



Trout Tales

Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited



May 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello members and friends!

The Delayed Harvest streams are in full swing these days and I hope you have gotten out to enjoy the beauty of North Carolina. Wilson Creek and Jacob's Fork Creek (South Mountains State Park) have worked very well for me lately.

I am sending a special thank you out to **Tim Mead** for his assistance at the Carolina International School Earth Day event on April 18. Grades four through six seemed to really enjoy Tim tying a Woolly Bugger ... and also my special Mr. Bill's bug collection. The movies we showed also worked well.

Allow me to acknowledge **Alen Baker** for joining me at the Country Day Trout in the Classroom (TIC) stocking. Country Day had an exceptional year and their day at South Mountains State Park went very well. Our other schools have also stocked and I am looking forward to next year when I hope we can add three new schools ... bringing our total to seven TIC school programs.

The Orvis 101 and 201 is off to a good start, but we need volunteers to help with the basics. Please remember we all started out as green horns and how much an experienced fly fisherman helped each of us.

Thanks to **Tim Ramsey** and **David Hollifield** for another successful streamside at the Mitchell River on May 5.

And with our friend "RiverGirl" at the May meeting we have been discussing a summer float trip for bass. Watch for this as it should turn out to be another great RRTU activity.

Website of the month – <http://www.myflies.com/>
featuring our very own **Tom Adams**
Book of the month – *Trout Lessons* by Ed Engle

Please plan to attend our May 17 meeting and volunteer for RRTU activities. Thank you!

- **Bill Thomas** (bill.thomas1999@gmail.com)

RRTU Calendar

May 05: Streamside – Mitchell River
May 17: RRTU meeting
May 17-20: Wounded Warrior trip on the Mitchell.
May 18-20: Troutfest, Townsend, TN
May 23: How-to Where-to, REI Northlake

June 21: RRTU meeting
June 17-22: Rivercourse 2012, Lake Logan, Canton, NC
June 22-23: 2012 Youth National Fly Fishing Championships, Cherokee, NC
June 23: TU National Stream Clean-Up Day
June 27: How-to Where-to, Sharon Methodist Church

July: no regular meeting or newsletter
July 25: How-to Where-to, REI Northlake

Aug 16: RRTU meeting

May 17th meeting

Kelly McCoy (aka RiverGirl) on NW NC trout streams.
www.rivergirlfishing.com

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 2012 Friends of Rocky River (FORR) program campaign officially started in February. The campaign letter went out via electronic mail on February 23.

We hope that participation will grow as we move from year to year with the Friends of Rocky River program. Through the end of April we have raised \$3,367 toward a 2012 goal of \$8,000.

And we want to publicly thank several individuals and organizations who have donated recently:

April – **Steve Craig, Guy Bradley II, William MacDonald, William Anderson, Ally Bank (gift match)**

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

**Jonathan Miller
2900 Winghaven Lane
Charlotte, NC 28210**

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

Note that the 2012 FORR Campaign Letter has been added to the newsletter. The letter and the Pledge Card appear as the last page of the newsletter.

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

April 19, 2012 meeting

Tim Mead talked about catching pike using fly fishing techniques. He learned about pike on a pond as an eighth grader in Michigan. The flies used are zonker style, Dahlberg diver, squirrel collar styles on 2/0 hooks and 5 to 6 inches long. Since pike are “toothy” critters,

leaders are heavy bass mono wire tippet or titanium leader as tippet. Tim noted that he caught 72 pike over 42 inches each in one day on Lake North Saskatchewan and on Phelps Lake ... sounds like a good day on the water!

Editor's note: Tim was recently mentioned in a Charlotte Observer article.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2012/05/09/3229222/stanly-county-teams-win-hunting.html>

This article notes that Tim was recently elected to the board of directors of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. Congratulations Tim!

Thanks to all who were able to attend the April meeting.

