



President's Message

One of the Joys of fly fishing is escaping the complication and stress of everyday life. This was succinctly expressed by Project Healing Waters participant MSgt. Demenkow at the Oskar Blues event for Project Healing Waters. He described the mental trauma from combat operations and the difficulty coping once he returned to the States. His wife finally said he needed to go fishing with the Healing Water's Project, which he lauded as having great healing benefits. MSgt. Demenkow also described that even back at home the activity of planning fishing trips and fly tying provided similar results.



Fly fishing puts focus on nothing but your surroundings and fishing strategies. All outside concerns melt away, and in many locals even the cell phone can't intervene. And this is just one of the side benefits of fly fishing.

Connecting with the natural environment, meeting challenges of weather and terrain, and the pure fun of catching fish are additional benefits. Not to mention it is a lifelong learning experience which you can never fully master.

For example, Dave Bender who is a PCTU Director and Guide for the Davidson River Outfitters, was telling me how he had a great morning on the Davidson River below Coon Tree Access. Dave caught 15 fish, but the next day, fishing the same stretch, he caught zip. However, fish in the net or not, it's just fun.

Wilderness Fishing

Speaking of fun, I like fishing wilderness areas. I consider anything away from the road as a wilderness fishing experience. However, a wilderness area as defined by the USFS is a special designation which denotes other characteristics and permitted uses.

Roadless streams in our part of the country generally are due to the steepness of the terrain. This means there is limited access and your trip will require more careful planning. Steep usually means more careful wading and sometimes clambering over cascades and up steep banks. Therefore, a wading staff and rubber soled cleated boots are important.

A topo map of the area is useful to review prior to a trip and distances should be gauged. Make sure you have a watch with you. If it takes 4 hours to fish up stream, you can count on at least an hour or two for the return trip. If you get caught after dark away from the road on a steep stream, you better have a flash light. In the mountains you can generally expect a thunder shower in the afternoon. Make sure you have rain gear as the temperature can drop 30 degrees. If you're wet with wind, it can chill you to the bone.

Two way radios, matches, anti-histamines, knife, food, duct tape, bandages, and a water filter bottle are some other things you should carry with you. Don't fish alone. Leave a map and information about when you expect to return so folks know where to look for you if you don't show.

PCTU Board election in September

If you want to make a significant contribution to your chapter, consider joining the Board of Directors. We have our annual election in September. Board members and officers serve two year terms with exception of the President. Generally if you become Vice President, you are expected to assume the Presidency, and then serve 2 years on the Board as past President. Board members can serve two consecutive terms and then after a year off the Board may rejoin the Board.

Attendance at monthly Board meetings and General meeting is expected. Board members are encouraged to have at least 60% attendance. They are also expected to provide one program, newsletter article, and fly of the month submission each year. We do not meet during the month of December.

We are looking to fill 6 director positions, Treasurer, Vice President, and President for the two year term from October 2015 – September 2017. If you are interested in helping us maintain and move the chapter forward please contact Chris Ellis at: chris.ellis.pctu@gmail.com Phone: (828) 891-5175.

You may review the Chapter bylaws at the following link:

http://www.pisgahchaptertu.org/Pisgah_Chapter_Bylaws_2013__3_.pdf

PCTU Membership Survey

Kiki Roberts, a PCTU member and Past President of our chapter has put together a membership survey that we hope allow up meet our membership needs and help us when we are staffing our volunteer positions. This is an online survey and it is open to all PCTU members. We hope all chapter members will fill out this survey which is open from now until September 1, 2015.



As many of you know, the Pisgah Chapter has been a vibrant, active chapter of Trout Unlimited for well over 45 years. We have dedicated ourselves to the mission of "Conserving, protecting, and restoring coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in the Western North Carolina region." With that being said, there are plenty of opportunities as we look to the future, to connect with our chapter members so that we can gather input / feedback / recommendations about the state of our chapter, now and in the coming years.

We have developed a chapter member survey which we are hoping that all of our members will take a moment to fill out. It can be easily accessed at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/pctumemberfeedback>. Please keep in mind the following:

1. Each page of the survey has a "Next / Previous" tab at the bottom so that you can go back to a prior page if necessary.
2. The survey is a reasonable length and should take approximately 5 - 15 minutes to complete.
3. If you get interrupted while taking the survey, you can walk away, but do not close out of the survey because it (Survey Monkey) will not let you start restart the survey.

