



# *Trout Tales*

## Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited

May 2011



### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Editor's note: this message from First Vice President Joyce Shepherd.**

Hello everyone. Well, it's May already and I know everyone is geared up and has probably been out fishing. I have a reminder for you - Delayed Harvest ends the first Saturday in June. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's delayed harvest program is one of the more popular trout programs in the state. By delaying harvest of trout stocked in certain bodies of water, the Commission provides anglers with high quality, catch-and-release fishing opportunities in the spring and fall. So don't miss out ... go fishing.

Over the month of April, RRTU (**Bill Thomas** and **Jim Mabrey**) helped release fish into South Mountains State Park from three of our Trout In the Classroom schools – Country Day, Davidson Day and Providence Day. This year the combined total of fish released was around 200. That is pretty good, since this was the first year for some of our schools. The children love feeding, taking care of and learning about the trout. Country Day School took a whole bus of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders up to release their fish. It was a great day in the mountains for the kids where they did a little hands-on releasing and learning about the natural trout habitat. Bill Thomas is doing great after his ordeal at Appletree. His hand is recovering nicely. Please put the next Appletree on your calendar ... October 6-9. It will once again be a great time.

Please check the calendar along with information regarding upcoming events later in the newsletter. Items of note include the National Fly Fishing Championships, Rivercourse, TU-Orvis Fly Fishing 101-201 program and (of course) our next regular meeting.

Our May speaker is Rob Domico of Madison River Outfitters. Hope to see you there. Bring a friend ... or two.

- **Joyce Shepherd** (First Vice President)

### **RRTU Calendar**

May 12-14: SE Regional meeting for NCTU  
May 13-15: Casting for Recovery  
May 14-15: Troutfest  
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  
June 19-24: Rivercourse

July – no monthly meeting

Aug 18: RRTU meeting. Richard Mode

Sept 14-18: National TU Meeting, Bend, OR  
Sept 15: RRTU meeting. Election

Oct 6-9: Appletree  
Oct 20: RRTU meeting

### **May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting**

Backpacking for Wild Trout – Rob Domico

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 is closing in on the \$4000 mark in donations. A huge THANK YOU to these April donors:

**Dean, Heckle & Hill Inc., Steve Craig, Mildred English, Alen Baker, Jack McNeary, Terry Hill.**

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

### **April 2011 meeting – Stream Entomology**

Those who attended the April meeting found that there IS a difference between “bugs” and insects. Duke Energy aquatic entomologist Ken Manuel gave an entertaining and informative presentation on the insect life in the streams we fish. He also provided a chart titled *Common Caddisflies with Fly Patterns and Adult Emergence Chart for the Carolina Appalachians* and a handout on aquatic entomology. Ken referred to the evolution of these insects and referred specifically to “true” bugs, “true” flies, stoneflies, mayflies, and caddisflies. We even learned a bit of Latin when Ken referred to Ephemeroptera (mayfly), Trichoptera (caddisfly), Diptera (midge) and Plecoptera (stonefly). We hope that Ken does not wait too long for his next visit!

- **Editor**

### **North Carolina Wildlife Federation Scholarships**

RRTU supports the North Carolina Wildlife Federation (NCWF) scholarship/grant program. Scholarship grant applications for the fall 2011 term are due by June 1, 2011. For more information, check the NCWF site on the web: <http://ncwf.org/Scholarships/index.php>

### **Appletree spring and fall 2011 trips**

**Appletree spring trip attendees: Please send 2-3 of your favorite photos from the April trip and I will include some of those in the June newsletter.**

- Editor

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.

- **Jim Mabrey**

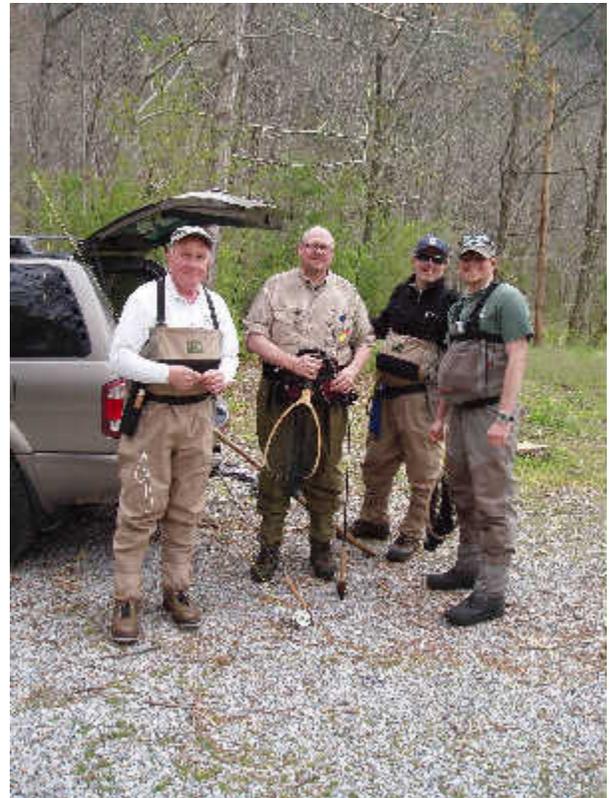
Hope you enjoy these pictures from the April 2011 Appletree trips.







