

# Celebrating 40 Years



## President's Letter

It's a cold and rainy February day today, but next week is delayed-harvest stocking, so things can only get better. Things are cranking up again for the chapter with plans underway for the Fly Fishing School on April 4, Kids' Fishing Days at Stu's pond on April 25 and May 9, the Banquet/Auction on May 16 and the Kids' Fishing Day at Lake Imaging on June 13 as well as Davidson River Project drill days and work days yet to be scheduled. All these go forward with the help of volunteers, so please do your part. Watch the newsletter and Chris Ellis's emails for reminders...and volunteer!



Banquet donations are slow to come in this year due to the economic downturn, so extra effort is needed to make this, our main fundraiser, a success. Those of you who tie flies could contribute by donating a box or two of flies for the auction. Anyone who has extra "dividend miles" could donate points worth a domestic fare to be coupled with western guide trips being donated. I found out the hard way that some of these expire if you don't use them. Donations of a haircut, a lawn-mowing, a

## MEETING NOTICES

**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 winner of the Rumble in the Rhododendron last Fall in the Cherokee Trophy Waters.**

**Thursday May 14- Fly Tying Meeting.**

**Saturday May 16 Annual Banquet & Auction**

certificate for a few dollars of hardware items from your local store, a meal at a favorite restaurant (even a buy-one-get-one), a dental cleaning by your dentist—get creative—any of

## President's Letter continued

these, while maybe not big, could be bundled with other things for a package for the silent auction. With businesses closing due to hard times, you could pick up a few items at perhaps cost or less and donate them yourself—and get a tax deduction. Folks, this is serious business. It affects the future health of our chapter and our ability to continue providing conservation and outreach services to our communities.

On another subject, the advent of computers has changed the way we communicate and, following, the way we record-keep. What I mean to say is that our chapter archives are now scattered on the hard drives (some probably discarded) of officers and members, some past, some current, some gone for good. We have recently located a box of historical records, quite by accident, with a past president who is about to move to Texas. Had he gone, we might have lost these things permanently. Another past president and newsletter editor reports that he has old newsletter copies on his computer. One has only to read Will Zapf's recall of the first 25 years of chapter history to realize that our historical record since 1994 is fragile and incomplete. If you have anything of importance to the chapter please let me know so that we can begin to recapture our history and save it the old fashioned way—on paper.

The March meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> will be a crowd pleaser. Mike Dennis, member and board member, will do a program on fishing Hazel Creek, a trip he has taken many times. In addition to his entertaining and informative program (Mike did a program on his New Zealand trip last fall that was a hoot), he has donated his services to guide a group on a camping/fishing trip to Hazel Creek, including his services to supply the camp kitchen and do all the cooking! This is going to be a great meeting.

See you on the streams, and on March 12 for sure!

Tight lines,  
Linda

## From the Editor

**O**n the cover: Some of the members of the Davidson River Social Club fish the Cherokee Trophy Waters. Below is a photo of the ten members



and one guest that went on this December Fishing Outing.

**Photo by Simons**

In this photo you will notice Pisgah TU members Jim Medford (top row 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and Ben Batson (bottom far right) Two other members of PCTU and the Davidson River Social Club not on this trip are Joe Moore and Charlie Dotson.

**Fly Shop For Sale:** For all of you who have always dreamed of retiring to your own fly shop in the western North Carolina mountains – here it is! Page 8 has an ad for the Waynesville Fly Shop.

The second annual **Fly Masters Tournament** will be held on March 21 & 22 at the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education. The first day will be casting skills competition, with finalists moving on to catch and release competition on the Davidson River Outfitters private waters. Registration is open to the first 125 entrants through March 9, 2009. Fee is \$50. Late fee until March 21 is \$75. contact [emilie.johnson@ncwildlife.org](mailto:emilie.johnson@ncwildlife.org) for more information.

**Sarah Watts**, our first ever **Arbuckle Scholarship receiptant**, has agreed to come to the April Chapter Meeting. She is going to give a brief presentation about herself and her studies at NC State (related to coldwater fisheries / wildlife mgmt. etc).



