

President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope all of you have made resolutions to work less and fish more. As Spare Grey Hackle said, "If fishing interferes with your business, give up your business . . . the trout do not rise in Greenwood Cemetery."

Your Pisgah Trout Unlimited leadership team has spent the last few months planning and preparing for a busy 2016. Here is a snapshot of the many items we are working on:

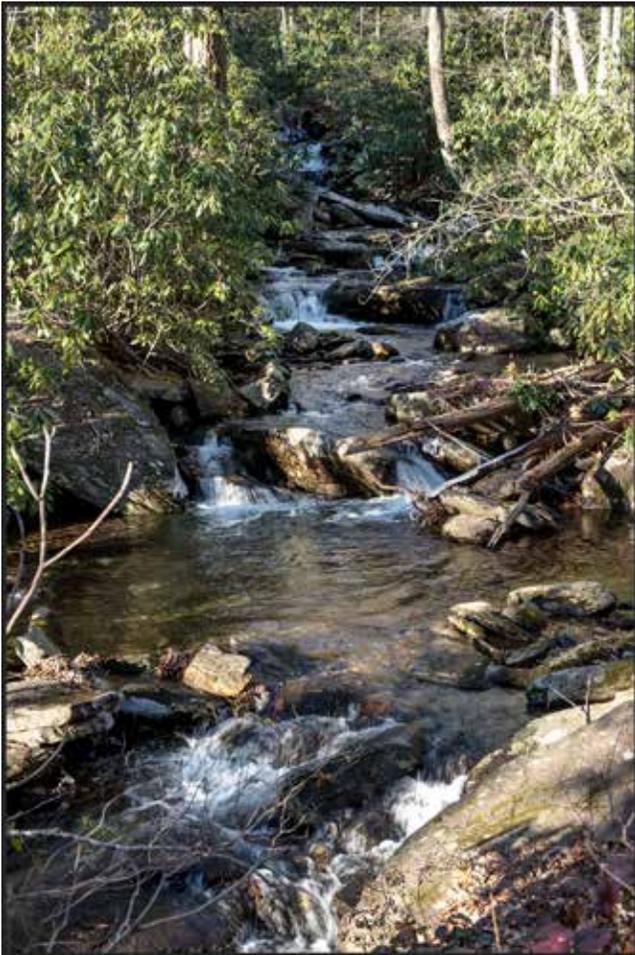
Our annual Fly Fishing School is in full planning mode and seats are filling up. The date is set for April 23rd. If you are interested in attending or volunteering please contact Lou Barlow. Contact info for him, and all of our board members, is at the end of the newsletter.

We are planning on hosting the Fly Fishing Film Tour at Oskar Blues in the spring. The date is May 7, 2016. In the past, we have assisted Project Healing Waters with this event, but this year we will be taking over leading it. This will be one of our primary fund raisers, with auctions and raffles and lots of great fly fishing films and camaraderie. Entry into the event will be free, so be sure and plan on bringing family and friends. It is a great way for them to see what fly fishing is all about.

The ten schools that are participating in our Trout in the Classroom program are all doing well. The eggs have hatched and we have tanks full of hungry fry.

On the conservation front, we are exploring a number of projects. We are looking at renewing the Davidson River Project, with a first goal of repairing any existing sedimentation control and fencing that was put in previously, and then expanding the project to do sedimentation control in other area, particularly in the headwaters where it will be of great benefit to spawning fish.

Also under consideration; doing a detailed survey of the Davidson River, looking at benthic macro-invertebrates and other indicators of river health. We did a study of this kind over a decade ago, and we want to do a similar analysis to see how the river has changed since that time, and to also serve as a baseline for future studies. We will likely be working with area colleges and universities on the study.



Both of these conservation projects will require money, and we are exploring various options for funding them. They will also require volunteers to do on-stream work such as building sedimentation control structures and taking regular stream samples. So if you like to get your hands dirty doing good deeds for trout conservation, I expect there will ample opportunity for that in the coming year.

