

Confluence, French Broad River and Big Laurel, Madison County, NC

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## President's Message

The trout of our beautiful mountains need you more than ever! In the last year we have seen three new threats arise. Overcoming these threats will take involvement and vigilance on all of our parts.

As you have likely heard, whirling disease has been discovered in a number of creeks, including the Watauga River, Elk River, and Mill Creek. The source of this infection is unknown, but as all of us likely know already, whirling disease can be spread by angler activity.

Gill lice have also been found in the last year. There are actually two varieties, one that infests rainbow trout, and another that infests brook trout. Gill lice have been found in the Cullasaja River, the West Fork of the Pigeon River, Boone Fork Creek, and the Watauga River. I have seen what gill lice can do to populations of brook trout in Wisconsin. In the ten years I lived there, I saw brook trout completely eliminated from a favorite stream due to gill lice.

Most recently, didymo has been found in the Tuckasegee River. Didymo can completely alter stream habitats and makes for unpleasant fishing to say the least. It can entirely cover the stream bottom with a thick algal mat, making the bottom inhospitable for many of the aquatic insects important for healthy trout streams.

What can you do to help?

Well, the easy part is to just be observant. In some cases anglers have found the above issues. We do not know the full extent of these infestations. Should you catch a fish infected with gill lice, or exhibiting evidence of whirling disease, it should be reported. North Carolina Trout Unlimited has a system for reporting these invasives here:

<http://www.nctu.org/diseasenuisance-sp-reporting-form.html> (Editor's note, this is not a hot ink)

Please bookmark it on your computer and on your phone now. It allows you to give details, precise locations, descriptions, and even upload photos.

The truly important thing you can do to help is to ensure you are not helping to spread these nuisance species. If you fish multiple watersheds, all gear should be carefully cleaned and allowed to completely dry before you use it in another stream or watershed. The most effective way to clean your equipment is to use a 10% bleach solution, soaking it for at least 10 minutes.

I have personally found that for this to be practical here in Transylvania County—where it seems to never stop raining and nothing dries out ever—it is necessary to have multiple sets of wading gear. I keep one set for only using on the stream I fish regularly, and the other set is my traveling gear, which I allow to dry between trips to other watersheds or states. It is an expense for sure, but the cost of spreading invasives is much greater.

Editing a Trout Unlimited chapter newsletter is one of the most thankless and frustrating tasks in a chapter, yet it is also one of the most important. I would like to thank John Rountree for editing Snags & Snarls for the last year, and for sharing his photographic skills as well. John will be stepping down as editor with this issue, but we will still be tapping him for some photographic assignments. Thanks John, for all your work over the last year!

We will not be without a newsletter editor though. I am pleased to report that Mark Byington will be taking over as editor of Snags & Snarls. Mark is a past president of the chapter and has edited the newsletter as well. Remember, this is your newsletter, and if you have any articles, photos, trip reports, fishing tips, etc. you would like to share, please forward them on to Mark. Thanks for taking over, Mark!

I am also pleased to report that Pisgah TU now has a Vice President. Abbi Bagwell has agreed to take on the role. Abbi lives in Brevard and is Director of Operations at Flymen Fishing Company. She also spreads her enthusiasm for fly fishing through videos and social media as #somestreamerchick. Welcome to the team, Abbi!

I hope to see you at the chapter meeting Thursday, February 11th!

Mike Mihalas

“If the trout are lost, smash the state.”

Thomas McGuane

# !!! Didymo Found In Western North Carolina Waters !!!

*The following advisory was issued by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.*

*WHITTIER, N.C. (Jan. 25, 2016) – The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission advises trout anglers fishing in western North Carolina waters to be especially diligent when cleaning their fishing equipment after didymo, a nuisance algae, was found in the Tuckasegee River in Jackson County. Researchers from Tennessee Tech University collected cells of the microscopic algae while conducting regional surveys in late 2015 — the first time the organism has been documented in North Carolina. Didymo, also called rock snot, is the common name of *Didymosphenia geminata*, a freshwater diatom species that can produce thick algal mats along stream bottoms. The mats can be so thick that they alter stream habitats and make fishing difficult.*

