



Trout Tales

Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited

June 2011



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all members!

The ultimate goal of any angler is a great day on a stream. So I ask - what is the most important item on the stream? Is it a good rod, reel or selection of flies? A good rod and reel is only as good as one can cast. A fly selection is only as good as its drift. But the truth be told ... the most important item on a stream is something everyone can use. It is the water bottle. That's right ... hydration, hydration! Dehydration can hinder your day and recovery time from physical exertion. Drinking water can improve your day on a stream and help to prevent injuries. Water regulates body temperature and is required for the body cooling systems, especially when it is so hot! Consuming water can increase energy and mental alertness and therefore, prevent injuries. Consuming water on a daily basis will hydrate the body before, during and after a day on the water. While fishing in these high temperatures, please be responsible and DRINK WATER. Your day will be so much more enjoyable. Wild streams here I come.

PS. Our June speaker is Kevin Howell of Davidson River Outfitters. **And we will have a special Davidson River private water raffle!** Hope to see you on Thursday, June 16!

PPS. If you want to help with the Orvis Fly Fishing 101 and 201 program, contact the Charlotte Orvis store at 704-571-6100.

- **Bill Thomas (bthomas999@bellsouth.net)**

RRTU Calendar

May 21 – July 10: Orvis Fly Fishing 101 and 201

June 11: Wilson Creek Streamside

June 16: RRTU meeting. Kevin Howell

June 18: TU national stream cleanup day

June 19-24: Rivercourse

July – no monthly meeting

Aug 18: RRTU meeting. Richard Mode

Sept 14-18: National TU Meeting, Bend, OR

Sept 15: RRTU meeting. Elections

Oct 6-9: Appletree

Oct 20: RRTU meeting

Oct 28-30: Rumble in the Rhododendron

June 16th meeting

Fishing techniques and fly selection – Kevin Howell

Special raffle – You could win an unguided day trip on the Davidson River private trophy waters. \$10 for one chance, \$20 for three chances. You must be present at the meeting to win.

<http://www.davidsonflyfishing.com/Area-Streams.html>

Covenant Presbyterian Church
1000 East Morehead Street
Room 205, Fellowship Hall
Charlotte, NC 28204

Social time: 6:30 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm

Friends of Rocky River (FORR)

The 2011 Friends of Rocky River (FORR) program campaign officially started in February. RRTU sent each chapter member a letter via USPS mail. Did you receive your letter? Did you respond with a donation?

Several individuals have responded already and the 2011 campaign is closing in on the \$5000 mark in donations.

If you have not donated yet, please do so. A successful 2011 FORR campaign should allow the

chapter to meet routine annual expenses. Our goal for the 2011 campaign is \$8000.

In order to donate, please make checks payable to Trout Unlimited and mail your tax deductible donation to:

Terry Hill
PO Box 456
Matthews, NC 28106

Some employers may match employee donations to 501(c)(3) organizations. If your employer matches employee contributions, please include those forms with your donation as well.

Thank you!
- **Steve Craig/Terry Hill**, FORR Committee

May 2011 meeting – Chasing Blue Lines

Rob Domico, owner of Madison River Outfitters, presented at the May 19 RRTU meeting. Rob mentioned several hints on local fishing:

- Do not disregard DH waters after the first Saturday in June.
- Mentioned a number of nice streams within 2 hours of Charlotte which fish well all summer.
- Many “blue line” streams in the DeLorme Gazetteer do not require long hikes to reach the water. You do not have to crawl through rhododendron thickets to find good “blue line” fishing.

- **Editor**

In Memorial – Jesse W. Brown, Sr.

Editors note: This note from a recent message from Jesse Brown’s Outdoors:

Jesse W Brown, Sr. the founder of Jesse Brown’s, passed away early on June 1st, 2011. He had been ill in recent months and is now hiking the smooth trails of heaven.

We are all thankful for the dream & vision that Jesse had when he opened his first outdoor store in Greer,

SC, but we are even more thankful for the gentleman that he was.

There will be a celebration of Jesse's life at South Mountain Christian camp, Saturday, June 11th at noon in Bostic, NC. Memorial gifts can be made to South Mountain Christian Camp.

Appletree fall 2011 trip

Hot weather seems like the rule these days of late spring as we head into summer. But in the fall we will see cooler weather ... and that will signal Appletree trip preparation and planning!

