



# *Trout Tales*

## Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited

March 2011



### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello RRTUers! Better weather will arrive soon and it's time to prepare for spring fishing. March brings a number of events ... the Fly Fishing Film Tour, the last fly-tying session on March 12, a regular RRTU meeting and a South Mountains State Park streamside.

And our spring Appletree trip will be here before you know it! One of the best parts of this trip is the only things you need are personal items, a decent tent, beverages, fishing gear and maybe a map. We have a pig on the menu which puts us off to a good start. There are hot showers, flush toilets, NO electricity (there might be a plug in at the shower) and NO cell phone coverage in the campground. There is a good restaurant on the lake for lunch Thursday and Friday (Lake's End Grill). And be prepared for the appearance of some "Fish Liars." I am good at it and always seem to have some type of classic tale. (Editor's note: Amen to that!) Site B is a big site with plenty of room. Finally a warning: the most important thing is to be prepared for the weather. We have seen it all.

There are quite a number of streams within an easy drive of the campground. Some of the old hands can provide directions if you need them. I will name a few here:

Nantahala – plenty of options (DH, hatchery and the big waters where you will compete with water craft)  
Tuckasegee – DH (DeLorme pg 52, A-1)  
Cherokee Reservation - trophy waters and local waters  
Hiawassee – BIG wild water and my personal favorite  
Big Snowbird – wild trout and hatchery supported  
Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest area

A HUGE THANK YOU to all RRTU officers and board members who made our 30th Anniversary Party such a success! We surely appreciate all our volunteers – volunteering is a great way to get more involved in chapter events. We need and welcome your help!  
- **Bill Thomas** ( [bthomas999@bellsouth.net](mailto:bthomas999@bellsouth.net) )

### **RRTU Calendar**

Mar 08: Fly Fishing Film Tour @ Visulite Theater  
Mar 12: Fly tying @ REI Northlake  
Mar 17: RRTU meeting. Jack McNeary  
Mar 19: South Mountains State Park Streamside  
Mar 19-20: Pisgah Fly Masters Fishing Tournament

Apr 7-10: Appletree trip  
Apr 15: Earth Day @ Carolina International School  
Apr 21: RRTU meeting. Ken Manuel  
Apr 23: TU national stream cleanup day

May 19: RRTU meeting. Rob Domico  
May 19-22: National Fly Fishing Championships

June 15: RRTU meeting. Kevin Howell  
June 19: TU national stream cleanup day

### **March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting**

A Fishing Trip – Jack McNeary

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
1000 East Morehead Street  
Room 205, Fellowship Hall  
Charlotte, NC 28204

Social time: 6:30 pm  
Meeting: 7:00 pm

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

The 2011 Friends of Rocky River (FORR) program campaign officially started in February. RRTU sent each chapter member a letter via USPS mail. Did you receive your letter? Did you respond with a donation?

Several individuals have responded already and the 2011 campaign has already hit the \$3000 mark in donations. A huge THANK YOU to these December, January and February donors:

**Dickson Foundation, Dave Wilson, Tim Ramsey, Jonathan Miller, James Brittain, Lewis Sigmon, Melton Battle, Hugh Lovejoy, David McGinness, David Shoe, James Zimmerley, Jack Shaw, John Duggins, Robert Rollins, David James, Sue Hartsell, Dr. Dana Hershey, Alen Baker.**

If you have not donated yet, please do so. A successful 2011 FORR campaign should allow the chapter to meet routine annual expenses. Our goal for the 2011 campaign is \$8000.

In order to donate, please make checks payable to Trout Unlimited and mail your tax deductible donation to:

Terry Hill  
PO Box 456  
Matthews, NC 28106

Some employers may match employee donations to 501(c)(3) organizations. If your employer matches employee contributions, please include those forms with your donation as well.