**From the Editor** continued

**Y2k Bug:** On page 9 is an article written by John Berry, an Arkansas fishing guide. I remembered this article recently while experiencing a slow day on the water. I found a Y2K Bug in one of my fly boxes. Things picked up significantly when I tied it on. A little searching on the internet uncovered several interesting facts. Jimmy Harris of Unicoi Outfitters reported that his top selling fly for the last 5 years was the Y2K Bug! A blog reported that Y2K stands for “yarn two kinds”. Another report: “Love it or hate it there is little doubt that the Y2K catches fish and fishermen. This may well be Arkansas’ State fly on popularity alone.”

*This fly will not meet Jack Frisch’s requirements for a classic fly pattern.*

*James Hestinson*



John Spenner shows Dave Bender his new Winston LT fly rod and Lamson Velocity fly reel which he won in NC Back-the -Brookie license tag campaign.



February Meeting

Mike Dennis (L) with Robert Blankenship (R) head of the Cherokee Tribal Waters Program spoke about the hatchery and the New Trophy Trout Fly Fishing Only Section

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Nathaniel Axtell  
Lucas Mc Mahon  
John Piowaty**

**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.**

## Spirituality of Fly Fishing

by Mike Dennis

Over the years fly fishing has become a spiritual experience for me. The commune with nature and the relaxing personal pleasure has increased markedly. As a rule, fly fishing is a solitary sport. Ever notice 6 people will go fishing together and upon arriving at the stream, a great deal of great fellowships while gearing up but when they head for the stream they immediately separate to fish alone or at the most 2 people fish together. This is sometimes due to the size of the stream not allowing 2 to fish together but generally fly fishermen are looking for solitude with their experience.

I tell new recruits when I am teaching that trout happen to live in clean oxygen rich with beautiful riparian environs so it is our pleasure to be in their home. Wading in the water alone allows us to feel the temperature and pressure of the current we are fishing thereby bringing us closer to what trout feel. The temperature and movement of the wind gives a rhythm that we can incorporate into our cast. New recruits to fly fishing overwhelmed by their fear of casting. I tell them the basics of 10-2 motion and allowing the loop to unfurl but otherwise relax and allow the rhythms of nature guide their muscles into the proper smooth motion of casting.



Fly placement is a matter of ZEN thinking. The harder one tries to place a fly in the right chosen location the more difficult it is. Relax, let nature's rhythms guide the cast and instantly look at the spot you wish to place the fly and your mind will send the signals to your muscles and they will do what is necessary to place the fly there. Good drift is accomplished by taking in all of the surrounding currents and adjusting

the line / leader / tippet to avoid the currents affect on the drift. If you relax and just respond to the cues you do a lot right.

Understanding the trout so one can determine where they are, what they are eating and avoid frightening them, requires you to become like a trout in your thinking. Trout determine where they go by 3 factors: a) oxygen / nutrition supply, b) comfort (not fighting current and losing energy unnecessarily and c) protection from predators. Always analyze these factors and you will be fishing over fish more often and be a more successful fly fisherman.

Speaking of success, the fly fisherman goes through several stages in his progression as a fly fisherman. Stage 1 is catching fish, any fish.

Stage 2 is catching larger fish. Stage 3 is catching selective fish. Stage 4 is relaxing and enjoying the trout's beautiful world and catching fish as a bonus. I have found that on those days when the fish are uninterested I try to meld into nature and practice my casts, presentation and drift for the pure beauty of it and thereby be prepared for the next day when the Trout God is more generous.

One of the best books that lead me to my particular spiritual experience with fly fishing is "Trout on the Fly" by Lee Wulff. The book is really not for beginners but can be read as a beginner and then read again and again as one's experience increases and new nuggets will be discovered in reading each time.



## Black Parachute

by Mike Dennis

Over my 30 years of fly fishing, I have come to believe the color black in a trout's diet is like dark chocolate is to me – irresistible. So several years ago, I created the Black Parachute and assumed this fly already existed, but after an exhaustive search through fly books I could not find this particular fly. The fly imitates ants, black midges, black mayflies and potentially other small black terrestrials. I have found it very useful when the fish are being selective particularly during warm



weather in the summer. I make them in all sizes #16 - #22 depending on what is happening on the stream. I have taught 3 generations of fly

tiers and my friend Bill Owen now ties the Black Parachute with an orange post. The post is not an imitation of a wing but strictly a visibility aid for the fisherman in a fly that is difficult to see (especially size #22). The post should be noted is slightly shorter than usual and is chopped at the top as opposed to the usual parachute. This is accomplished by clipping white calf's tail and using the dipped end as the top of the post.