The fall trip is scheduled for October 6, 7 and 8 on camp site A (25 campers).

Bill Thomas and I will need to have a different crew for the October trip. We will be returning from a trip to Idaho the week before and will not be available to organize the October trip. Please contact me in order to sign up for helping organize the October Appletree trip.
- **Jim Mabrey**

Upcoming 2011 RRTU Meeting Topics/Presenters

June 16

Kevin Howell of Davidson River Outfitters will present material on fishing techniques and fly selection.

August 18

Richard Mode. Founder of the Table Rock Trout Unlimited chapter, National Wildlife Federation Affiliate Representative.

September 15

Election of RRTU officers and board.

TU – National News @ tu.org

Looking for information on legislation? How about recent press releases? Searching for the TU president’s message in the TU newsletter? Interested in member

benefits? You will find all of these ... and much more at www.tu.org

- 2011 TU Annual Meeting -

Feel like a fall trip? Go west ... to Bend, OR for the 2011 TU Annual Meeting!

Dates: September 14-18

Cost: \$300 registration fee (\$275 Early Bird Discount before July 1).

What to do: Conference activities, BBQ/banquet, hosted fishing trips, conservation tours, fly casting tournament and much more.

Need more info: <http://www.tu.org/events/am2011>

- Other "stuff" -

(1) TU partners with the Outdoor Blogger Network for a writing contest.

(2) Take Action: add your voice during the public comment period for Clean Water Act protections.

(3) TU involvement in the Sportsmen Alliance for Marcellus Conservation.

(4) New TU video, "14 Degrees," showing how MT rancher Randy Mannix partnered with TU to restore Wasson Creek.

(5) Got a question? That question may already be answered in the Ask Trout Unlimited section located here: <http://www.tu.org/about-us/ask-trout-unlimited>

- Trout magazine -

Lost your recent issue? Trying to find an old article? You will find current and archive issues of *Trout* on the TU web site in the Press Room tab:

<http://www.tu.org/press-room/trout-magazine>

- June 2011 Lines to Leaders -

(1) Reminder about the 2011 TU Annual Meeting

(2) Western Native Trout Initiative project

(3) TU and Orvis Fly Fishing 101 & 201 program

(4) NE Regional Meeting July 29-31 in Farmington, CT

TU-Orvis Fly Fishing 101 and 201

Editor's note: This information from the TU web site.

TU and Orvis are partnering again this year to introduce new people to Trout Unlimited and the sport of fly fishing through the Fly Fishing 101 and 201 programs.

Courses are free to attend and will occur at participating Orvis stores and dealers every weekend from **Saturday, May 21 to Sunday, July 10**. TU volunteers will receive a coupon worth \$25 off their next Orvis purchase of \$50. If you want to assist with this program as a volunteer or if you want to participate as an attendee, contact the Charlotte Orvis store at 704-571-6100.

May 19-22 National Fly Fishing Championships in Cherokee, NC

Several RRTU members volunteered for this event as controllers: **Terry Ervin, Jonathan Miller and Ted Nickerson**.

After an opening Thursday night buffet at the Nantahala Brewing Company in Bryson City, each day started with a hearty breakfast at the Cherokee host hotel, Chestnut Tree Inn. At the end of breakfast controllers received their assignments and rode the blue NOC buses to the various fishing venues. Tournament waters included the upper and lower Nantahala, the DH section of the Tuckasegee, Calderwood Reservoir and the trophy waters of the Raven's Fork in Cherokee. Friday and Saturday consisted of two three-hour beats on the water; the event finished on Sunday with one morning three-hour beat followed by a banquet in the late afternoon. The top five finishers were:

Lance Egan – Gold

Devin Olsen – Silver

Norman Maktima – Bronze

Josh Graffam

Alec Gerbec

You will find information about this event, the results, etc. at <http://usnffc.com/>

Here are a few pictures from the event. Notice the long rods and the large nets. Floating indicators are not allowed so most competitors used two brightly colored monofilaments (like Sunset Amnesia) for that purpose. Barbless hooks are required and no split shot is allowed; so the end fly was usually a heavier nymph with a tungsten bead.



The lower Nantahala



The Tuckasegee



The Tuckasegee



- Editor

Rivercourse 2011: June 19-24

North Carolina Trout Unlimited's Rivercourse is the premier youth cold water conservation and fly fishing camp. The dates for the 2011 camp are June 19 – 24 at Lake Logan Center.

