



Trout Tales

Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited

October 2011



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everybody!

Due to my extended vacation and being on "propane restriction," I was unable to make the Appletree trip this time. This was my first miss in eight years and I am feeling the effects. The April Appletree trip is only 6 months away though.

Thanks to all who joined us for the "Year End" review and election night on September 15. It was very well attended and everyone had a very nice evening. We said goodbye and thank you to outgoing board members **Steve Craig, Erin Purves** and **Dave Stakel**. And hello to newly elected board members **Tim Ramsey** and **John Oliver**. We also reviewed projects, programs and donations for this past fiscal year. We had a very interesting year and our successes should help us to generate more project ideas and create more volunteer opportunities.

Jonathan Miller has moved to the Treasurer position and will also continue to edit our newsletter. **Tim Wilhelm** will continue to serve as Secretary and will fill a new position titled "Historian." Thanks Tim. **Joyce Shepherd, Tom Adams, Alen Baker, Paul Isaacs, David Hollifield** and **Jim Mabrey** will remain in their current positions and lead many of our projects. **Terry Hill** and **Steve Craig** will continue to manage our Friends of Rocky River (FORR) program. **Erin Purves** will assist Jonathan in the treasurer transition process and has also agreed to assist on special projects.

I had a great time fishing with my RRTU friends and a few old Alaska friends during our recent western trip. Here's a list of rivers/streams I fished these past two weeks: Henry's Fork, Soda Butte Creek, Firehole, Rock Creek, Blackfoot, Clearwater and Kelly Creek.

Temperatures were in the eighties the entire time and the only rain I saw was in Seattle (no surprise HAHA).

Thanks again to all who made 2011 a great year and I am sure this will continue in 2012. I look forward to

seeing some of you at the October 20 monthly meeting and don't forget the fly tying sessions in November.

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

RRTU Calendar

Oct 6-9: Appletree

Oct 20: RRTU meeting

Oct 21-23: Casting for Recovery Retreat, Canton, NC

Oct 21-23: Rumble in the Rhododendron

Nov 12: Fly tying

Nov 17: RRTU meeting

Nov 19-20: Tie One On For CFR Team Challenge

Nov 25: Streamside, Wilson Creek

December – no monthly meeting

Dec 10: Fly tying

Jan 14: Fly tying

Jan 19: RRTU meeting

Feb 11: Fly tying

Feb 16: RRTU meeting

October 20th meeting

David Deaton – NCWRC Fish Culture Technology Biologist will talk about Trout in the Classroom and hatchery operations in NC.

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

**Social time: 6:30 PM
Meeting: 7:00 PM**

Note: Some RRTU members meet for dinner before the meeting at the Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 East Morehead Street, (704) 377-3808. Ask the hostess for the RRTU group; folks usually gather for dinner around 5:30 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.

Many individuals have responded already and the 2011 campaign is over 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.

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

September 15, 2011 meeting – Annual Meeting

We had a great turnout at the September Annual Meeting. Thanks to all who were able to attend.

As promised we held our election of officers and directors for the next fiscal year with the following results:

Bill Thomas - President
Joyce Shepherd - 1st Vice President
Tom Adams - 2nd Vice President
Jonathan Miller - Treasurer
Tim Wilhelm - Secretary
John Oliver - Director (thru 2014)
Tim Ramsey - Director (thru 2014)

President Bill Thomas also recognized our outgoing treasurer Erin Purves and two outgoing directors, Steve Craig and Dave Stakel, for their service to the chapter.
- **Tim Wilhelm**

Sept 10 Streamside at Mallard Creek

Thanks go out to all RRTU members and Piedmont Middle School parents and children who attended the Mallard Creek streamside clean up on September 10th.

Our loyal **Jim Mabrey**, always the hard worker, along with our newest board member, **Tim Ramsey**, showed no fear of manual labor and mucking in the creek. Our main task was to remove a buildup of debris at one of the pipelines that cross over the creek. We had additional help, and I mean HELP, from one of the parents, Mr. Marcus Paterson. Mr. Paterson, dressed to observe, saw that help was needed and he literally waded into the creek and demonstrated what six feet four inches of muscle can do! This project went very well considering it was all done by hand.

