



Trout Tales

Rocky River Chapter

Trout Unlimited

December 2010



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanksgiving is past and Christmas is close at hand; I think it is time to give thanks to all those who have attended and helped with 2010 RRTU events. You have made this year one of our best. The January meeting and the February 30th anniversary celebration will start 2011 off in grand fashion.

The November 13 fly tying session went very well. Thanks to **Tom Adams** and **Jack McNeary** for all their hard work. Rod building is still being finalized. Our first meeting of the 2011 year will be Chris Smith from Team Stonefly; this is a group of competition fly fishermen (several members are from RRTU). Chris' topic will be "Czech Nymphing." If you are interested in a new technique, do not miss this meeting.

We have scheduled the RRTU 30th anniversary celebration for February 19 at Bass Pro Shops (Concord Mills). This will be a free event with a dessert and coffee/tea bar. Jim Dean, former editor of *Wildlife in North Carolina*, will discuss the evolution of trout fishing in North Carolina. And we'll have a few other activities at this event: trout bingo, 52 card split, numerous silent auctions and a few bucket raffles. This should be a very interested evening.

On a sad note - RRTU member **David Radke** was killed in a plane crash on November 21. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Read **Mr. Radke's** obituary [here](#).

If you have ideas for meetings or projects, please contact me. Thanks again for a great 2010 and have a Merry Christmas. See you at the January meeting.
- **Bill Thomas** (bthomas999@bellsouth.net)

RRTU Calendar of Events

Dec 11 ... Fly tying at REI Northlake
** No regular meeting in December. **

Jan 15 ... Fly tying
Jan 20 ... RRTU meeting. Chris Smith, Czech Nymphing

Feb 12 ... Fly tying
Feb 19 ... RRTU meeting. 30th Anniversary at Bass Pro

Mar 12 ... Fly tying
Mar 17 ... RRTU meeting

Friends of Rocky River (FORR) update

We plan to continue this program in 2011. In January 2010 RRTU launched a new fundraising initiative designed to eventually become the primary source of chapter income. With over 700 members, we feel confident that modest, annual pledges from members and business affiliates can raise the capital necessary to operate the chapter and sponsor our projects. Under the FORR program, we are challenging our members, friends and affiliates to make an annual donation to fund our activities.

It is still not too late to make a 2010 donation! We would be happy to serve your 501 (C) (3) needs for the 2010 taxable year. If you have not yet sent a donation, please do so. Mail donations to RRTU, C/O Terry Hill, PO Box 456, Matthews, NC 28106.

- **Steve Craig/Terry Hill**, FORR Committee

Wilson Creek Streamside on November 26

Thanks to RRTU member **Nick Mermigas** as he hosted a Wilson Creek streamside event on Friday, November 26. Though the weather was chilly and overcast, we missed out on the rain. A little trash and \$5 bought you a fantastic lunch: Brunswick Stew, corn bread, sweet potato pie, coffee and/or water. That HOT Brunswick Stew really hit the spot on a cool day! Several RRTU

and Carolina Fly Fishing Club members attended. And though the fish were not “super” active, several caught trout using egg patterns. I saw several risers after lunch upstream from the Mortimer Campground.

- **Jonathan Miller**

Fly Tying continues in December

The next RRTU fly tying class will be at the same location (REI located in the North Lake Shopping Center at 9755 Northlake Centre Pkwy. Charlotte, NC 28216.)

The class will be Saturday, December 11th beginning at 10:00 AM and finishing at 2:00 PM. We had a good turnout for the first session last month but would love to see a few more additions. **Alen Baker**, an excellent fly tier, will work with those coming for their first time and bring them up to speed with the present class.

Tom Adams will lead off the program with a discussion about feathers. You will not want to miss this as **Tom** is an authority on selecting feathers for fly tying. He has a number of wonderful samples to show. When I first saw the samples he had, I had no idea they could be so beautiful.

