



# SNAGS & SNARLS

Pisgah Chapter Trout Unlimited

September 2011

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We have recently received a fairly extensive list from TU National of chapter members who have let their membership's lapse over the course of this year. Renewal is very easy to do online by visiting [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org). Also, please continue to make sure to check the chapter website and email announcements for upcoming volunteer opportunities.

I hope to see you all soon....either at a meeting or on the water.



unique one that was presented at the August chapter meeting by Alan Folger, was a FFS 101 program being hosted by Project Healing Waters at the local Asheville Veterans Restoration Quarters on the banks of the Swannanoa River along Hwy 70 / Tunnel Rd.

This six week program (held for 2 hours on consecutive Saturday mornings) is still looking for volunteers to help, with one or more sessions dealing with casting, fly tying, equipment / safety, and on the water mentoring. If you are interested, please contact Alan Folger at [afolger@tu.org](mailto:afolger@tu.org).

On another note, my letter last month indicated that September is the month of our annual meeting which most notably includes the election of officers for the upcoming year. I am pleased to announce the following slate of Executive Committee nominees:

President -- Mark Byington

Vice President -- Chris Ellis

Secretary -- Shirley Johnson

Treasurer -- Skip Sheldon

I will continue to serve on the Board as the Past President. In addition, one of the Board of Director At Large positions is open for election.

BOD At Large Member -- Mike Dennis

I would encourage each of our members to try to attend this important meeting.

Lastly, I would like to share a couple of additional reminders. Please double-check your TU membership cards for your membership expiration date.

## President's Letter

The days of summer with warm temps, sunny skies, and cooler nights seem to be rolling along. It is hard to imagine that fall and all that comes with it is just around the corner.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joe Moore for being our August chapter meeting

speaker. Joe gave us a great presentation on the thrill of steelhead fishing up north. The September meeting should be equally interesting. We will hear from the folks with **RiverLink**, the regional non-profit group focused on the revitalization of the French Broad River and its tributaries.

As most of you know, with the return of the fall season, comes an increase of chapter volunteer opportunities. One