*Because didymo can be spread easily from waterbody to waterbody, Commission biologists recommend that trout anglers take the following steps to avoid spreading the algae:*

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment;*
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting; and,*
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water.*

*The Commission has a dedicated Angler Gear Care webpage that lists other steps anglers can take to help prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species, including how to properly disinfect fishing equipment.*

*The confirmation of didymo in the Tuckasegee River marks the third time in a little over a year that an aquatic nuisance species has been discovered in western North Carolina. In December 2014, gill lice were found for the first time in North Carolina on brook trout in the Cullasaja River in Macon County. Another species of gill lice, this time affecting rainbow trout, was found in August 2015 in three water bodies in Haywood and Watauga counties. And in July 2015, whirling disease, a parasite affecting trout, was confirmed for the first time in the state in rainbow trout collected from Watauga River near Foscoe in Watauga County.*

*The appearance of these aquatic nuisance species is concerning to fisheries biologists because it highlights the ongoing and increasing threat that aquatic nuisance species pose to the state's aquatic resources.*

*“Aquatic nuisance species — either plants or animals — are organisms that cause ecological and/or economic harm if established,” said Jacob Rash, the Commission's coldwater research coordinator.*

*“It is important that we all work to help prevent the introduction and spread of these nuisance organisms by being good stewards of our State's aquatic resources that we all care for and enjoy.*

*“Always remember to clean and dry equipment, clothing, or anything else that comes into contact with water. In addition, never move live fish from one body of water to another without first obtaining a permit from the Commission.”*

*For more information about trout fishing in North Carolina, visit the Commission's Trout Fishing website. For more information about other aquatic nuisance species, visit the Protect Your Waters website.*



# Trout in the Classroom

Ed Shearin

Davidson River High School - Davidson River School's Andy Bullwinkel Science Teacher and his Biology class hosted representatives from CAN'D Aid to view and discuss with students the TIC program. Mr. Bullwinkel and his class have conducted one of the most successful Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program sponsored by PCTU. TIC is a national program

sponsored by local chapters of Trout Unlimited (TU).

The Pisgah Chapter of TU sponsored Mr. Bullwinkel's efforts by supplying his classroom with an aquarium, cooler, filter, and all of the other equipment. The equipment will stay in the classroom for use next school year.

CAN'D Foundation (Diana Ralston and Sarah Leavitt) visited Mr. Bullwinkel's classroom to see an exemplary TIC program in action. Students (Tiya Morgan and Catherine Stockdale) demonstrated how to test water in the aquarium.

After the visit to the school, Diana Ralston and Sarah Leavitt wanted to see the Davidson River where representatives from PCTU discussed how PCTU, TIC, and CAN'D could work together on water conservation in the area.

## Contact

To learn about TIC and Pisgah Chapter of TU

Ed Shearin, TIC Coordinator  
ed.shearin@gmail.com



# TWO Opportunities To Pitch In

## Davidson River

On February 25 and 26 our chapter is sponsoring a trash cleanup of the Davidson River. We plan to cover the river from the Fish Hatchery to the mouth of the river and we need as many volunteers from our chapter as possible so please help if you can!

We will divide the river into sections and cover each section with teams. Each team will have a raft or canoe, etc, to float down the river for us to place the trash in while away from road access. Trash bags will be provided! We will cover about ten miles of river so planning for two days of work will be needed. Please come ready with waders and the personal equipment that you may need while collecting trash. This project is in February so dress appropriately as the weather may be cold.

We plan to meet at the Fish Hatchery at 9:00 am, where there will be parking. There will be a brief meeting where we will divide into teams and get additional instructions. If you volunteered for this project during our last chapter meeting on January 14, 2016 you are good to go but if you want to volunteer please email Lou Barlow at [riverrooster@me.com](mailto:riverrooster@me.com). Please include your phone number. Informing us that you want to volunteer will give us an idea of the number of folks that we can count on for planning purposes. If you have a light raft or canoe that we can use for this project please let Lou know as well.

Don't wait, please volunteer for this very important project right away! We will see you on February 25 at 9:00 am in the Fish Hatchery Parking Lot.