- Joyce Shepherd

Hatch Charts

Familiar with any web sites which list hatch charts we could reference here in the newsletter? If so, please share. The flyfishingnc.com site has this chart:

<http://www.flyfishingnc.com/fly-bugs/patterns/fly-hatch-chart-north-carolina-smoky-mountains>

- Editor

Tip of the Month

Small leaders are often difficult to tie to small flies, and become more so as we get older. For aid in tying, get a pair of reading glasses and keep them hanging around your neck with a glasses strap. It's more embarrassing to take too long to change flies than to let others know you need glasses to see small things. If you are willing to spend a little more, there are magnifiers that snap

onto the cap or hat bill that hinge down for use and hinge up out of the way while fly fishing. Magnifying or reading glasses are especially helpful in the twilight times of low ambient light on a stream.

- **Alen Baker**

Fly of the month

This “fly of the month” represents the latest in the **Tim Wilhelm/Tom Adams** series.

When I joined the chapter and started fly fishing, there were two individuals that took me under their wing and helped me learn, **Denny Burries** and **Joe Summer**. Both were excellent fly tiers and whenever the opportunity arose that I could “borrow” from one of them, I didn’t hesitate.

Such an occasion presented itself during a trip the three of us took to fish the fabled waters of Pennsylvania. We were on Big Springs and in the area where we were fishing, the far bank was reinforced with logs. Above the logs was a weedy area that sloped back in to a field. Joe was catching fish left and right and I wasn’t so I asked him what he had tied on. Joe told me a Cinnamon Ant. Joe would bounce his ant off the logs and into the water where the current took his offering down the length of the logs. He hadn’t used any floatant on the ant and sometimes it would slip below the surface where it was just as effective as when it remained on top.

I didn’t have an ant in my fly box so I immediately recognized this as an opportunity. “Joe, you wouldn’t have extra ant would ya?” “Sure!” he said with a sly grin as he produced a fly box I hadn’t seen before. Inside were some of the prettiest flies I had seen and there in the middle was the perfect Cinnamon Ant. I hastily took the fly before Joe had a chance to return the box to his vest and scurried downstream ten yards to tie on my prize.

After about 20 minutes Joe called down to me “Why aren’t you fishing? You are missing the best time.” “Having a little trouble tying on this fly” I replied. “Can’t seem to get the tippet through the eye.” Ten minutes later, I still hadn’t tied the fly on when I looked

over at Joe and Denny and they were on the bank laughing hysterically. In an instant I knew I had been had. Besides being superb anglers, Joe and Denny were also known as accomplished pranksters. Seems the two of them had hatched a plan to deal with my habit of mooching flies and Joe had prepared a special batch of flies intended solely for my use. Just the proper amount of head cement had been strategically placed by Joe in the eye of each of those flies.

I got even, but that is a story for another day.

PARACHUTE ANT

Fly of the Month 06.11

HOOK : Dry Fly, standard length. Tiemco 100 or equivalent. Size **14,16**,

Thread : 8/0 Uni Black

Body : Black Superfine or equiv dubbing

Wing : T flat Turkey, white or bright color

Hackle : Black Rooster

Directions:

1. Begin tread wrap three eyelengths back from eye and wrap to the bend behind the point of the hook but before the curve of the bend
2. Dub the thread, somewhat heavily with black dubbing and begin wrapping the abdomen using tight turns to about one half the length of the hook. Repeat the dubbing and build a “fat” middle of the abdomen and take the thread to the middle of the hook at the forward edge of the dub and let the bobbin hang.
3. Select a white turkey flat and snip the center and most square section for the wing post. The length should be about the same as the hook shank. Tie in forward of the dubbed abdomen by laying the turkey on top of the hook with the tips toward the eye. Make several secure wraps and bring the thread forward of the tips and by pulling back toward the bend, the tips will stand up. Make several wraps in front of the post. Trim the excess length. Holding the turkey by the tip, make several close turns of thread up and down to stiffen the post and tighten the turkey.

