

August 2010 PCTU President's Letter

So will this heat ever end?! This will certainly be one for the record books by the time that it is finished.



While we did not have a July Chapter meeting, we certainly had a great picnic (despite all of the rain that night) at the Kellogg Center. I would like to extend my thanks to Linda Campbell and Mark Byington for getting everything organized; John Kies and John Johnson for braving the elements to keep the burgers and dogs in ample supply; along with Shirley Johnson and the other volunteers who helped with organizing and cleaning up.

August brings a return of the regular chapter meeting and the program promises to be an interesting one. The speaker will be Jake Rash, the Coldwater Coordinator from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. He will be presenting an update on the status of the Commission's Five Year Strategic Research Plan and its impact on the various watersheds in our area.

Reminder: Board Elections will be taking place in September. The following are the candidates to date.

President – Kiki Matthews

Vice President – Open

Secretary – Chris Ellis

Treasurer – Dick Millonzi

At Large – Dave Pierce

At Large – Mike Dennis

At Large – John Johnson

At Large – Shirley Johnson

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, we are still looking for not only a Vice President, but also some additional At Large Members. It is vital to the chapter's direction to continue to add new board members and ideas. This is a great opportunity to both actively participate and contribute to the Chapter's future. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me at kikimatthews@bellsouth.net or any other Board member for more information.

Stay cool and see you on the water.

Tight Lines

Kiki Matthews



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.

Chapter Meeting August 12, 2010

Jake Rash, the Coldwater Research Coordinator from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. He will be presenting an update on the status of their 5 year strategic research plan and its impact on our local watersheds.

General Meeting Location and Directions

Our 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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Tim Almy
James Corrigan
Herb Freeman

From the Editor

This month's cover photo is the same as the one on the cover of Eastern fly fishing. The photo was taken by Bill R. Chiles Southeast field editor for Eastern Fly Fishing magazine. The photo is of Simons Welter a member of the Mountain Bridge chapter of TU, and the Davidson River Social Club. The July/August issue of Eastern fly fishing has a feature article by Bill Chiles of Brevard, NC - the Davidson River, and many of the nearby streams.

jh



Road Cleanup June 24, 2010

Once again we had beautiful weather for our road side trash pick up. We had good attendance, good conversation, good food and coffee, and a lot of hard work especially from one team that found parts of a car. We were joking that all we needed was a mechanic to assemble the parts and we'd almost have a whole car. It was a lot of hard work to drag the stuff out of the woods and back up to the dumpster at Coon Tree. Congratulations to those two hard workers!! So another successful road side pick up is behind us and for those of you that haven't come out to help us yet perhaps you'll do so our next time out. We do enjoy ourselves.

Following are the names of those in attendance. Unfortunately a few names are missing or are misspelled. As hard as I tried I couldn't read every ones hand writing Tom Thomas, Jerry Lanford, .David Pierce, .Ed Voltz, .Dave Maxwell, .Frank Forrester, .Tim Schudwell, .Harry ?,

Rich Foster, .Shiley Johnson, .John Johnson, and Ross Fox



**JULY 17, 2010 PCTU PICNIC
at the Kellogg Center**



PCTU president Kiki Matthews presents Stu Cohen with a painting by Jim Hefley for his invaluable efforts with the Kids Fishing Days. Jim Hefley is a member of the Land O' Sky Chapter.



John Kies and John Johnson cooking in the rain

The Sassafras Band Performs



Moffitt Angling System

by Chris Ellis

During one of my random cruises through the internet, I found a reference to a different approach to fly fishing. It involves using a hookless fly with a barbless circle hook attached below on the leader. The fish strikes the fly and the circle hook is pulled into the outside of the jaw. This eliminates deep hooking and foul hooking because the circle hook gap is smaller making foul hooking less likely. The hook is also easy to remove by running a tool down the line so the fish can be released more easily. The following provides a good introduction to the method and the controversy surrounding this angling system:

1) =====
Introduction to the Moffit System for hookless flies (excerpt)



... Moffitt's flies (moffittangling.com) are tied on rubber tubes, each with a small round eye that can be looped on a leader with a threading tool. The rubber makes the flies flexible and provides enough friction to keep them from sliding on the line. A barbless circle hook—Moffitt's own design—goes about a foot below the fly. You tie it on with a snell knot, with the leader coming out of the bottom of the hook eye, which ensures that the hook will rotate properly and dig in when it hits a fish's jaw.