Other members assisting in the streamside clean up, collecting debris from along the creek bank, were **Joyce Shepherd** and **Tim Wilhelm** (more concerned with safety and liability – God bless him). Parents and children from Piedmont Middle School worked very hard collecting trash. At lunch time one of the parents took charge of the grill and a successful streamside cleanup event ended with a hot-off-the-grill lunch.

Well done and thank-you.

Before picture



After picture



Some members of "The Crew"



-Paul Isaacs

Sept 24 Nature Day at South Mountains State Park

The 9th Annual Nature Day at South Mountains State Park was held on September 24. I attended and was able to offer information to some of the attendees about Rocky River TU and the great environmental work we do at South Mountains and other rivers on our clean up days. After I had the hook taken out of my finger (don't forget to de-barb hooks folks), I managed to give fly fishing lessons to a few folks, young and old. The kids liked trying to get the "fly" in the hoops that were placed for them. Truth be told, so did the grown ups. Every year South Mountains State Park has its Nature Day where you can learn to recognize animal tracks, build a bluebird house to take home, learn how to care for injured wildlife, see lots of snakes, take a horse & wagon ride and listen to Appalachian music. They also

had a great spider exhibit with live spiders that were released at the end of the day.





-Joyce Shepherd

Appletree Fall 2011 Trip October 6-9

A little birdy told me that we had a good turnout of members and friends to join in the fun for the fall 2011 Appletree RRTU camping and fishing trip. And I heard that everyone had a fine time ... great weather, good food and fellowship, and YES – the fish were very cooperative! Looking forward to some pictures from those who attended; we will showcase some of those pictures in the November newsletter. If you have a good story or a testimonial regarding Appletree, send those and we will publish some of those as well.

Late breaking news – some testimonials have already arrived and those are included here:

Why Appletree? By Alen Baker

If you have made one of the RRTU spring or fall outings to Appletree, you already are likely sold and looking forward to going back to Appletree. But for everyone, allow me to share my perspective of why I go on the Appletree trips.

First, I do not particularly like camping...did it a lot when I was a scout, was good at it, but why rough it when you can afford a bed, hot shower and TV in a hotel room or lodge? Well, at Appletree, you can have all this and even more for a great price. Appletree is a group campground and yes, it has a hot shower facility. So with a warm sleeping bag, nice cot, air mattress and reliably dry tent you have the basic comforts. Since we camp as the RRTU "group", we have breakfast and dinner together (simply pitching in and sharing some of the food preparation as needed) and the food is

always excellent. Sandwiches are made together for lunch on the stream, so all meals are covered for only \$50 for the whole deal, campsite, food, campfire and companionship. We get a truck load of wood delivered and the campfire is always sky high at night. The stories are unique and spontaneous, always a laugh and sometimes something to learn from each other.

Second, I typically like wild streams best, hiking into Lost Cove, etc. and getting away where trout are more of a challenge, but Appletree gets you away for up to 3 nights and 4 days of choice fly fishing in far western NC on the Nantahala, Tuckasegee, Hiwassee, Big Snowbird, Fires Creek, Cherokee waters, GSMNP waters, etc...the list of trout waters is endless for the area. You pick it, DH or wild, lots of choices. The Nantahala alone can handle the RRTU "group" and the weeks selected for the trip are strategic - the weekends after a prime stocking of the DH waters. For example, this trip, Bill Ritter caught 47 trout in a distance of a few hundred yards by simply being persistent and changing flies as conditions varied during the day. Mark Gasior caught 50 trout on the Tuck using a Copper John and hanging in deep water. My best day this trip was 33 on the Tuck on Thursday. My worst day was 9 Trout...how good can it get.

This trip was a perfect weather trip, but I can truly tell you that even on one trip when it rained the entire 4 days, I enjoyed being with the RRTU "group" and being away to relax, kick back and catch plenty of trout. Even on the coldest night, I simply take an extra blanket, zip in for the night, sleep like a baby and let the hot shower warm me up for another day in paradise, fly fishing in Nantahala gorge. My one disappointment on every trip is that someone I shared a prior Appletree trip was not able to come and join in...this is a RRTU family affair...we want everyone to be there when they can.