- **Editor**

Project Healing Waters (email from Marvin Cash)

Just a quick note to thank you for letting Project Healing Waters be a part of your celebration last week. I really enjoyed the event. Your members were extremely generous -- we raised over \$400 selling raffle tickets.

I spoke to Tom and we are going to set up a date for me to come to one of your meetings and do a more formal presentation. Hopefully, I will be able to get TU's National Veteran Services Coordinator to attend as well.

Also, please feel free to pass along any Rocky River news/events you would like me to send out.

I look forward to expanding the relationship between our two organizations.

Tight lines,

Marvin

PS. We are also running an electronics gadget drive. Electronics are recycled responsibly and PHW gets the

money. For more details, you can go to:
<http://charlottephw.gazelle.com/>. Please feel free to pass along to your membership.

- **Marvin S. Cash**

Upcoming RRTU Meeting Topics/Presenters

May 17

Kelly McCoy – owner of RiverGirl Fishing Company in Todd. Kelly visited with us last year and she's back by popular demand. She will talk about some of the trout streams in her part of NC (Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties). There's some talk of a float trip later this year for bass ... Kelly may have some ideas for us on that trip. Read all about RiverGirl Fishing Company, Kelly, and her unusual pets. Be sure to check out Petunia. <http://www.rivergirlfishing.com/>

June 21

TJ Roy. Do you know about the plans for the Catawba River below Lake James? TJ will give us the scoop and talk about float trips on this tailrace fishery.
<http://www.orvis.com/charlotte>

August 16

TBD

Other Events

May 17-20, Wounded Warrior fishing trip on the Mitchell River. Volunteers are needed.

We're hosting the U.S.M.C. Wounded Warrior Battalion from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for a weekend fly fishing retreat on the Mitchell River in Dobson, NC. As a special treat we will take them to a private trophy trout stream hidden on Boone Fork Creek. This outing is in conjunction with the Carolina Fly Fishing Club of Huntersville, NC and Dr. Carmen V. Russionello of East Carolina University, Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, Wounded Warrior Program.

Please contact: steve.patterson@cherryfp.com

704-605-1278

May 18-20, Troutfest. Townsend Visitors Center, Townsend, TN. Fri 6:00 PM banquet and auction, tickets \$50. Sat, Sun 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM: exposition, free admission. Sponsored by The Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Website: www.troutfest.org

June 22-23, Youth National Fly Fishing Championships, Cherokee, NC. If you wish to volunteer to assist with judging/controlling, please contact Paul Bourcq at pbourcq@gmail.com. You can learn more about our Youth National Team by visiting <http://usyouthflyfishingteam.com/> .

Appletree Spring 2012 Trip April 12 - 15

Appletree 2012 Group Outing Dates: April 12 – 15 on site B (50 person maximum) and October 4 – 7 on site A (25 person maximum).

As promised in the April newsletter, a few Appletree testimonials:

The weather, the food and the companionship was the very best at Appletree this spring. I caught good numbers of fish on the Tuck and the DH on Thursday. However, numbers do not compare to exploring and fly fishing new waters. On Friday, Jim Mabrey and I fished a wild stream. I caught a few typical wild rainbows then out of a nice pool a really nice 14 plus inch rainbow took my Thunderhead dry fly. Now that is a quality catch on a wild stream. Jim returned the next day and caught a good number as he went wild for two days straight. Tom Adams had fished the larger rafting waters below the DH on Friday evening with some success, so I asked to go along on Saturday as he wanted to give it another try. The first 30 minutes were unproductive and we both had decided to move downstream to another riffle and run. As we started to leave fish began rising everywhere across the river. I put on an 18 Adams Parachute to try and match the little gray insect I saw hovering close to the water surface. On the second cast, I caught a wild rainbow and told Tom to put on the same fly because it was working. Unfortunately that was the only catch between us. As the Adams Parachute did not work again we each changed flies every 5 minutes for over an hour. Then the hatch stopped. It left us bound and determined to figure out the hatch and return to catch those rising fish next time. I have talked to a local Guide that explained what was going on with the hatch. So, if you want to know the rest of the this story and where the wild stream is - you will have to see me at Appletree this fall. I will be there, count on it!
- Alen Baker