We will be tying some interesting flies, and we have some extra vices to handle a few more people. If you have not already contacted me about attending, please let me know so that we can have the necessary materials. Reach me at jmcneary@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you. Don't forget, if you just want to sit around and discuss fishing, we welcome all comers. Lunch will be \$4.00 if you would like us to pick it up for you. If not, those enrolled previously or to those there just for the jawing, there will be no charge. Any newbies will be charged \$5.00 for remainder of this seasons (Fall 2010/Spring 2011) fly tying programs.

- **Jack McNeary**

2010 highlights

RRTU had a full plate of activities and projects during the 2010 year. A few highlights are listed below:

- Fly tying classes hosted by **Jack McNeary** and **Tom Adams**
- Trout in the Classroom (TIC) – added 3 new installations
- Appletree trips in April and October
- Goose Creek bridge completed
- North Mills project
- Nature Days at South Mountains State Park
- New meeting location – Covenant Presbyterian Church on Morehead Street
- New meeting date – third Thursday of the month
- September officer and board elections
- **Nick Mermigas** annual streamside event (Friday after Thanksgiving)

River's Way update

Jim Mabrey received this information from RRTU member **Dave Wilson**:

Hello everyone,

Thank you for your support as we have negotiated zoning issues related to fishing and lodge rental use over the last few weeks. Here is the latest update:

Sullivan County will now allow River's Way to continue with fishing and lodge rentals while retaining our current A1 status. Last month, the county had indicated that we would have to be rezoned to Agricultural/Recreational if we wished to continue with these ventures. That is no longer the case. We are grateful to the county official, Ambre Torbett, who was able to help us in getting the final verdict. Our neighbors can live with our current zoning and our current fishing/lodge rental operations as long as we discontinue any large scale events. This is good news!

Thomas B. Hanlon
Executive Director
River's Way Outdoor Adventure Center

Tip of the Month

When threading the fly line through the rod guides, many will take the leader in hand and beginning the step by step, guide by guide process of threading the fly line. If you drop your hold on the leader, you may well lose the threading completely and have to start over. This is especially frustrating in low light conditions at dawn and at dusk. Instead, take hold of the fly line a foot or so past the leader connection where the diameter is smaller, fold the line and thread the collapsed fly line loop through each guide. The line loop is easy to see, is much easier to run through the guide than you may expect, and, the loop tends to keep the line in the last guide threaded. If you lose your grip, you likely will not lose the threading you have so far. Once the rod tip guide is reached, simply pull on the open loop and the leader will come forward through each guide readily. Done, tie the fly on and start fly fishing.

- **Alen Baker**

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 or technique. Please share!

- **Jonathan**

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FLY OF THE MONTH

The editor (**Jonathan Miller**) and the Fly Tier (**Tom Adams**) both completed their duties on time; however, the Distribution Manager (myself) seems to be the one that has dragged his heels this month. Part of that may be caused by the season and part of it is the result of a lack of creativity. After asking Tom to tie a Christmas themed fly, I've just not been able to come up with a "story" that matches the brilliance of Tom's creation. I will tell you, though, about the time that I almost took **Santa** fishing.

To begin, I need to give you some background. Making bamboo rods has allowed me to meet some remarkable people one of which is Harry Boyd. So when I received an email in September 2008 asking my help, I had to say yes. Harry had just sold a rod to a fellow that was coming to Charlotte for a short period starting about Thanksgiving. Harry's client was only going to be in town a short while and Harry was hoping there was somewhere local that I could take his client fishing. "I'd be honored was my reply" and I contacted the gentleman. I told him sure we'll take a day and run up to a stream and torment some DH fish if he'd like. No he said, he was going to have to work seven days a week, could only snatch maybe a half hour at a time to fish. You see, he was the mall Santa at Carolina Place in Pineville. (That was my only chance at being on the nice list!)