You fish the whole rig using any common fly fishing scheme—dry or wet flies, streamers, or nymphs. (Moffitt and I were deep-drifting egg patterns and nymphs.) When you feel or see a fish grab the fly, strike as you normally would. There's no need to wait as you do when you're fishing circle hooks with bait. As the leader is pulled through the fish's mouth, the bare circle hook is pulled against the hard outside line of the fish's jaw, where it rotates against that edge and hooks the fish. ... The advantage lies not in hooking more fish but in doing less damage to those you want to release. The mechanics of Moffitt's system are such that it's virtually impossible to hook a fish in the tongue or gullet, inside the gills, or in the eye, as sometimes happens with conventional flies. ...

John Merwin - Field & Stream Excerpt March 19, 2009

2) =====

Moffitt Angling System Expands Product Line (excerpt)

The inventor, Pat Moffitt, came up with the idea while searching for a system that would help reduce fish mortality. Moffitt is a retired environmental scientist and lifetime fly angler and fly tier and designed his system specifically to reduce damage and disfigurement to trout. Why is it controversial? Because at first glance it is similar to rigs that are sometimes used to snag fish, and because some state laws that define what is “acceptable” terminal tackle may prohibit its use. There are also fly fishers who feel the system is too great a departure from the classic idea of the sport. (Of course there are also anglers who, a century after a raging debate between icons of the sport, question whether fishing with a nymph is “real” fly fishing.) On the other hand the system has received endorsements from fly fishing experts like John Randolph and John Merwin, who’ve both fished the system extensively.

[Marshall Cutchin on April 9, 2009 5:16](#)

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Reading the blogs I found a lot of strong opinions regarding this method of fishing. The proponents are generally in states such as Colorado (who recently ruled to allow this method of angling for trout), Steelhead Fishermen from Oregon, and Alaskan anglers who use beads to represent salmon eggs. The bead fishermen contend that it eliminates the deep hooking often related to fishing egg patterns.

Most of those who blogged against this method have not tried the method and are concerned about snagging rules in their state. I don’t know yet if this issues has come up for debate in North Carolina, however the State of Colorado Wildlife Management ruled in favor of the technique as explained in the following article excerpt:

3) =====

Colorado: Moffitt Angling System Legal

...drawing a distinction between “snagging” and hooking a fish in some part of the mouth, the Colorado Division of Wildlife Management on Tuesday declared the Moffitt Angling System to be legal in that state, perhaps offering a rationale for other states to follow. According to a press release, the state said “the Moffitt System did not constitute snagging under Colorado law because ‘the system appears to comply with the intent of our regulations by requiring the fish to voluntarily strike the fly in order to be hooked.’”

[Marshall Cutchin June 19, 2009 6:17 AM](#)

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The Following are quotes from various blogs I visited discussing this method method:

Proponents

- An angler can get better drifts using the contact leaders, fish are hooked in safer parts of the mouth, they fight better, and are easily released from the circle hook.
- It was obvious from the start that the Moffitt System was a very innovative and fish friendly way to take fish on a fly. The hookless fly system employs a patented circle hook at the end of the tippet that hooks the fish through the mouth, resulting in far fewer fatalities. The system also allows you to fish multiple fly rigs with ease.
- ...using a circle hook so you're less likely to snag plus it's on the outside of the mouth so you're less inclined to hook them deep or into the gills.
- It's the most effective way to catch trout feeding on salmon eggs.
It eliminated gut hooking which can happen with glo bugs when fishing for rainbows
- An angler can get better drifts using the contact leaders, fish are hooked in safer parts of the mouth, they fight better, and are easily released from the circle hook.
- It was obvious from the start that the Moffitt System was a very innovative and fish friendly way to take fish on a fly. The hookless fly system employs a patented circle hook at the end of the tippet that hooks the fish through the mouth, resulting in far fewer fatalities. The system also allows you to fish multiple fly rigs with ease.
- This is still not, by design intent, a snagging system in the larger sense of "snagging". If someone wants to snag fish on fly only or ANY water in OR they are not going to use a fly rod OR the Moffit system.
- You must give this a shot before so quickly dismissing it. I got a much better nymph drift with this setup, and hooked (nicely, not foul) a beautiful NH steelie (out of lake winni).
The fish was not harmed, and the hook release was immediate and simple.

Opponents

- This rig is illegal in Ohio, and I can understand why. It is theoretically snagging, and think about it.... It isn't always going to hook the fish in the outside of the jaw, and it has the potential the harm the fish when the leader is pulled through. It also has the possibility of tangling every third cast, which would lead to great difficulty on the water. This rig also has leverage against it. If the fish is hooked on the *outside of the jaw, and you're pulling on the hook, wouldn't the hook most likely rip out of the fish???* I personally will stick to tradition in this matter. No rigs like this are finding their way onto my line soon.

- looked at it. There is no question that it works to a certain point. The advantages to the fish are obvious.

