



# Trout Tales

## Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited

July 2010



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is July and the summer is heating up and drying out. This would be a great time to load up your canoe or kayak and head to a local farm pond or river for some bluegill or bass action. Our trout friends in the mountains are probably stressed enough without having to worry with throwing your fly or breaking you off.

Our next RRTU meeting is at REI Northlake Mall on July 21 at 6:30 for the social time; the meeting starts at 7:00. The speaker for the meeting is Kelly McCoy, the proprietor of RiverGirl Fishing Company; you will find more information about Kelly's business here - [www.rivergirlfishing.com](http://www.rivergirlfishing.com). Kelly, a fisheries biologist and a conservationist, will bring her unique prospective as a female guide to the meeting. Please plan to attend and support your chapter.

Our August 18 meeting will be at REI Northlake Mall and will be a presentation by Damon Hearne, Southeastern Land Protection Coordinator with Trout Unlimited stationed in Asheville, NC. In late June **Bill Thomas, Tim Wilhelm** and I went on a tour of a land parcel in east Tennessee. We looked at about 10,000 acres of un-inhabited land surrounded by over 30,000 acres already in the public domain. Over the last few years, the US Forest Service has ranked Rocky Fork as its No. 1 priority for land acquisition in the United States. This parcel contains 16 miles of pristine brook trout and rainbow trout streams, and when acquired, will be protected from any type of development. Please plan to attend this meeting and learn how RRTU can help with this project.

TU and Orvis have partnered in the month of July with Fly Fishing 101 – a free introductory event that is designed to help participants learn fly fishing basics in an easy, non-threatening way. Every Saturday in July 2010 from 9AM-12PM Orvis Charlotte will offer free fly casting and fly rod rigging classes. Upon completion of the course every participant will receive a \$15 Orvis savings card and a certificate for a free membership to Trout Unlimited - a \$35 value. Volunteers from Trout

Unlimited will be on hand at select locations to aid with the instruction. To sign up a friend or to volunteer to help, call (704) 571-5100 and ask for Jamie Dickinson.  
- **Jim Mabrey**

### RRTU Calendar of Events

July 21 ... RRTU meeting. Presentation by Kelly McCoy (aka RiverGirl)

Aug 18 ... RRTU meeting. Presentation by Damon Hearne (Southeast Land Protection Coordinator for TU)

Sep 15 ... RRTU annual meeting: Election of officers and new board members

### RRTU Items For Sale

Since we did not have the Spring Family BBQ as planned, we have a few trips that were donated to raise money for the TIC programs we support. We would like to offer them to the membership. We have the following items for sale:

- Two nights at Meredith Valley Cabins in Elizabethton, TN (\$240 retail)
- Two half day trips for two with Smoky Mountain Fly Fishing, Cherokee, NC
- Two to four tickets for a Pittsburgh Pirates home baseball game - 10 rows off of home plate (priceless)
- One full day float trip with SilverBow Anglers in East Tennessee (Retail value \$350)

Please contact **Bill Thomas** at [bthomas999@bellsouth.net](mailto:bthomas999@bellsouth.net) to secure any of the items.

And some thank you(s) to:

**Dave Stakel** – donated \$100 for a half day trip on the Davidson River provided by Kevin Howell of the Davidson River Outfitters.

**Dave Hollifield** and **Tim Ramsey, Ryan Barker** and **Jan** – two \$200 Chattooga River trips donated by Simons Welter, a guide with Brookings Outfitters in Cashiers, NC. Thanks to all who have donated trips; your generosity makes our mission possible.

- **Bill Thomas**

## **Friends of Rocky River (FORR) update**

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.

If you have not yet sent a donation, please do so. You may mail donations to RRTU, C/O Terry Hill, PO Box 456, Matthews, NC 28106.

We look forward to receiving YOUR contribution--and don't forget to challenge your friends and other members!!

- Steve Craig/Terry Hill, FORR Committee

## **TAILS FROM THE CREEK**

Many of you have visited South Mountain State Park in Burke County over the years. I drove up on July 5 to see about fishing and to walk the dog. The water levels were low in places and there were a LOT of people in the water playing and having a fine time. So I did not do any fishing, but I did notice a project for us when the water gets colder. Looks like several areas on the stream have been engineered with rock dams to form deeper pools. These dams in the deeper pools make for good swimming, but they also make the movement of trout up and down the stream almost impossible. So I expect that we'll be doing our normal Jacob's Fork dam busting project in the late fall or early winter.