Hook: Standard dry fly hook #16 - #22

Thread: 6/0 Black

Body: Dubbed black material

Tail: Black hackles (usually equal to the body length or less)

Post: Calf's hair (white or dyed orange)

Parachute: Black hackle appropriate length to the size of the fly.

I whip finish the knot but do not add head cement. There is a trick for keeping parachute hackles out of the way when finishing off the head knot requiring 2 – 3 hands and I will make this available to anyone who wishes to ask.

## 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

## PISGAH CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED

1969-1994

### A Short History by Will Zapf

Part 2 continued from the February Issue

#### WHAT IT WAS LIKE THEN

A 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary might be too recent for history, but there is certainly nostalgia. During this start-up period which probably began in 1968, there was a lot happening nationally.

The Viet Nam War was the big news. Richard Nixon was elected president in November 1968, and on January 6, 1969, the *Times-News* lead headline was "Small Fiscal Surplus is Forecasted by LBJ." This during a "guns and butter" economy. In 1968, the musical "Hair", an off-Broadway protest play opened on Broadway with love beads, frontal nudity, and the opinion that a new world was dawning. A VW camper was advertised for a suggested retail price of \$2931 POE east coast. Gasoline to run it was about 32 cents a gallon. The price of a first class stamp was 6 cents. The Village Inn offered a lunch buffet for \$1.35 with the Sunday buffet going for \$2.75. The Tigers won the 1968 World Series by defeating the Cardinals, and the Jets took Super Bowl III from the Baltimore Colts.

#### WHAT FISHING WAS LIKE THEN

Than as now, fly fishers were a minority. In the fly fishing world most anglers had changed from gut to synthetic leaders, rods were bamboo or glass, lines were nylon instead of silk, and line sizes were finally standardized by weight in 1965. Standardization simplified fly tackle selection making fly fishing more popular. Prior to the AFTMA (American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association) weight system, letters designated line size. The problem was that few lines related to each other between manufacturers when matching to a specific rod. The major fly tackle change since 1969 is the graphite rod.

In 1969, an Orvis bamboo rod could be purchased for as little as \$79, or if this was too much, Klein's Sporting Goods advertised in *Sports Afield* a complete outfit for \$25.88 plus \$1.50 postage. The complete balanced outfit consisted of a handcrafted Garcia "Custom Royal Javelin" rod (I'm sure this name was appropriate); a Garcia automatic fly reel described in the ad to "have all the feel and balance prescribed by the old masters"; plus line, flies and other necessary accessories to go fishing immediately. In 1969, another event that popularized fly fishing, and was an indicator of things to come, was the introduction of *Fly Fisherman* magazine. During this time, the literary field expanded and many authors we identify with angling were just beginning, weaning the trout fishers away from Ray Bergman's *Trout*, described by Arnold Gingrich as the angler's Dr. Spock. Also in 1969, the Museum of American Fly Fishing (now the American Museum of Fly Fishing) was formed from the Orvis collection.

#### TROUT UNLIMITED

In the realm of Trout Unlimited, 1959 was the founding year, and in 1963 the first major event held outside Michigan took place. It was the TU annual meeting in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, with seven interested trouters from North Carolina attending. They were spurred on by resource problems, including the construction of the Lake Fontana North Shore Road and plans to dam Upper French Broad watershed streams. Plans for both of these projects continue to resurface at regular intervals. By the end of 1963, 45 members had signed up in North Carolina. A charter was applied for and affiliation with National TU made in early 1964. Five years later the Pisgah Chapter was founded, the third chapter in North Carolina.

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## PISGAH CHAPTER - TROUT UNLIMITED

During its first year, the Pisgah Chapter had plans for a stream project. Unfortunately, files are missing for the early years. Although not complete, the 1973-1993 files give a picture of the chapter and its activities. These generally include stream improvement, fly fishing schools, getting politicians and bureaucrats to act, public relations, picnics and other activities. Regular meetings are an activity that a local organization such as the Pisgah Chapter undertakes to conduct business and provide a program to keep members and guests informed and entertained. To get this done requires the planning and work of many, plus a lot of work by a few. The lists of officers and board members give a good idea of most of the active members. Reviewing the early files, two names constantly surface. These are Thomas J. Harshbarger and Wallace W. Lockwood.