I also want to make sure others know that Appletree happens because key people and the RRTU Board plan the events...it's getting down to a science, easy and quick but none the less, let me mention a few of those that put a significant amount of time planning and executing for the benefit of all. Jim Mabrey served as the master planner this round, as President Bill had to work this time (Bill and Jim have both typically made the major effort for these trips). Jim did the stew on Thursday, Joyce Shepherd did the spaghetti and Caesar salad on Friday and Paul Isaacs did the low-country boil on Saturday - each planned their meals and made sure the right ingredients were there. At one time or another most who attended either helped with cleaning the pots and pans OR helped chop, cook and prepare with whoever the master chef of the meal was. Even I helped chop some on Sunday morning to prepare for the "boiling bag custom omelets". Oh, the winner for "joke night" was Mark Gasior - he earned the Moose Drool!

Addiction By Don Webb

I didn't want to tell you guys, but I have a serious addiction. It is something that I haven't even tried to fight, as a matter of fact, I love it so much, I don't want to. I am addicted to standing in a cold water stream trying to figure out what to fish with, I am addicted to the way God has colored the trout I catch, to make them so vivid that no amount of computer enhancement could replicate it, I am addicted to the serenity I feel knowing that when I come back to the campsite, I will be accepted for who I am, I am addicted to seeing the old friends I have made and the new ones to come, I am addicted to the laughter around the campfire. But most of all, I am addicted to the Brothers and Sisters that greet me every time I go to the Appletree campout. Incredible people. Thanks you for a great campout. My batteries are recharged. "Get someone hooked - take 'em fishing!"

- Editor

Upcoming 2011 RRTU Meeting Topics/Presenters

October 20

David Deaton, NCWRC Fish Culture Technology Biologist, Trout in the Classroom and hatchery operations in NC

November 17

Richard Heald, Rivercourse

January 19

TBD

February 16

TBD

October 20 meeting – David Deaton

The October meeting will feature David Deaton, the NWCRC Fish Culture Technology Biologist, as our guest speaker. Mr. Deaton will discuss the Trout in the Classroom program and answer any questions you may have regarding the fish hatchery program in North Carolina. Please plan to join us as I suspect there may also be a raffle or two in the air to go along with the falling leaves of autumn.

- Editor

Rumble in the Rhododendron Oct 21-23

Editor: received this electronic mail message from Matthew Pegg on October 5:

Hello fly-fishing enthusiasts,

TWO SPOTS ARE AVAILABLE - if you want to fish...sign up your team today at www.fishcherokee.com. Once these two spots fill we will have a wait list in case there are openings as we near the competition. Email me with questions at Matt@CherokeeSmokies.com

Here are the details on the 2011 Rumble in the Rhododendron Fly Fishing Tournament:

- Date - October 21, 22, 23, 2011
- Cost - \$225 per team
- Prizes - The EBCI Fish and Wildlife Program has provided \$10,000 in cash (1st place team wins \$5,000, 2nd place wins \$3,000 and 3rd place wins \$2,000).
- Format - Two man teams, Fips Mouche rules. Separate casting competition (your registration to the Rumble includes the registration into the casting competition)
- Registration includes - Opening dinner on Friday evening, competitor SWAG, lunch on Saturday, lunch on Sunday, fishing tournament registration, casting competition registration
- Schedule - Friday night is registration, draw of the beat assignments, and dinner. Saturday and Sunday are competition days.

The skills casting competition will not be the qualifier to fish, it is a separate competition. This tournament is limited to 30 teams (we will have a wait list once we max out). There will be 15 teams competing on Saturday morning and 15 on Saturday afternoon. The top 7 from each session move on to Sunday morning. The top seven from Sunday mornings competition will move on to fish Sunday afternoon for the cash!

To register:

Go to www.connectthesmokies.com and pay with a credit card. Only one team member needs to register and you will be contacted after payment is received to find out the second team members name.

Volunteers and judges for the tournament are needed.

Anyone interested in judging or volunteering should contact Larry Hofferberth at Hoffel@windstream.net. As a judge you are invited to the dinner Friday night, receive lunch on Saturday and Sunday and will receive a Rumble gift for participating.