Thank you!  
- Steve Craig/Terry Hill, FORR Committee

### **February 2011 meeting – 30th Anniversary Party**

Based upon the reports coming out of this event, a fine time was had by all. And enthusiasm runs high for making something like this an annual event. Who needs a special occasion to get together for dessert, stories about fishing and nice raffles? Here are a few comments from folks who attended:

*“Jim Dean was fantastic! I thoroughly enjoy the several short conversations that I had with him. Personally, I believe local speakers with a lot of insight about our area relate well to the chapter. We know most of our members fish NC, TN, SC, and GA waters more so than out west or out of the country.”*

*“I think we definitely should try again. Maybe as a February event. A birthday party.”*

*“Great night!! I think we need to continue to do this each year. It could be an annual chapter birthday celebration. I really liked the format. It was simple and it worked.”*

*“I have been to several TU banquets and BBQ over the years and none of them can boast of having a retired ‘TU’gboat captain as an MC!”*

So there you have it ... testimonials about our guest speaker (Jim Dean – former editor of *Wildlife in North Carolina*), the food, the MC, etc. For those unable to attend, here are a few photos from the event:

Mmmmm ... rainbow trout cookies!



Raffle items



Our president and MC of the event ...



One of the raffle winners



## A Recipe for Stone Soup

Stone Soup is an old folk story in which hungry strangers persuade local people of a town to give them food. It is usually told as a lesson in cooperation, especially amid scarcity. You remember it from your youth, I'm sure. Well, I have to tell you after thirty years in this chapter, with 10 or more in a leadership role, I have tasted a lot of Stone Soup, cooked some of my own and grown to appreciate its flavor. That is why I want to tell you about **Bill Thomas'** recipe.

A year ago, maybe longer, Bill said he wanted to have a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party. He got out the stock pot, filled it up with water and turned on the burners. During our November Board Retreat, **Bill** added the stones to the water which had come to a roaring boil. They were big river stones that had been wore down as the river steadily pushed them towards the sea. We decided either that weekend or shortly thereafter whether we wanted beef or chicken in the soup. We decided that rather than a banquet type event with a bunch of auctions and raffles we wanted a speaker. **Jim Dean** got tossed in the pot and **Bill** stirred.

**David Hollifield** has connections. Connections that can make cheesecake! Now the soup had potatoes and David was now the "chairman".

*"Listen, we have to raise a little money that night, how many auction items and bucket should we have?"* None was the answer, we've got a speaker but we can have two big raffles with multiple items in each. *"How about a bamboo rod and maybe a graphite one too?"* Sure and the carrots were added to the soup.

**Joyce Shepherd** offered banana pudding and Bill kept stirring the pot.

**Tom Adams** got a donation of an Orvis Battenkill reel with line, a perfect fit for the bamboo rod while **Jim Mabrey** repurposed a reel he recently won in another raffle for the graphite. A half day on **Paul Isaacs'** pond. Mmmm, onions were tossed in the soup and all sort of seasoning were added with RRTU wine glasses, a day at the spa and guided trips to name a few.

In the end, this was fine soup. Hearty, warm, tasty and most of all, everyone got to add an ingredient to the soup. We'll be making stone soup again before long if you would like a taste.

- **Tim Wilhelm**

**Editor's note:** Please do not let **Tim's** contribution go unnoticed. He built two rods for this edition of the RRTU Stone Soup recipe. And while I'm at it - a hearty THANK YOU to all who contributed to making the RRTU 30th Anniversary Party such a fine event!

### Appletree spring and fall 2011 trips

Appletree is coming quickly!

Our semi-annual camping/fishing trip to the Western North Carolina mountains is almost here. Our dates are April 7-10 (Thursday through Sunday) for this outing; we now have over 30 signed up with room for the first 50 paid campers on camp site B. This is tent camping but there are hot showers and flush toilets at the Appletree Group campground. It is about a 4 1/2 to 5 hour ride out to the campground located on the western side of Franklin, NC. Though many fish the delayed harvest section of the Nantahala River, there are several good wild and hatchery supported streams in the area. For those of you that would like to go but don't want to camp, there are several cabins in the area available for rent.