The results from this survey will be shared with the members at a future chapter meeting as well as our Snags & Snarls newsletter.

For the first 30 respondents, you will get the opportunity for 3 additional raffle tickets at an upcoming chapter meeting. So make sure to fill out your survey as soon as possible because the link will only be up for a limited time.

Please take a few minutes to fill out a survey. We really value your thoughts and ideas!!

Tight lines.

Kiki Matthews

Conclusion

We are looking at an expanded Trout in the Class Room program for this fall. Ed Shearin will be scheduling some work days to construct hatching baskets, and repair worn pumps. We currently are applying for a Rotary Club grant to set up one school class with new equipment. We hope to raise additional funds from a foundation run by Oskar Blues to support the other 3 schools. Anyone interested in helping Ed with this should contact him at: ed.shearin@gmail.com

I am looking for a chairman to lead a committee to do a feasibility study for the macro invertebrate study we hope to begin sometime next year. This would entail building the committee, brain storming, finding and working with experts to design the study, contacting interested local Colleges or Universities, and applying for grants to do the funding. There is no hard time line for completing this work. It should be an interesting activity, and provide long term benefits in understanding changes to the Davidson River. If interested please contact Chris Ellis at: chris.ellis.pctu@gmail.com

As part of our outreach to other service organizations, Mark Byington and Skip Sheldon presented a slide show and talk to the Rotary Club of Hendersonville. The program well received and we hope to present this to other organizations to make the community more aware of the work we do. We hope to garner new members from these organizations so they can share their talents with our Chapter. Thank you Mark for creating a great slide show that we can use for future presentations. You can see we have a common theme.

"The Pisgah Chapter needs you!"

As John Miko of the Land of Sky Chapter said at our July meeting, "The Pisgah Chapter is the one we want to emulate". So to keep the high level of commitment to cold water conservation and education, the Pisgah Chapter needs to yearly replenish our Board of Directors, and enlist new members to join and lead committees and work on Chapter projects and events. As the pre-baby boomers are checking out, we need the Baby boomers and Millennials to step up to the plate. Please let the Chapter directors know of your interest and willingness to serve.

Stay wet, Chris Ellis

* * * * *

John Miko Owner/Guide Unreel Fly Fishing LLC

John moved to Asheville in 2010 following careers as a Coast Guard helicopter pilot and a defense industry executive. He has spent his entire life fishing, 25 years of it fly fishing, the last 5 of which have been focused on tenkara. Last year he founded Unreel Fly Fishing LLC, an Asheville based fly fishing instruction and guide service dedicated solely to tenkara style fly fishing. John is also the current President of the Land O'sky Chapter of Trout Unlimited and is an actively involved with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.



Highlights From July Meeting

John Miko: professional Tenkara guide, and evangelist, presented an informative and provocative overview of the ancient Asian art and craft of Tenkara fishing. His enthusiasm was infectious as he outlined the gear, techniques and philosophy of the simplest form of fly fishing.

Right: Bob Zimmerman was the winner of the fly box raffle in July. It was Bob's first visit to the Pisgah Chapter of TU. Congratulations and come back soon!



Fly Rods for Sale

We have some very nice lightly used fly rods that have been donated to the Pisgah chapter that we are offering for sale.



**Orvis Silver Label TL
Midflex 6.5
2 Pc. 8.6 foot 5wt
Sold on Ebay recently for \$86 used
Chapter Price \$65**

**Orvis TLS Power Matrix 865-4 pc.
Midflex 7.0
8.5 foot 5wt
Lists new at \$225
Chapter price \$ 150**

Contact: chris.ellis.pctu@gmail.com for more information on purchasing these fine rods.



Fishing in the Panthertown Valley Wilderness Area

Chris Ellis

Panthertown Valley is one of my favorite place to hike and fish. Above the Devil's Elbow it is exclusively brook trout. Regulations are catch and release only with a single hook and artificial lure. The fish average around 7 inches, but I have caught many in the 8 to 10 inch range.

Panthertown was named partly due to its remoteness, and the idea that it was a place where panther's reside and should be avoided. Some refer to it as the Yosemite of the East because of the large exposed granitic plutons rising 200 – 300 feet above the valley floor.

It is currently administered by the Highlands Ranger District of the Nantahala National Forest. Commercial timber production is unlikely as the tract is being managed under a Forest Service 4-C classification.