Oona sitting on the cooler



### Upcoming 2011 RRTU Meeting Topics/Presenters

#### **May 19**

Ever considered taking a backpack trout fishing trip? If so you will want to attend our May meeting as Madison River Outfitters owner Rob Domico will talk about backpacking for wild trout.

## June 16

Kevin Howell of Davidson River Outfitters will present material on fishing techniques and fly selection.

## August 18

Richard Mode. Founder of the Table Rock Trout Unlimited chapter, National Wildlife Federation Affiliate Representative.

## 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) Protect Bristol Bay from large scale mining.

(2) Denver water deal.

(3) 2011 Small Project Funding Program.

(4) Got a question? That question may already be answered in the Ask Trout Unlimited section located here: <http://www.tu.org/about-us/ask-trout-unlimited>

### - 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>

### - May 2011 Lines to Leaders -

(1) Reminder about 2011 Awards Nomination Form

(2) Working with AmeriCorps

(3) Thank you to members who wrote your elected representatives regarding planned budget cuts in HR1  
(4) Information about Stream Explorer memberships to TU

## TU-Orvis Fly Fishing 101 and 201

Editor's note: This information from the TU web site.

TU and Orvis are partnering again this year to introduce new people to Trout Unlimited and the sport of fly fishing through the Fly Fishing 101 and 201 program. Courses are free to attend and will occur at participating Orvis stores and dealers every weekend from **Saturday, May 21 to Sunday, July 10**. TU volunteers will receive a coupon worth \$25 off their next Orvis purchase of \$50. If you want to assist with this program as a volunteer or if you want to participate as an attendee, contact the Charlotte Orvis store at 704-571-6100.

## May 19-22 National Fly Fishing Championships

Editor's note: Several RRTU members have signed up for this event. I will ask those attending to bring back a report and some pictures from this event.

We received this note from Chris Smith in early April - Not only is the National Championships in need of judges, but the notice could benefit anglers who had been contemplating a trip to the area that weekend. They'll find the water on those five venues fairly crowded.

You will find information about this event, the venues, how to volunteer, etc. at <http://usnffc.com/>

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)

### **April 28 Annual Cooperators Meeting**

Each year representatives from NCTU, NCWRC and the USFS meet to discuss issues give status reports and just plain have a good time. The three parties have met for 27 years now and I was able to attend the most recent one. There were about 30 of us there and we heard about 15 presentations. The one I always enjoy heard is by Josh Farmer of the USFS when he talks about fish passage project that the department had undertaken in the past year. For years fish passage for me was "*fish swim in water*". But do you realize how just a simple culvert impacts fish passage? Most of the culverts in the forest are of the corrugated metal type and many are undersized.

Why is it important? Well at one location that was recently replaced they sampled the creek upstream of the culvert and found no fish. A year after being replaced, they sampled again and this time found Brook Trout young of year.

The other topic that caught my ear was Trout in the Classroom and what really surprised me was that the NCWRC gave that presentation. One of the ways that the NCWRC will be affected by the budget cuts is their not going to have the educational programs that they have had in the past. So they are real interested in TIC. Besides continuing to provide eggs and support they made it clear they are available to speak to the classes.

- **Tim Wilhelm**

### **Rivercourse 2011: June 19-24**

Rivercourse is fast approaching and we still need two girl campers. If you know of any young ladies between the ages of 13 and 15 who would like to go to camp, please contact [www.NCTU.org/Rivercourse.html](http://www.NCTU.org/Rivercourse.html). North Carolina Trout Unlimited's Rivercourse is the premier youth cold water conservation and fly fishing camp. The date for the 2011 camp is June 19 – 24 at Lake Logan Center.

- **Joyce Shepherd**

### **Hatch Charts**

Familiar with any web sites which list hatch charts we could reference here in the newsletter? If so, please share. The flyfishingnc.com site has this chart: <http://www.flyfishingnc.com/fly-bugs/patterns/fly-hatch-chart-north-carolina-smoky-mountains>

- **Editor**

### **Tip of the Month**

Use a bright and heavily hackled dry fly as a strike indicator when nymph fishing. The dry fly looks natural, and sometimes even catches a fish. Tie it on a short dropper to the main leader. Tie it up on the leader far enough to allow the nymph to sink to the desired

depth. Also, when fishing with a partner, each of you should start with completely different flies that you believe will catch trout. That way, after the first catch, both of you may switch to the effective fly. This cuts down on trial-and-error fly fishing time.

- 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!

This installment comes from RRTU member **Terry Hill** ... and in this case we're featuring the Roanoke River. See the *DeLorme North Carolina Atlas & Gazetteer* page 22, B-4.