I began attending meetings with RRTU this year as a new chapter member. At a meeting, the chapter's annual Appletree outing was discussed, an attendee recommended the event to me. Although having only met a few of the members, I was warmly, and, graciously welcomed by one and all, but, in particular, the chapter president, Bill Thomas (An outstanding host, and, with the ability to make one feel as though they have known him for years). The setting was stunning, and, the camaraderie was exceptional. Fortunately, since I had no knowledge of the waters, two members, Tom Adams and Paul Isaacs, were most gracious, and, asked me to join them. They willingly shared their expertise and knowledge of the area. Both gentlemen went out of their way to put me on fish, and, provide me with a fine day of fly fishing. There must of have been close to thirty members, and, all ran like a well-oiled machine...food was outstanding, and, one can't go wrong with this group of fellow fly fishing enthusiasts. Great time, wonderful fellowship and, I look forward to future outings with RRTU. If you have an opportunity to join a Rocky River TU outing, don't hesitate.
- Jeff Bradley

Sounds like a FINE time. And a few pictures from the April Appletree trip:

Thursday One Fly contest winners



The center of the Appletree camp universe – the firepit.



WAIT ... maybe the center is the shelter/kitchen!



And the fishing ... that's the center too!



Appletree information is also now available on our web site -

<http://www.rockyrivertu.org/appletree.asp>

- **Jim Mabrey**

Streamside Program 2012

As we start a new year with RRTU, we are also going to try to refresh our streamside programs. This year **Tom Adams, John Oliver, Tim Ramsey** and I will be hosting 3-4 streamside fishing Saturdays.

Thus far in 2012 we have hosted two events:

March 17 – North Mills River

May 5 – Mitchell River

Watch this space in the June newsletter as we will have pictures of the May 5 Mitchell River streamside. And begin to deliver information about the next streamside adventure.

For those of you that are interested or want more information on the RRTU 2012 streamside program, please send an e-mail to NCTroutScout@gmail.com.

- **David Hollifield**

Orvis Fly Fishing 101

Orvis will offer the beginning fly fishing program again this year.

Location: Orvis, 6800 Phillips Place Suite F, Charlotte, NC 28210.

Phone: 704-571-6100.

Dates: May 5, 6, 12, 13, 26, 27. June 2, 3, 16, 17, 23, 24

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

This is a great opportunity for the beginner to improve their skills; and for the experienced to pick up some volunteer hours. Remember that RRTU volunteers receive hours toward the Volunteer Drawing at the 2013 birthday party.

If you are interested, please phone the Orvis store or contact Bill Thomas.

- **Bill Thomas**

Rivercourse – June 17-22, 2012

Rivercourse 2012 will be held June 17-22 at Lake Logan near Canton, NC. Rivercourse, in its tenth session, is for boys and girls ages 13-15. This camp emphasizes Trout Unlimited's mission, the conservation of cold water fisheries, while at the same time teaching campers the basics of fly fishing, a sport for a lifetime. Rivercourse tuition is \$595 per camper. You will find more information, including application forms, at <http://rivercourse.org/>.

- **Editor**

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

- 2012 TU Annual Meeting -

You will NOT have to travel far for the 2012 TU Annual Meeting though you will still have to "go west." More precisely ... northwest to our very own Asheville! Watch for news on this exciting event and mark your calendar for this September 14-16, 2012 event.

- Other "stuff" -

(1) In the News (see website): KSL Outdoors: Fishing the Green River with some helpful electricity (KSL.com), Sucking the river dry (denverpost.com), Conservation is just part of Trout in the Classroom (post-gazette.com), Saving the Tongass (midcurrent.com).

(2) TU in Action (see website): Ask the President to protect Bristol Bay; Protect our Water...Protect our Fishing; NC Brook Trout: On the Rise; PA's SRBC Suspends Water Withdrawals; Learn to fly fish with Orvis and TU.