It is highly recommended that you take a map when exploring Panthertown. The lay of the land is such that you can easily lose your way if you are not familiar with the trails. This area contains over 10,000 acres of wilderness, with bogs, waterfalls, and beaver swamps. You should bring food, water, raincoat, and other emergency supplies on your trip.



View of Pathertown Valley

One Fall I took Bob Daubert to fish the Panther Creek beaver dams in October. Earlier in the year I had caught a good number of fish from the beaver dams on Panther Creek during several trips. However, it turned out there were no fish in the beaver dams on this trip, and all the small fish had disappeared from stream. What we found were 11 inch and larger brook trout staging to spawn. Bob said he saw one he thought would go 15 inches. As I approached the upper limit of my fishing experience at the base of Granny Burrell Falls, I was amazed that the huge numbers of small trout were gone. To this day this has been a puzzle to me.



Granny Burrell's Falls



Pool below Granny Burrell's Falls

I generally classify fishing Panthertown as four distinct areas. There are the log strewn sandy runs, beaver ponds, and the lower section in the Tuckasegee River with more free stone, ledges, long deep runs , and plunge pools.

School House Falls

Schoolhouse Falls is always the first stop on my trip. This is about a 20 minute walk from the trail head and 200 yards off the main trail (Cold Mountain access on the eastern side of the valley). If you reach the bridge crossing you have come to the head of the Tuckasegee River and you have missed the path to the Falls. The Tuckasegee River starts at the confluence of Greenland Creek and Panther Creek. If you miss the path to the Falls, backtrack 350 yards and the path to the Falls is on your right.



School House Falls has a large pool below it, and can accommodate several anglers at one time. The fish are usually rising close to shore, and after 15 minutes you are casting 40 feet to reach fish that have not been spooked. Then it's time to leave.

Beaver Dams and Granny Burrell's Falls Pool

Next you have several choices. Fish downstream to the Confluence with Panther Creek. This is rather tight and downstream works the best. You can then fish down or upstream, however I am more likely to hike 20 minutes up stream and take a small path through the white pine woods to reach the beaver dams. On your way there you will pass a cascade next to the trail with a nice big pool that you should fish. I haven't fished the beaver dams in a few years so I'm not sure what shape they are in. A little ways above the beaver dams a slow sandy bottomed stretch well stained from the 10 acre bog that drains into Panther Creek. Trout are very spooky here, so you might skip this area and hike upstream to fish the pool below Granny Burrell Falls.

Devil's Elbow Trail to Jawbone Falls

My favorite trip after fishing Schoolhouse Falls is to take the Devil's Elbow trail on the left. This is located 50 yards before you reach the path to the Schoolhouse Falls (on the right). A 25 minute walk will take you below Jawbone Falls.