The cost of the weekend is \$50 per person for the full 3 nights (\$40 for 2 nights) and this covers the camping fee, firewood and food. You are responsible for your own beverages and ice. We are planning on doing a whole pig BBQ this trip along with breakfast each morning and lunch on Saturday. Contact **Bill Thomas** ([bthomas999@bellsouth.net](mailto:bthomas999@bellsouth.net)) or **Jim Mabrey** ([rtrujim@gmail.com](mailto:rtrujim@gmail.com)). Come out and enjoy a relaxing couple days, fish, eat and possible even find a new fishing buddy.

The fall trip is scheduled for October 6, 7 and 8 on camp site A (25 campers).

**Bill Thomas** and I will organize the April trip but we need to have a different crew for the October trip. We

will be returning from a trip to Idaho the week before and will not be available to organize the October trip.

Regarding payment: please try the PayPal link on our web site: [www.rockytivertu.org](http://www.rockytivertu.org). Include a note/comment indicating this is an Appletree trip payment.

Here are a few pictures from Appletree trips:

A Nanty DH brown



Sitting around the campfire



Cooking Mr. Wilson's famous cobbler recipe



- Jim Mabrey

### **March 8 Fly Fishing Film Tour @ Visulite**

Saw several RRTU members at the Fly Fishing Film Tour on Tuesday, March 8. Jesse Brown's Outdoors hosted the 2011 event at the Visulite Theater on Elizabeth Avenue in Charlotte. Jim Mabrey and Joyce Shepherd helped with the RRTU information table; a new Winston rod raffle provided excitement for one lucky winner. Film topics included winter Louisiana redfish, New Zealand trout, permit fishing in the Florida Keys, Cook Islands bonefish, Wisconsin smallmouth bass. As if that was not enough, how about catching billfish and Mako shark on a fly? See <http://flyfishingfilmtour.com> for more information.

### **Fly Tying – Mar 12**

The final RRTU fly tying class for the winter 2011 season will be at the same location: REI located in the North Lake Shopping Center at 9755 Northlake Centre Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28216.

The class will be Saturday, March 12th beginning at 10:00 AM and finishing at 2:00 PM.

Since Bill Ritter told us about the success of the Y2K on Wilson Creek, it reminded me that I bought some Y2K tying material several years ago. The Y2K

requires a yarn called Oregon Cheese and a yellow Glo Bugs Yarn. This is a great fly for cold, dingy, fast water. It is not an egg pattern; it is an attractor pattern. If you want to tie size 12, you will need size 1/8 brass beads. If you want to tie size 14, you will need size 7/64 brass beads. I have hooks and Glo Bugs Yarn; bring your own beads if you have them. These are easy flies to tie; plan to tie six or so.

**Tom Adams** and **Alen Baker** have provided excellent assistance so far this year. These two have many years of experience and can help both new and experienced individuals.

We will review what we have tied in previous weeks and have a more open group than last time. Think about what you want to tie and we will try to oblige.

**Alen** will begin this class with a review of an interesting fly tying project which he's working on now. Update from **Alen**: I have built a fly tying station...yep, hand made...we thought we could raffle it and see what money we could raise at the fly tying event in March. A portion of proceeds will go for materials/tools for future fly tying classes.

If you have attended three of our classes this season, you will be eligible to participate in a drawing for Dave Hughes book: *Trout Flies: The Tier's Reference*.

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 \$5.00 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 fly tying programs.

- **Jack McNeary** ( [jmcneary@gmail.com](mailto:jmcneary@gmail.com) )

### **Upcoming 2011 RRTU Meeting Topics/Presenters**

#### **March 17**

At our March meeting there will be a program titled **Now We Are On A Fishing Trip**. Jack McNeary and some friends have made several fishing trips out west over the last five years. During the summers of 2009

and 2010, they spent a week in Last Chance Idaho fishing with guides in the Henry's Fork area.

Jack and friends fished in very diverse waters - from fast moving Western streams to beautiful Hebgen Lake in Montana for "gulpers." They fished in what is considered the mecca of dry fly fishing at the Henry's Fork Railroad Ranch. They also fished the South Fork of the Snake River which is a hundred miles South in Southern Idaho and on the famous Madison River in Montana, as well as several other places.