In June I did go fish a couple of times (June 11-12 and 18-19). I fished Three Top in Ashe County and Elk Creek in Watauga County on June 11; Cranberry Creek and Piney Fork in Alleghany County on June 12. I missed a big brown on Piney Fork which I went back for on June 18 and 19. The second trip I saw no evidence of the big brown and I suspect that someone caught it during the week of June 13-17. All these

streams are hatchery supported and most of the trout I caught ended up with corn meal overcoats in my frying pan. Cranberry and the lower end of Three Top are fairly large and open creeks with room to cast. Note that Three Top runs into the North Fork of the New River. Piney Fork below Elk Knob Road is quite narrow and casting is tight. As is my custom, I left several trout in these streams for others who might fish behind me!

- Jonathan

## **What's NEW at tu.org**

How many of you make use of the Trout Unlimited web presence? I must confess that I have been guilty of ignoring this valuable resource. I would suggest that you spend thirty minutes and go exploring on the TU web site ... <http://www.tu.org/>

This list represents just a few of the items you will find at tu.org:

- Information about TU's approach to conservation (Protect, Reconnect, Restore, Sustain)
- Fly Fishing 101 program details
- Lost your paper copy of Trout Magazine? You will find archived issues of Trout Magazine on the Press Room tab (<http://www.tu.org/press-room/trout-magazine> )
- Additional information about Rocky Fork in the Eastern Conservation section of the Conservation tab. Does Rocky Fork sound familiar? Jim Mabrey mentioned this in his July presidential address. Check this URL - <http://www.tu.org/rockyfork> - for some things that you can do NOW to help.
  - o Write Tennessee Senator Bob Corker, Tennessee District 1 Congressman Phil Roe and Virginia District 8 Congressman Jim Moran noting your support of the Rocky Fork conservation project.
  - o Hike and fish at Rocky Fork. Jim made it sound like a fine place to fish and we should hear more at the August meeting.
  - o Support TU's land protection programs. Note that The Conservation Fund, the

US Forest Service and the State of Tennessee all play an important role.

- Help TU connect with Rocky Fork communities and family foundations which could provide help to protect Rocky Fork.
- Also in the Conservation section: Tellico River General Information. Many of you have heard Tim talk about this important brook trout habitat and the case for reducing off road vehicle (ORV) use/access.

I would encourage you to take a tour of the TU web site sometime.

- **Jonathan**

### Appletree stories

**Jim Mabrey** asked several Appletree attendees to write a short story on their fishing experience. In some cases this would be father-son fishing, fishing with a good friend or even fishing with a new acquaintance. The July 2010 selection was written by RRTU member **Tom Adams** ... thanks Tom!

This spring is the second trip I have made to Appletree since joining RRTU in the fall of '09 and I must say each has been a great experience. Somewhat shy around groups, I was apprehensive in the fall and that turned into a marvelous trip. This spring trip started out a little sketchy, with nearly two inches of rain after arriving, but it blossomed into a wonderful and beautiful weekend. The fall trip I teamed up with Don Webb who had fished the Nantahala many times before and helped me find the good spots. This spring I shared the water with Paul Issacs, who I had met at meetings and broke bread with before the Fish Porn Movie night at the Visulite. You know, I bet I could count on my fingers how many times I had companionship on a fishing trip, excluding the times with my father. Since joining last fall my time on the water is approaching fifty-fifty regarding solo ventures. I must admit I am coming to like the change. The dynamics are decidedly different and I think for the better. It helps to share in observations and there is knowledge gained from the conversations, whether it be about the fish or not. You know I never like eating alone. I will not drink spirits

alone, it would seem to be a natural to want to be on the water with someone. These trips and the TU chapter events and meetings have shown me that there are those with like minds and different experiences that are willing and able to go after the same goal: more, bigger, stronger, smarter trout!