## Roadside Cleanup

*It's time for our first roadside cleanup of 2016.*

*It will be Wednesday, February 17th at 10:30 AM.*

*We're going to do something a little different this year.*

*The cleanup will be from the intersection of the bridge at Hwy 276 and Hatchery Road to the Cove Creek turnaround.*

*Distance is approximately three miles which is about the same as our traditional cleanup on Hwy 276.*

*We will meet at the Hatchery parking lot for the traditional coffee and scones. From there we can deploy in two directions. From the hatchery to Hwy 276 is relatively flat while from the hatchery to Cove Creek can be a little bit hilly.*

*Cleanup will be divided into six, half mile sections. Works best to have two people per section for a total of twelve volunteers. There are pull offs about every half mile to park your vehicle and avoid too much walking.*

*Anticipate being done around 1:00 PM.*

*February can be a challenging month for weather.*

*It would help if those that are interested would reply by e-mail so that I can advise of any change of plans.*

*Looking forward to seeing you there!!*

*Tim Schubmehl*

*Schub444@gmail.com*

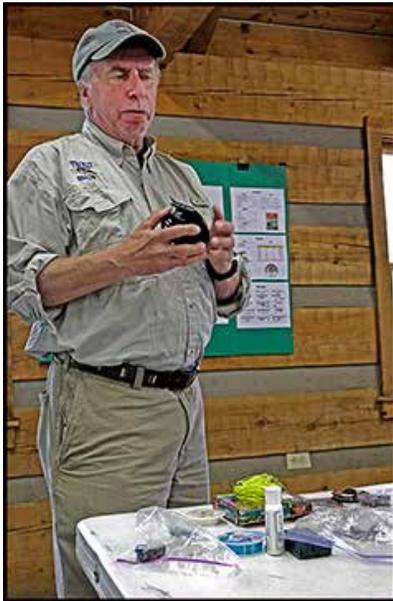
# Fly Fishing School - April 23rd, 2016

Fly fishing can be quite overwhelming to someone interested in learning about the sport. I know because I was that person, last year. I had read the books and been out trying to practice what the books showed me. My wife and I even hired a guide for a day to learn more.

What made the difference in my actually learning and feeling somewhat confident, was attending last year's Fly Fishing School.

Volunteers from PCTU hold classroom sessions on gear, knot tying, fly tying, casting, entomology (bugs), and anything else you care to ask and learn about. The instructors are knowledgeable and they are patient. Did I mention, lunch is included too!

text and photos by: John Rountree



Certainly one of the best parts about the Fly Fishing School comes after the Saturday classroom sessions. As part of your fees, you will be paired with a Mentor from PCTU. I spent an excellent day with Clive Morris on the East Fork of the French Broad. That is where we put all my lessons together. I even caught a few rainbows! This school will really give you a solid foundation to pursue fly fishing. If you, or anyone you know is ready to learn how to fly fish, this school is the best investment you can make. Seriously, you get the classroom instruction, plus time on the water with a Mentor for less than the cost of a half-day with a guide!



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. Please contact Loufin Barlow for a registration form or to volunteer at: [riverrooster@me.com](mailto: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.

Pisgah Chapter  
Trout Unlimited

Thursday, February 11th

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

Program:

Headwaters Outfitters, presenting the history of  
the French Broad, French Broad River Cleanup,  
Fishing the Headwaters of the French Broad and  
Streamer Tactics.

9:00 PM, Adjourned

Pardee Hospital Meeting Room  
Four Seasons Mall

Hendersonville, NC



*At February's meeting  
JEB Hall, an excellent  
story teller with a wry  
sense of humor  
entertained the PCTU  
membership with  
stories about his  
recent trip to Alsaka.*

# PCTU / William L. Arbuckle Memorial Award

As many of you know, education is one of the key tenets of the Pisgah Chapter's vision statement. The William Arbuckle Memorial fund was established back in 2006 to honor the legacy of one of the chapter's biggest supporters.

The PCTU / William Arbuckle Memorial fund and the process for selecting the award's annual recipient are coordinated completely by the Community Foundation of Henderson County (CFHC).