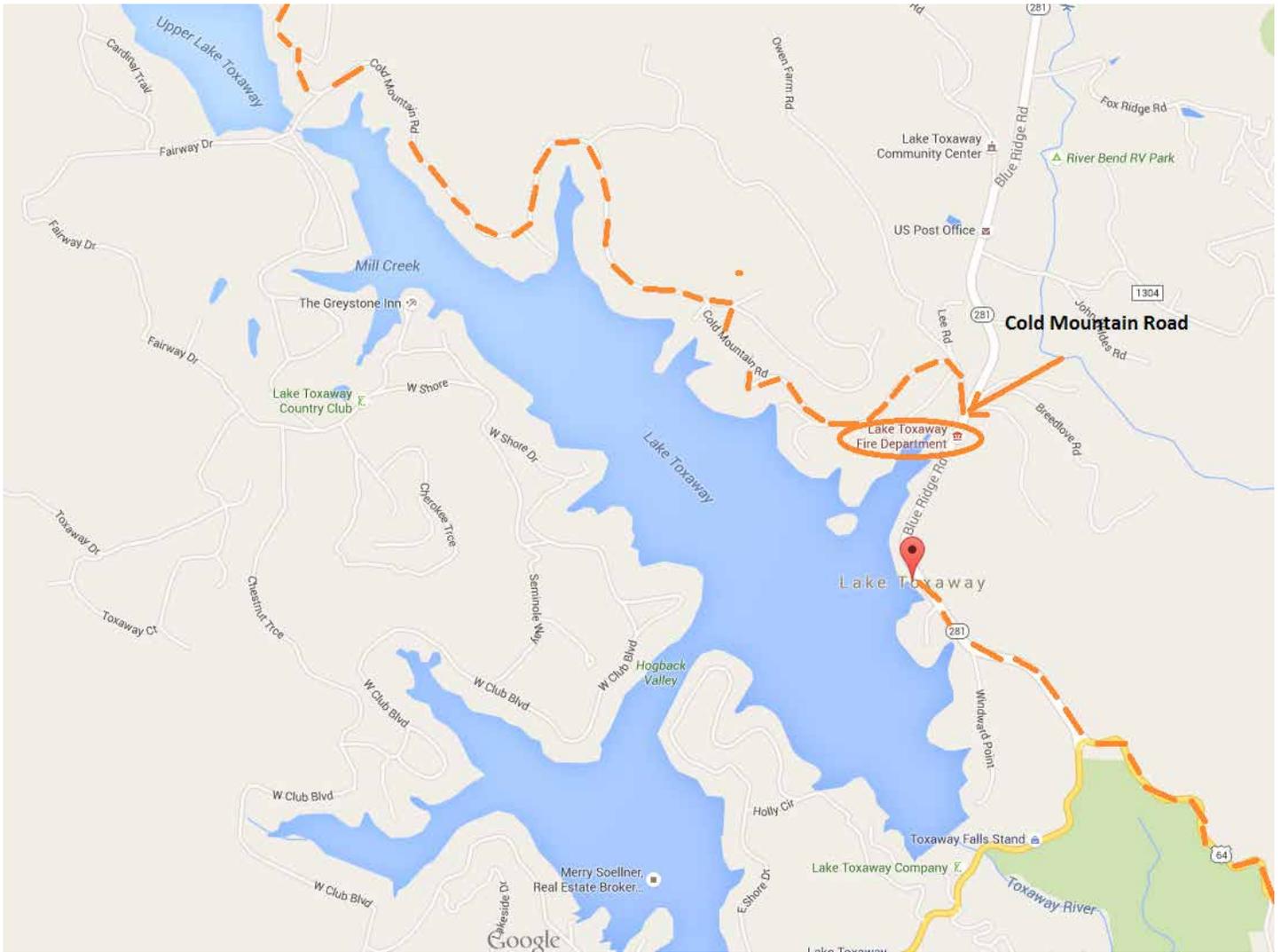
There is also a nice pool below Warden's Falls, however to get to it you should avoid climbing Jawbone Falls, and look for a small path 500 yards back the way you came off the main Devil's Elbow trail.

The cascades, runs and pools below the Jawbone Falls trail are very good. However, if your fishing in the late Fall, most of the fish will be found just below the cascades and falls as they are staging for the November spawn. The colors on the male brook trout make this a favorite time for me.