Non competitors can enter the casting competition for \$25 per attempt

Thank you
Matt

Matthew Pegg
Executive Director
Cherokee Chamber of Commerce
Phone - 828-497-6700 Email -
Matt@CherokeeSmokies.com Website -
CherokeeSmokies.com

RRTU Fly Tying Class for 2011-2012

Fly Tying Class will begin November 12th and be held the 2nd Saturday of each month from November to March. This means that our Saturday class will precede the RRTU meeting which is held the third Thursday of the month. We will hold the classes in the same place as the last two years:

REI
9755 Northlake Centre Pkwy off of West WT Harris Blvd. We meet in the Community Room from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

In the past we have everything from beginners wanting to learn the basics of fly tying to the well advanced tier. We are able to do this because we have three levels of classes.

The most advanced class pretty much works at its own speed and the members share ideas and techniques with other tiers.

The beginning class starts with the basics of the equipment used in fly tying and its usage. Beginners will learn how to use a rotary vice, whip finisher, use dubbing, select thread and hooks. Each session will become more advanced as tiers learn new techniques. By the end of the five sessions beginners will be on their way to tying the flies they need for trout and pan fishing.

One of the greatest benefits of our classes is that we really get a chance to know the other members and talk fishing.

Charges for Fly Tying Class

This year we will charge \$10.00 to all persons who attend where an instructor is provided. The money will be used to purchase hooks and other materials for the classes. In the past **Jack McNeary** has taught the beginning tiers with help from **Alen Baker**. Each week we have found that new people show up. **Alen** will bring the new tiers up to speed. **Jack** will continue to work with the tiers from the first week to develop their skills throughout the five sessions.

Meanwhile, **Tom Adams** will work with the more advanced tiers who want to learn new and advanced techniques.

Experienced tiers who come just to tie flies at their own pace and share experiences with others will not be charged a fee for tying materials.

At noon we send someone out for sandwiches and charge \$5.00 for those who want to participate.

We have at least six rotary vices and other tools and materials for our classes. Please feel free to bring your own vise and tools if you have them. If you are thinking of coming, we would like to have a head count so please contact **Jack McNeary** at jmcneary@gmail.com. You will not be bound by this, but it will give us an idea as to how many people to expect.

We look forward to seeing you on November 12th for the first session at REI.

- **Tom Adams, Alen Baker and Jack McNeary**

Casting for Recovery, Nov 19-20

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Casting for Recovery! As part of that celebration, we are launching our FIRST "TIE ONE on for CFR" Team Challenge, hosted by Kevin Howell and Davidson River Outfitters on November 19-20, 2011. All proceeds will go to CFR Carolinas.

You will find more information regarding this event and CFR Carolinas here:

http://castingforrecovery.org/wordpress/?page_id=2820

Casting for Recovery Carolinas is a unique program that provides NO COST support and education weekends for breast cancer survivors in any stage of recovery. Our 2½ day retreats offer survivors the opportunity to learn fly fishing as they connect with other women. An all volunteer staff composed of medical, mental health and fly fishing professionals, provides instruction, support and the latest in breast cancer education.

- **Joyce Shepherd**

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

- 2012 TU Annual Meeting -

You will NOT have to travel far for the 2012 TU Annual Meeting though you will still have to "go west." More precisely ... northwest to our very own Asheville! Watch for news on this exciting event and mark your calendar for this September 14-16, 2012 event.

- Other "stuff" -

(1) Now is a great time to give a child a TU youth membership. Check on the Stream Explorer program.
(2) New TU Volunteer Operations Coordinator – Wes Tetsworth, (703) 284-9410. Send Wes information about streamside events and other chapter volunteer events.

(3) TU in action (see website): PA Governor's Marcellus Plan Lacking, Utah's Otter Creek: The Power of Partnerships, TU's EAMP Receives AFS Award, Survey: WY Opposed to Flaming Gorge Pipeline.

(4) 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>

- October 2011 Lines to Leaders -

- (1) TU now accepting Embrace-A-Stream grant applications for eligible coldwater conservation projects.
- (2) CALL TO ACTION – Halt the Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act (HR1581/S1087)
- (3) New YOUTH section added to monthly Lines to Leaders.