## August 11, 2011 Meeting

### Joe Moore Talks About Steelhead Fishing on the Chautauqua Creek



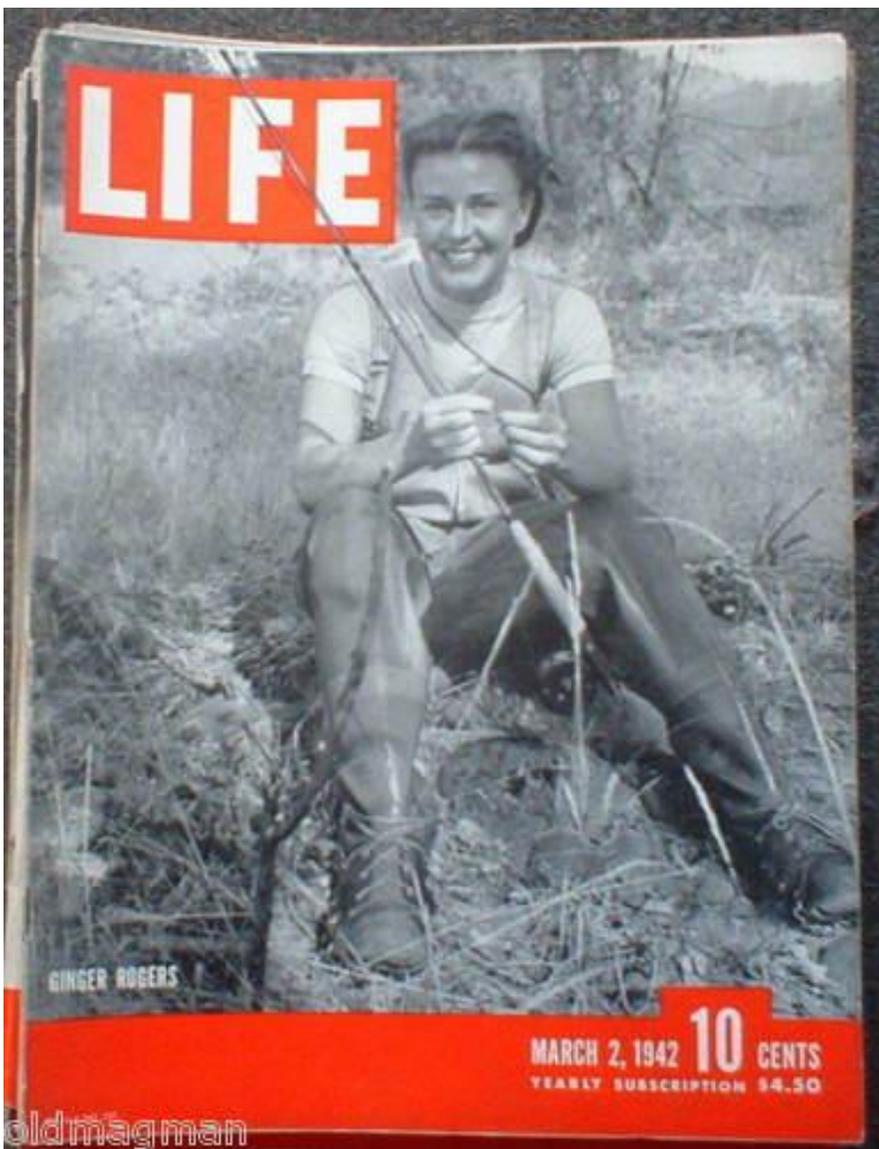
**Joey's Steelhead Flies**



**J**ames Lyles won the raffle for a box of Al Rogers' Flies.

**P**resenting the Fly Box is Al Rogers.

**H**ailey Dufault drew the winning ticket.



EF Payne bamboo fly rod

(Not the same as the magazine)

**The Perfect woman! - Beautiful, with a Classic Cane Rod**

**Ginger Rogers with an E.F. Payne Bamboo Fly Rod**

**Payne Model 206—9' 3pc. (approx. wt. 5 oz)**

**Today's price \$2,500 - \$3,500.**

**Previously Owned by Ginger Rogers –PRICELESS!!**

***Payne Rod Company***

**The Payne Company was located in Highland Mills, NY, near the classic streams in which the brown trout was first planted and the dry fly first fished in America. Theodore Gordon once traded thirty-nine dozen of his beautiful flies for a Payne rod.**

**By Scott Willoughby**

*The Denver Post*

Posted: 07/27/2011

An Interview with John Gierach

LYONS — Ask John Gierach a question, and he's likely to tell you a story. Odds are it will be about fly-fishing.



After all, that's what Gierach does. Over the course of some 35 years now, the 64-year-old Lyons local has spun enough yarn to fill 16 books on the topic, ranging from guides to fishing small streams and high-country lakes to the iconic fish stories of "Trout Bum," "Sex, Death and Fly-Fishing" and his most recent title, "No Shortage of Good Days."

"I love them all and I'm proud of them all," Gierach said. "But I tend to think my last book is my best book, if for no other reason than you're supposed to get better with age."

It has been 25 years since "Trout Bum," and the white-bearded poet-turned-outdoors writer from middle America is still pursuing his literary artistry with the same dedication required of his favorite pastime.

"The two are inseparable at this point," he said.

On a recent day when high water made for tricky fishing on his local St. Vrain Creek stomping grounds, Gierach took time

between casts to tell a few more tales.

Q: Is this the life you imagined?

A: No. I guess I never really imagined a life at all. In the '60s, I was a graduate with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. I came out West because I always wanted to come out West, and I thought I would be a poet and actually fell into outdoor writing in the oddest way. I was writing poetry and fiction and stuff and thought of myself as a serious writer and was working on landscape crews and driving a garbage truck, and the greatest poet I knew personally was a night watchman and I just figured, "Yeah, this is how it is." And I was fishing. I was reading "Fly Fisherman" magazine, which was the only fly-fishing magazine in existence in the time, and I remember thinking: "You know, these stories aren't that good. They're comprehensible, but it's not War and Peace." So almost on a whim, I wrote a story about fly-fishing. I think it was about bluegills, because I used to go out to Sawhill Pond and catch bluegills for food. And I sold it, and I remember it was like, \$75, which was huge money back then. And I just thought, "Well, maybe I can do this to finance my 'real' writing career instead of driving a garbage truck." Fast-forward to age 64, and it's 16 fishing books. But the discovery was that I realized this isn't necessarily hook- and-bullet stuff. You can write this as well as anything.

*This article was found by John Barsotti. There is more to the article—I included what I considered interesting. jh*

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

Kiki Matthews

**H**i! I am Kiki Matthews and I am currently in my second year as President of the Pisgah Chapter. I live in Hendersonville, but am originally from Syracuse, New York. After graduating from Denison University (Ohio) with a BA in History / Political Science and an MBA in Marketing / Organizational Behavior from Syracuse University, I married into the Cleveland, Ohio area. While in Cleveland, I spent my career in corporate and international marketing for the company you all would know best for Duck Tape and Super Glue. Then five years ago, my husband and I were fortunate enough to take early retirement packages from our respective companies; thus enabling us to build a house and move here with our son.

With respect to my fishing experiences, they have been somewhat limited over my lifetime. They certainly did vary between trout fishing on Saranac Lake in the Adirondack Mountains; ice fishing for lake perch on Oneida Lake (NY); and ocean fishing for blues on the Jersey Shore.

