



# Trout Tales

## Rocky River Chapter

### Trout Unlimited

June 2010



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May was a good month for RRTU. Even though we did not have our RRTU Family Outing as planned, we were able to switch the date to the fall. We finished up the final Trout in the Classroom project for the school year; Beverly Woods Elementary School released over 40 healthy rainbow trout fingerlings with the help of eleven students and six adults at South Mountain State Park on May 15. Four RRTU members attended the release; rumor has it that some fishing took place as well.

On May 21 and 22 RRTU supplied seven volunteers to assist with the completion of the Goose Creek Bridge project. During the course of this two year project, RRTU supplied funds and manpower for the stream bank improvements on Goose Creek. The Goose Creek project, as a part of the larger Muddy Creek Project, is a prime example of the way TU has been able to turn smaller amounts (\$100,000) into larger amounts (more than \$10 million) for stream and watershed improvements. Thank you to all the volunteers that gave up time and/or money to assist with this project. See pictures at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rrtu/> under the Photos link on the left. The album, titled Goose Creek Bridge Project, has photos of some people you will recognize: **Alen, Dave, Jim, Ken, Nick and Tim**. We got a little wet on Friday and a bit tired on Saturday, but the finished bridge made it well worth our efforts. Our participation in these projects will lead to opportunities for assisting with future projects.

The Board of Directors has voted to make the newsletter available via electronic mail only as of January of 2011; all newsletters will be archived on our RRTU website (<http://rockyrivertu.org/>). We will still send out the Notice of the Annual Meeting in September as required by the bylaws via US mail. We have six months to sign our membership on to the

list server which we use for email distribution. You will find instructions on the last page of this newsletter that detail the process of signing up for the e-mail newsletter version. This change will save over \$3000 each year in postal service mailing costs.

The June 16 meeting will be held at the Orvis Store at Phillips Place. **TJ Roy**, the Orvis Store Manager, will give a presentation titled "To Catch Steelhead." This will be an informative meeting for all experience levels ... anyone from the novice "steelheader" to the seasoned veteran with many casts to his credit. We are trying to locate a meeting place to make it more accommodating to the membership on the south side of our chapter area. Come out and support our efforts to reach more members and enjoy the presentation. Watch for an email from **Mr. Bill** on dinner before the meeting at a local area restaurant. Social time – 6:30PM, meeting – 7:00PM.

The July 21 meeting program will be presented by RiverGirl. Who is RiverGirl and who the heck is Petunia? I'll share a little bit, but to really find out plan to come to the July chapter meeting. River Girl is Kelly McCoy and Petunia is her pet pig! Kelly has a fly fishing, biking and rafting shop in historic Todd, NC which is located on the south fork of the New River just outside of Boone. Kelly is a fisheries biologist who ties flies and builds rods and Petunia, well she is a pot belly pig who greets guests at Kelly's shop. Plan to join us in July for a memorable program. To learn more about River Girl and Petunia, visit their website at [www.rivergirlfishing.com](http://www.rivergirlfishing.com).

Also, by the time you read this, most of our finny friends in the delayed harvest (DH) water will be wearing cornmeal overcoats. That's OK though as we will have new friends to play with in October.  
- **Jim Mabrey**

## **RRTU Calendar of Events**

June 16 ... RRTU meeting. "To Catch Steelhead" by TJ Roy at the Orvis Store, Phillips Place

June 19 ... Casting for Recovery Carolinas and GA BBQ Bluegrass Fundraiser, Asheville NC

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

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

In January 2010 we launched this 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. In the past, we have relied upon banquets, cookouts, and other programs to provide these funds. Over the past few years, we have seen the cost of these programs escalate and the dollar income returned to the chapter reduced.

Under the FORR program, we are challenging our members, friends and affiliates to make an annual donation to fund our activities. We are pleased to advise that as of April 30th, we have raised almost \$3,500 or about 1/3 of our budget. Donations have ranged from \$25 to \$1,000 dollars.

Many of you have attended banquets in the past and spent hundreds of dollars. You likewise have served on banquet committees or even chaired a committee. As you know, only a portion of those dollars actually reached our bottom line and we spent most of the year's energy fundraising rather than on projects. If 100 members pledge and donate an average of \$100 a year, we will raise the \$10,000 budgeted to run our chapter. For those of us put on past banquets and events, \$100 is a real bargain. If you ever chaired a banquet committee, a \$500 donation is a bargain!!

If you have not yet sent your contribution, please do so by July 1st. If your company offers a matching fund program, please be sure to take advantage of it.