Tales from the Stream

Editor's note: We are always excited to hear from RRTU membership about their fishing adventures. This one comes from member **Bill Miller** ... THANKS Bill!

OWYHEE CALLS

The river looked like it had emerged from a huge high-speed blender filled with water and spinach. This is a trout stream?

I know what prime tailwater fisheries look like. I could describe them with my eyes shut:
Towering Pines or Firs provide alternating light and shadows along the banks. Clean, water-worn stones. Crisp mountain air. Glorious scenery and cold, blue-white-diamond-clear water foaming over boulders to form crystalline pools.

I opened my eyes. True, the scenery WAS magnificent. Rugged canyon walls soared sky-scraper high into a cloudless sky. The walls were formed of bands of rouge-red sandstone alternating with layers of tar-dark basalt. Here's an example:

The "Crab Claw" above the Owyhee

The water, according to my son's thermometer, was a crisp 55 degrees F – near-ideal for trout.

I wiped sweat from my brow, musing that air at 100 degrees is HOT. That was especially true since the pretty much the only foliage, other than algae blooms in the water, consisted of stands of straggly willows that all-but-blocked access from the nearby dirt road to the stream edge. But they blocked none of the sun's rays from pouncing on my face.

I shifted my weight slightly as I began to cast and paused as my feet slipped again on the slime-coated rocks. At least, I thought, I had sense enough to change from my felt soles to better-gripping rubber ones. But would THAT be enough to keep me upright?

Day-before-yesterday I had been the only member of our four man team to be skunked. Zero fish while the others had all landed at least a pair of nice German Browns. And I was sure it wasn't ONLY because I had been slipping and sliding on felt.

I braced myself on my wading stick and cast into a seam formed between a pair of charcoal colored volcanic rocks. I focused on the yellow Thingamabobber, imagining the BB shot 4 feet below to be ticking along the bottom while my size 18 PT nymph waved enticingly about 6 inches above it. Maybe, if I willed it, the indicator would pause momentarily and dip ever so slightly.

Just... Like... THAT!

I pulled my rod tip sharply upward. Down it plunged and I saw a flash of silver as large as a banjo. My drag had been set to near-maximum, but that didn't seem to matter. Ten seconds later, the fish was in midstream and turning broadside in the current as though it knew that this tactic would exert maximum strain on my gear. And maybe it did know, since this river is catch-and-release for browns. This was certainly not its first encounter with a two legged predator.

Five minutes later, the fish had tired to the point that I eased him to the net. A minute later, he was back at mid-stream. This pas-de-deux repeated itself three more times until my son Jeff disgustedly grabbed my net. Of course, the fish took one more jaunt to mid-stream before we netted him.

As I admired my catch and waited while it recovered enough to be released safely, Jeff dug out a battered tape measure and stretched it along the fish's length. It measured just a hair over 17 inches.

He grinned. "How's it feel, Dad, to catch an AVERAGE Owyhee brownie?"

An AVERAGE Owyhee German Brown Trout

The Owyhee River is part of the vast Snake River system. It meanders through parts of Nevada, Oregon and Idaho as it makes its sometimes torpid, sometimes violent way into the Snake near Adrian Oregon and thence into the Pacific.

The first record we have of this river system is in 1819 when a team of three Hawaiian trappers went upstream – and vanished! (As an odd historical aside, apparently early trapping companies relied heavily on recruits from the "Sandwich Islands" for their trappers.) Numerous rescue attempts – including one led by the son of Sacajawea, of Lewis and Clark fame – failed to find any trace of the trappers.

But in honor of their birthplace, the river system and mountain range was named – using phonetic spelling – for Hawaii.

It is not too hard to understand WHY the hapless Hawaiians did not return. In 1984, the upper reaches of the Owyhee were designated a "Wild and Scenic River." Multi-day White Water trips are very popular above the reservoir, although some stretches of Class VI (!!!) water are NOT recommended for casual outings.

Both Eastern Oregon and Western Idaho are high desert. Without water, they are desolate, indeed. In fact, the region through which Owyhee flows into the Snake is called Malheur County. "Malheur" means "Unhappy" in French, the native language of the earliest French-Canadian trappers.

