



Trout Tales

Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited

September 2011



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all members!

With the fiscal year of 2011 coming to a close I would like to thank the Rocky River TU Board for their commitment to our chapter. The Board has proven to be an open-minded and knowledgeable group regarding the workings of TU. It has been a pleasure to serve RRTU with you and I look forward with great anticipation to continuing our established programs as well as any new developments in 2012.

I would also like to send out special thanks to all our volunteers! You are the backbone of our chapter and without you, there is no RRTU. Based on our outings at Appletree, the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program, stream clean up events, fall/winter fly tying you have shown that you want to be part of this group. Please continue to volunteer as we have new programs planned and will again need your support.

Some Board members will end their terms this year – **Steve Craig, Erin Purves and Dave Stakel** – please join me in thanking them for their service. These three will be missed on the Board, but I expect they will continue to serve RRTU.

Next week we will have our eggs for TIC. The schools are all set and this should be another interesting year. Plenty of RRTU opportunities are available – check the calendar. Our new year gets off to a great start with South Mountains State Park Nature Day, Appletree, fly tying ... and with cooler weather the leaves will change and the Delayed Harvest waters will be stocked! Yes that's right ... let's go fishing!

Our Annual RRTU meeting with the election of RRTU officers and board will take place at the September 15 meeting. Hope to see many of you there.

- **Bill Thomas (bthomas999@bellsouth.net)**

RRTU Calendar

Sept 8: NCWRC District 6 meeting in Norwood, 7PM, South Stanly High School

Sept 10: Streamside, Mallard Creek Greenway

Sept 14-18: National TU Meeting, Bend, OR

Sept 15: Annual RRTU meeting. Election of RRTU officers and board, etc.

Sept 24: 9th Annual Nature Day at South Mountains State Park

Oct 6-9: Appletree

Oct 20: RRTU meeting

Oct 21-23: Rumble in the Rhododendron

Nov 12: Fly tying

Nov 17: RRTU meeting

Nov 19-20: Casting for Recovery

Nov 25: Streamside, Wilson Creek

December – no monthly meeting

Dec 10: Fly tying

Jan 14: Fly tying

Jan 19: RRTU meeting

September 15th meeting

Annual RRTU meeting - Election of officers and board; plus a raffle for REI outfitting certificate

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

Social time: 6:30 PM

Meeting: 7:00 PM

Note: Some RRTU members meet for dinner before the meeting at the Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 East Morehead Street, (704) 377-3808. Ask the hostess for the RRTU group; folks usually gather for dinner around 5:30 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 over the \$5000 mark in donations.

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

August 18 2011 meeting – Legislative Update

Presenter Richard Mode - a nationally known conservationist with a long history of activity within the community. Mr. Mode provided an update on the current state of environmental and conservation legislation at the state and national levels. Those who attended heard the grim news ... the national and state budget crisis has hit many programs that support fishing, hunting with big cuts. Some environmental and conservation programs have been eliminated; others have received funding reductions of 30-90%. Many other programs which support clean air and water are under attack. Mr. Mode encouraged us to contact our state and national representatives with our view on these vital issues. Tim Gestwicki, the NC Wildlife

Federation Executive Director, joined Mr. Mode at the meeting and he provided an update on some specific reductions to programs in North Carolina.

- **Editor**

Streamside - Mallard Creek Greenway on Sept 10

The Mallard Creek Greenway streamside event occurred on Saturday, September 10. We hope to have additional information (and pictures) for the October newsletter.

THANK YOU to our RRTU volunteers and to **Paul Isaacs** for organizing this joint RRTU - Charlotte Mecklenburg Parks & Recreation Department event.

- **Editor**

Appletree fall 2011 trip October 6-9

The 2011 Fall Appletree Camping/fishing trip sign up is going strong. We have about half of the slots filled as of September 8 and are limited to the first 25 that sign up and send in their payment. October 6 through 9 are the dates this year and we are on campsite A.