The program discusses why they chose this area and how they got there. There are details about what the guides were like and their different techniques. There will be discussion about the flies used, how they were tied, and the differences in fishing on these varied waters.

#### **April 21**

Are you interested in "bugs?" If so, do not miss Ken Manuel's April presentation on bugs ... the fishing kind. Ken is a biologist at Duke Energy who specializes in entomology. Ken has done several programs for the chapter over the past 30 years and always provides a great program on stream entomology in North and South Carolina.

#### **March 19 Streamside - South Mountains State Park**

Our chapter has an outing scheduled for March 19th at the South Mountains State Park to remove the dams built by the campers last summer. These "swimming hole" dams impede the trout from traveling freely up and down the stream and need to be removed before the spring stocking begins. We are inviting the Carolina Fly Fishing Club members to join us on the work day and help remove these dams. This usually takes a few hours, depending on how many volunteers we have and leaves several hours in the afternoon to fish. There is plenty of water both above and below where we will be working to test your skills and bend your rod. RRTU will provide a meal at lunch, so you will need to contact **Jim Mabrey** ([rrtujim@gmail.com](mailto:rrtujim@gmail.com)) or **Bill Thomas** ([bthomas999@bellsouth.net](mailto:bthomas999@bellsouth.net)) to get your name on the list. We have partnered with South Mountains State Park since the mid 1980's to help them maintain their

pristine watershed and great water quality. We look forward to partnering with our friends from the CFFC and hope this will be the beginning of many more collaborative efforts to protect the water and the sport we love.

**- Jim Mabrey**

More info on South Mountains State Park here:  
<http://ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/somo/main.php>

#### **March 19-20: Pisgah Fly Masters Tournament**

We received an invitation for RRTU membership who may want to participate in this fund-raiser fishing tournament.

Dear Rocky River Chapter TU,

Fly-fishing for a cause! The Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education with the help of Davidson River Outfitters will host the Pisgah Fly Masters Fly-Fishing Tournament March 19-20, 2011. I am contacting local fishing organizations to see if you could help us with advertising by adding the fund raising tournament to your calendar of events on your web page and announcing the fund raiser at your next meeting.

The Pisgah Center has been providing free educational opportunities for preK children - adults since 1998. The center is holding this special fund raising event to ensure that the community has continued access to free wildlife education and outdoor skills. We touch the lives of children and adults alike everyday and leave them with a positive idea of what it means to be a steward for our natural resources. Proceeds from this event and the contributions from community sponsors will be used to fund education programs. There will be competition in youth, fisherman & professional categories. Adults \$50; youth \$30.

On Saturday competitors will be casting for distance and accuracy at the Pisgah Center. The top 5 adult fisherman and top 5 adult

professional competitors from Saturday will then compete on Sunday morning at Davidson River Outfitter's private waters for the fishing portion of the tournament. The top 5 youth will fish off on Saturday afternoon.

If anyone is interested in completing a copy of the registration form and tournament rules can be downloaded from our website at [www.ncwildlife.org/PisgahFlymasters/](http://www.ncwildlife.org/PisgahFlymasters/). We are also looking for individuals that would like to volunteer for the event. If you know of anyone interested please have them contact me by phone at 828-877-4423 or they can email me at [melinda.patterson@ncwildlife.org](mailto:melinda.patterson@ncwildlife.org). Registration monies will go back into the Pisgah Center's programs which include free fly fishing and fly tying programs for children and adults.

Thank you for your time and I hope that I will be seeing you on the Davidson River in March.

Melinda Patterson, Center Director, Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, 828-877-4423

The Pisgah Fly Masters was started in March 2008 by the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education and Davidson River Outfitters, as a fundraiser for the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education. The Pisgah Center is a North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission visitor and learning facility located on the Davidson River near Brevard. The Center offers free programming for children and adults; on aquatic habitats, fly fishing, and fly tying.

Our goal is to raise awareness and funding for education about conservation and coldwater fisheries.