There is more in the works and we have lots to do! If you are interested in helping out please contact me. A couple of areas we really need someone to take the lead on are hosting monthly fishing outings and refreshing the informational kiosks we have at various locations. If you are interested in what leading either of these projects might entail, please let me know.

This is your chapter and we want to hear your thoughts and input on its direction. All Pisgah TU members are welcome at our board meetings. Our next one is Tuesday, February 2nd at the Mills River Restaurant at 6:30 PM. Or you can always contact me at mike@mihalas.com or at 828-577-8032.

See you at the chapter meeting Thursday, January 14th!

Mike Mihalas

Building Line Containers

On Thursday October 27th the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited provided materials and supervision to construct two additional Line Recycling Containers. Pisgah Chapter TU was approached by Lorie Stroup, the USFS Fisheries Biologist and TU's partner for several years assisting with projects on the Davidson River.



Brevard Middle School seventh grade curriculum requires students to provide seven hours of community service during the school year. In this case two students, Bobby Brown and Christopher Conner volunteered to build recycling containers for installation on the North Mills River. In addition, to complete their seven hours of service they emptied the other four containers that were installed a couple of years ago on the Davidson.



Clive Morris volunteered to help supervise Bobby and Christopher with assembling the containers at the USFS District Maintenance Building with assistance from Lorie.

This was a great opportunity to expose younger members of our community to Trout Unlimited and get them involved in our activities on the Davidson and neighboring waters. They will be assisted by their parents with installing the containers at two sites on the North Mills River. Special thanks to Clive for helping out with this project!

**Tim Schubmehl
Project Leader, Pisgah Chapter Trout Unlimited**



Stocking the Green River



I want to thank everyone who came out for the November 8 stocking of the Green River. The weather started out “iffy” but by stocking time the rain had stopped and it was mild and pleasant.

We had eight volunteers, a small but hard working crew who put 2,400 fish in the river. Curt Campbell and Terry Lynch both helped for the first time and were

greatly appreciated. Thanks guys! I hope you learned the river and we would like to see you again in the spring.

Gene McGuire deserves special thanks for taking over for me in October, Gene has a home on the river and has been our ambassador with the local residents for years. He is a major reason we have so few problems fishing and stocking.

Thank you to Michael Yelton who took the morning off from his business “Granddaddy Fly Fishing” to help us out. Michael is one of the most knowledgeable guides in the area and we appreciate his support

Also, long time regulars, Dave Maxwell, Ed Eubanks and Ray Cole always do a great job and rounded out our crew.

The stocking truck has been coming later and later as the equipment for loading the trucks is old fashioned and takes a long time. We will adjust the time on the future notices starting in the spring.

If you want to get to know the “Green”, ask questions of people who have fished if for years or want to find out where we put the fish, please join us in March for the next stocking. (and we can always use more help) submitted by Ken Brady

Thanks again, to everyone for all your help and support.

Ken

January Meeting

J.E.B. Hall will be giving his presentation, Alaska Adventures. J.E.B Hall is a full time fly fishing guide and instructor in Western North Carolina and East Tennessee for Davidson River Outfitters. In addition to guiding in the Southeast, J.E.B. has spent numerous summers guiding in Southwest Alaska for Alaska West, and is a former operations manager for the Andros South Bonefish Lodge on South Andros Island in the Bahamas. J.E.B. is also the author of the book The Southern Appalachian Fly Guide, and occasionally dabbles in photography.



Trout Unlimited

Thursday, January 14th

6:45 PM, Social time 7:00 PM, Meeting starts

Program:

J.E.B. Hall, guide and author

9:00 PM, Adjourned

**Pardee Hospital Meeting Room
Four Seasons Mall**

Hendersonville

Fly Fishing School- April 23, 2016

This year our annual fly fishing school will be held on April 23, 2016 at Harmon Field in Tryon. The school will begin at 8:30 am and end at 4:45 pm. Lunch will be provided!