The gateway to the Owyhee is the small town of Adrian, Oregon. Although they are technically Oregonians, many residents consider Portland to be full of left-wing pot-smoking hippies. They also have a wry sense of humor as shown by this "Capital Building:"

The Adrian, Oregon "City Hall"

In 1932, an arch style concrete dam was erected at a narrow point in the Owyhee canyon. Thanks to this dam and reservoir, the area below it has bloomed as a major agricultural area for potatoes, corn, beets, alfalfa and onions. Waterfowl abound and my son and I, lamentably, just missed Adrian's annual "Duck Dance."

In 1990, someone with a thermometer and a sense of humor decided to stock the brackish-looking tailwater with German Browns. They quickly became self-sustaining.

More recently, the population has been augmented with Plant-And-Keep rainbows. A six fish bag limit is in effect for 'bows.

Structure, Tackle and Techniques The Owyhee is located about 50 miles west of Boise, where my son lives. Since much of the commute is over agricultural two-lane blacktop, allow at least an hour-and-a-half to get there. A single day, non-resident Oregon license may be obtained in Adrian for \$16.95.

Trout fishing occurs in the roughly 10 mile stretch from the dam to where it dumps into the Snake.

I have already mentioned the greenish water. Apparently, it is like this year around. And THAT leads to an interesting challenge when wading. At any depth greater than about a foot, you cannot clearly see the bottom! It is often difficult to tell whether you are stepping onto a black rock, a patch of dark sand or a HOLE.

The good news is that, with very few exceptions, water depth is seldom more than about three feet. So even if you lose your balance, the likelihood of a dangerously deep dunking is dramatically diminished.

The Owyhee just below the dam. Note the remains of an earlier irrigation structure. Most years, water flow is controlled at about 200 Cubic Feet Per Second. Over the years, this has led to the interesting problem of silt buildup. That problem was solved this year by dramatically increased flows in the spring and early summer when the IMMENSE snow-packs dumped HUGE amounts of water into every area waterway.

This year's runoff scoured away years of muddy silt in the Owyhee. It also seems to have scoured away much of the aquatic insect population. While we were there, we witnessed essentially no "hatches" although we did see the occasional PMD flitting around.

With "normal" hatches, I learned that the river sometimes sounds as though multiple "toilet flushes" are taking place. Careful "hatch-matching" is important.

Grasshoppers and ants abound, and variously sized foam imitations are popular.

Nymphing is productive. Techniques are similar to methods used elsewhere. However, with soft-hackled flies and nymphs, the slow currents suggest that either sub-BB weights OR sinking tip lines be used to provide a more natural presentation.

Apparently, large attractors such as the Woolly Bugger often cause vicious strikes. Also, some "fun" may result from "plopping" a late-evening MOUSE replica near the far bank and "walking" it across the water. One buddy reported seeing a 5 pound brownie launch itself out of the water and onto the bank when such a fly was presented!

In general, browns hold in quiet water. That means seams near current flow, behind rocks, under or near log jams, etc. This sometimes means casting across the current so the fly lands right next to the far bank and then mending your line for a drag-free float.

It's a technique that my new buddy, Scott has mastered and which he tried patiently and (almost fruitlessly) to teach me. Thanks Scott! I'll get it sooner or later!

Last Thoughts When I planned my trip to Idaho to visit my son and family near Boise, I intended to re-fish Henry's Fork and/or try some new eastern-area water such as the Madison or Frying Pan. But the snow-packs rendered THOSE waters unfishable. My fall-back plan was to fish the Boise River that actually flows through the state capital.

But when I went online to check out local conditions, the Idaho Anglers website had the following to say about the Boise River: "If You Value Your Life...Don't Fish it!"

Thanks to Scott and his buddy Ryan for introducing me to a fascinating (and unlikely) new fishin' hole! To steal a phrase from a Terminator movie, "I'll be back!"

- **Bill**

Tip of the Month

When placing a dry fly in a pocket of glassy, slow moving water apply SINK gel to the tippet. The tippet will blend into the surface film and improve the presentation of the fly, appearing virtually unattached from the fish eye view. For nymph fishing, apply SINK gel generously to the nymph and to the full leader and tippet. This will allow maximum sinking to the bottom. To fish the water column, apply SINK gel to about half the leader and the tippet.