- **Bill Thomas**

### **Trout in the Classroom (TIC)**

Spring is just around the corner, 30th Anniversary Party behind us, Appletree in just a few weeks and, of course, with spring comes the Trout in the Classroom release. This year we have six schools that are anticipating in the TIC Program. Here is a list of the schools, our

"Tank Commanders" and RRTU Support Person for this year:

School – Teacher/Tank Commander – RRTU sponsor

Davidson Day School, Vicki Carbone, David James  
Providence Day School, Derrick Willard, Derrick Willard  
Beverly Woods Elementary School, Andrew Israel, Jonathan Miller  
Lincoln Charter School, Steve Hall, Steve Hall  
Oakdale Elementary School, Patti Harlin, Bill Thomas  
Charlotte Country Day School, Taryn Page/Lori Townsend, Billy Cooper

We usually pick the eggs from the Marion Hatchery in mid to late September and each school gets 200 to 300 eggs for the project. These eggs come from the Irwin Tennessee Hatchery and usually hatch with the first full week the students have them. The fish are now in the 'Sac Fry' stage and do not eat but live off the yoke sac. They appear to be a really fat little fish but soon this extra size in the stomach will disappear and the fry will feed anytime there is food. The students find out that some of the sac fry will never figure out the eating thing and will not survive as a result of their inability to learn to eat. These fish are called 'Pin Heads' and make up about 10% of the hatch. The number one cause of death to the fish is poor water quality. Water temperature (usually in the 50 to 55 degree range) is not an issue as we use a top of the line chiller to temper the water and we use a multiple stage charcoal filter to clean the water in the 55 gallon aquarium. Ammonia, produce by the fish is the problem and the only way to control in the classroom setting is doing consistent water changes. The recommended water change rate is 15% to 25% twice a week. This is accomplished in the wild by the movement of the water in the stream and the impurities are dissipated by aeration and natural filtration.

We usually have about 50 or so fish from each school to release and they are usually released in South Mountain State Park. This is one of the closest cold water streams to our area. The fish require a permit before they can be released in North Carolina water. We obtain these permits from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and the release can be

accomplished any time within a 30 day period. Our release dates are from mid-April to mid-May. Check back to the website when the time gets closer and we will post the proposed dates there. You are invited to join us for any of these releases and see first hand how much these students learn from this program. I always want to thank the Teachers and Member Support Persons for their dedication and commitment to this program. Their passion, skill and desire to educate the students in the way science plays a role in our stewardship of our environment and life as we know it will always be appreciated. Job well done!



- **Jim Mabrey**

### **TU – National News @ tu.org**

Looking for information on legislation? How about recent press releases? Searching for the TU president's message in the TU newsletter? Interested in member benefits? You will find all of these ... and much more at [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org)

### **- 2011 TU Annual Meeting -**

Feel like a fall trip? Go west ... to Bend, OR for the 2011 TU Annual Meeting!

Dates: September 14-18

Cost: \$300 registration fee (\$275 Early Bird Discount before July 1).

What to do: Conference activities, BBQ/banquet, hosted fishing trips, conservation tours, fly casting tournament and much more.

Need more info: <http://www.tu.org/events/am2011>

### **- Other "stuff" -**

(1) TU president and CEO, Chris Wood, offers podcasts for any interested in subscribing.

(2) A video on the Colorado River and the demand being made on that watershed in the US southwest.

(3) An update on the potential damage to organizations like TU by the current proposed US budget bill (House Continuing Resolution HR 1).

### **- Trout magazine -**

Lost your recent issue? Trying to find an old article? You will find current and archive issues of *Trout* on the TU web site in the Press Room tab:

<http://www.tu.org/press-room/trout-magazine>

### **- March 2011 Lines to Leaders -**

(1) America's Great Outdoors project

[www.americasgreatoutdoors.gov](http://www.americasgreatoutdoors.gov)

(2) Orvis Fly Fishing 101. TU teams up with Orvis again in 2011 for this event.