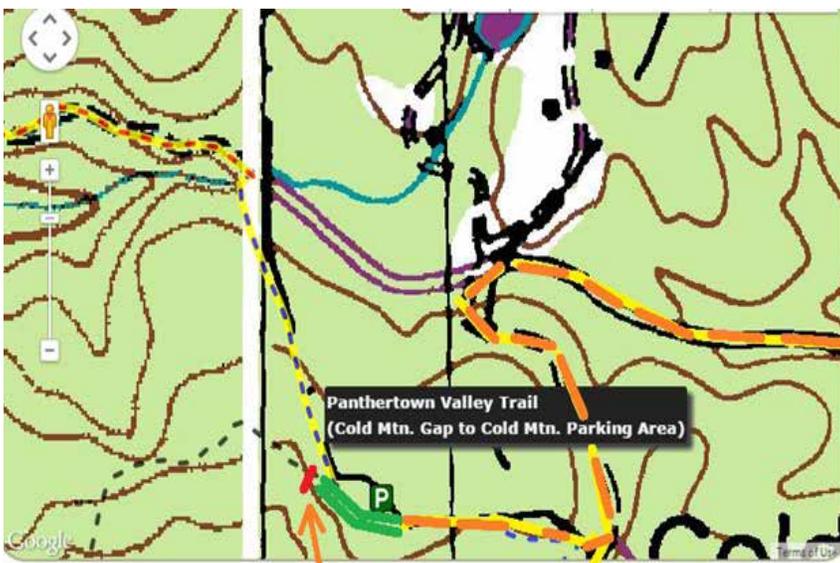


Jawbone Falls and pool

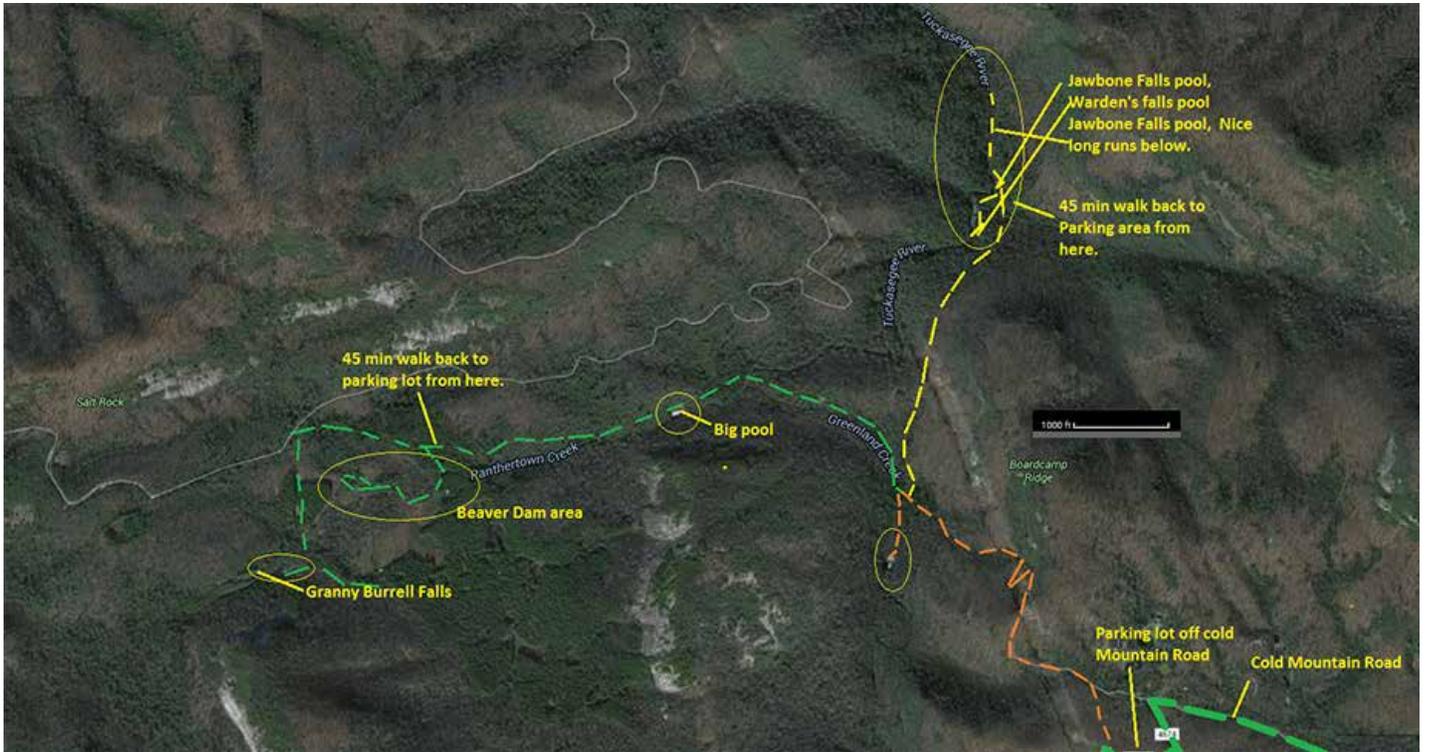
The trip to your fishing locations are mainly downhill and level which is great. The trip back is mainly level except for several moderate uphill climbs. No worse than trace ridge on the North Mills. Remember that you have a good 45 minute hike to get back from the upper or lower reaches of the trips I have laid out. Make sure you have enough light to see the trail or you might be in for a much longer trip.



Directions to Panthertown



Map detail showing gate



Ariel view of Panthertown and surrounding area with trails

Fly of the Month - Matt's Sulphur Emerger/Cripple

Submitted by Chris Ellis



This is the peak of the sulfur hatches on the South Holston River in eastern Tennessee. It's good to have a number of sulfur fly, spinner, emerger, and nymph imitations in your fly box. This is a great looking emerger/cripple created by Matt Grobert. The Fly floats well in the surface film and works wonders on picky trout.

