

Snags & Snarls

Pisgah Chapter Trout Unlimited March 2010



March 2010 PCTU President's Letter

The calendar says that March brings not only Daylight Savings Time; but also the first day of spring...let's hope so!!! We certainly deserve longer, brighter, and warmer days at this point.



This time of year also brings an increase of all sorts of chapter and other fly-fishing activities. The next two months are no exception. Delayed-harvest stockings are scheduled for March 1st and March 4th, on the Green River and Little River respectively. A fly-fishing introduction session is taking place at the Historic Johnson Farm in Hendersonville on March 20th along with the Pisgah Fly Masters Tournament at the Wildlife Education Center / Fish Hatchery scheduled for the weekend of March 20th and 21st.

In April, we are planning on having the New Member Orientation Session at the North Mills River Campground on April 10th. This was the session that had to be cancelled last October due to bad weather. Please contact Dale Klug at daleklug@bellsouth.net if you are interested in attending. The Fly Fishing School takes place on April 24th at Harmon Field (Tryon). Additional delayed-harvest stockings will also be scheduled for both the Little and Green Rivers.

With all of these events on the calendar, there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities for everyone to choose from. These activities are a lot of fun and a great way to get to know your fellow members.

Despite the very wintery weather that we have had over the last two or three months, there has also been a lot of activity going on behind the scenes. With so much of our communication focused electronically these days, it was determined that our chapter website needed some major renovation and other improvements.

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A newly constructed website is virtually complete and will be officially launched in the coming weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Frank Forrester for the numerous hours that he put into its construction and to the many others involved who provided input and feedback.

The February meeting and speaker, Emile Labrousse, was great. His presentation about steelhead fishing along the Lake Erie shores was terrific as were his signature, “pastry chef” cookies. The March meeting also promises to be a great one. In addition to our featured speaker, Randy Ratliff, talking about some ideal trout fishing locations in East Tennessee, we will have Jim Hefley, a well-known local artist, whose proceeds from the sale of his artwork, directly supports both Rivercourse and Casting for Recovery.

Best wishes for the arrival of an early spring and I hope to see each of you soon.

Tight Lines.

Kiki



Emile Labrousse

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Clayton Aiken
Gordon Lothrop
Kenneth Link
James Matley
Frederic Morris
Luther Pearson**

Thank You Al Rogers
February Fly Raffle - PCTU
collected \$82



Snags & Snarls reporter/photographer John Barsotti was on assignment last week in Dillsboro to cover the demolition of the Dillsboro Dam. Unfortunately they started without him.

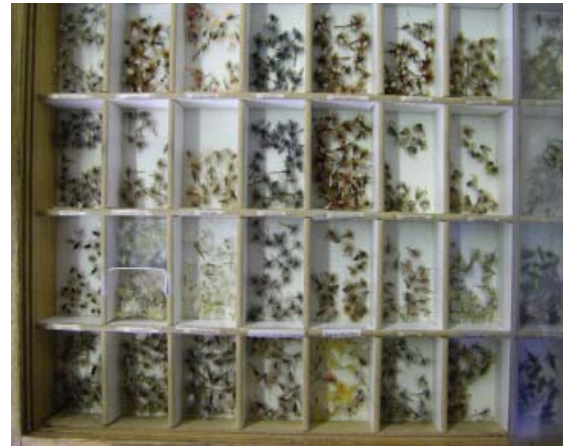
The speaker for the March 11th Meeting will be Randy Ratliff. Randy is a trout fishing guide in E. Tenn and will do a “General overview of the troutwaters of Eastern Tennessee.”