(3) Conservation – TU's national stream clean up days scheduled for April 23 or June 19

### **April 15 – Earth Day Volunteer Opportunity**

We received a request for assistance from Ms. Tammi Remsburg of the Carolina International School in Harrisburg. A portion of her request appears below:

Hi Mr. Thomas. Our Earth Day celebration will be on April 15th with a rain date of the 18th. It will be from 9:15-3:15. We would love to have someone from Trout Unlimited there all day, but if that is too much we can adjust our schedule to meet theirs. I was hoping to get the presenter to work with our 6th-9th graders about stream conservation. Each class will be 45 minutes long. Our school is adjacent to a branch of Reedy Creek and in fact we have what is called the "beach"--which is a large area of sand that the kids can walk and sit on. That would be a great area to teach in, unless the presenter needs AV equipment. If this is the case, we can put them in a classroom. A hands-on presentation would be best for most of our students. This age group will be going to classes that teach them how they can make an impact or difference in the things that they do. I would be glad to meet with the person who will be teaching and show them the "beach" if needed prior to Earth Day. We will provide lunch for the day. Please let me know if you need any other information.

Tammi Remsburg  
Teacher Assistant  
N.C. Certified Environmental Educator  
Carolina International School  
8810 Hickory Ridge Road  
Harrisburg, NC 28075 704-455-3847  
[remsburgt@ciscomets.com](mailto:remsburgt@ciscomets.com)

Please contact **Bill Thomas** if you want to volunteer.  
**- Bill Thomas**

### **May 19-22 National Fly Fishing Championships**

Fellow anglers,

I'm excited to announce that the 2011 National Fly Fishing Championships will be held May 19-22<sup>nd</sup> in Cherokee, North Carolina.

Likely venues include the Nantahala River (upper and lower), Queens Creek and Calderwood Lakes, and a Cherokee venue, amongst others.

This is a huge event that will help to determine the anglers who will comprise the US National team. It's also a great opportunity to showcase NC as a premiere destination for fly fishing.

To pull an event like this off, however, we need volunteers.

If you would be willing to judge one or all of the days of the event, please respond to this e-mail. In the response, let me know which days you're available. In addition, include a telephone number for future contact.

Judging is very simple, and you'll be fully trained before the event.

In addition to having an opportunity to observe some of the best anglers in our country, you'll get a \$100 Simms Guide shirt with the NFFC logo embroidered on it, as well as a Simms hat.

Once we know who's willing to judge, we'll see if we can't coordinate group lodging or camping.

Best,  
Christopher Smith  
[chrissmith@teamstonefly.com](mailto:chrissmith@teamstonefly.com)  
[www.teamstonefly.com](http://www.teamstonefly.com)

## **Rivercourse 2011**

RRTU will continue involvement with the Rivercourse program. The 2011 camp is scheduled for the week of June 19 - 24, 2011 at Lake Logan Center near Canton. <http://www.nctu.org/rivercourse.html> Contact Joyce Shepherd for more details on this program.

- **Joyce Shepherd**

## **Tip of the Month**

To impart a different type of action to your flies when all else fails, try the salmon angler's riffling hitch. Use this on woolly buggers, streamers and wet flies to make them skim the surface and slightly wobble subsurface. Tie the fly on normally, and then wrap over the head with two half hitches, pulling them up tight to one side. The leader will tend to pull the streamer with a sideways wobble making for a unique presentation to the trout.

- **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 Miller**

## **Fly of the month**

This "fly of the month" represents the latest in the **Tim Wilhelm/Tom Adams** series. For those who attended the RRTU February Anniversary (Birthday) Party, you may remember what Jim Dean said about this fly.

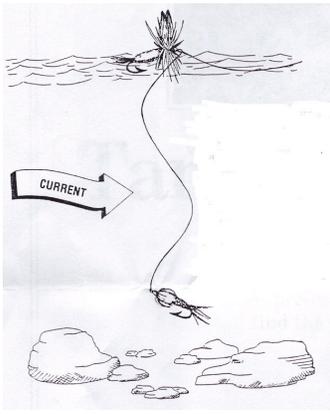
I hate the word organic! I think it has been over used during the last decade. Everything has been organic this or organic that. I just hate hearing it used. So you can imagine how much it pains me to use it now.