The focus of the school will be on individuals wanting to begin fly fishing. In addition to a full day of instruction, students will receive a half day of fishing with an experienced Trout Unlimited member at a mutually agreed upon date. All of the equipment needed during the school will be provided. The school sessions include equipment and use, casting instruction and practice, entomology, line management, knot tying, fly selection, and stream tactics.

The cost of the school is: Adults (\$150.00), Youth 12-18 (\$100.00), and Five Rivers college outreach program students (\$125.00). There is an Early Bird registration special of \$25.00 off the price of the school. To take advantage of the Early Bird Special all registration forms and checks must be received by March 1, 2016. There is a limit of thirty students for the school.

What a wonderful Christmas gift for someone interested in getting a great start learning the skills of fly fishing. Students will receive a full day of instruction and a half-day of fishing with a mentor! Please pass on this information to anyone interested. More information will follow in the newsletter and at our club meetings.

Please contact Lew Barlow for a registration form or to volunteer at riverrooster@me.com. Volunteers are needed for all areas of instruction. Volunteers should call Lew now to make sure all the classroom sessions are covered. Remember, the funds that our chapter raises go to outstanding conservation and education projects in our area. Please help with this exciting Trout Unlimited project!

Winter Fly Tying Opportunities

Want some help getting motivated to tie all those patterns you want to have ready for the spring? There are a couple of options this winter that will get you out of the house, get you tying, and also allow some sampling of local brews!

Headwaters Outfitters is hosting their Tuesday Fly Tying Night every Tuesday starting at 7 PM at **Brevard Brewing Company** at 63 E. Main Street in Brevard. All skill levels are welcome. Bring your own vise, light, and tools if you have them, or extras are available if you don't.

Each night a new fly will be taught and materials kits will be available for sale. Or, bring your own materials and tie whatever you like. More details and announcements are on the Headwaters Outfitters Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Headwaters-Outfitters-Outdoor-Adventures-113526529086/>

Davidson River Outfitters is hosting their Sip Finish Fly Tying Series throughout January and February. It is every Tuesday at 6:30 PM at **Catawba Brewing South Slope**, 32 Banks Avenue in Asheville. New patterns and materials will be taught every week. Bring your vise, tools, and materials. Entry fee is \$5, and includes a pint. For \$10 you get a pint and materials for the pattern for that night, or you are welcome to "free tie" and show your stuff. For more info email: jeb@davidsonflyfishing.com

FLY OF THE MONTH

PARACHUTE HARES EAR (DRY)

BY DAVE BENDER



THIS IS ONE OF MY “GO TO” SEARCHING DRY FLIES WHEN I’M NOT SEEING ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR ON THE WATER’S SURFACE AND I WANT TO FISH A DRY FLY. MY OTHER “GO TO” DRY FLY IS THE “PARACHUTE ADAMS”. I ESPECIALLY LIKE THE “HARES EAR” IN THE EARLY SEASON WHEN BUGS ARE GENERALLY DARKER IN COLOR AND THIS PATTERN WILL REPRESENT A WIDE RANGE OF INSECTS. JUST TIE IT IN SEVERAL SIZES FROM 14 TO 18 AND YOU CAN EVEN VARY THE SHADE BY PICKING DUBBING FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS OF A HARE’S MASK. THE FIRST PHOTO SHOWS THE MATERIALS I USED TO TIE THIS PARTICULAR FLY. ANY GOOD LIGHT WIRE DRY FLY HOOK WILL WORK, JUST MAKE SURE IT’S OF GOOD QUALITY. I LIKE TO PICK MY DUBBING FROM A NATURAL HARE’S MASK BUT I SEE NOTHING WRONG BY GOING TO “PRE-PACKAGED” DUBBING...I USE PRE-PACKAGED A LOT.

HOOK: 14-18 GOOD QUALITY DRY FLY.

THREAD: MED-BROWN, 8/0.

