or soft hackle collar

Wing/wing bud: pale yellow CDC



Davidson River Outfitters The Trout Bum Times

There have been a lot of people fishing over the holiday period. With the increased water flows and warmer than usual temperatures, we have seen a lot of good fish caught. However, Graham Sturgis gets the big fish award. Graham stopped by the shop on Friday morning. We had a conversation about a large trout he had seen the evening before in the Catch and Release section of the Davidson River. We discussed the fish and what we thought it might take. I suggested a Foxee Red Minnow. After he left the shop he caught this brown on the first cast with a size 6 Clouser Foxee Red Minnow. After a couple rough measurements and a couple of quick photos the fish was released unharmed. We estimate that the fish weighs between 13-14 pounds



Photo by Medford

If you do not receive this valuable newsletter go to: www.davidsonflyfishing.com/ in the lefthand corner of the Home Page you will see: DRO Newsletter - Subscribe Now

Ken Hardwick with his latest monster brown trout caught January 8, 2009 on a size 14 Sassi's Solution.



An interview with Ken Hardwick

I recently had lunch with Ken Hardwick in an attempt to learn a few of his secrets for catching monster trout. Many will remember the fish pictured on page 4 from the August 2007 issue of Snags & Snarls. This 26" brown trout was caught during low water conditions, in the middle of summer on a hare's ear nymph. When Ken caught his latest monster it became obvious that he is indeed a big trout fisherman.

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Ken's quest began on Wednesday, January 7 at an undisclosed location on the Davidson River (between Avery Creek & Looking Glass). He was searching for big trout using a streamer and moving quickly in order to cover as much water as possible. He caught some decent size trout but no monsters. That afternoon he, like Graham, observed a very large trout, but unlike Graham's fish this fish was not hungry and was easily spooked. When Ken's flies got too close the fish it immediately swam away, eventually returning to the original spot. Ken's day involved changing flies, casting and waiting for the fish to return. (Mostly the latter)

The next morning Ken returned to find the fish in the same spot. But the results were the same. He tried a nymph with an indicator, but the splash of the indicator spooked the fish. The combination that eventually worked was Sassi's Solution size 14 below a black stimulator. To get the right drift Ken was unable to watch the fish and when the stimulator went down he thought it was the bottom. The huge brown went wherever it pleased. When Ken took the pressure off the fish returned to its usual spot. He had forgotten his camera and decided to go to his car to get it. With the fish in its resting spot, Ken found some rocks to hold his fly rod in case the fish took off. When he returned the fish was still there! The fight continued. Eventually a passer-by stopped and agreed to take a photo. Not having a net Ken tailed the monster for the picture. He released the fish which immediately disappeared into the deep water.

Ken is a recent graduate of Brevard College with a degree in Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education. He is a guide for Davidson River Outfitters. *James Hoskinson*



The 34" brown trout was caught by Joe Street on the South Holston River @ 4:00 am on 12-13-08. Joe is a partner in River Edge Outfitters a new fly shop & guide service located in Spruce Pine www.riversedgeoutfittersnc.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Steven Hughes
William Daviau
Gary Clark
Dan Stowers
A. Hansen
Neil Cawfield

Fish Hatchery Little Moth

By Chris Ellis

Fishing below the Davidson River Fish hatchery can be somewhat frustrating at times. This is especially true when trout are rising everywhere and sucking down invisible morsels. It's like fishing in a trout raceway with very selective large fish. Small midge patterns and emergers are often used, but I like to fish dry flies when ever possible. After sieving some tiny grey stone and white moth flies, I tied some small size 28 flies. I didn't have any hackles that small so I improvised. Using the fluff from the base of a hackle I dubbed it on to the hook. I then trimmed the excess fluff and tied a fine clipping of feather for the wing. I finished it off by adding a small amount of head cement and trimming the wing. Add some Aquel or Gink and it floats great.

With the first cast, I caught a nice brown trout. Following dozens of more strikes with trout even rolling out of the water after the fly, I was not able to connect with another fish. Apparently I was pulling the fly out of the fish's mouth too quickly, and the small hook gap was not connecting. Next I tied some of the same flies on size 22 scud/pupa hooks. I still had the same problem hooking fish until I stopped striking and just gently lifted my rod tip. This seemed to do the trick.