As for fly fishing, I did not even think about it until after I had moved here. I am an alumna of the 2007 PCTU Fly Fishing School at Camp Tonowandah after which I have tried to slowly hone my enthusiastic novice “skills” at the various wonderful streams and rivers within the area. I am still waiting and planning to take that “trip of a lifetime”.....perhaps after I am no longer paying for my son’s college tuition.

In any case, I have fallen in love with fly fishing in much the same way that I have for this area. I appreciate the beautiful river / stream scenery that is so readily available around here and its calming effect on one’s state of mind. I don’t seem to be bothered that I don’t always catch something; rather I am continually rewarded by the wonderful experience of just fishing. I know that additional memories and stories will come in due time.

### Welcome New Members

*Stephen Adams*

*Bart Cole*

*Fred Forbes*

*Francis Fruci*

*Norman Oppermann*

*Edson Rogue*

# PCTU BOARD RETREAT RECAP

Kiki Matthews

On Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> the PCTU Board of Directors and a number of key project leaders, past and present, met at the Pisgah Wildlife Education Center for its first board retreat since July of 2009. This strategic planning meeting is usually held in conjunction with a leadership transition as is the case this year.

In addition to developing a slate of officers for the upcoming elections, the Board worked on two separate, yet related objectives. The first was to evaluate how well we, the chapter, had done in achieving the goals that we had set for ourselves back in 2009. In many cases, we felt extremely good about a number of successful outcomes we had been able to achieve. These included the successful expansion of Trout-in-the-Classroom to the elementary school level in addition to virtually all area middle schools; rejuvenation of the Fly Fishing School; continued superior support of Rivercourse and fishing stockings just to name a few. We did not feel as positively about other areas of chapter activities; most notably fundraising.

The second objective of the meeting was to identify what the key goals and objectives should be for the next two years; with a particular emphasis on trying to keep these aligned with our chapter's mission and vision. Those identified were varied but all very relevant including:

- Attraction and engagement of new chapter members
- Increased participation by all members in chapter activities
- Identify new project leaders for key, longstanding initiatives such as Green River Stocking and Adopt-a-Highway clean-up
- Continue to build on our excellent internal communications vehicle(s) such as Snags & Snarls
- Improved coordination with TU National and NCTU; particularly in light of 2012 being the host year for both the Southeast Regional and National meetings in this area
- Develop new and better external chapter exposure via new methods such as social media
- Continue to improve and enhance monthly meetings and chapter events

Identify new initiative possibilities provided that project relevance and volunteer support can be assured

As always, these retreats are very beneficial in the chapter being able to take stock in our rich 40+ year history, while examining future opportunities of involvement and commitment to not only the sport of fly fishing, but to the conservation of the wonderful coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in western North Carolina.

If you have any questions, or would like more info, please feel free to contact one of the members of the Board of Directors.

# Looking to Our Leaders

## FLYSHACK Newsletter

Having the right leader means striking a balance - too heavy, and you might not catch fish; too light, and you might not land them.

Fortunately, most trout fishing situations can be covered with just a few basic options.

If you're new to fly-fishing, you may have noticed (and if you're a veteran, you surely remember) that leader designations can be kind of confusing.

Maybe the most mystifying aspect of leader choice is the X designation. It goes back to the pre-nylon days, when leaders were made of the strands that silkworms produced to make their cocoons. This "gut" was pulled through holes in metal plates to get the desired thickness: 1X was pulled through one hole; 2X through two, the second smaller than the first, and so on.

We no longer bother the silkworms, but the designations remain: the bigger the number, the finer the tip of the leader. A 5X leader tapers to a much finer tippet than a 2X. Most trout fishing is done using leaders with tippets between 4X and 7X; real fanatics may use 8X for ultra-tiny flies, and 3X or even 2X are sometimes used when fishing large streamers for large trout.

X does not equal breaking strength - except in the case of 5X, which purely by coincidence is usually 5-pound test. A 4X tippet has about 6.5 pounds of breaking strength, and a 7X is rated to break at 2.5 pounds. Keep in mind, however, that a 5-pound trout can snap a 5X leader pretty easily with a hard pull or a sudden lunge. If you hook what feels like a big one on 5X, play it with caution. If you hook a big one on 6X, baby it, and if you get a lunker on 7X, set your drag light, let the fish run and say a little prayer.

An old rule of thumb says to divide the hook size by four, then add one. For example: a size 16 hook divided by four equals four; add one, and you get 5X. In general, use fine tippets for small flies and heavier ones for larger flies. It's hard to properly cast a large fly with a too-fine tippet, and it can be impossible to push a heavy tippet through the eye of a tiny hook.