The fly tying video can be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/42071807>

Materials:

Hook: Size 16, 14 Dai-Ricki 125 emerger hook
Thread: 3/0 yellow Danville monochord
6/0 brown Danville monochord
6/0 olive Danville monochord
Dubbing: Australian possum hair
Pale yellow rabbit hair
Tail: Brown Zelon



fig. 1

Hook
Size 16, 14
Dai-Ricki
125 emerger
hook



fig. 2

Thread
3/0 yellow Danville
monochord
6/0 brown Danville
monochord
6/0 olive Danville
monochord



fig. 3

Dubbing
Australian
possum hair
Pale yellow
rabbit hair

Tail
Brown Zelon

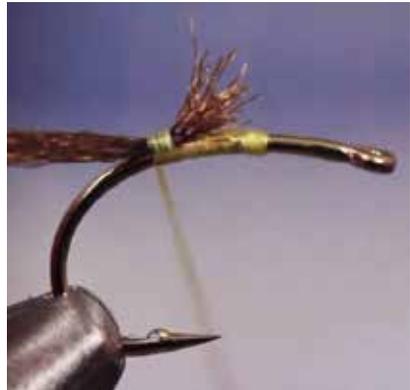


fig. 4

Start the hook
midway and wrap
backward just
past the barb of
the hook, and snip
off the tag end of
the thread.



fig. 5

Cut a small
bundle of
brown Zelon
and secure to
the hook with
a couple of
wraps. Pull
the Zelon
fibers back to
leave a short
butt section
exposed.



fig. 6

Secure the
Zelon down to
the bend of the
hook and back
up to cover the
butts.



fig. 7

Snip the
Zelon off at
a hook gaps
length.



fig. 8

Wrap back
and forward
to build up the
abdomen.



fig. 9

Snip an 8" piece of 6/0 brown Danville thread and secure with the yellow thread.



fig. 10

Snip off the yellow thread and the tag of the brown thread to continue with the smaller olive thread.



fig. 11

Apply a light coating of ultra-sticky dubbing wax to the brown thread at the rear of the fly. Then snip short pieces of Australian possum and touch daub it to the brown. Thread. Twist the thread to spin the dubbing.



fig. 12

Make open wraps with the brown thread to give the appearance of segments. Tie off at the front of the abdomen and snip the remaining brown thread.



fig.13

Dub a small clump of pale yellow rabbit fur to your tying thread, and wrap to form a short little thorax a little back from the eye of the hook.



fig. 14

Clip a small clump of fine caribou hair, clean out the fuzzies and stray hairs and align in a hair stacker. Tie in above the Thorax with several wraps.



fig. 15

Dub a small clump of pale yellow rabbit fur to your tying thread, and wrap to form a short little thorax a little back from the eye of the hook.



fig. 16

Clip a small clump of fine caribou hair, clean out the fuzzies and stray hairs and align in a hair stacker. Tie in above the Thorax with several wraps.



fig. 17

With several tighter wraps secure the wing. The length of the wing should be just beyond the bend of the hook.



fig. 18

Pull back the butt ends of the hair and make a thread dam with several wraps in front of the wing.



fig. 19

Add a slightly larger amount of pale yellow rabbit dubbing and wrap from the eye backward to further secure the wing. End by whip finishing behind the eye.



fig. 20

Snip off the butt ends of the caribou hair at the angle of the wing.

Finished

2nd Annual Tight Lines & Tall Tales BBQ and Auction



Tight lines and Tall Tales lived up to its name again this year. Despite the fears over brutally hot temperatures, we were blessed with just enough rain on Friday and Saturday to make for a comfortable productive event. As usual, Davidson River Outfitters Trophy water did not disappoint and some very impressive fish were caught. Of course there is never any shortage of great stories and oddly enough they never include pictures.

PHWFF would also like to extend a special thanks to all those that came out to the BBQ and Auction Saturday night. I am certain no one left hungry and the comments from PHWFF participant MSgt. Demenkow could only be described as moving. The folks from Carson's Creek Church total me they cooked for a crowd of 70 and there was nothing left. (unofficial headcount was 62)



This year's event raised about \$7500.00 and will help go a long way toward helping the PHWFF Mid- South Region meet several of its 2015 goals. Including:

- Additional access to all terrain Trac Chairs for wheelchair bound veterans
- Supplemental funding for the Annual Cherokee Warriors Weekend (veterans all over the East coast assemble for a 2 day fishing and instructional outing in Cherokee NC)
- Further development and implementation of the Adaptive Fly Fishing Certification Course (in conjunction with current Paralyzed Veterans of America grant.)