I swung by Carolina Place, while in my annual shopping panic, and there he was sitting in his chair in front of an army of wide eyed, excited children each waiting their turn to tell Santa their most secret desire for Christmas. I thought about yelling "Hey Santa, how do you like that Boyd rod!" but thought better of it and instead continued with my shopping. As I was passing through the food court on my way out of the mall, there was Santa coming off his break. I stopped him and introduced myself, "Hi, I'm Tim Wilhelm". His response "Of course you are, I know you." (Silly me, I had forgotten he was Santa and he knows everyone!) I then asked him about his bamboo rod and beneath his rosy cheeks his face lit up. He told me all about the rod. Its length, how many sections, the color of its wraps and how sweetly it cast. There was excitement in Santa's voice.

We only spoke for a minute or two but it was in the language of those that love bamboo rods, fishing and all that comes with our sport. Then just as quickly a young boy came up and tugged on Santa's sleeve. "Santa! Santa!" the boy excitedly said and it was over. The two fishermen parted ways each with a twinkle now in his own eye.

I'm not certain where the best place to cast December's Fly of the Month, but there is a little place on Soco Creek, just upstream from the casino in Cherokee. Santa may not be there this month, but later in the year; you can stop by and see him and his reindeer there at Santa's Land.



The newsletter staff would like to take this opportunity to wish you the very best during the holidays and in the coming year.

– *Jonathan, Tom & Tim*

(The picture on the left is from a set of Christmas cards issued by TU in the mid 1980's as fundraiser.)



The Rednoserudolf Streamer

HOOK : Streamer 1xHVY, 3x Long, TDE, size 4,6,8

Thread : 8/0 Uni or equivalent in Red

Body : Red silk floss with silver tinsel

Wing : Chartreuse and Red hen streamer hackle

Beard : Red webby hen hackle

Antler/Antennae : .015 lead free wrap

Directions :

1. Using a piece of tinsel approx. two inches long, tie in on hook shaft immediately forward of the hook bend. Wrap back toward the hook point six or eight tight, butting (not overlapping) and wrap back up to tie in point and leave the remainder of tinsel attached but out of the way.
2. Advance the thread toward the eye in even and tight wraps stopping three eyelengths back from the eye.
3. Select four inches of red silk, single strand, floss and tie in where the thread was stopped at the eye. After securing the floss with a couple of half hitches, you may choose to cut the red thread. With a rotary vice, begin wrapping the silk in tight turns to toward the tinsel. Keep the silk flat and slightly overlap each wrap. When the silk approaches the tinsel, lift the tinsel and make one wrap behind the tinsel tie in. This will make the tinsel flat and part of the body when wrapping the tinsel forward. Continue wrapping the silk returning to the tie in at the eye. The thickness of the body is a personal choice and you can make as many trips back and forth as necessary. Once the body is finished, use hackle pliers to hold the silk and tie back in the red thread. Secure the silk and let the bobbin hang.
4. Step three, without a rotary, is simply wrapping by hand, in which case you may choose to leave the red thread attached.
5. Begin wrapping the silver tinsel forward in tight and evenly spaced turns. Tie in at the same spot the silk is hanging and secure both with half hitches and trim excess.
6. Select six or eight red webby barbs from the lower section of the hackle and tie in where the tinsel is tied but underneath the shaft, facing the hook point. The length should be about a hook gap.
7. Select two chartreuse and two red feathers. Make sure the profiles of each match in length and width. The tied in length should be two times the length of the shaft. Strip a quarter of an inch from each feather and face the "dull side" in, with the left and right sides facing each other. Match the red with the chartreuse for the left and the right sides. The red two facing each other and the chartreuse on the outside when

finished. Tie in the side opposite the tier first securing the stem on top of the hook shaft.

Repeat with the side closest.

8. Attach and shape the antlers to taste, facing forward. Six point or eight point, it is a personal choice.
9. Form a slightly tapered head with additional thread wraps and finish with several coats of head cement.

**January 2011 Program:
Czech Nymphing – Chris Smith**

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
1000 East Morehead Street
Room 205, Fellowship Hall
Charlotte, NC 28204
Thursday January 20th
Social Time: 6:30 pm
Meeting Starts: 7:00 pm**