**PCTU Merchandise Sale
Select Sizes only - XXL & XXXL**

**Bonehead Long Sleeve Shirt - 1 each — XXL only \$22
Bonehead Long Sleeve Shirt – 1 each – SM only \$22
Denim Long Sleeve Shirt — 3 each — XXL only \$10.00
Denim Long Sleeve Shirt — 2 each — XXXL only \$10.00
Payment Method: Cash or Check Only**

Pull into that gas station----- I need some flies

As you approach Pisgah Forest from Hendersonville on Highway 64 you will see a barber shop on your left, next will be an ice cream stand. Then a Marathon gas station. The store with the gas station is One Stop (pictured below). As you enter the store turn right. You will see the display of flies pictured. The flies are priced at \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.50. The fly tier? Our very own **Al Rogers**. So you didn't win the fly raffle at the meeting - \$11 will buy 12 great flies.



To locate the store from the Asheville airport on route 280 - turn left at the intersection of 64 & 276. You'll pass Daggies & a coffee shop. The gas station is on the right.

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

Ethics and Stream Etiquette

“The ethics of sportsmanship is not a fixed code, but must be formulated and practiced by the individual, with no referee but the Almighty.” —Aldo Leopold, from *Round River*

Abiding by a code of ethics and observing stream etiquette is extremely simple and can make all the difference in the world in how pleasant a fishing outing can be. It involves nothing more than treating other fishermen with thoughtfulness, courtesey, and respect. In other words, treat them the way you would like for them to treat you. Try putting these following points of etiquette into practice and in the long run you won't just make others feel better, you'll feel a lot better about yourself!

Points to Ponder:

Treat other anglers, your surroundings, and your fish with respect.

- Trout fishing is a vehicle to leave the competition of everyday life and to enter a natural world where gentle people can enjoy being together while respecting one another's privacy and need for solitude. It is fine to share stories and flies with a stranger, but never a stretch of stream unless invited. This is true, whether on public waters or in the backcountry.
- We fish for different reasons. Some of us go fly-fishing simply to experience some solitude. When you greet another angler on the stream or trail, it's OK to ask: “How's fishing?” If the other angler mumbles and looks away, respect his need for privacy and move along.
- Anglers should walk the trail to space themselves so as not to infringe on another angler's ‘envelope of solitude’. This usually means around a bend and completely out of site of other anglers.
- If someone is fishing a pool, either move along to another section of stream or wait until the other angler is out of the pool and has moved along to another section. • If you come across an angler sitting on the bank next to a pool, move along. The angler may be ‘resting’ the pool or ‘resting’ a particular fish.
- Never cross a stream where another angler is fishing. Find another place that is either well below or out of sight above to cross.
- Never hurry ahead of another angler to cover water which you anticipate the other angler is working his way towards.
- When two anglers meet on the stream and one is fishing ‘up stream’ and the other is fishing ‘down stream’, the angler fishing ‘up’ has the ‘right-of-way’.
- When you discover what fly is working, share the info (and a fly) with other anglers. • When another angler gives you a fly, open your fly box and give him one of your favorites and tell him when and how you use it.
- Invite someone less fortunate or less experienced to go with you and share your stream knowledge.
- When another angler shows you a secret fishing spot, never return there alone without asking your friend's permission. And never show the spot to someone else.
- Don't compete with other anglers on the number of trout caught. For some of us, success is fooling the fish into striking, even if the trout isn't landed. For others, success is in making a good cast. For others, success is just a day of solitude, making memories on a stream.

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- Respect private property. Don't cross it without permission, even to get to 'public' property on the other side.
- Use the heaviest tippet you can to fool the trout. Play the trout quickly without exhausting it.
- If possible, release trout without handling them. Barbless hooks will make this easier.
- Limit your kill; don't kill your limit.
- Pick up trash, even if it is not yours. When you clip off a piece of line, put it in your pocket and take it out.
- Be active in conservation. Help to conserve, protect and restore the fisheries and their watersheds. Volunteering is a great way to GIVE SOMETHING BACK to the resource that brings you so much pleasure.
- Pass it on; take a kid fishing. Today's kids will be the watershed protectors of tomorrow.