Leaders can be as short as two or three feet, when fishing streamers with a sinking line, or as long as 15 feet, when casting to spooky trout sipping dry flies in slow-moving water. But again, most trout fishing is done within a narrow range: 7.5 to 9 feet. You can always lengthen your leader by adding a couple of feet of the appropriate size tippet - but don't overdo it. A 9-foot leader with a 6-foot tippet can be miserable to cast. If you need 15 feet of leader, you're better off using one designed to be that long, with a gradual taper that will cast nicely.

Fluorocarbon leaders and tippets give the angler an advantage because they're all but invisible to the fish. Fluoro is slipperier than regular monofilament, so you have to be careful to tie good, tight knots. It's also more expensive. Many anglers use monofilament leaders but add fluorocarbon tippets.

You can make a leader last longer by cutting back on cutting back. Leaders shrink when anglers cut off old sections of tippet to add new ones. If you tie a loop in the end of the leader, and another one in the leader end of the tippet, you can connect them loop-to-loop. When it's time for a new piece of tippet, there's no need to cut the leader - just undo the loop-to-loop connection and loop on a new piece of 5X or whatever you're using.

One more thing to consider: furred leaders. Instead of single, tapered strands of mono or fluoro, furred leaders are small, tapered ropes of nylon or thread. They cast beautifully and will last for years. You simply add a length of tippet to the end (loop-to-loop, of course.)

So much attention is paid to rods, reels, lines and flies that leaders often seem like an afterthought. But don't neglect that all-important last few feet between you and the fish. The right leader can make all the difference.

# Coming to Snags & Snarls in October LOU & ARLEAN'S GREAT AD- VENTURE

Last summer Lou and Arlean Barlow purchased a camper trailer to travel the West with fly rods, of course,. Lou, a Pisgah TU member, put his career as a guide for the Davidson River Outfitters on hold, sold his Clacka-Craft and headed West in April with his three man raft in tow. The rest of the story will be told in October. Some of the photos show Lou and Arlean catching Kokanee Salmon in Colorado!



**P**lease Take Our Survey! Its located on the Home Page our website: [pisgahchaptertu.org](http://pisgahchaptertu.org). The left hand side of the home page shows all of the options available—at the very bottom (last option) is the word “survey”. Click on survey and you will be asked some questions. Your answers will be important to the newsletter personnel. Thanks jh

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Address comments to:  
Snags & Snarls  
PO Box 841  
Hendersonville NC 28793-0841



### **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**

### **Mentors List**

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

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

Legend: \* weekends only

## **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.**

## Calendar of Events

· August 31, Board Meeting 6:30 @ Binions  
September 8 General Meeting 6:45 Social 7:15 Meeting  
October 5 Board Meeting 6:30 @ Binions  
October 13 General Meeting 6:45 Social 7:15 Meeting

## Pisgah Chapter Directory

President	Kiki Matthews	828-696-1599	<a href="mailto:kikimattthews@bellsouth.net">kikimattthews@bellsouth.net</a>
Vice President.	Open		
Secretary .....	Chris Ellis	864-458-6240	<a href="mailto:chris.ellis@us.michelin.com">chris.ellis@us.michelin.com</a>
Treasurer .....	Dick Millonzi	828-595-3905	<a href="mailto:kmillonzi@morrisbb.net">kmillonzi@morrisbb.net</a>
Past President..	Linda Byington	828-817-2681	<a href="mailto:linda.byington188@gmail.com">linda.byington188@gmail.com</a>
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Director (2013)	Charlie Dotson	828-245-8469	<a href="mailto:sdotson@bellsouth.net">sdotson@bellsouth.net</a>
Director (2013)	Brandon Apodaca	828-674-5161	<a href="mailto:www.brandona52@hotmail.com">www.brandona52@hotmail.com</a>
Director (2013)	Joe Moore	828-551-8809	<a href="mailto:no_e-mail">no_e-mail</a>
Webmaster	Scott Shafer	828-698-2927	<a href="mailto:www.sdshafer1@bellsouth.net">www.sdshafer1@bellsouth.net</a>
Davidson River Project Leader	Tim Schubmehl	828-877-5163	<a href="mailto:tschubmehl@hotmail.com">tschubmehl@hotmail.com</a>
Snags & Snarls	Jim Hoskinson	828-891-8440	<a href="mailto:jimhosk@bellsouth.net">jimhosk@bellsouth.net</a>

### Reference Phone Numbers

NC Wildlife Violations 800-662-7137  
NC Wildlife Resource Comm. - Doug Bessler 828-659-8684  
Fish Biologist - Lorie Stroup 828-877-3265 ext 219  
Fish Hatchery Kiosk - Shirley Johnson [horselady294@gmail.com](mailto:horselady294@gmail.com)  
Water discharges on the Green River 800-829-5253  
Water discharges on the Nantahala River & Tuckasegee River 866-332-5253  
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Pisgah Chapter Trout Unlimited [www.pisgahchaptertu.org](http://www.pisgahchaptertu.org)