This \$1000 award is offered for any student accepted to an accredited degree granting college or university within the Southern Appalachian Region. Recipients must be pursuing an undergraduate and/or graduate degree in the field of fisheries and wildlife management, aquaculture, freshwater biology, or other related fields. Preference will be given to those who have expressed a desire to pursue work which relates to fresh water fisheries and/or native trout populations.

If you know of a worthy applicant, please let them know that an electronic version is available on the PCTU website; [www.pisgahchaptertu.org](http://www.pisgahchaptertu.org). If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Lee Henderson-Hill at [Lhenderson-hill@CFHCforever.org](mailto:Lhenderson-hill@CFHCforever.org).

## APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 1, 2016

For application forms or more information contact:

Community Foundation of Henderson County  
Attn: Senior Program Officer  
PO Box 1108  
Hendersonville, NC  
28793

# Fly Of The Month : Shop Vac Nymph

By Dave Bender



The Shop Vac Nymph is a fly that has been around for a long time. This fly imitates various insects that feed on the bottom of a stream. The Shop Vac Nymph will work year 'round in most trout waters.

**Materials List :** scud hook, 16 -20; tungsten or **brass bead**, gold, copper, or brown; black thread. **Body**, 3 - 5 Pheasant tail feathers; **Rib**, small copper, gold, or chartreuse wire; **Wing**, white or gold Antron; **Collar**, peacock herl.

Pinch down the barb. Slide the bead on the hook (small hole first) and secure the hook in your vise.



Start thread behind the bead and wind toward hook. Clip off tag end. Continue to lay down a base, winding to bend in hook, slightly past the barb.



Clip or pull four or five feathers from a pheasant tail. Remember, the fibers are delicate, so tie in the tips about 1/2 inch back. This will add strength.



Tie in the tips and clip the excess.



Tie in the wire by wrapping the thread toward the bead. Keep the wire on the bottom of the hook.



Make a rope by grabbing the pheasant tail fibers at the base with hackle pliers and twisting clockwise three or four times, tie together. Form the body by wrapping the fibers toward the bead, stopping about two hook eye lengths behind the eye, saving room for the collar and wing. Secure the body fibers with three or four wraps, trim any excess fibers.



Take the wire and “counter” wrap it forward four or five times, stopping behind the bead where the body ends. The wire not only adds a little flash and color, but also reinforces the body, substantially improving the durability of the fly.



Clip a small section of wing material and tie it in on top of the hook, just behind the bead, with the butts facing forward. Clip any excess strands, allowing the longer strands to extend back over the body. Don't clip the wing to length yet.



Tie in two peacock herl feathers and make a rope/thread, like you made with the pheasant tail fibers. Pick up the wing material and make two or three wraps behind/underneath the wing material with the peacock thread. Bring the peacock thread forward and make two or three wraps in front of the wing. Secure with four or five wraps of bare thread. Clip any excess fibers.



Clip the wing to length, whip finish and add head cement. That's it!



I find the Shop Vac Nymph to be a great little fly when fished behind a larger pheasant tail nymph, or with a dry fly as a "dry/dropper" combo. Don't be afraid to try different color combinations. Pheasant tail feathers can be purchased in many dyed colors like red and green. Beads are also available in different colors.

Put them back alive!

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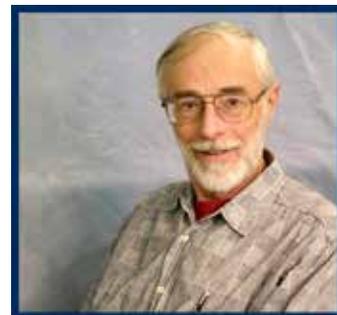
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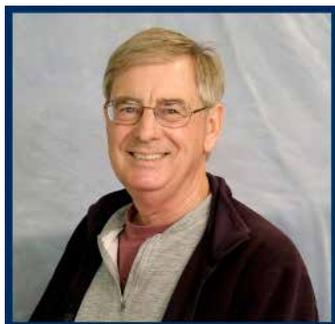
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