Materials:

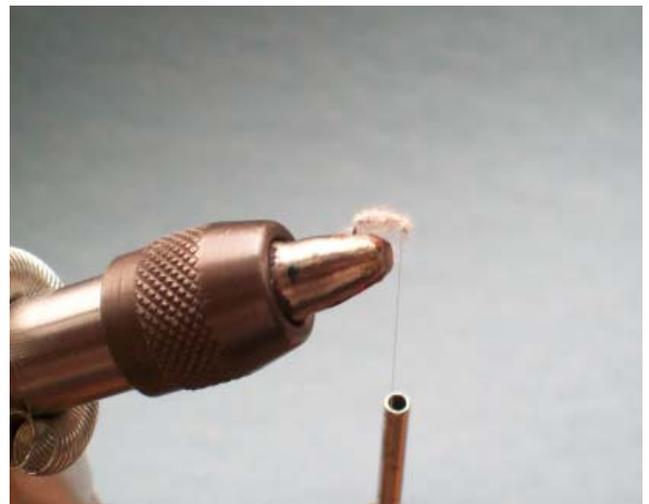
Hook: Dai-Riki #135 size 22 scud/pupa hook

Feather: white or grey hackle fluff

Morning dove small wing and inner wing feathers

Thread: 8/0 grey or white uni-thread

Head Cement



continued on page 6



Results:



Minding the Hatch

Norris McDowell

Perhaps the next best thing to catching and releasing a big trout is feeding one. That opportunity awaits young and old at the Bobby N. Setzer Fish Hatchery. One of three “coldwater” fish hatcheries operated by the North Carolina Water Resources Commission Division of Inland Fisheries, the Setzer facility is located in the Pisgah National Forest near Brevard. The hatchery was built in the late 1950s by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and was a national fish hatchery for the next 20 years.

Setzer hatchery Superintendent John Murry showed and explained what goes on there to some appreciative Hendersonville Trout Unlimited Pisgah chapter members recently. Murry said the hatchery raises brook, brown and rainbow trout—in indoor incubators tanks as well as indoor and outdoor raceways— from eggs to 10-inch fish (the size at which they are considered catchable). It takes about sixteen months for the trout to reach catchable size.

Once they do, hatchery personnel stock them at various times of the year in public mountain trout waters in 15 western North Carolina counties—in about 80 different streams and lakes.

Water for the hatchery comes from surface water diversions on the nearby Davidson River and from Grogan Creek, which provide some 3500 gallons per minute of cold mountain water year-round. Everything at the hatchery is water temperature related, Murry said. “The colder the water, the faster things happen.” Producing from 175,000 to 250,000 trout each year, the Setzer hatchery-raised trout are distributed by stocking trucks that make more than 200 trips, logging 36,000 miles.

Some hatchery raceways, most filled with trout of varying sizes, are open to the public free of charge. Guaranteed to excite the trout, fish food is available from coin operated vending machines.

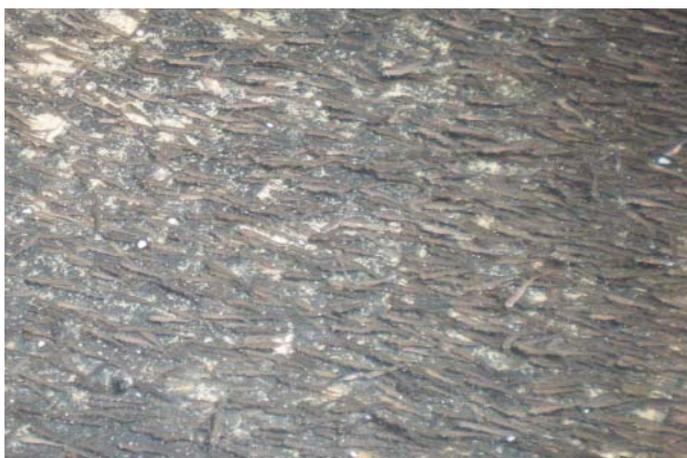




The Setzer hatchery shares its site with the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education. There you'll find fascinating exhibits and displays, including live trout and other fish found in North Carolina waters. Of special interest is a hatchery raceway exhibit describing the trout production process in detail.

To learn more about how much the hatchery and wildlife education center offer, write to Bobby N. Setzer State Fish Hatchery, P.O. Box 728, Pisgah Forest, N.C. 28768 or call 828-877-4423.

By the way, the Pisgah TU chapter sends a special thanks to John Murry for hosting our members, and for speaking at our November chapter meeting.



PISGAH CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED
1969-1994
A Short History by Will Zapf

June 2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited. This article was originally published in 1994, and has appeared in Snags & Snarls as recently as 2006 in the October and Nov/Dec issues. Before that "A Short History of PCTU" appeared in 2004 in 4 issues from April to July. Part one of a multi part series begins in this issue

At the April 1993 board of directors meeting, President Vince Lyons asked me to prepare a history of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited for its 25th anniversary. I contacted the TU Headquarters and determined that the founding was in June 1969. I wish to express my thanks to Dewey Avery and Wally Lockwood whose files and memories were of great assistance.