Tom was the southeast aquatic ecologist heading the Bent Creek Experiment Station for the National Forest Service as team leader of the Aquatic Habitat Research Group. Many programs of the Pisgah Chapter were presentations he made and this vital activity was performed until 1982 when he departed to the University of Idaho to pursue his doctoral studies. Shortly before leaving, Tom finished preparation of a sound/slide presentation, "Trout Fishing in the Appalachians, an Endangered Experience." The Pisgah Chapter funded the duplication of slides and recording to make sets available for nationwide distribution by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and TU Headquarters. In 1978, Tom was nominated by the Pisgah Chapter as a candidate for the TU Professional Conservationist Award, and this award was presented by Wally Lockwood at the 1979 annual TU meeting in Asheville. In 1974, with the aid of volunteers from the Pisgah Chapter, Tom led the fight against the reclassification of the Davidson River as a stocked category stream in its entirety. Throughout the summer manpower was supplied doing shocking, sampling and lab work requiring twice weekly trips. For Tryon members this meant a 100 mile round trip. The information prepared by Tom and other qualified fisheries biologists was presented to the District 9 Commissioner and resulted in the compromise that is still basically in effect today. It states that all of the stream capable of reproduction is to retain native status, and the downstream section stocked. Ironically, the District 9 biologist had earlier filed essentially the same data, but the N.C. Wildlife Commission had chosen to ignore it without the District 9 Commissioner's approval.

Tom continued with projects that needed volunteer manpower to supplement his budget. A "Hundred Year" storm ravaged the South Mills watershed in 1976, and scoured the stream to bedrock leaving little for the propagation of aquatic insect life or trout. To remedy this situation, one million eyed brown trout eggs were promised for planting in the South Mills River and Bradley Creek, one of its major tributaries. Pisgah and Land of Sky (Asheville) Chapters agreed to cooperate and furnish crews of at least 20 volunteers on a 24-hour notice as deliveries were made. From late November to late December, after digging, shoveling, carrying properly size stones in buckets, redds and fry traps were prepared, marked and recorded—some with Vibert boxes. Bad weather came soon after egg planting, ten inches of ice forming. After the ice went out, the project was estimated to be a near total loss but still left the stream with more fry than before. Other projects assisted by Pisgah Chapter manpower included distribution of several thousand fry in tributaries of the South Mills, and in 1980 seven thousand brown trout fingerlings were distributed in the South Mills—the most successful of these major efforts.



To be continued in the April issue

*Snags & Snarls 7*

**Big News Everybody - The Waynesville Fly Shop is now For Sale!! All interested persons should contact Matt at WFSBrookies@aol.com or call 828.246.0306 for more information!! We're conveniently located in downtown Waynesville at 168 South Main, just two blocks West of the Mast General Store. 168 South Main St. Waynesville, NC 28786| Phone:**

**828.246.0306| WFSbrookies@aol.com**

The Waynesville Fly Shop is Western North Carolina's connection to fly fishing in the Smoky Mountains. We offer guide services, classes and private instruction. If you're after brook, rainbow, or brown trout in our freestone rivers and streams, we're the first and last stop you need to make.

The Waynesville Fly Shop is located within an easy drive to some of the best trout waters found in Western North Carolina.

The Nantahala River's Delayed Harvest, the Davidson River's Catch and Release Water, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Cherokee's new Trophy Trout Section are all within 45 minutes of our front door! We also have the Delayed Harvest Sections of the West Fork of the Pigeon River and the Famous Tuckaseegee River less than 30-minutes away! The Waynesville Fly shop is the only full-service fly shop in the area and we're pleased to offer a full range of fly fishing and fly tying equipment and materials! Stop by and check us out!



#### **Our products and services include:**

- Large selection of dry flies, nymphs, midges, and emergers including many local/ traditional patterns of the Great Smoky Mountains
- Full selection of fly tying materials and equipment from Umpqua, Metz, WAPSI, Whiting Farms, and others
- High quality fly rods, reels, lines, leaders and tippetts including TFO, Ross Reels, Lamson, St. Croix, RIO, Scientific Angler SA, Umpqua, and Maxima
- Waders/ Boots by Dan Bailey and Chota
- Vests/ Chest Packs by Pacific Fly and Fish Pond
- Accessories by Rising, Riverborn and Umpqua
- Guide services (fully insured, licensed, all required permits)
- Fly fishing and/or fly-tying classes (group or individual)



## Y2K Bug by John Berry

I am not writing about the overly-hyped computer crisis of a few years back, but the fly. The Y2K is a bead-head egg pattern made with orange and yellow yarn that is trimmed into a conical shape. It can be quite productive. Yesterday, I was guiding two clients on the White River at Rim Shoals. We were struggling and I tried a Y2K. It produced immediate results and my clients caught several fish on them. I ran into an old fishing buddy that was also struggling. He asked what fly we were using to catch fish. I told him we were using the Y2K. He said that he would be too embarrassed to fish one.

