



Trout Tales

Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited

April 2010



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write the April message, the outside temperature reached 85 degrees on April 1st; we may have a short spring. RRTU has many programs and events coming up this year and we hope you will participate fully in these programs/events. Allow me to congratulate Mrs. Vicki Carbone, our Davidson Day School Trout in the Classroom instructor, and the Davidson Day School 6th grade Science Class for being selected as the recipient of the Youth Conservationist of the Year award for the NCWF 2009 Governors Conservation Achievement Awards Program. This award will be presented to Mrs. Carbone and the 6th Grade class on September 18, 2010 at the Hilton RTP Hotel in Durham, NC. The TIC program has already made an impact on the Davidson Day School students and their selection for this award should encourage them in future endeavors.

I also need to give our own **Joyce Shepherd** a hearty 'atta girl' for her involvement in the Casting for Recovery program. This CFR is a 2.5 day instructional retreat for women who have or have had breast cancer. Joyce has participated in the CFR program for several years and was one of the volunteers featured in the April 2010 issue of Wildlife in North Carolina. Joyce is an example of the caliber of membership in our local chapter and I am proud to count Joyce as a good friend!

Our semi-annual camping/fishing trip, known as Appletree, will take place on April 8-11 and is already fully booked. Look for a few stories in the upcoming 'online edition' of our newsletter about the spring trip. The stories by (and about) **Bill Thomas** always add some fun to these weekends; some of these have reached legendary status in just a few short years! Just remember - the stories told around the fire pit, stay in the fire pit. You'll have to join us on one of these trips to separate fact from fiction!

Our next RRTU chapter meeting will be held at Davidson Day School on April 21, 2010. The meeting presentation will feature the Trout in the Classroom program and all three of the 'Tank Commanders' are

scheduled to provide updates on their progress. We have trout release dates for late April or early May. If you would like attend one of the releases, please let me know. The April meeting will begin at 7:00 with social time at 6:30.

On May 1 we will have a Rocky River TU family outing at Reedy Creek Park shelter #3 from 3 until 8. Our meal will include a whole roasted pig with all the trimmings. Tickets for this event will be \$15 for an individual, \$25 for a couple and \$10 for children (ages 12-18) with children 11 and under free. We plan to have a few bucket raffles and a couple silent auctions. Check the website (rockyrivertu.org) for an updated listing for some of these items. Please bring the family and enjoy a day at the park; I hope to see you there!

Jack McNeary and **Tom Adams**, who led our successful fly tying program during the winter season, are considering a continuation of this program starting in December. We will post date, times and locations as plans develop for this program. Happy fishing this year and let's all try to take at least one 'newbie' fly fishing this year.

- **Jim Mabrey**

RRTU Calendar of Events

Apr 8-11 ... Appletree Camping Trip

Apr 21 ... TIC program at Davidson Day School

May 1 ... RRTU outing at Reedy Creek Park shelter #3 from 03:00 - 08:00 PM

TAILS FROM THE CREEK

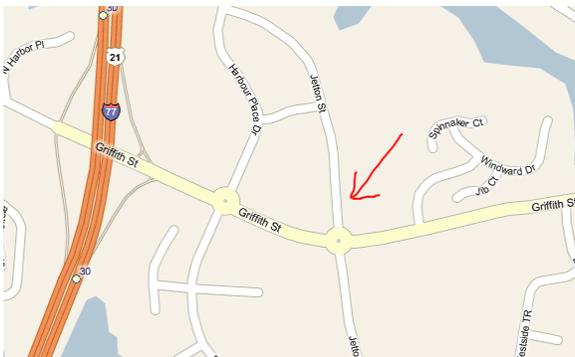
Been fishing? Who went with you? Where did you fish? What did you use? #18 pinkie? Stick bait?

We're anxious to hear about your fishing adventures; your stories may inspire others to try out a new place. Please share!

- **Jonathan**

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Guys and Gals, as you might guess, this month's meeting is something special. We have had the several inquiries about the Trout in the Classroom program by teachers that would like to start programs at their school. Originally the plan was to have Mrs. Vicki Carbone speak to these teachers during our regular time and place. After thinking on it a little while it became clear that we had a great opportunity allow Mrs. Carbone to discuss her class and project in her class room. The school is located at 750 Jetton St. (roughly where the arrow is on the map below). Take exit 30 off of I-77 and travel into Davidson. At the second roundabout go 3/4 of the way around, turning on Jetton St. We'll socialize starting at 6:30 so everyone will have a chance to find the school and the meeting will start at 7:00.



THE FAMILY PICNIC

Mark the date of May 1, 2010 from 3 till 8 as a time you will spend with your RRTU family. We will be at the Reedy Creek Park located at 2900 Rocky River Road Charlotte, NC 28215 in the Shelter #3. This is a 116 acre park in Northern Mecklenburg County that is adjacent to Reedy Creek Nature Center that serves as the gateway to the 737-acre Reedy Creek Nature Preserve and is the source for educational programs and information on the preserve's natural communities, flora, and fauna. The preserve protects the major tributaries of Reedy Creek, a natural heritage site, and areas of cultural significance including the ruins of the Robinson Rockhouse.