The ‘problems’ I saw were with it were these:

It only works if the fish holds the fly. That does happen, but sometimes it doesn’t. If the fish spits the fly, you have two issues. Missing it altogether, or snagging it someplace you don’t want to hook a fish. I accidentally snag a few fish each year because I often use a trailing fly. I don’t want to increase those occurrences, and I think this ‘system’ would do that. I read someplace that it will work as advertised if the fish hits the fly, then spits it but the line remains in the fishes mouth..

.Probably, but that would seem like cheating to me. If the fish takes the fly and then spits it, I missed the fish and it deserves to ‘win’ that one. A personal thing with me, I’m sure, but still a valid one for me.

- The Moffitt system is illegal in my state of Wisconsin. It would be illegal to “to fish by snagging, foul-hooking, or attempting to hook fish other than in the mouth.”
- Seems like a complete gimmick. The fish they caught on the video look like stockies — try for some wild fish that can take and spit fly out without you even knowing that you had a take.
- The article I read said it is supposed to nearly eliminate eye hooked fish. They feel outside the mouth is less sensitive and there is a lesser chance of mortally deep throat hooking a fish. I have been watching this thing for a bit, I still haven’t made up my mind. I sort of feel like I don’t want my favorite pastime revolutionized. I mean, how many people swear by bamboo in the face of all the modern blank making technology?

Conclusion

It seems that for North Carolina anglers, the legality of the method should be determined. I think the premise is that this method reduces foul hooking and eliminates deep hooking which should in theory make it a good candidate for an approved method for fly fishing in the state

Other considerations are hookless flies, purchasing barbless circle hooks, and field testing and mastering a new fly fishing technique and some experimentation. The kits available from the Moffittangling company are fairly expensive so this may require shopping around for alternatives. The use of J hooks would defeat the intention of reducing foul hooking so circle hooks are recommended.

NC Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing Camp

Grant McClure with a rainbow trout in the West Fork of the Pigeon River.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF DENNIS

By **Jeff Dennis**

Outdoor Correspondent

Published:

Charleston Mercury

Tuesday, July 13, 2010 3:11 PM EDT

Students seeking fly-fishing instruction made rich coldwater memories while attending the Annual Rivercourse fly-fishing camp at the wonderful Lake Logan Episcopal facilities on the edge of the Pisgah Forest, just off the Blue Ridge Parkway. The resort was once the executive retreat for Champion Paper Company and features private trout waters, a gorgeous lake and a new lodge built by the current owner, the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina. Campers and their streamside tutors or “ghillies” have one week to tie flies, cast them to trout and even practice instream etiquette.

The Rivercourse camp is run by several chapters of Trout Unlimited in North Carolina, but Haywood County is the unforgettable setting for the camp that teaches entomology, stocking of trout and the importance of salamanders as indicators of a healthy ecosystem. Franklin Tate of Asheville, Trout Unlimited’s director of youth education, said, “TU is really ready for the younger generation to take over.”

Besides fly-fishing camps in several states, TU has initiated a “Trout in the Classroom program” for high schools, is keen to start college chapters of TU and has added a blog to their Web site. David Hearn is another TU employee in NC who focuses on coldwater conservation and protection of streams. Trout Unlimited has begun acquisition of key lands and is currently working in the Mills River area of NC.

Of the seventeen youths, fifteen were from NC, one was from Tennessee and one was from the Holy City. Grant McClure is thirteen years old and a rising eighth-grader at the Charleston Charter School for Math & Science. McClure started saltwater fishing by the age of six, using a family dock in Beaufort. He began fly-fishing at age 12, which is about the time when McClure read my July 2009 report about Rivercourse. He became hooked on the idea of attending.

Father Arnie McClure gave Grant a fly-rod for Christmas when he was 11, and though it did not get used right away, the youth was soon fly-casting with a natural rhythm that perhaps is facilitated by his 5’11” frame. Upon arriving at Lake Logan, I was honored to “ghillie” for McClure, who was fishing with a Temple Fork Outfitters four-weight rod and Ross reel.

McLure is a lefty and likes to false cast a lot, but he has good control of his line. After turning over a rock to find and examine a caddis larvae, he selected a fly that he himself tied in the Rivercourse workshop and began to fish. Before long, a rainbow trout was on the line in the flushing waters of the West Fork of the Pigeon River. When the fish failed to come to the net and the line went limp, both the ghillie and the student felt some frustration.


Grant hooked and lost two more fish, and I offered counsel about the bright side being that the trout are abundant and seem to be biting. When a fine rainbow trout did enter the net, further lessons were taught such as wet hands are kinder and gentler on a trout that is to be released. We two anglers from the Holy City also shared how fly-casting can be applicable to all waters, even saltwater.