I told him I would be more embarrassed to take clients out and not catch fish.

What is it about certain flies that cause them to garner no respect? I hear the same things said about Woolly Buggers, Marabou jigs and San Juan worms. I have to admit that I once had the same attitude about the western attractor flies with their bright colors, foam bodies and rubber legs. Then there are those fly fishers that will not fish a nymph of any kind. They only fish dry flies preferably to rising fish. Maybe it is this kind of thinking that gives fly fishing an image of elitism.

Is it their name or appearance that relegates these patterns to some obscure corner of the fly box? Certainly there are names like the Woolly Bugger that do not engender respect. You have to admit that it is better than Moose Turd (yes, there is such a fly) but still not a winner. Probably appearance has a lot to do with it. The Y2K just does not look like a fly should and neither do the western attractors.

At the same time certain flies have a certain cachet. They are discussed in the hushed tones reserved for the Founding Fathers or Congressional Medal Of Honor Winners. Flies like Royal Wulffs, Parachute Adams and even Gold Ribbed Hares Ears are discussed with awe. If they are followed by the words "size twenty-four" they are accorded the respect of holy relics. Sure, these flies have well documented

genealogies, they have been around for a long time, have an elegant buggy look and yes, they are productive patterns.

Maybe the Y2Ks of the world do not have the background or have not been around too long but they do catch fish. If truth be told, I have probably caught more fish on a Woolly Bugger than any other single pattern. Rip Collins caught his World Record Brown Trout on a brown marabou jig. I am currently catching the majority of the fish I take on dry flies through the use of western attractor flies.

What I am trying to say is that the most important criteria for judging a fly should be its ability to catch fish. The name, creator, history, and appearance are not as important as that bit of information. I proudly fish Y2Ks, Woolly Buggers and anything else, as long as it catches fish.

The next time you tie on one of these flies and your fishing buddy snickers, just smile confidently and fish on.

John Berry is a fly fishing guide in Cotter, Arkansas and can be contacted at <http://www.berrybrothersguides.com/>.



## Pisgah Chapter Directory

### Officers and Board

President .....	Linda Campbell	828-817-2681
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Vice President...	Kiki Matthews	828-696-1599
	<a href="mailto:kikimatthews@bellsouth.net">kikimatthews@bellsouth.net</a>	
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	<a href="mailto:chris.ellis@us.michelin.com">chris.ellis@us.michelin.com</a>	
Treasurer .....	Mark Coffin	828-738-3708
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	<a href="mailto:piercefordp@yahoo.com">piercefordp@yahoo.com</a>	
Director (2009)	Wai Syn	828-894-5524
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	<a href="mailto:castawaync@gmail.com">castawaync@gmail.com</a>	
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	<a href="mailto:ffmd48@yahoo.com">ffmd48@yahoo.com</a>	
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### Snags & Snarls

Publishing	Jim Hoskinson	828-891-8440
	<a href="mailto:ifish2xs@bellsouth.net">ifish2xs@bellsouth.net</a>	

## 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

All Meeting Times: 7:00 Social 7:30 Meeting

3/4/09 Board Meeting Kelseys 6:30

3/12/09 General Meeting UUF

4/1/09 Board Meeting Kelseys 6:30

4/4/09 Fly Fishing School

4/9/09 Genral Meeting UUF

4/25/09 Kids Fishing Day - Stu's Pond

5/6/09 Board Meeting Kelseys 6:30

5/9/09 Kids Fishing Day - Stu's Pond

5/14/09 Fly Tying Meeting UUF

5/16/09 Annual Banquet & Auction

6/13/09 Kids Fishing Day - DuPont Forest

## 2009 Delayed Harvest Stocking Schedule

Green River **March 6**, 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 6**, April 1, May 1

**Note: these are new dates**

### 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](http://www.tu.org)

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



*Snags and Snarls* is published eleven times a year by the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a non-profit organization for its members and supporters. Address comments to: *Snags and Snarls* PO. Box 841 Hendersonville NC 28793-0841.