This is one of RRTU's longstanding traditions and one of our most popular events. This is a great trip for the beginner fly fisherman as well as the seasoned angler. The NCWRC will stock 3300 trout for us to play with while we are up there. Sign up by calling **Jim Mabrey** at 704-786-0342 and enjoy a great trip. The cost for the three days is \$50 and this covers all camping fees and food for six meals (soft drinks and adult beverages are not included). Any questions, please contact me.

- **Jim Mabrey**

Upcoming 2011 RRTU Meeting Topics/Presenters

September 15

Election of RRTU officers and board.

October 20

David Deaton, NCWRC Fish Production Supervisor, Trout in the Classroom and Hatchery

November 17

Richard Heald, Rivercourse

RRTU Annual Meeting – September 15

Our RRTU annual meeting occurs in September. September is the end of our fiscal year and this meeting is intended as means of reporting the “State of the Chapter” to our membership. It is also the meeting at which we have our elections and conduct business that must go before the membership, such as by-law amendments.

The group that handles the day to day business of the chapter is generally referred to as “The Board” and is made up of 11 members that are elected to the position. Five are officers that are elected to 1 year terms and 6 are directors that serve 3 year terms. The director terms are staggered so that only two are elected in any given year. So each year the chapter votes on the officers and two directors. The bylaws do not allow the officers to serve more than two consecutive terms. This year we have only one individual that cannot be reelected because of term limits; Erin Purves, our treasurer. All the other officers are eligible for nomination to serve a second term.

During our annual meeting, the floor will be opened for nominations for officers and the available director positions; however, to ensure that a full slate of officers is nominated, a nominating committee has been appointed. This year’s nominating committee members were **David Hollifield (chairman), Tom Adams and Tim Wilhelm**. This year the task at hand was fairly simple since most officers were eligible (and willing) to serve second terms. The following are the nominating committee recommendations:

President	Bill Thomas	(2 nd Term)
1 st Vice President	Joyce Shepherd	(2 nd Term)
2 nd Vice President	Tom Adams	(2 nd Term)
Treasurer	Jonathan Miller	
Secretary	Tim Wilhelm	(2 nd Term)
Director (thru 2014)	John Oliver	
Director (thru 2014)	Tim Ramsey	

The balance of the six director positions are held by **Paul Isaacs (2012), Jonathan Miller (2012), David Hollifield (2013) and Alen Baker (2013)**. If **Jonathan Miller** is elected to the office of treasurer, then he would resign as a director and the Board will be responsible for filling that vacancy.

Plus we will raffle a REI Outfitting Certificate. This certificate entitles the holder to free rentals on REI gear for an outing; up to 4 day free rental that includes backpack, tent, sleeping bag and pad for 4 people. Tickets will be 5 for \$5 and 12 for \$10.

- Tim Wilhelm

Supporting TU in the Southeast

I am sure most of you remember last year’s successful effort to raise \$30,000 to protect the North Mills through the purchase of the Big Creek Lodge. Rocky River donated \$5,000 to that effort, more than twice of any other chapter. Although the lawyers aren’t done word-smithing, that deal is a done deal. A key individual in bringing that deal to fruition was TU’s Southeast Land Protection Coordinator, Damon Hearne. Damon spoke to us last year during one of our regular meetings and spoke briefly at our August meeting. Damon has been able to work with us here in the Southeast (primarily North Carolina as he is based in Asheville) through grant money, however, that grant money runs out this fall. RRTU has again stepped up to the plate and has given \$2,500 to sustain the Southeastern Land Protection program and NCTU has matched our contribution dollar for dollar plus has committed additional matching funds based on what is contributed by other chapters. Councils and chapters in VA, TN, SC and GA are also being asked for a commitment. Damon is also actively seeking new funding sources through grants from other foundations. One of the footings that TU’s mission built upon is to protect the last best places and working with land conservancies here in the southeast is a key element. If you would like to make a personal contribution to this effort, please contact me at twilhelm@carolina.rr.com or contact Damon directly at DHearne@tu.org. –

- Tim Wilhelm

Sept 24 Nature Day at South Mountains State Park

The 9th Annual Nature Day at South Mountains State Park will be held on September 24. A number of our regulars for this event will be unavailable this year. If you would like to assist with this event, please contact Joyce Shepherd for more details.