On behalf of our chapter, we wish to express our most sincere appreciation to the following members and affiliates who have contributed to date:

**Dickson Foundation, Patrick Steed, Robert Rollins, William Anderson Jim Brittain, Jonathan Miller, Bank of America, Joseph Beckert, Dr. Rion Rutledge, Jim Mabrey,III, Greg Ingram, Dr. Lewis Sigmon, Tim Wilhelm, Dr. Dan Hershey, Sue Hartsell, Marty Baker, David James, Joe Davant, Glenn Mease, Steve Craig, Anonymous, Duncan Browder, Bill Wiktorek, David Radke, Terry Hill, and Dean, Heckle & Hill, Inc., Alen Baker, Mildred English.**

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

**Steve Craig/Terry Hill**  
FORR Committee

## **Casting for Recovery Carolinas and GA BBQ Bluegrass Fundraiser**

A fun afternoon of BBQ, live music by recording artist Wayne Erbsen and All Strings Considered, beer donated by Highland Brewery. Live auction items include a week on the Wind River with a full day of guided fly fishing for two.

Date: Saturday, June 19, 2010  
Time: 4:00pm - 8:00pm  
Location: Home of Dr. Brown Crosby  
Street: 26 Stuyvesant Road  
City/Town: Asheville, NC

**- Joyce Shepherd**

## 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**

### 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 June 2010 selection was written by RRTU member **David Hollifield** ... thanks David!

The Appletree trips that I have been fortunate to attend have been great outings. Meeting people, learning more about streams and rivers, fishing "new" rivers with experienced fly fishermen and fishing streams with one of my fishing buddies of twenty years. Over a year ago, I joined TU as a way to help give back to something I have enjoyed for many years, trout fishing. When I told my fishing buddy, Tim Ramsey, he informed me that he had joined also but hadn't been going to meetings. Like minds I guess, on that note we both set out to be more involved, go to the meetings and help out where we could. We have met a lot of talented fishermen with a wealth of knowledge no book or video could produce. We've learned more about cold water entomology, water conditions, conservation and fly tying!! The last being one of the most eye opening. I would really like to thank Tom and Jack for that.

Tim and I have been fishing together long enough to know where each of our strengths are. We know that early in the water and late out makes for a good day.

We left for Appletree knowing that the weather was moving in, and if we timed it out right, we could maximize our stream time. We left out early on Thursday and stopped and fished Jacobs Fork, did great, until the rain started in. That signaled time to move on. Thinking we could drive through the rain and arrive at the camp shortly after it stopped and set up. Close, still had some showers. The next morning it was off to the Tuckasegee for the morning and the the DH water of the Nantahala for the rest of the day. Saturday morning off to the Hiwassee. Tim did great; he can catch trout anywhere, me not so much. Once again back to the DH on the Nanty for the afternoon. We had heard about and talked about night fishing on the Big Water on the Nanty, had to try it. Evidently we need more practice. It was a great trip! I'd like to thank Bill for setting some dinner back for us because we were late getting back.

Appletree has been an outstanding annual part of my fishing trips. I have enjoyed every minute of it and it awesome to be able to make this trip with a life long fishing buddy. A year ago Tim and I set out with a new challenge, to catch one fish a month for an entire year. Sounds easier than it is. But this got us out more and with that we tried a lot more streams that we hadn't been to before. Last year it was 16 different streams with the Appletree trip helping us get to Big Snow Bird and the Nanty's big and small water. With the addition of fly tying, we started tying our own flies. It is such a charge to catch a trout on a fly you have tied for the first time in your life. It's really an advantage to go fishing with someone that has the same drive and enthusiasm for fly fishing. Somebody that understands "just one more cast" could mean an extra hour on the river.

Early to bed, early to rise, if you're fishin' with Dave and Tim, we leave at five!

- **David Hollifield**

We'll add a couple things to this month's e-mail edition of the chapter newsletter.

## THE FLY OF THE MONTH

### The Pheasant Tailed Nymph

The pheasant tail has stood the test of time. Created by Frank Sawyer to fish the chalk streams in the south of England, it is used on other rivers and streams across the world and is a killer.

Sawyer's original pattern was tied using only two materials: copper wire and fibers from the tail feather of a pheasant. The copper was used as weight and, substituted for thread, was what tied the pheasant fibers to the hook. There are a number of variations to this pattern including one tied by Tim Landis of Bristol Tennessee called the Landis Leggo and another in Tennessee that substitutes orange thread for the thorax. (For some reason orange is a very popular color in Tennessee.) The pattern presented here is commonly referred to as the American Pheasant Tail.



Hook : wet fly size 12 thru 20, 2x long and 2x heavy.