(3) 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>

- On the Rise -

The Sportsman Channel will host this years fourth season of Trout Unlimited's television program *On the Rise*.

Show 7 will highlight Asheville, NC and a sub-species of brook trout. Show times (all times Eastern) are:

Tuesday at 03:00 AM

Thursday at 06:30 AM

Friday at 04:30 PM

Saturday at 02:00 PM

<http://www.thesportsmanchannel.com/>
<http://www.tu.org/press-room/on-the-rise>

Providence Day School Trout in the Classroom

The Providence Day School Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program recently released an article for their school website. They also released some trout ... at South Mountains State Park on May 5. Read about this successful three year old TIC program here:

http://www.providenceday.org/RelId/759325/ISvars/default/PDS_Students_Raise_Release_Trout.htm

Please join RRTU as we acknowledge the stewardship shown by Providence Day School Environmental Science instructor **Derrick Willard**.

- Editor

How-to Where-to Sessions

The Rocky River Chapter of Trout Unlimited (RRTU) Presents...How-To-Where-To Sessions

Each month except during the Fly Tying Sessions from November thru March, members and guests of RRTU are invited for an informal, knowledge sharing session (simply a whiteboard, handouts and interactive conversation) about how to fly fish and/or where to fly fish. Topics and which gathering location will be published well in advance in both the chapter newsletter and on www.rockyrivertu.org.

How-To-Where-To Session Goals:

- o Reach out to those interested in water conservation and fly fishing
- o Help share knowledge among beginners and veteran fly fisherman (you do not have to be a TU member)
- o Create an interactive, participatory, low-key and friendly gathering of like minds.

Schedule – 4th Wednesday at 6:30 pm each Month listed below

April **How-To-Where-To** **Session** **at** **Sharon**
Methodist Church (South Park)

Fly Fishing with Dry Flies

Fly Fishing Delayed Harvest Streams

(Note: No April session in 2012)

May How-To-Where-To Session at REI (North Lake, Huntersville)

23rd Fly Fishing with Terrestrials
Fly Fishing Wild and Catch-and-Release Streams

June How-To-Where-To Session at Sharon Methodist Church (South Park)

27th Fly Fishing with Streamers
Fly Fishing Remote Headwaters - Cool Places during the Dog Days of Summer

July How-To-Where-To Session at REI (North Lake, Huntersville)

25th Fly Fishing with Wet Flies
Fly Fishing Stillwater

August How-To-Where-To Session at Sharon Methodist Church (South Park)

22nd Fly Fishing with Small Flies, Size 18 and Smaller
Fly Fishing Wild and Catch-and-Release Streams

September How-To-Where-To Session at REI (North Lake, Huntersville)

26th Fly Fishing with Dry Flies
Fly Fishing Delayed Harvest Streams

October How-To-Where-To Session at Sharon Methodist Church (South Park)

24th Fly Fishing with Nymphs
Fly Fishing Tailraces

Note: Each session will be roughly 1 ½-2 hours long with 20-30 minutes on how-to, 30-40 minutes on where-to and 20-30 minutes on **Tips and Dealing with Unusual Conditions** every session. The group at a given session can decide together to spend more or less time on a given topic.

Session Leaders: Tom Adams and Alen Baker (we encourage other RRTU members to become session leaders with us)

Direction to REI (North Lake, Huntersville): Take I-77 North to Exit 18, Harris Blvd. west. Turn right at the stoplight that takes you to the shopping area with **Target**. REI is on the corner, very visible with parking in front and to the side. The meeting room is in the back left corner from the entrance.

Directions to Sharon United Methodist Church (South Park): The church is across the street from the Cheesecake Factory side of the mall on Sharon Road. Park in the church parking lot and ... watch for the RRTU signs.

- Tom Adams/Alen Baker

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 **Keith Richardson** regarding the April Appletree event ... THANKS Keith!