-Joyce Shepherd

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) update

It is September again and Trout in the Classroom is gearing up for another fantastic year. We have lost at least one of our TIC schools to the budget crunch in our public schools. We still have four TIC programs that are ready and excited to begin the new school year.

Eggs will be available the last of September and all our aquariums are filled and ready to begin. Last year the RRTU/TIC program was responsible for releasing over 150 Rainbow fingerlings into the South Mountains State Park watershed. The release of the trout is a bonus when you consider the number of young people we have influenced to recognize the importance of clean water. We have touched over 1200 students in the last year alone, from elementary school to senior high and have been blessed with a very strong and dedicated core of instructors. Thank you for your support of this program and we encourage you to visit one of our schools and see first hand the impact of your generosity. Active schools:

Davdson Day, Providence Day, Country Day and Lincoln Charter

- Jim Mabrey

Rumble in the Rhododendron Oct 21-23

Cherokee will host the fourth annual Rumble in the Rhododendron (2 person team, fly fishing tournament) with \$10,000 in cash and prizes October 21, 22 and 23, 2011. This is an open tournament, no qualifying required. Mark your calendars now and look for more details from me in the coming weeks.

-via email from Matthew Pegg, Cherokee Chamber of Commerce. matt@cherokeesmokies.com

RRTU Fly Tying Class for 2011-2012

Fly Tying Class will begin November 12th and be held the 2nd Saturday of the month from November to March. This means that our Saturday class will precede the RRTU meeting which is held the third Thursday of the month. We will hold the classes in the same place as the last two years :

REI

9755 Northlake Centre Pkwy off of Harris Road.

10:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

In the past we have everything from beginners wanting to learn the basics of fly tying to the well advanced tier. We are able to do this because we have three levels of classes.

The most advanced class pretty much works at its own speed and the members share ideas and techniques with other tiers.

The beginning class starts with the basics of the equipment used in fly tying and its usage. Beginners will learn how to use a rotary vice, whip finisher, use dubbing, select thread and hooks. Each session will become more advanced as tiers learn new techniques. By the end of the five sessions beginners will be on their way to tying the flies they need for trout and pan fishing.

One of the greatest benefits of our classes is that we really get a chance to know the other members and talk fishing.

Charges for Fly Tying Class

This year we will charge \$10.00 to all persons who attend where an instructor is provided. The money will be used to purchase hooks and other materials for the classes. In the past **Jack McNeary** has taught the beginning tiers with help from **Alen Baker**. Each week we have found that new people show up. **Alen** will bring the new tiers up to speed. **Jack** will continue to work with the tiers from the first week to develop their skills throughout the five sessions.

Meanwhile, **Tom Adams** will work with the more advanced tiers who want to learn new and advanced techniques.

Experienced tiers who come just to tie flies at their own pace and share experiences with others will not be charged a fee for tying materials.

At noon we send someone out for sandwiches and charge \$5.00 for those who want to participate.

We have at least six rotary vices and other tools and materials for our classes. Please feel free to bring your own vise and tools if you have them. If you are thinking of coming, we would like to have a head count so please contact **Jack McNeary** at jmcneary@gmail.com. You will not be bound by this, but it will give us an idea as to how many people to expect.

We look forward to seeing you on November 12th for the first session at REI.

- **Tom Adams, Alen Baker and Jack McNeary**

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

- 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>

- 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>

Tales from the Stream

Editor's note: We are always excited to hear from RRTU membership about their fishing adventures. This one comes from member **Tim Mead** ... THANKS Tim!

To understand what happened, you have to know that Dad and I bushwhacked northern Michigan searching brook trout in beaver ponds Uncle Steve located by plane. And we caught 'em. My biggest was a 14-inch native from the third pond in from the gravel road.

So when I left Charlotte for the Sutton River in northern Ontario I told friends I was going to catch 100 of the largest brook trout I ever caught, confident that I might come close to such a boast though sure I would fall short.

My prediction was not worth a hoot. I caught well over 200 brookies that exceeded my previous trophy. Don't believe my tale? Film at 11:00. On a 10-day float down the Sutton River, we used 8-weights and short, stout leaders. These brookies were powerful and not leader shy. About half were resident in the river and half were fresh from Hudson Bay. I caught two just shy of 24-inches.