Each year the striped bass migrate up the Roanoke River from Albemarle Sound to spawn. The dam which holds Gaston Lake is at Weldon, NC, just a few miles from Roanoke Rapids. They begin arriving about April 15th and by late April/early May they stack up by the thousands. Usually most have spawned and gone by the end of May. My son and I fished Sunday afternoon, May 1st and Monday morning, May 2 with a guide/boat. It is all boat fishing as the banks are steep and river flows very swiftly. The fish range from 2-40 lbs. Sunday afternoon, we caught 64 between the two of us. Monday morning, from 6AM till 11:AM. I caught 105 and my son about 100. They were 2-10 pound range. We used a 7wt and 9wt fly rods with 30' lead cord sinking line and various Clouser patterns. The water level varies from year to year but most times the fly-fishing is fantastic. These fish come up from the ocean and are unbelievably strong. My shoulder and wrist are still sore. The "kill" season runs until April 30th where you can keep two fish a day slotted 18 to 22 inches. Beginning May 1st, it is all catch/release and the crowds are down by

half. If things are right, you can catch fish for 1-2 hours in the early morning and late evening on top water with spinning rods and various top-water plugs.

### Fly of the month

This "fly of the month" represents the latest in the **Tim Wilhelm/Tom Adams** series.

The Early Nelson is a local fly pattern attributed to Cap Weise. Cap was headmaster of the Paterson School for boys just out side of Lenoir. Cap would hike from the school over to Edgemont during the summers when school wasn't in session and he would fish Wilson Creek. That's about all that I can find out about the Early Nelson.

But look at that fly. You know how effective the Adams and Thunderhead are in our waters. Image those two flies with a peacock body? I think you got a fly that would turn some heads.

### **EARLY NELSON Fly of the Month 05.11**

HOOK : Dry Fly, standard length. Tiemco 100 or equivalent. Size 12,**14,16**,

Thread : 8/0 Uni Black

Body : Peacock Herl

Wing : Grizzly tips

Hackle : Grizzly and Brown

Tail: Black Bear or Moose body hair

Directions :

1. Begin thread wraps two or three eyelengths back from eye and wrap tightly about one third of the length. Let the bobbin hang
2. Select two equal size feather tips that are the same length as the hook shank, allowing enough extra to tie in by. Strip an eight inch or so and tie in on top of the hook shank in the back side of the first third ( the area covered by thread in step one). Bind with three or four firm wraps

and using thread wraps in front and behind to raise the tips to upright. Turn several figure eight wraps between the upright tips to separate.

3. Advance the thread to above the hook barb and let the bobbin hang
4. Collect eight or ten black bear body hairs, trimming close to the skin cleaning the underfur place in stacker. Rap several times until tips area even. Remove the hairs by gently grabbing by the tips. Holding the tips in your left hand, place the length along the top of the hook shank. Take several soft wraps to set the tail in place. The tail should be slightly more than the hook shank. Once you are happy with the length, wrap the tail toward the eye with firm and firmer wraps, keeping the fibers on top of the hook shank. Take the thread back to above the hook barb and let the bobbin hang.
5. Collect two or three good peacock herls. Tie all in by the tips, but not the very tip. Waste the first half inch or so. The tipmost secure is to fragile in most instances and will break after several turns. Once the herl is secure, advance the thread to just behind the wings. Now take the lowest section of the herl and clip with hackle pliers. Twist the two herls in a clockwise rotation to form a rope. It is not necessary to twist the full length, just enough for several wraps on the hook shank. I usually twist about half an inch or so, wrap it on and twist again as needed. Advance the herls toward the wing tips stopping to allow space for two or three wraps of hackle behind the tips. Tie off the herl, trim excess and let the bobbin hang.
6. Select two hackle feathers appropriate for the hook size ( about one and one half the hook gap ). One grizzly and one brown. Strip a quarter inch at the base of each feather. Stack the two prepared feathers on top of one another and tie in with two wraps behind the wing tips. The shiny side of the hackle is toward the eye. Finish the tie in in front of the wing tips, trim any extra hackle and tie in firmly leaving the bobbin to hang in front of the wing tips.
7. Wrap the top hackle forward while leaving a space for the second hackle. Make two turns behind the wing tips and two turns in front. Tie

in the hackle and trim excess. Let the bobbin hang

8. Wrap the second hackle forward working the stem in the space between the first wraps. After three wraps in front of the wings tips tie in and trim the excess.
9. Whip finish and apply head cement.

Early Nelson



- 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**

### **Stream Water Flow Data**

Ever wonder about the water flow in your favorite stream? How about after a big rain? The USGS has monitoring on some NC streams. You may check on that data at this web site:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nc/nwis/rt>

### **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 follow these instructions:

Using the email account with which you wish to register, send an electronic mail message addressed to:

[sympa@list.nctu.org](mailto:sympa@list.nctu.org)

The subject line of this email should read:

**Subscribe rrtu-news firstname lastname**

Example: **Subscribe rrtu-news John Citizen**

**RRTU Officers and Board Members**

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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