- **Alen Baker**

Fly of the Month

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

Blue-winged Olives

Positively rheotactic!

Blue-winged Olives are not a large fly but their great numbers and the fact that they produce a number of generations each season make up for their size, which is rarely larger than 16 and usually smaller than 18. BWOs haven't been mentioned much in angling literature until the middle of the last century, but with the changes in fishing seasons which allow the angler to fish more months of the year, they have become increasingly important. There are several species of BWOs in the family Baetidae and the proper imitation has saved many an angler's day. These flies are frequently found during the morning and afternoon of cloudy rainy days. Besides the patterns Tom has presented a Parachute Adams or Comparadun of the appropriate size will also fool a fish that is taking BWOs.

BWOs are small, the surface of smooth water is a barrier to them, and many are trapped just below the surface or must struggle to break through the water's surface tension so emerging patterns work well. Both emergers and dry flies worked in slow runs and back eddies will raise fish but don't forget to fish the foam lines.

There typically isn't much of a spinner fall with BWOs but the egg-laying female crawls below the surface to lay eggs and are often knocked loose. When nothing else appears to be working try a soft hackle works well here. Put a small shot on the leader and cast upstream, giving the fly time to reach the bottom. Then jig the rod to give the fly some action.

Pheasant Tail Nymphs or a Gold-Ribbed Hares Ear work as imitations of the BWO. Dead-drift the fly in the water just downstream from a riffle. Which brings us back to positively rheotactic which, rather than an exclamation, is a term used by entomologists to describe how riffle species generally orient head first into the current.

Blue Winged Olive Catskill Dry Fly of the Month 10.11

HOOK : Tiemco 100 or equivalent – size
14,**16,18,20**,22,24

Thread : Uni 8/0 Olive Dun

Body : Blue Winged Olive dry fly dubbing, Beaver,
Superfine

Tail : Medium Dun Spade Hackle fibers

Hackle: Natural Dun Rooster hackle

Directions :

1. Start the thread two or three eye lengths back from the eye. Wrap tight wraps to the hook bend above the barb and let the bobbin hang.
2. Select eight or ten dun spade hackle fibers and after aligning the tips, pull them from the stem. This will keep the tips even for tying in.

- Measure the tailing so the amount after the bend is about one and one half the length of the shaft.
3. Tie in using a soft wrap and make sure the hackle is on the top of the shaft. Once you are pleased with the length advance the thread toward the eye in increasingly firm wraps. Trim excess length and return the thread in tight wraps to the bend where the tie in began. The last one or two turns should not be so tight as to make the tailing lift or stand up. Let the bobbin hang.
 4. There is much discussion about the dubbing material and color and some tiers blend there on color. Go with a factory blend of high quality dry fly dubbing. The amount and method are the most important. Apply thread wax and twist on a very small amount of dub. Very tight and about two inches at the most. The abdomen will be tapered and the thorax somewhat larger, but, begin with a tiny amount of dub. Wrap dub in tight, butting wraps to the thorax. Let the bobbin hang.
 5. Select a high quality, dry fly rooster hackle with barbs about one and one half the hook gape. This is critical, without over sizing, too large is better than too small. Strip the barbs from the stem leaving a one eighth inch bare stem to tie in with. One full wrap after the tie in is enough. Tie in with the shiny side toward the eye. Trim any excess stem. Advance the thread to the eye and let the bobbin hang.
 6. Wrap the hackle forward in very tight, touching wraps. Four or five wraps. Bring the thread back to the last wrap and secure the hackle. Interweaving the thread through the barbs at a single point of the stem will prevent binding unwanted barbs in obtuse directions. Using two or three wraps of thread is sufficient at this point. Trim the excess hackle. Clean up any unwanted barbs.
 7. Advance the thread in firm wraps to one or two wraps before the eye. Return the thread in tight wraps to the hackle and whip finish. Ideally, there a tiny bit of shaft should still be visible when you are finished. Apply head cement.

BWO CDC Emerger



BWO Traditional Dry



BWO Nymph



BWO Catskill Dry



- Tom Adams, Tim Wilhelm

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>

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**

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**

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