The flies I use in the lower 48 for trout weren't worth a hoot. Streamers I tied for the trip in #8 and #10 are still in my box. The best flies were deer hair bass bugs. I took half a dozen Dahlberg divers and various sliders. All came back ruined - tails torn off, collars smashed, portions of the body missing.

If you listen carefully, you will hear a distant hum. That's the brookies of Sutton River calling me. Dad and I never caught brook trout like that.



- Tim (<http://timmeadfishing.com/>)

Tip of the Month

Hemostats are locking plier-like tools that originated for the medical profession. They are ideal for a number of angling purposes and available from medical supply houses, through mail order and at fly shops. Use them for holding small flies to tie a leader, unhooking fish and for pulling up knots. They clamp right onto your fishing vest for safe keeping.

- Alen Baker

Fly of the Month

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

Repeat after me, “Dicosmoecus”. Okay, I don’t have a clue how to pronounce that but I can say October caddis and the October caddis is one of the few big hatches you’ll find here in the east. Also known as the fall caddis or the giant orange sedge these insects emerge

about the same time the mountain foliage turns bright orange and red. Caddis flies are a year-round staple in the diet of a trout and many of a day on the stream has been saved by a small elk hair caddis but in the fall fish tune into the October caddis. October caddis hatch in late afternoon and early evening, and despite its two-week life period the bugs are seldom seen in early mornings or mid-day. Yet when the sun begins to fall, fly fishermen should break out the big flies in bright oranges to key in on the hatch. Other patterns that can be used to match the October caddis include a large Sparkle Pupae in size 10 and 12, fished in the early afternoon and large orange Stimulators in the evening.

OCTOBER CADDIS **Fly of the Month 09.11**

HOOK : Dry fly, Tiemco 100 or Tiemco 200R, size 14,**12,10,8**

Thread : Uni 8/0 Rusty Brown

Body : Orange caddis dubbing, overwrap with thin, translucent latex

Legs : Light Brown Rooster Hackle

Wings : Coastal Deer Hair

Directions :

1. Start thread four turns back of the eye and advance to the hook bend above the barb to build a base. Select the latex (approx 3mm width) and cut at a forty five degree angle. This will allow a taper when starting the first wraps. Tie in about two wraps toward the eye and push the latex out of the way. Dub the thread and wrap tightly building a cigar shape taper toward the hook eye. Stop about a little more than a third the length of the shaft back from the eye. Let the bobbin hang.
2. Grab the latex firmly and begin tight and overlapped wraps toward the eye. Each wrap should cover the previous by half. Secure with several wraps at the end of the dubbing and let the bobbin hang.
3. Select a portion of deer hair, trim and clean the underfur. Stack. Tie in softly to adjust the length, which should be the length of the hook. Once you are okay with the length tie in firmly and taper the thread wraps toward the eye. Do not overbuild the wraps.

4. Dub the thread lightly but leave room to tie in the hackle with the thread.
5. Select the hackle and trim a quarter inch to tie in.
6. Tie in the hackle and advance the dubbing about three wraps. Leave enough room for the head.
7. Wrap the hackle three turns toward the eye with the shiny side toward the eye.
8. Tie in the hackle, trim, whip finish and apply head cement.

October Caddis



- Tom Adams, Tim Wilhelm

Casting for Recovery, Nov 19-20

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Casting for Recovery! As part of that celebration, we are launching our FIRST “TIE ONE on for CFR” Team Challenge, hosted by Kevin Howell and Davidson River Outfitters on November 19-20, 2011.

Casting for Recovery Carolinas is a unique program that provides NO COST support and education weekends for breast cancer survivors in any stage of recovery. Our 2½ day retreats offer survivors the

opportunity to learn fly fishing as they connect with other women. An all volunteer staff composed of medical, mental health and fly fishing professionals, provides instruction, support and the latest in breast cancer education.

- Joyce Shepherd

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>

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

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

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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1st VP: Joyce Shepherd – 704.392.8499
2nd 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
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Jim Mabrey (past president) – 704.786.0342