



Trout Tales

Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited

May 2010



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is May already and the early heat wave continues. In the month of April we had a lot of activity in our RRTU chapter. Providence Day School and Davidson Day School had their Trout in the Classroom releases in April. PDS released 9 four to five inch trout in the headwaters of the Green River. This was in conjunction with an overnight trip to a private stream that was arranged by **Mr. Derrick Willard**, the high school science instructor at PDS and a member of RRTU. DDS released a whopping 176 three to four inch trout in the Jacobs Fork River at South Mountain State Park with the assistance of 22 students and 7 parents on a day trip to the park. Mrs. Vicki Carbone, the elementary science instructor and **Dr. David James**, a member of RRTU, did a great job to bring 176 trout through the winter months and to release them as healthy fry. There were four other RRTU members there for the release: **Ken Shoe, Bill Thomas, Tom Adams** and **Jim Mabrey**. We were all treated to a surprise when the Park Ranger took the students into the stream and let them net and identify insect larva. Beverly Woods Elementary school has their release planned for May 15 at South Mountain State Park and they are on course to release about 50 fry. Andrew Israel is our representative for the BWE program and has done a fantastic job with his first TIC program. Congratulations to all the TIC tank commanders and their students for an outstanding job with the spring TIC projects.

April also saw us have another memorable Appletree outing. We had 37 attend the spring event. Despite a little moisture on Thursday, we enjoyed a great time on the Nantahala and Hiwassee the rest of the weekend. Some of our group tried night fishing for trout on Saturday but found it to be challenging in the dark. The nights were cool and the fire felt great along with the warmth of friendship. For those that are signed up to the list serve to receive the newsletter electronically, there will be a series of articles written by various members that attended Appletree with their perspective and thoughts on the weekend. Directions for requesting electronic delivery appear at the end of the newsletter.

April delivered one disappointment – we had to cancel the May 1 RRTU Family Picnic due to poor ticket sales. We are looking at rescheduling this in the fall. On a brighter note the Friends of Rocky River (FORR) initiative is going well; we have received over \$3000 thus far. Thanks to all who have donated! If you have not donated yet, please help as any amount will be greatly appreciated! We are planning on using the FORR program as a replacement for the annual banquet; we need \$7000 annually to run scheduled programs.

Our next meeting will be at REI Northlake Mall on May 19. Hope to see you there!
- **Jim Mabrey**

RRTU Calendar of Events

May 15 ... Beverly Woods TIC trout release at South Mountain State Park

May 19 ... RRTU meeting at REI Northlake Mall

Friends of Rocky River (FORR) donors. Thank you!

Dickson Foundation, Patrick Steed, Robert Rollins, William Anderson, Jim Brittain, Jonathan Miller, Joseph Beckert, William Wood, Rion Rutledge MD, Jim Mabrey, Greg Ingram, J. Lewis Sigmon MD, Tim Wilhelm, Dr. Dan Hershey, Sue Hartsell, Marty Baker, David James, Joe Davant, Glenn Mease, Steve Craig, David Hartgen, Duncan Browder, Bill Wiktorek, David Radke, Terry Hill, Dean Heckle & Hill.

Mr. Bill's Appletree Report

Thanks to all that attended. Thursday was rainy. I thought I had seen it all but NO. It was a great reminder to prepare for the worst. The rest of the weekend was awesome. The DH fished well but the Hiwassee (wild trout fishing) was a 4 star. Fires Creek was in its prime. Jim did another fine job with the menu with Dave Wilson's cobblers some of the best I have ever had. Chilly nights and warm days lead to a great weekend.
- **Bill Thomas**

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 May 2010 selection was written by RRTU member **Ken Walker** ... thanks Ken!

The Present

Growing up as the son of an avid outdoorsman, it was only proper that I teach my children the love of the great wide open spaces. My father, a hard working forklift mechanic, instilled in me at a young age that if there is a chance to go fishing, you take it, for the next chance might be far off. I never understood this as a child, nor as a teenager due in part that my father took my brother and me fishing when ever those "chances" arose, which were often.

As time slips by, teenagers and children often are swept up by the everyday demands that lie ahead for us all, and those "chances" begin to fade. High school, sports and activities, movies with friends, college and the dawn of adulthood alter our perspectives from time to time. We somehow fall into an abyss of missed "chances," when we finally realize that fishing is not our sole endeavor every waking second.

When this occurred to me, my first son was about two years old and my life's perspectives were searching for that place and commonality that as a youth, was always just a short bike ride down the road. A hop into the blue, 71 Ford three speed truck, would take our small row boat to a mist covered ink well, where the bass would always crash the rubber worm lounging on the outstretched lily pad. The simplicity of these days had all seemed but gone, until I started my annual journey into the land they refer to as the "noon

day sun", with the man that started it all nearly 35 years ago.

All trips with my father are special, but this last one had an interesting piece that reaffirmed how great and humble a man this really is. I am a fly tier, taking up the art as a way of becoming closer to the fish I catch. The first catch of a fish with a fly you tied parallels the feeling, of the first fish you ever catch in your life. To witness my 66 year old father, who just retired from a 42 year forklift mechanic job, talk about the fish he caught on a fly he tied was priceless. This event happened 35 years earlier when I caught my first fish with the man that means so much to me and the role reversal was worth all the fish I caught and then some.