We could not have done it without the efforts of Oskar Blues, Davidson River Outfitters, Pisgah TU and the numerous others that came together to generously give their time and money to assure that PHWFF will be able to continue its efforts here in WNC.

Thank You for All You Do,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryan Ham".

PISGAH CHAPTER PARTICIPATION IN THE OSKAR BLUES EVENTS FOR PROJECT HEALING WATERS

**HEY FOLKS,
THANKS FOR COMING OUT LAST FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AS PCTU SUPPORT TO HELP PROJECT
HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING (PHWFF).**

**THE FRIDAY NIGHT TURNOUT OF PCTU FOLKS WAS GREAT AT ABOUT 12. IN ADDITION, PCTU
PICKED UP 2 NEW MEMBERS AT THE FILM FOR A TOTAL OF 14 FOLKS. THE SATURDAY TURNOUT OF
PCTU FOLKS WAS ABOUT 14. PCTU PRESENTED A \$500 CHECK TO PHWFF ON SATURDAY IN AD-
DITION TO DONATING SEVERAL AUCTION ITEMS, HELPING SELL RAFFLE TICKETS AT THE MOVIE FRI-
DAY, VOLUNTEERING ON THE WATER SATURDAY AND VOLUNTEERING AID AND ASSISTANCE IN OTHER
WAYS THROUGHOUT.**

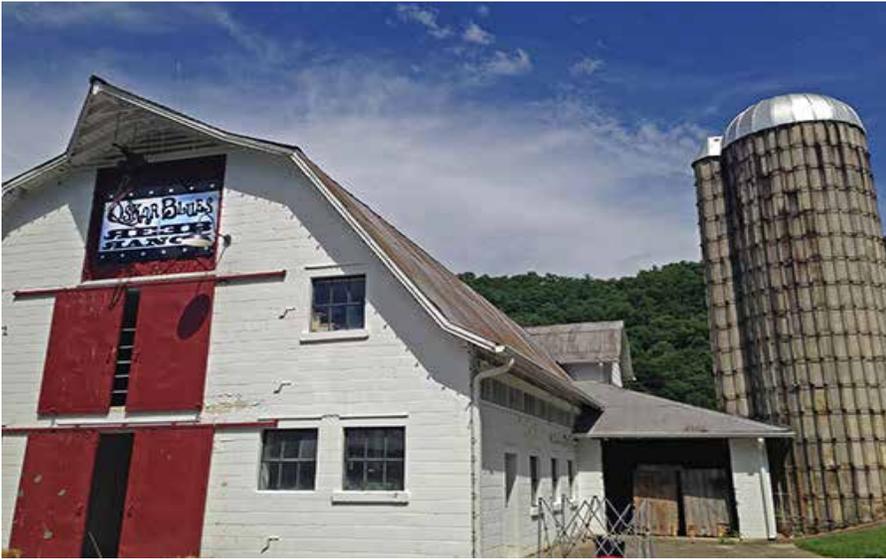
DON HONEYCUTT, PCTU



Dick Schaad and Chris Ellis



Don Honeycutt selling Raffle tickets



Reeb Ranch



Appalachian Fire Band



Cabin at the Ranch



Don Honycutt addresses the Film



The Film tour is sponsored in part by TU National



Ryan Harmon plugs the Friday night Healing Water's Film event and discusses Saturday's activities



Chris Ellis hands the PCTU \$500 donation to Healing Waters to Healing Water's Cherokee Chapter representative Rick Queen