4. Select a black hackle, strip the end about one-eighth of an inch and tie in at the post. The hackle will tie in behind the post and bring the thread immediately forward of the post and let the bobbin hang.
5. Repeat the dubbing as above but make the thorax about one third to one half smaller than the abdomen. When you are satisfied with the thorax bring the thread to behind the thorax but in front of the post and let the bobbin hang
6. Grasp the hackle by the tip and wrap the bare stem up the post and then begin wrapping the hackle in tight, descending wraps down. Two or three turns should suffice (more turns for rougher waters) and secure with one or two wraps of thread. The thread should be “worked” into the hackle to minimize bunching of unwanted barbs. Grasp the hackle forward of the post with your left hand and pull back to finish securing the hackle. Using a small (tiny) amount of dub thread advance the thread to the eye.
7. Make a small head with thread wrap, cement to finish.

Cinnamon Parachute Ant



Black Parachute Ant



Wet style ant



- Tom Adams, Tim Wilhelm

Who wants to be “nearly almost” famous?

RRTU member **Alen Baker** has an idea about writing a book ... with our help. Read this and if you are interested, contact **Alen**.

Tales from the Empty Creel:

Angler's first hand stories and second hand tales.
Compiled and Edited by Alen D. Baker

Sound interesting?

Do you have a story to tell?

Want to have your story in the book?

Submit a simple draft of your experience along with your favor mug shot (holding a fish of course). Please supply a phone number and/or email address too as I may need to contact you with questions. I hope to begin writing this book over the coming months. I will provide an update on occasion and probably will be asking for more stories if there is a shortage.

Having trouble thinking about an experience?

I came up with a sample list of situations both dramatic and comedic that I hope will end up in the book (or maybe in this newsletter if our RRTU newsletter editor is allowed). Here's my list:

Fish that got away
Losing stuff or finding stuff or forgetting stuff
Falling in or going for a swim
Bad habits needing forgiveness
Faulty equipment
Things going wrong
The longest fight (playing a fish)
Doubles or skunked or surprise catch
The smallest or the most
Winning the bet or losing the bet
Rumors or strange beliefs or jinxes
Caught exaggerating or no photo
I did not know
Fly fishing in the trees
Animal encounters
Breaking the rod
Losing the last fly of its kind in the box
Encounters of the warden kind
Running out of gas or running into things

Caught in bad weather

Embarrassed or how long with not fly or no hook point

It happened at ... or fishing with ...

Lost and found on the stream, in the woods

Trespassing – maybe

The hero

- **Alen Baker (704.875.1505)**

RRTU on Facebook

How's your social network doing? How about your fishing network? RRTU certainly wants to help with the second question. RRTU now has a Facebook page. Search for us on Facebook under Rocky River Trout Unlimited and sign up to join us. Also, please “like” the page as this will help us to be located more easily. You will be able to post and respond on this Facebook page. You can post pictures, invitations for fishing buddies or trip results, flies that work for you, etc. This page is for your use; we hope you use it often! RRTU on Facebook is a “closed” group meaning your name is public but your information is not.

- **Jim Mabrey**

Stream Water Flow Data

Ever wonder about the water flow in your favorite stream? How about after a big rain? The USGS has monitoring on some NC streams. You may check on that data at this web site:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nc/nwis/rt>

The all electronic RRTU newsletter

The RRTU board made a decision to move to an electronic-only newsletter format starting in 2011. Our printing and postage costs for the paper newsletter were running over \$3000 annually; we plan to put all newsletter cost savings into RRTU programs. We use an electronic mail list server for sending the monthly RRTU newsletter. If you want to receive the monthly electronic newsletter, please follow these instructions:

Using the email account with which you wish to register, send an electronic mail message addressed to:

sympa@list.nctu.org

The subject line of this email should read:

Subscribe rrtu-news firstname lastname

Example: **Subscribe rrtu-news John Citizen**

RRTU Officers and Board Members

President: Bill Thomas – 704.231.7492

1st VP: Joyce Shepherd – 704.392.8499

2nd VP: Tom Adams – 704.877.3367

Secretary: Tim Wilhelm – 704.442.1253

Treasurer: Erin Purves – 704.807.1620

Dave Stakel (2011) – 704.399.4076

Steve Craig (2011) – 704.875.0932

Paul Isaacs (2012) – 704.960.3649

Jonathan Miller (2012) – 704.552.0051

Alen Baker (2013) – 704.875.1505

David Hollifield (2013)

Jim Mabrey (past president) – 704.786.0342