Tiemco 5262, Mustad R 20 or equivalent

Thread : brown 8/0

1. Overwrap (ten or twelve turns total) of lead or lead substitute of approximately the same thickness as the hook shank, starting at the halfway point, wrapping from the bend toward the eye. Stop four eye lengths back from the eye and wrap back toward the bend to form a "hump" with lead.
2. Tie on brown thread at the eye and slightly cover the lead with thread wraps. By wrapping ahead and behind the lead, the lead will not slip or spin on the hook. It is not necessary to "coat"

- the lead with thread but wrapping diagonal turns of thread forward and back will fill in the gaps of lead. Finish the wraps ahead of the bend.
3. Using four or five pheasant tail fibers, tie in tail with three or four wraps, let bobbin hang.
4. Tie in two or three inches of copper wire where the tail is tied in, pushing the copper out of the way let the bobbin hang.
5. Select three or four pheasant tail fibers grasping by their tips, pull together, making them even before cutting. Tie in at hook bend with three or four thread wraps and advance the thread to behind the eye. Let the bobbin hang. Gather the pheasant tails and as a group wrap forward as the abdomen stopping at the thorax. Tie in a trim excess.
6. Wrap the copper wire forward. Past the hump and tie off well behind the eye. Trim excess.
7. Select four to six pheasant tail fibers, as before, and tie in forward of the abdomen at the back of the thorax on the top of the hook shank. Tie in by the lower part of the fibers. This is tricky in that these will form the wingcase and the legs in one tie in. This means the length is somewhat critical. Allow for the advance over of the fibers over the peacock (next step) and the turn back for the legs. Approximately twice the length of the thorax. Legs are an option, but, worth the trouble.
8. Select two peacock herls and tie in, forward of the abdomen, to form the thorax. Do not tie the herl at the tip of the fiber, but trim enough of the length so that the herl is stronger to prevent breaking while wrapping. Twist the two fibers and wrap forward over the hump stopping well behind the eye. Do not crowd the eye. Tie off and let the bobbin hang.
9. Fold the pheasant tail over the top of the thorax to form the wingcase. Make three or four wraps as close to the forward part of the hump as possible advancing. Wrap the thread back to the finish tie point of the wingcase. Let the bobbin hang. Divide the extra length of pheasant tail (wingcase) to form the legs, holding them back toward the bend. Wrap the legs on the far side of the hook by holding the selected fiber tips (two or three fibers) and bind with two thread wraps. Repeat on the close side. Wrap forward to the eye and whip finish to form the head. Apply head cement.

# NCWRC'S RULEMAKING PROCESS

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is moving its annual public hearings from January to September as a part of overall adjustments to its rulemaking cycle.

Each year, the Commission adjusts hunting, fishing and trapping seasons in response to wildlife population changes, wildlife conservation objectives, or public needs and desires. Public comment on proposed rule changes is a critical component in the decision making process. The Commission will continue to provide a variety of public input options including online, written and face-to-face opportunities. The Commission will notify constituents of these opportunities months before the public hearings begin.

Here's how the rulemaking process works each year:

- Step 1:** The public, biologists, Commission committees or other stakeholders propose suggestions or recommendations for new hunting, fishing, trapping or other regulations.
- Step 2:** Biologists and wildlife officers consider the proposals from conservation and enforcement perspectives.
- Step 3:** Wildlife Resources Commission committees and staff determine which proposals to present to the full Commission.
- Step 4:** Commissioners approve or disapprove proposals to be presented at public hearings.
- Step 5:** Commission schedules statewide public hearings. Proposed regulations published in *North Carolina Register*.
- Step 6:** Commission staff presents proposals for comments at public hearings. Public can also comment online, as well as by mail or e-mail.
- Step 7:** Commission considers comments and adopts or rejects proposals, including any in amended form.

**Step 8:** Adopted regulations filed with N.C. Rules Review Commission for approval, disapproval or are returned to agency for revisions.

**Step 9:** Adopted regulations sent to Office of Administrative Hearings for inclusion in N.C. Administrative Code. Implementation may be delayed or prevented if Rules Review Commission receives at least 10 letters requesting legislative review.

**Step 10:** Adopted regulations published in *North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest*.

## Limits to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Rulemaking Process

The General Assembly declares, through state statutes, which matters of fish, wildlife and land management the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission can regulate through its rules. Some aspects of wildlife and fish management, hunting, fishing and human/wildlife interaction are legislated directly. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission appreciates the interest of North Carolina's sportsmen in the state's wildlife resources and respectfully considers all suggestions within its authority to change regulations.

Generally the fishing regulations portion of the annual public hearings is pretty uneventful; however, that is not always the case. Most of the time changes deal with establishing boundaries to the various classifications of water. Some important issues that have been discussed in the last several years included the definition of natural bait, regulation changes for the Catawba Tailrace and the changes in the fly fishing only regulations of the South Toe River.

The hearings are a great opportunity to meet the commissioners, the administration of the NCWRC and the biologists. Surprisingly, they don't hear from trout fishermen that often and, as a group, we need to develop those relationships.

You can save the chapter a little money by receiving the newsletter by email.

Simply send an email addressed to **sympa@list.nctu.org**

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

If you need help subscribing, send an email to [twilhelm@carolina.rr.com](mailto:twilhelm@carolina.rr.com) and he'll help you out.

---

**June Meeting Program:**  
*To Catch Steelhead – TJ Roy*

**Orvis**  
**6800 Phillips Place Court**  
**Charlotte, NC 28210**  
**Wednesday June 16th**  
**Social Time: 6:30 pm**  
**Meeting Starts: 7:00 pm**