Seeing subtleties on a trout stream allows an angler to “read” the water for areas that might hold fish, and that are worthy of a cast or two. Polarized sunglasses are critical for this assignment in order to take the glare off of the water’s surface. Costa Del Mar makes a variety of sunglasses with lenses to address glare, with the 580-lens in grey being a good all around pick.

The curriculum at Rivercourse is quite extraordinary in that every day begins and ends with time for stream fishing. Arise at 6:00 a.m. and fish from 6:30 until 8:00, and only then are students given breakfast. Students attend classes each day and get visits from mentors like Master Officer Jeff Jackson of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Even some summer fun swim time is allotted each day for the students to jump into Lake Logan. But each day ends with more fly-fishing from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Some tips for anglers of any age include: short casts catch more fish than long casts, don’t false cast more than two or three times, keep your trigger finger on the line after the cast to maintain pressure, use a strike indicator to watch the flow of the current, don’t break your wrist when casting and always look at your rod tip when casting. Want to practice at home? Just set a hula hoop in your yard and try and cast your fly into the hoop with regularity before increasing the distance.

Jeff Dennis is a Charleston native and may be reached at www.LowcountryOutdoors.com.



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

The Joy of Fishing and Volunteering

By Emilie Johnson
Public Relations & Volunteer Coordinator
Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education

I had the pleasure of sitting down with Joe Moore, an avid fisherman and outdoorsman who is a member of the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited and an active volunteer at the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, to talk about both his thoughts on fishing and volunteering.



Joe first got interested in fishing almost before he was able to walk. One of his earliest memories was when he went fishing with his Grandpa George and caught a 20 lb carp. Having come from a long line of family fisherman and hunters that spans three generations, he was raised knowing that fishing was as much a part of living just like having a garden or paying the bills. In addition to fly fishing, Joe bought his first fly tying vice when he was only fifteen years old and taught himself how to tie a variety of flies. Ironically, he fished his first red midge on the Davidson back in 1977 when no other fisherman had fished a red midge there before. He is a unique man who loves the art, joy, and sport of fly fishing.

I asked Joe why he spends time volunteering and he told me that ultimately he loves meeting new people. He has had the opportunity to meet and help an incredible range of people from ages 8 to 80; from all over the country who do a number of different things. He enjoys the tight knit community that surrounds fly fishing; one that doesn't care where you come from. As Joe sees it, when everyone is able to set things aside and just be a fisherman/fisherwomen, it really doesn't matter who you are, or where you come from. Everyone is there for the same reason, and that reason is the joy of FISHING.

Joe especially enjoys getting children involved in the sport; watching the excitement and joy in their eyes when they are pulling in a giant trout. In Joe's opinion, children are not the only ones who should get involved; he thinks that everyone should give fly fishing a shot. He has seen plenty of folks become huge fans over and over again through his volunteer experiences with both PCTU and the Pisgah Center. Last year alone, Joe participated as a volunteer assistant in more than 165 programs between the two organizations.

Joe first started volunteering with the Pisgah Center over three years ago after he was approached by staff while he was on the river. The Pisgah Center was teaching a fly fishing class that day, but having zero luck. One of the educators saw that Joe seemed to be the only one catching fish on the river. When they approached him and asked what he was fishing with; Joe not only gave them

the information, but even set them up with a few flies to use with their class participants. The next thing you know, the Pisgah Staff was finally having some luck and their participants started catching fish.

When the class was done, the Pisgah staff encouraged Joe to join the Center's volunteer group and the rest is history. Joe says that what he likes best about volunteering at the Pisgah Center is the staff. He also says the Center is the only place where he feels comfortable enough to let his kids loose without having to worry. He can't believe that there are so many people in the surrounding communities that don't know about the great variety of programs offered at the Center. His philosophy is that you have to start teaching people when they are young. He firmly believes they are ultimately going to be the ones in the future who will have to continue to conserve and preserve both our wildlife and natural resources.

When I asked him about ways to get people who have thought about volunteering but haven't done anything about it he said, "Get off your ass, because you just might have the time of your life."



Tiger Trout - caught in the Davidson River

The tiger trout is a cross between a brook trout and a brown trout.

Pisgah Chapter Directory

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EVENT CALENDAR

August 4 Board Meeting - Kelsey's 6:30

August 12 General Meeting 7:00 Social, 7:30 Meeting

September 1 Board Meeting - Kelseys

September 9 General Meeting 7:00 Social, 7:30 Meeting

September 18 Kids Fishing Day - Lake Imaging - DuPont Forest

Little River

October 6th

November 2nd

Green River

October 6th

November 4th

North Mills River

October 4th

November 4th

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 828-702-7037
troutwisperer@gmail.com

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.pisgahchaptertu.org