When Tom and I first developed the idea to do a Fly of the Month our plan was to loosely mimic a fly tying manual developed by Greenville SC's Mountain Bridge. Written I think in 1984, I was given a copy by a coworker shortly after it was published. The manual focuses on Southern Appalachian Flies and how to tie them and I had always wanted to do something similar as a fundraiser for Rocky River. So it was fairly easy for me to say yes to the Fly of the Month. Tom and I came up with a list of flies for our project (several lists really) and began. Several weeks after we started, the lists had been discarded and the project became (wait for it) an organic process as illustrated by this month's fly.

Shortly after our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary I received the following in an email from Tom: "*Spoke with Jonathan yesterday and mentioned I was going to run this by you. Jim Dean must have mentioned a Blonde Wulff as many times as the word trout the other night. We have not tied a Wulff yet. What do you think? In times gone by I used a Wulff variation nearly every time I went out. Don't know why I stopped. Anyway let me know what your thoughts are. I could tie several of the variations also.*"

You know he's right, at one time I wouldn't go anywhere without a Wulff in the fly box and often I would fish that buoyant fly in tandem with a dropper. Not just Blonde Wulffs, but Ausable Wulffs and Royal Wulffs too. Man they were good flies, but somehow they just disappeared from my fly box. Why is that? Well maybe it's because I'm trying too hard to "match the hatch" and now carry all sorts of little flies that represent emergers and midges and other flies. But wait, we don't have hatches in NC. The trout we find in our streams are opportunistic feeders and what's more opportunistic than a great big Blonde Wulff?

Jim Dean handed out copies of the article he wrote for Outdoor Life in 1982. I've included one illustration from that article showing how a second fly can be fished from the Wulff.



### **BLONDE WULFF Fly of the Month 03.11**

**HOOK :** Dry Fly, 1x long, size 10,12,14,16, Tiemco 100 or equivalent

**Thread :** 8/0 Uni or equivalent in Black (plus Tan option)

**Tail :** Tan Deer Tail

**Body :** Tan dry fly dubbing

**Wing :** Elk hair, fine

**Hackle :** Ginger Rooster

**Note:** Black thread is recommended, but I prefer to tie the materials in with tan and change to black for the head only. This is an added step (your choice).

**Directions:**

1. Wrap thread one third back from eye, starting one to two eye lengths from eye, let bobbin hang
2. Select elk hair and cut. Clean underfur thoroughly and stack in hair stacker. Tap several times and remove with right hand, pinching the tips between the index finger and thumb, maintain alignment. Place elk hair on top of the hook allowing the length to be tied in at about the same length as the hook shank. Wrap softly at the one third back mark and release the grip with the right hand. The wraps should be very close together working toward the hook bend. This is only to position and judge the height of the wings. Once you are happy with the wings, tie in firmly and trim the

hair making a diagonal cut. Now the elk can be secured by binding the diagonal with firm wraps. Advance the thread immediately forward of the hair and lifting the bundle of hair on the top of the shank with your left hand, pull the thread against the base of the tie in, on top of the shank and pull the thread away and toward the hook bend. When you pull the thread in a straight and parallel (to the hook shank) fashion the hair will stand straight up. Make several turns immediately in front of the hair. Take the thread and divide the upright hair clump into two fairly even sections. Use a figure eight wrap to divide and shape the wings. Once secure take the thread to behind the diagonal cut of the hair (the hair on top of the hook should be pretty well covered by thread now) and let the bobbin hang

3. Select tan deer tail. Selecting from the base and not the tip of the tail will yield thicker hairs. Cut and clean the underfur. Place in stacker and even the tips. The hair will be very long at this point and can be cut to ease in placement. The tail should be about the same length as the hook shank. Tie in with soft wraps and trim the length so that the trimmed deer matches up to the diagonal of the elk hair. Once the length is okay, wrap the thread firmly with tight wraps to the hook bend above the hook barb. Let the bobbin hang
4. Using tan dry fly dubbing, dub to from the tail to about two eye lengths behind the wings. Let the bobbin hang. The dub can cover and even out the difference between the deer and elk, though keep the dub tight and use as little as possible.
5. Select a medium ginger rooster hackle and strip about 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch to tie in. Tie in with two wraps behind the wing and two wraps in front of the wings. This is where I change to black thread. Let the bobbin hang.
6. Wrap the hackle three to four wraps behind the wings and three to four in front. Tie off and whip finish the head. Apply head cement. Go catch fish.