THE BEGINNINGS

Copies of correspondence of March 25, 1969, from Dwight Howell, NC Director of TU, Membership Chairman, stated the intention of organizing a chapter in Brevard, mentioned that there were a total of eleven members, that the next meeting was scheduled for April 8, and asked for more application blanks. By April 29, Dwight Howell's letter, signed as president of the Pisgah TU Chapter, stated there were 18 members, enough to charter a chapter; officers had been elected; and "Pisgah" chosen for the chapter name. In the same letter it was requested that the club be chartered in June, and an order for stationery was placed. A May 20 letter from Dwight Howell furnished the necessary requirements for a chapter. The officers were:

Dwight Howell - President
Robert Merrill - Vice-President
Don Howell - Secretary-Treasurer
William Hutchinson - Director
Harold Owen - Director
Mallory Pate - Director

The first newsletter was updated but seems to have been issued sometime in May. I

Bob Merrill - Water Pollution
Harold Owen - Program
Mallory Pate - Timber and Waters Management
Bill Hutchinson - Membership
Don Howell - Finance

The stationery arrived and a "Dear Trout Unlimited Member" letter of June 3, signed by Don R. Howell, announced that the trout fishermen in Transylvania County had organized the Pisgah Chapter of TU, and presently had 29 members. To raise working capital for planned projects, chances were enclosed at the price of \$1.00 for an Orvis Madison seven-foot fly rod with matching reel and line—value \$102. The first project planned was on an unnamed stream in the Pisgah Forest in Transylvania County which received no stocking and very little attention from game officials. With the approval and supervision from the Wildlife Commission, it was planned to add limestone to the stream and stock it with fingerling brown trout. A June 19 letter to TU's national office recorded a membership of 47.

December 12, 2008 Road Cleanup Crew

Below is a list of names that attended the December Davidson River road cleanup.

- 1.Ken Voltz
- 2.Sogi
- 3.Bob Daubert
- 4.Dave Maxwell
- 5.Dick Horner
- 6.mike Hanesworth
- 7.John Barsotti
- 8.Jack Soyak
- 9.Norris McDowell
- 10.Larry Walp
- 11.Ross Fox

We had a fairly good attendance for our road clean up considering that the original planned date of thursday December 11 had to be cancelled due to rain(lots and lots of rain).We held it the next day and the weather was great.We had the same good muffins and coffee and if you missed this clean up I hope you can catch the next one.Due to all the rain that we had the river was full.Thats something that we have'nt seen in a while.

Ross Fox

The January newsletter had the photo of the road cleanup crew - but no names. Editor



General Meeting Location and Directions

LOCATION: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall at the intersection of Kanuga Road and Price Road, Hendersonville.

DIRECTIONS:

From downtown Hendersonville

From intersection of Church Street and Kanuga Street proceed on Kanuga past the light at the intersection of Kanuga and Erkwood Drive (on left) the Hall is on the right approximately 1 mile from light

From Polk County - Exit I-26 at Upward Road. (Exit 55) Proceed west on Upward Road. Cross highway US 176 to US 25. Turn right at light, then 0.4 turn left on Erkwood Drive. Turn left at intersection of Erkwood Drive and Kanuga Road. the Hall is approximately 1 mile from light.

From Transylvania County - Take US 64 East. Turn right on Crab Creek Road and follow toward Hendersonville Road the name changes to Kanuga at intersection with Little River Road. The Hall is on the left less than 2 miles from intersection.

MAPQUEST USERS

use the following destination:

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
409 E. Patterson St.
Hendersonville, NC 28739-6749

For new members who wish to specify 034 as their chapter, they can visit the site: (www.tu.org/intro) to join.

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.

Pisgah Chapter Directory

Officers and Board

President	Linda Campbell	828-817-2681
	pctupres@windstream.net	
Vice President...	Kiki Matthews	828-696-1599
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	chris.ellis@us.michelin.com	
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	Scirocco14qp@bellsouth.net	
Past President.....	Dale Klug	828-817-9287
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	wysman51@windstream.net	
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Publishing	Jim Hoskinson	828-891-8440
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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	693-6263
Steve Fromholtz	674-2450*
Dave Maxwell	894-0308
Steve Herring	749-9352
Dale Klug	243-6783

Legend: * weekends only

Calendar of Events

2/4/09	Board Meeting Kelseys 6:30
2/12/09	Genral Meeting UUF 7:00Social 7:30 Meeting
3//4/09	Board Meeting Kelseys 6:30
3/12/09	Genral Meeting UUF 7:00Social 7:30 Meeting
4/1/09	Board Meeting Kelseys 6:30
4/9/09	Genral Meeting UUF 7:00Social 7:30
5/6/09	Board Meeting Kelseys 6:30
5/16/09	Annual Banquet & Auction

2009 Delayed Harvest Stocking Schedule

Green River	March 2, April 1, May 6
Little River	March 5, April 3, May 1
East Fork Fr.Broad	March 5, April 6, May 6
N. Mills River	March 3, April 1, May 1

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
Silt Problems - Dennis Owenby	828-251-6208
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
Pisgah Chapter Trout Unlimited	www.main.nc.us/PCTU



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