Appletree has many opportunities to witness the joy of the "chance" and every time I witness it with my father it reminds me of something. Something that I remember and am grateful that was given to me: Things that already happened are in the past which is why they call it history, while the future is all but a mystery. So when presented with a "chance" to spend time fishing with my father, in a land where the sun rises in the noon, that I never imagined as a boy could exist comes, I take that gift. That is why they call it the present because you never know what it will reveal. And every October and April my father and I share a gift of fishing where even the rain, can be a welcomed treat.

- **Ken Walker**

FLY OF THE MONTH

Last month, as an incentive, we promised those that took delivery of the newsletter by email that we would give you something extra. As it turns out, because April was sort of a big news month, we found ourselves this month with a blank page. I don't know if it is fair, but the post office charges the same amount to print and mail a blank page as it does to print one with the Fly of the Month on it. Therefore, we're going to give this month's fly to everyone and hopefully we won't find ourselves with blank space next month.

THE SHEEP FLY



The Sheep Fly is often attributed to Cap Wiese, headmaster of the Patterson School found just outside of Lenoir, NC. While Cap did develop some notable flies such as the Early Nelson, the Sheep Fly was actually developed by Newland and Saunders of Lenoir. The confusion may be the result of it being one of Cap's favorite flies. It was also a favorite of Don Howell and Kevin Howell writes on his website *"If I had to choose one fly to fish for trout with for the rest of my life with this would be the fly. It was originally tied by Newland Saunders from Lenoir, NC to imitate a grey fly that is commonly found around sheep. Over the fly's 60 year life span it has been modified a few times, after learning more etymology we have come to realize that the sheepfly imitates three different food groups, it looks like a Cranefly larvae, a stickbait, and a large emerging mayfly. My favorite sizes are an 8 and 10 but I fish it from a 4-16"*

Jim Casada writes in his latest book: *"...that Cap Wiese, the headmaster of Patterson School, was catching big trout with his Sheep Fly along with taking pioneering steps to give a fledgling conservation organization, Trout Unlimited, a foothold in the state."*

HOOK: Nymph or small streamer type, 2x long, 2x heavy, Tiemco 5261 or Mustad 3906b or equivalent, sizes 6 – 14

Thread: Uni 6/0 Black

Tail: Brown Hen hackle

Body: Muskrat or equivalent dubbing in Adams gray

Legs: Brown Hen hackle

Wings: Grizzly tips

Directions:

1. Overwrap (that term is for wrapping the majority of the length of the hook shaft) with lead or lead

substitute using material approximately the same thickness as the hook diameter. Close wraps from five or six eye lengths back from the eye to five or six eye lengths before the bend.

2. Begin thread wrap at three or four eye lengths back from the eye and form a taper at the front and back of the lead wrap. It is not necessary to completely cover the lead with thread. Stop the thread behind the lead and before the bend and let the bobbin hang.
3. Using brown hen hackle, gather seven or eight fibers, keeping the tips even and tie in just before the hook bend making sure the feathers stay on top of the hook shaft. Secure with three or four firm wraps and let the bobbin rest forward of the tail tie in.
4. Begin dubbing by waxing the thread and adding a generous portion of dub. Tapering the dub on the thread will help tapering on the hook. Wrap forward, adding or subtracting dubbing to make a cigar shape, while covering the lead with dub. Stop at the forward taper point allowing five or six eye lengths for legs and wings. Using a bodkin or dubbing pick, loosen the dub fibers on the body to make a "buggy" look.
5. Select a hen hackle and tie in by the tip. To facilitate the tie in, hold the feather by the tip using tweezers and stroke back all but a few barbs very near the tip. This will get the barbs (to keep) out of the way and expose a tiny bit of stem, which makes the tie in easier and more secure. Trim the tip and soft wrap about two or three turns the prepared hackle feather. Stroke the barbs back as they are tied in. Use three or four wraps to secure and trim excess.
6. Use two grizzly tips, sized to the hook length. The tips can be tied in at the same time. Strip about a 1/8 inch of barbs and have the feathers face out. The shiny sides of both feathers are outward. Tie in firmly on top of the hook shaft immediately in front of the hackle. Allow room for the head.
7. Wrap head, whip finish, and coat with several coats of head cement.

(Note: The original pattern also included a head tied with Peacock herl and fine copper wire wrapped on the body.)

We have grown in size a little.
Currently there are 168 members that take the newsletter by email
and 580 member that get it by snail mail.
Please help us cut costs by taking your copy by email. You can email me for assistance at
twilhelm@carolina.rr.com or
using the account you wish to receive the newsletter on,
send an email addressed to **sympa@list.nctu.org**

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

May Meeting Program:
Stream Safety – Jack Cummings

REI Northlake Mall
9755 Northlake Centre Parkway
Charlotte, NC 28216
Wednesday May 19th
Social Time: 6:30 pm
Meeting Starts: 7:00 pm