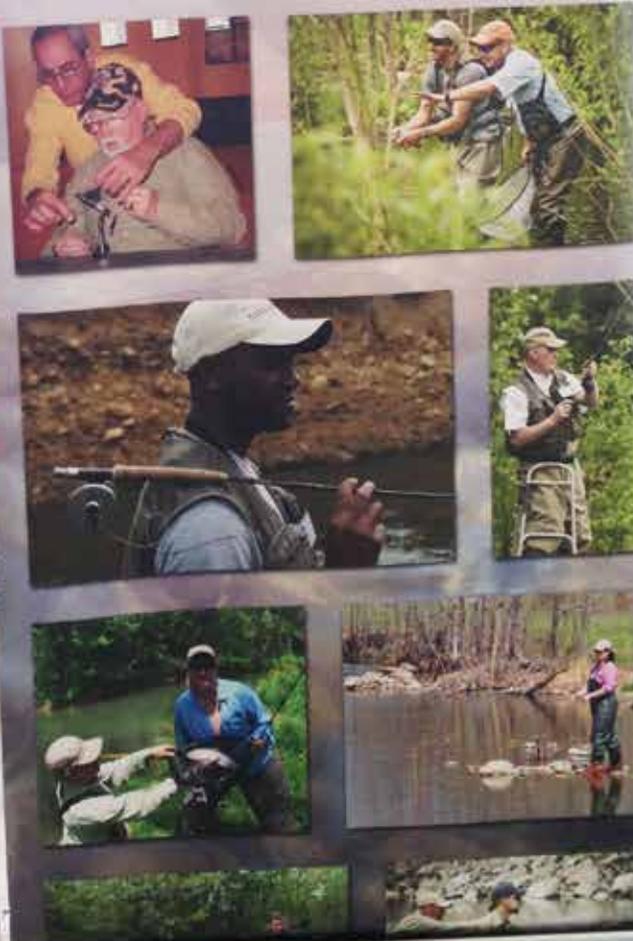
HEALING THOSE WHO SERVE

PROJECT
HEALING WATERS
FLY FISHING

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and veterans through fly fishing and fly tying education and outings.

LEARN MORE ★ DONATE ★ VOLUNTEER

www.projecthealingwaters.org



Home River's Initiative – Presented at S.E. Regional TU Meeting

John Kies, who has served as the TU State Council National Leadership Council representative for 5 years, represented the Pisgah Chapter at the SE Regional Meeting in April and provide us copies of some interesting slide shows on TU programs.

The Home River's Initiative is one of these programs. There are opportunities outside of the Pisgah National Forest in WNC that may fit this model. The following slides introduce the program:

Trout Unlimited Home River Initiatives: An Example



Gary Berti

Director – Eastern Home
River Initiatives



-Focus on riparian and in-stream restoration for native brook trout within the Potomac Headwaters of the Eastern Panhandle of WV

-Turn Key Conservation

-Public Lands (USFS) and Private Landowners
Primarily Agricultural Land
(generational)



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS-Franklin Service Center

Private Lands Program

- Conduct outreach to landowners in priority areas
- Assess the conservation needs and assist with conservation planning and funding acquisition
- Farm Bill Programs (EQIP, CREP)
- Brook Trout Sell: Charismatic Species



Restoration:

Partners Crew: Installs Agricultural Exclusion Fencing and Riparian Plantings

- Full time fence crew through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
- 20 miles of fence annually
- Protecting riparian and upland habitat



Conservation

- Stream Design Specialists: Create designs to restore eroding stream banks and enhance in-stream habitat

Blackthorn Creek Restoration Project



Grassroots and landowner engagement

- Citizen Science/Survey Work: Benthics, Riparian Health, Passage Blockages, Culvert Survey, Single Line Surveys (presence/absence).
- Fish sampling
- Riparian plantings
- Trainings
- Site Tours
- Chapter/Council Presentations



Gary Berti
Director – Eastern Home
River Initiatives

304 704-2731

gberti@tu.org

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E-Mail trout@cosmikdebris.net

The Pisgah Chapter web site is

<http://www.pisgahchaptertu.org>



Mentor's 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.

Steve Fromholtz	674-2450 *
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Dave Maxwell	894-0308
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Steve Herring	749-9352
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Dale Klug	243-6783
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Legend: * weekends only

Reference Phone Numbers

NC Wildlife Violations 800-662-7137

Fish Biologist - Lorie Stroup 828-877-3265 ext 219

Water discharges on the Green River 800-829-5253

<http://www.boatingbeta.com/runs/flows/green>

Water discharges on the Nantahala River & Tuckaseegee River

866-332-5253



WELCOME !New Members

Rosemary	Capalbo	Hendersonville
Ron	Castellucci	Hendersonville
Ed	Dowd	Etowah
Ed	Fitzgerald	Brevard
Stratton	Hunter	Hendersonville
Jon	Jones	Hendersonville
Benjamin	Nowak	Hendersonville
Zack	Smith	Hendersonville
John	Ware	Flat Rock
Patrice	Wiggins	Hendersonville

Pisgah Chapter Leaders Directory

2014-2015

	<p>President Chris Ellis 828-243-5728 Chris.ellis.pctu@gmail.com</p>		
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