- **Tom Adams**

## **FLY OF THE MONTH**

Towards the end of the month, Tom Adams and I start exchanging emails.

*“What do you think we should tie this month?”*

*“I don’t know Tom, what is next on the list?”*

*“What list?”*

*“Well, how about a yellow stonefly?”*

*“Yeah, stoneflies are awesome!”*

Tom’s job is to write up the recipe, tie the fly and photograph it before sending it to me. My job is to research the fly and find out if there is anything I can write that is both entertaining and informative. I figure, being that we’re doing a little yellow stonefly, I am going to find some really good information that I can “borrow” for my part of the write up. I’m not too worried; I fish so I can make up a story. So, I do what I do best; procrastinate. Then, at the last possible minute, I open Tom’s recipe and photo. Wait a minute, that’s not a dry fly! It is like being faced with the reality that your wife has caught you coming home from the pool hall. What do I say?

Fortunately Tom has provided an absolutely beautiful photograph that tells its own story and if the fly fishes as good as it looks, it should slay them.

What more do you need to know?

- **Tim Wilhelm**

## FLY OF THE MONTH (CONT.)



### FLAT BODIED YELLOW STONE

**HOOK:** Nymph or small streamer – Tiemco 5262 or Mustad 79580 equiv, size 8, 10, 12, 14

**THREAD:** Brown 8/0

**TAIL:** Three or four Lemon Wood duck flank feathers

**ABDOMEN:** Blend yellow and cream Hare's Ear dubbing and rib with palmered and clipped brown hackle, or brown micro tubing

**WING CASE:** Turkey

**THORAX:** Dark yellow blend dubbing

**LEGS:** Brown Partridge

### DIRECTIONS :

1. Under wrap (five or six turns only) lead substitute beginning at three eye lengths back from eye. Cover lightly and taper both ends, using thread. Move thread to just in front of hook bend.
2. Gather four or five Lemon Wood duck flank feathers ( save the remains of flanks feathers from tying wings on Catskills or other flies and use the long ones leftover for tails, etc ) without

- any webbing or fluff. Tie on top of hook shank with three wraps, let bobbin hang.
3. Tie in rib, in this case micro tubing. Use a short section to tie flat on top of the hook shank. Return thread to the hook bend and let the bobbin hang.
4. Blend the yellow and cream dubbing by using small portions and pick apart with fingers and then recombine to tie on. Add dubbing wax (if any wax is used, it is sometimes sufficient to touch the applicator with the two fingers used to spin the dubbing on). Dub thread and advance to the thorax, let bobbin hang.
5. Return to the rib and advance the material, wrapping in open turns to the thorax. Tie off with four thread wraps, trim the excess and let the bobbin hang.
6. Add a small amount of the dark yellow dub (less than half of what is needed to complete the thorax) and return the thread to a point immediately in front of the abdomen and let the bobbin hang. This step is to raise the bed where the wingcase will tie in, which makes it easier to finish.
7. Use Turkey mottled wing feather, cut several fibers, slightly larger than the width of the thorax and tie in with the "shiny" side up at the back of the thorax and on top of the dark yellow dub. Tie in only the rearmost portion with three wraps of thread.
8. Dub the remaining amount needed of dark yellow dub stopping two eye lengths back from the eye.
9. Pull the turkey over the top of the dubbing. Tie down the wingcase with three or four wraps.
10. Gather six or eight brownish Partridge feathers and tie in underneath at the same point of the tie in of the wingcase. (At the tie-in, hold the Partridge at an inverted angle on the side facing the tier. Wrap two firm, but not hard, wraps to position the Partridge and let the bobbin hang. Using a fingernail, rotate the Partridge to the position under the hook and finish tying in). Trim excess.
11. Form head, apply head cement.

Since you guys already subscribe to the email version of the newsletter, I don't need to tell you how to subscribe. But I would ask you to tell your friends what they are missing and encourage them to sign up for email delivery.

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**July Meeting Program:**  
***RiverGirl Fishing* – Kelly McCoy**

**REI Northlake Mall**  
**9755 Northlake Centre Parkway**  
**Charlotte, NC 28216**  
**Wednesday July 21st**  
**Social Time: 6:30 pm**  
**Meeting Starts: 7:00 pm**