Just a few of the memorable Appletree events and people which help to recall those memories:

- The sign to Appletree...always a welcome sight after a day on the "Nanny," because you knew there was great food and camaraderie at the end of the road!
- The nightly "fires and lies," where there was plenty of warmth and the fish were always bigger!
- The shelter, operations headquarters for Jim Mabrey and Co. and the fantastic meals ... and a great gathering place!
- The "First Annual One Fly" tournament ... sure to be a coveted trophy for years to come!
- Our fearless leader, Bill Thomas, aka "Bug Man."

So many other great memories:

- The Coffee Stout beer brewed by John Oliver!! Wow ... bring that again!!
- Eating lunch on the banks of the Nantahala!
- Thursday night's temperature!
- The cobbler deserts on Saturday night!
- All the breakfasts!
- Having "Thanksgiving dinner" in April!

And this was my first Appletree ... can you tell?

- Keith

Tip of the Month

Many years ago a number of RRTU chapter members supplied tips for the newsletter. We are bringing some of those tips out of retirement and hope you find these useful.

Tips for the Fisherman – Where to Find Trout (Alen Baker)

Trout love to lie under stream banks that have been undercut by the twisting current. Look ahead for such places and roll a nymph into them before you approach

close enough to flush out the fish. When you do not find Trout lying below the mouth of a cold feeder stream in hot weather, explore the stream itself. The fish may have left this river in the morning to lie in the brook during the heat of the day. Even if it is only a trickle, the first pool may be full of Trout. The easiest Trout to catch with a dry fly are those that lie in shallow fast water or ripple runs. The hardest Trout to catch are in a still, glassy patch where they can examine and take the fly with leisure.

- **Alen Baker**

Fly of the Month

RRTU is pleased to announce that **Alen Baker** has agreed to partner with **Tom Adams** and continue the Fly of the Month series beginning with this issue. We want to thank **Tim Wilhelm** for tirelessly partnering with Tom for the last two years and bringing his insight into the world of tying flies. Of course Tim is not going anywhere as we expect that he will next focus on other articles for the newsletter including but not limited to rod-building. Thanks Tim for all you do for coldwater conservation and RRTU!

This “fly of the month” represents the first in the **Alen Baker/Tom Adams** series.

Inchworms

North Carolina trout streams are cooled by a canopy that provides a generous diet of terrestrials that includes inchworms. Higher gradient, well canopied streams have less aquatic insects due to the scouring effects of spring flooding. With fewer aquatic insects trout are highly dependent on the canopy that provides terrestrials. Ants, beetles and hopper flies have typically been the most popular terrestrial imitations utilized by fly fishermen. Experienced anglers may well include inchworms among the most popular. These terrestrials are generally the most abundant during the warmer months of each year.

An inchworm gets its general name from the little one inch size caterpillars that we find walking on limbs with a “grand arch”, covering about an inch with each step

of their unusual means of travel. We also see inchworms suspended on their silk line. Some of these caterpillar species are much bigger than an inch and some are smaller. Some caterpillar species are fuzzy and look nothing like what we consider to be inchworms so we typically tie a woolly worm or crackleback pattern to imitate them.

This month we will focus only on the “inchworm” like caterpillar pattern. The most noticeable color inchworms found are chartreuse or insect green, very bright greens that blend with the new leaves of spring. As we move into the summer and fall seasons, inchworm colors tend to be brown or grayish-tan, very dull earth tones that blend with the bark and limb colors. Inchworm patterns as with any terrestrial pattern may be fished dry or wet. Typically, the pattern is tied with materials that will float if greased with floatant and sink readily once soaked when no floatant is applied.

One of the most original fly patterns for an inchworm is based on using deer hair tied laterally along the hook shank. These patterns look as much like a stick as they do an inch worm but they float really well due to the hollow deer hair. Tying an inchworm in the style of an San Juan Worm allows the tyer to create a more worm-like imitation and even imitate the “grand arch” if so desired.