"Specific rules in angling etiquette are few, and common courtesy is the basis. It is poor form to enter a stream not far above another if they are fishing in that direction. The skillful angler does not disturb the water much, but the beginner is likely to frighten the fish and put them down for some time. One should realize their own capabilities, and enter the stream at a discreet distance above or below another angler. The first one in the river has the right of way, and we must not disturb their fun." —Ernest G. Schwiebert

The text of this article was taken from the August, 2005 edition of TIGHT LINES, the Newsletter of the Rabun Chapter of TU, slightly edited and used with permission

Photography Showcase

Have ever had the desire to share your picture taking skills with an audience of several hundred or show off the "big one" that didn't get away? You can by displaying your work on our new website's Photo Gallery . One of your pictures may even become a future cover page of *Snags and Snarls*. It's easy, just prepare your best pictures for the web using the online resizing program at <http://www.webresizer.com/resizer/> and then email them to your newsletter editor.

Five Helpful Tips for Catching Early Spring Trout

Early spring brings a lot of life to the streams of WNC, not only fishermen but insects and increased metabolism in the trout. Here are some helpful tips to make the most of your next early spring trip.

While the fish are far more active than they have been in the last couple of weeks the water is still really cool (ok almost cold). Fish are still lethargic in the morning and evening hours. So fish slow and do not be in a big hurry.

Rising fish (or what we perceive to be rising fish) are often eating emerger's just under the surface of the water rather than duns. Before casting to the rise with a dry fly look to see if the fishes head is breaking the surface or if it is his back. I was fishing last year when I encountered rising fish I switched flies to a dry and no takers about 5 minutes later we switched to a soft hackle pheasant tail with no shot and fished just below the surface and caught a lot of nice fish.

Mid day is still more productive than early morning and late evening. For at least the next couple of weeks the fish will still prefer to feed in the middle part of the day when the water is at its warmest. Once the water reaches 52 and stays there overnight then the fishing will be good in the early morning.

For at least the next couple of weeks dark colored flies will out produce light colored flies. Typically I fish a lot of Parachutes Adam's, Pheasant Tail's, Kevin's Stoneflies, and dark colored caddis or small black stimulators.

Fish larger tippets, and land more fish. In the spring the fish have had the winter off and the water flows are generally higher. SO fish have to make an immediate decision eat the bug or watch it go by. I have always fished higher tippet sizes in the spring because of this, usually 4-5x. With the advances that have been made in fluorocarbon tippets I can even do a larger size. Last year I never fished any tippet smaller than 5x fluorocarbon and have found my self fishing 3-4x fluorocarbon and catching more fish because I am not breaking fish off as much as I did with the lighter tippets.

Hopefully these tips will help you out the next time you to catch more fish in early spring.

Good Fishing
Kevin Howell
Davidson River Outfitters
1-888-861-0111

Recruiters Needed!

We need you to help enroll your non-fly fishing friends in our April 24th fly fishing school. With your support we will have an excellent school and, at the same time, meet our fundraising goals. Please print out the FFS information and registration forms from

<http://www.pisgahchapttu.org> and introduce our hobby to some of your best friends.

Questions?

Contact Frank Forrester fforrester@hotmail.com

Fly Fishing Tips for the Less Than Perfect

Johnny Butler

The February 1997 issue of Fly Fisherman contained a summary of a study conducted by the American Sportfishing Association and the North American Fly Tackle Trade Association. This study showed that 50% of the fly fishers in the United States had been involved in the sport less than 5 years. Based on the number of new faces in the sport of fly fishing, there is no reason to believe the percentage of newcomers has changed. A member of this group trying to master the intricacies of the equipment, tactics and etiquette of such a complex sport sometimes finds the task daunting.