TAIL: MOOSE MAIN. YOU CAN USE ANYTHING FROM SYNTHETIC TAILING FIBERS TO GUARD HARES FROM THE HARE’S MASK.

WIRE: FINE GOLD WIRE OR OVAL GOLD TINSEL.

BODY: HARE’S MASK.

POST: PARA-POST. AS WITH THE TAIL, YOU CAN USE A VARIETY OF MATERIALS HERE.

HACKLE: GRIZZLY. PLEASE NOTE, I LIKE TO USE SLIGHTLY OVERSIZED HACKLE FOR MY PARACHUTE FLIES.





Your first order of business, as always, is to pinch down the barb and place the hook in your vise. Now start your thread just behind the eye and wind a smooth thread base back to just above the point.

photo #2.



Tie in and secure the tail.

photo #3



Advance your thread to about 3 hook eye lengths behind the hook eye and secure the wing post material.

photo #4.



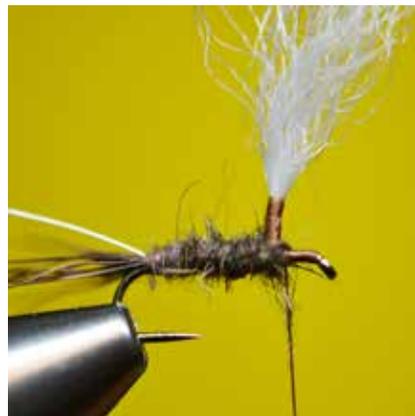
Now build a base on the wing post for winding the hackle,

photo #5.



This step can be a bit tricky so, take your time. Once you've built the hackle base and your post is standing upright bring the thread back to the tail tie-in point and secure the ribbing material, photo #6, and prepare to add dubbing.

photo #6



Add dubbing, build a thin abdomen and spiral the rib material and secure just behind the wing post.

photo #7.



Prepare a proper sized hackle by stripping the unusable fibers and secure at the wing base. Tie in with convex or shiny side up.

photo #8



As the photo shows, I stripped a few more fibers from the side of the hackle next to the wing post. This allows me to make a wind or two up the thread base prior to winding the hackle back down, thus trapping fewer fibers

under the stem. When securing the hackle remember to leave some bare stem. This bare stem will be necessary later on when winding the hackle.

Bring the thread to between the wing post and hook eye and dub on some additional hare's ear fibers and build up the thorax area ending with the bare thread hanging below the wing post.

photo #9.



Grasp the hackle tip in your hackle pliers and make one or two spiral wraps up the base and then make three or four wraps back down the post trying not to trap too many fibers from the previous wrap. Allow the remaining hackle to hang in front of the wing post.

photo #10.



Now here's where I do things a bit different. I don't whip finish or use a knot to tie off the hackle. I use CA glue (crazy glue, Zap-a-gap, etc.) and I've never had a fly unwind. As you can see in photo #1 I use Wapsi Zap and again, I've never had a fly unwind.

The Wapsi Zap container has a brush in the lid base. I simply brush a small amount of Zap on the first inch or so of thread hanging from the wing post. Now make another three or four wraps under the parachute wing, between the hackle and fly body, hold tension on the thread for about 10 seconds, clip the thread close, clip the wing post material to length and that's it.

photo #11



Now's a good time to make a few of these for next spring's fishing.

photo #12

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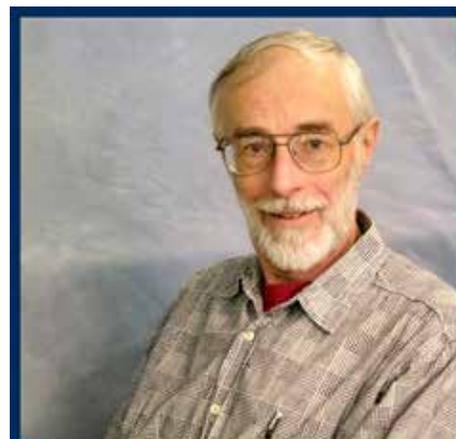
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