Blonde Wulff



- Tom Adams, Tim Wilhelm

### Who wants to be “nearly almost” famous?

RRTU member **Alen Baker** has an idea about writing a book ... with our help. Read this and if you are interested, contact **Alen**.

### **Tales from the Empty Creel:**

Angler's first hand stories and second hand tales.  
Compiled and Edited by Alen D. Baker

Sound interesting?

Do you have a story to tell?

Want to have your story in the book?

Submit a simple draft of your experience along with your favor mug shot (holding a fish of course). Please supply a phone number and/or email address too as I may need to contact you with questions. I hope to begin writing this book over the coming months. I will provide an update on occasion and probably will be asking for more stories if there is a shortage.

Having trouble thinking about an experience?

I came up with a sample list of situations both dramatic and comedic that I hope will end up in the book (or maybe in this newsletter if our RRTU newsletter editor is allowed). Here's my list:

Fish that got away  
Losing stuff or finding stuff or forgetting stuff  
Falling in or going for a swim  
Bad habits needing forgiveness  
Faulty equipment  
Things going wrong  
The longest fight (playing a fish)  
Doubles or skunked or surprise catch  
The smallest or the most  
Winning the bet or losing the bet  
Rumors or strange beliefs or jinxes  
Caught exaggerating or no photo  
I did not know  
Fly fishing in the trees  
Animal encounters  
Breaking the rod  
Losing the last fly of its kind in the box  
Encounters of the warden kind  
Running out of gas or running into things  
Caught in bad weather  
Embarrassed or how long with not fly or no hook point  
It happened at ... or fishing with ...  
Lost and found on the stream, in the woods  
Trespassing – maybe  
The hero

- **Alen Baker ( 704.875.1505 )**

### RRTU on Facebook

How's your social network doing? How about your fishing network? RRTU certainly wants to help with the second question. RRTU now has a Facebook page. Search for us on Facebook under Rocky River Trout Unlimited and sign up to join us. Also, please “like” the page as this will help us to be located more easily. You will be able to post and respond on this Facebook page. You can post pictures, invitations for fishing buddies or trip results, flies that work for you, etc. This page is for your use; we hope you use it often! RRTU on Facebook is a “closed” group meaning your name is public but your information is not.

- **Jim Mabrey**

### **The all electronic RRTU newsletter**

The RRTU board made a decision to move to an electronic-only newsletter format starting in 2011. Our printing and postage costs for the paper newsletter were running over \$3000 annually; we plan to put all newsletter cost savings into RRTU programs. We use an electronic mail list server for sending the monthly RRTU newsletter. If you want to receive the monthly electronic newsletter, please provide your electronic mail address to **Tim Wilhelm** at your earliest convenience. You may reach **Tim** via email here: [twilhelm@carolina.rr.com](mailto:twilhelm@carolina.rr.com)

### **RRTU Officers and Board Members**

President: Bill Thomas – 704.231.7492  
1<sup>st</sup> VP: Joyce Shepherd – 704.392.8499  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Tom Adams – 704.877.3367  
Secretary: Tim Wilhelm – 704.442.1253  
Treasurer: Erin Purves – 704.807.1620

Dave Stakel (2011) – 704.399.4076  
Steve Craig (2011) – 704.875.0932  
Paul Isaacs (2012) – 704.960.3649  
Jonathan Miller (2012) – 704.552.0051  
Alen Baker (2013) – 704.875.1505  
David Hollifield (2013)  
Jim Mabrey (past president) – 704.786.0342