When you embark on the journey to master fly fishing, there is much advice to be found. Some of it is good, and some of it is not. Over these last 12 years, I have received some of each. This article will try to distill some of the good advice I have received and some of the lessons I have learned, sometimes the hard way. Most of these tips are ones which other gracious fly fishers and fly tiers have been kind enough to share in print, in video, or best of all in person. The tips are primarily focused on fly fishing for trout in moving waters. Some people will disagree as to the usefulness of these tips, but just as not every fly works every place, so too will some of these tips work better for some than for others. The tips are broken down into the following categories: Equipment, Flies, Wading, Fly Tying, and General tips.

EQUIPMENT:

- If possible, cast a rod before you buy it so that you can feel for yourself whether you like the action.
- Be especially careful with your rod when you are assembling it, disassembling it, and when you are walking with it, and you will greatly reduce the likelihood of breaking your rod. An unlimited warranty, can solve a lot of problems, but it cannot fully assuage the inconvenience of being without your rod, if even for a little while. By the way don't leave the rod on the roof of the car either, you would not believe how many rods are cast on to the pavement this way.
- Clean your fly line often. A clean line lasts longer, casts farther and floats better. I like Greased Lightin' as it cleans and treats the fly line in one step.
- To demystify the unexplained difference between leader and tippet, remember that the tippet is just the tip end of the leader and spooled tippet material is used to replace that mysteriously disappearing tip of your leader.
- To estimate the strength of the tippet or tippet material, subtract the X factor from 9. Example: $9 - 5x = 4$, so 5x tippet is approximately 4 pound test.
- Until you feel comfortable tying knots, tie a surgeon's loop in the end of your leader(tippet) and add an appropriate length of tippet material to your leader by either tying an improved clinch knot in the loop at the end of your leader or by pre-tying surgeon's loops in various lengths and diameters of tippet material and connecting the pre-tied loops to the loop in the end of your leader.
- Speaking of knots, buy a book on knots and some cheap 8 to 15 pound test monofilament and practice tying your knots in your spare time, not during precious fishing time. For a little extra confidence until you master knot tying (and perhaps even after you do) try using some Loon UV Knot Sense© to keep those knots from slipping.
- Do not drive yourself to distraction by trying to reconcile the numbering systems in fly fishing equipment... you can't. Just remember, the larger the number of the fly, the smaller it is; the larger the number of the leader or tippet, the smaller and weaker it is; the larger the number of the fly line, the larger and stronger it is.

- If finances permit, buy stocking foot waders and wading boots instead of boot foot waders. Stocking foot waders fit better, are less clumsy, and you can buy different waders for different conditions while using the same wading boots.
- Consider studded soles on your boots, many people (like me) think studded soles give you better traction, especially on moss covered rocks.
- Use some kind of wading staff, you can make one or you can buy a collapsible one you can pull out only when you need it.
- To quickly add and remove weight from a rig with split shot already on it, add some moldable weight just above the split shot. This type of weight is easily added and removed.
- Do not lose your valuable tools by having your zinger come unpinned from your vest. After pinning your zinger to your vest, wrap several wraps of thin wire like floral wire or the core wire from a paper tie for trash bags around the pin and clasp.
- If you are using disposable chemical hand warmers, instead of opening them at stream side, open them in a warm area so that they can start heating up.

FLIES:

- Until, you learn the names of the flies, label the compartments of your fly box with the names of the flies in that compartment. Better yet, take up fly tying as you will certainly remember the names of the each fly you spent so much time tying.
- If you buy your flies, try to buy at least two of each pattern so that if you catch fish on a particular fly you will have another one to use as a model for tying or to show at the fly shop so you can buy more.
- Be careful about what kind of patch you use, the wool ones seem to hold onto your flies a little longer than you want them to, while the foam patches seem to fail at inopportune moments. I personally like the Fly Trap© (size regular) since it is vented and hinged and can be shut to protect your flies. I personally would rather lose my fly in a fish's mouth instead of helplessly watching it unintentionally navigate my favorite stream.
- Do not put flies back in a sealed fly box while they are wet, the flies will rust. Better to lose a fly to a fish than to rust.
- Do not put your dry flies in a box which is too shallow, you will mash down the hackle.
- If you do manage to mangle the hackle on your dry flies, either put them in a colander and steam them and then dry them again, or wet the hackle on the flies, stick them in an old fly box, blow dry them, and put them back in an appropriate box.
- If you start missing fish on a particular fly, try sharpening the hook. This is especially important on nymphs of all sizes and flies size 18 and smaller.
- If you are having difficulty seeing your dry fly on the water, try using a parachute pattern, and try coloring the parachute orange; after all the color of broken water is white, the same color as the parachute on most parachute flies.
- If you are still having difficulty seeing your dry fly on the water, try putting a little brightly colored moldable floating putty on a knot in your leader 6 to 24 inches above your fly and then strike if a fish rises in that area.

FLY TYING:

- When following a fly tying pattern, tie in the materials in the order in which they are listed.
- When you are dubbing material onto the tying thread, twist the material in only one direction; otherwise, you will be dubbing and then undubbing the material.
- Speaking of dubbing, start off by putting on a little dubbing at a time. It is easier to add dubbing than it is to take it off.
- When (not if) you use peacock herl, tie in at least two strands no matter how small the fly you are tying just in case one of the fragile strands breaks while you are wrapping it. You can also gently wrap the strands around the tying thread like dubbing and while holding the strands and thread together wrap them around the hook as needed.
- If you are going to bend down the barb of a hook on a fly you are going to tie, do it before you tie the fly so that if the hook breaks, you will not have wasted the effort of tying the fly first.
- For highly visible parachute flies, try using fluorescent orange or yellow material for the post instead of white material, or color the parachute with a waterproof orange pen after you tie it.

GENERAL:

- Be courteous. Yield to the angler upstream from you; do not ever walk through water someone else is fishing. Try to give the other fishermen around you as much fishing space as you would like to have.
- Practice playing fish from the reel so that when that big one comes along, you will be used to having the reel working for you to protect your tippet.
- Buy a pair of polarized sunglasses. You will see to fish better, you will see to wade better, and you will never believe all that you have not been seeing.
- To get a better drift when nymphing, raise your rod tip so that only the leader, not the fly line, is touching the water.
- If you are a beginner, and you are hiring a guide, ask if the guide is patient with beginners. Most guides are very patient with those who are new to the sport, but it is no fun to be with one who is not.
- Try to fish with more experienced friends, they can show you how to do something much easier than you can read about it, hear about it, or figure it out on your own.
- To find more experienced fishermen, join a local chapter of Trout Unlimited or the Federation of Fly Fishers.

In conclusion, one of the great pleasures of fly fishing and fly tying is experimentation. Have a little fun, try something different, you never know it just might work. If it works, then share it with a friend or two and everyone will be wiser and happier for it.

This article was re-printed with permission of the Saluda River Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

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Address comments to: *Snags and Snarls*
P.O. Box 841 Hendersonville NC 28793-0841.

EVENT CALENDAR

March 3 Board Meeting Kelsey's 6:30
March 11 General Meeting 7:00 Social, 7:30 Meeting

March 31 Board Meeting Kelsey's 6:30
April 8 General Meeting 7:00 Social, 7:30 Meeting
April 24 Fly Fishing School Harmon Field Tryon

Delayed Harvest Stocking Dates:

Little River - March 4, April 1, May 4
Green River - March 1, April 7, May 6
North Mills - March 3, April 7, May 3
East Fork FB - March 4 @ 10:00 Meet at Kiosk

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
Alan Frank	926-4737**
Steve Fromholtz	674-2450*
Dave Maxwell	894-0308
Steve Herring	749-9352
Dale Klug	243-6783

Legend: * weekends only
** Haywood County

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 828-684-2867

Water discharges on the Green River 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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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.