The park has volleyball courts, a basketball court, a playground, a swing garden a soccer and softball field as well as two ponds for fishing. Come out and enjoy the afternoon at the park and then join us for a Appletree style pig pickin' with all the trimmings. The cost of the meal will be \$15 for an adult, \$25 for an couple, \$10 for children between 11 and 18 and for the children 10 and under, they eat free. Tickets can be purchased at the April Meeting at Davidson day School or online at www.rockyriver.org via PayPal. (If the PayPal link isn't working email either Jim Mabrey at rrtujim@gmail.com or Bill Thomas at bthomas999@bellsouth.net). We plan to eat around 5:30 and then have a couple silent auctions and a few bucket raffles.

Our main focus on this event is to have a great time together and leave the heavy lifting of fund raising to the Friends Of Rocky River Program. If you have not made your contribution to the FORR program. please consider doing it at this time. We have received a over 20 donations so far but that leaves over 675 that have not donated yet. As you can see from this Newsletter, we are doing a lot of conservation, education and skill building events and the FORR program will be the major source of funding. Please consider making your donation this month.

SOMETHING EXTRA

We've decided there should be a reward for taking the newsletter by email, so Tom Adams and I are going to sweeten the pot and include a little something extra. We'll call it the Fly of the Month. I'm just the idea guy because Tom is not only an accomplished fly tier but also a profession photographer and artist. Just the sort of coattails I like to ride. This will be the only month that we'll include this in the snail mail version of the newsletter. If you would like future editions you'll need to sign up for email delivery. Instructions are found elsewhere in this newsletter; you can email directly at twilhelm@carolina.rr.com or you can call me at 704 442-1253.

FLY OF THE MONTH: THE YELLOW PALMER



One of the earliest mentions of a Palmer Fly was in Thomas Barker's *Art of Angling*, published in 1651. Barker's book discussed the flies of "greatest credit" and explained the values of Palmer Flies. He contended they were more effective than the winged patterns, an opinion maintained by many experts today. Charles Cotton's appendix to Isaak Walton's fifth edition of *The Compleat Angler* (1675) contained a list of original fly patterns and differentiated between plain and palmered hackle-type flies. It was about this time that the soldier-palmer became well known, and so named because its solid red body resembled the color of the jackets worn by British Soldiers. Palmer is an old English name used to denote a caterpillar and the Soldier Palmer was tied to imitate the Palmer Worm or the hairy caterpillar of the tiger moth.

The Yellow Palmer, along with the orange, is a very popular fly in the southern Appalachians and is it any wonder when you consider the earliest settlers to the area came from England in the 1700's.

This is an easy fly to tie and is suggestive of the little yellow stone fly, so common on our trout streams in late spring and early summer.

Hook : standard length and weight dry fly (tiemco 100 or Mustad 94840) sizes 10-14

Thread : Uni 8/0 Lt Cahill

Tail : traditionally blend of Brown and Grizzly hackle feathers.

Body : Yellow polyblend or Antron

Hackle : Brown/Grizzly hackle feather

Directions :

1. Start thread three or four eye lengths back from eye and wrap turn to turn to bend of hook (over the hook point).
2. Using six or eight hackle fibers tie in softly at hook bend forward to cover hackle and return thread to original hackle tie in point wrapping firmly but do not over pressure causing the tail to lift up. Tail should be straight and even.
3. Select a Brown & Grizzly hackle feather and strip the end of feather exposing about one eighth inch of stem. Tie in stem, with the shiny side of the feather facing the eye, at the point where the tail is covered by thread and move out of the way.
4. Tie in Polyblend or Antron slightly forward of bend and wrap thread forward to about a third of the distance back from the eye to the hook bend. Let the bobbin and thread hang at this point and begin wrapping even and slightly overlapped turns of body material. You may use hackle pliers or tie by hand. When reaching the thread tie off the body material with three or four thread wraps and cut off extra material. Advance the thread to the eye and return with even wraps back to the forward point of the body material and let the bobbin and thread hang.
5. Begin to palmer the hackle by advancing forward in even and firm wraps to the point where the bobbin is hanging and tie the hackle off. Clip excess and finish the head with cement.

(An Orange Palmer can be tied using orange dubbing for the body and pheasant tippet for the tail.)

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The subject line to this email should read
subscribe rrtu-news *yourname*

April Meeting Program:
***Trout in the Classroom Update* – Vicki Carbone**

Davidson Day School
750 Jetton Street
Davidson, NC 28036
Wednesday April 21st
Social time: 6:30 pm
Meeting starts: 7:00 pm