My first experience with the inchworm pattern was with Bo Cash. He ties his “greenie weenie” pattern and fishes the inchworm as a dropper to a Wulff or elk hair caddis dry fly.

We were fishing the remote headwaters of Wilson Creek in August and he specifically wanted to show me how aggressive a trout would hit his “greenie weenie”. The brown trout in this remote stream are very wary and even more so in August in low water conditions. From below a nice, stillwater pool, he carefully placed his elk hair caddis and “greenie-weenie” dropper to the far left side of the pool just short of the moving run of water coming into the pool. Bo says “now what this!” Out of a dark area against a large rock to the far right side of the pool, you could clearly see this wave head straight across the pool in a bee line toward the two flies. The “greenie weenie” was slowly sinking slightly

as he meant for it to look natural (terrestrials often struggle on the surface, floating for a few minute until they drown and slowly sink). Bamm!!! A nice 11 inch wild brown trout hit the “greenie weenie” and made it his own. The trout had traveled 6-8 feet across the pool for his prey. I was stunned and amazed that any trout would travel that far for a take - especially in the slow, dog days of summer when the water temperatures are near lethal levels for trout.

I try to recreate that day of fishing every August now.

- Alen

Inchworm

Fly of the Month 05.2012

HOOK : Mustad 37160 or equivalent
Thread : Uni 8/0 or equivalent in Chartreuse
Abdomen/Thorax : Chartreuse Chenille

The directions and photos are of the Mustad curved hook, it can be substituted with equal fishing effectiveness with any number of wet fly hooks.

The directions are for the simplest method, that works and it was so simple I had to add to it. Do not feel the need unless you can't stand it. Catches more fisherman than fish.....

Directions:

1. Thread wrap toward the bend, from three eyelengths from the eye to a point in line with the hook eye. Let the bobbin hang.
2. Select a two or three inch length of chenille and using scissors or fingernails, strip the chenille from the core thread. Expose about an eighth of an inch and tie in by the exposed chenille thread.
3. Advance the thread to the eye and wrap the chenille forward to three eyelengths from the eye and tie off. Trim the excess chenille and tie in a head. Apply head cement.

See how easy this is. Takes about five minutes. I added an ostrich herl for spikes and peacock herl for the head. That adds about two more minutes. I have observed a color variation in the field that was present

simultaneously with the bright green and offered a tan as an alternate. Good luck !

Inchworm Mustard



Inchworm Peacock



Inchworm Tan



Inchworm Wet



- Tom Adams, Alen Baker

**Rocky River Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Fly of the Month INDEX**

Attractor Flies

Blonde Wulff	March'11
Yellow Humpy	August'11

Caddis Dry Flies

Caddis Coachman	October'10
Elk Hair Caddis	January'11
October Caddis	September'11

Dry Flies

Blue Quill	March'12	
Blue-Winged Olive (BWO)	October'11	
Early Nelson	May'11	Southern
Appalachian pattern		
Gray Fox Variant	September'10	
Light Cahill (Catskill style)	August'10	
Parachute Adams	November'10	

Nymphs

Copper John	February'12
Czech Nymph	February'11
Flat Bodied Stonefly	July'10
Kevin's Stonefly	January'12
Pheasant Tail Nymph	June'10

Streamers

Mickey Finn	April'11	
Rednoserudolf	December'10	Christmas
Special		

Terrestrials

Parachute Ant	June'11
Yellow Palmer	April'10

Wet Flies

Light Cahill Wet	April'12	
Sheep Fly	May'10	Southern
Appalachian pattern		
Soft Hackle	November'11	

- Alen Baker

The Rod Project

Wow! What a weekend Merlefest was, but what does a music festival have to do with making a bamboo rod. Let me explain.

Off to the left of the main stage and beyond the food tent is a tent where various musical instrument vendors set up in to sell their wares. One of those vendors is Bob Kogut of Lenior, NC. Bob makes absolutely beautiful fiddles with some of the best looking maple backs I have ever seen. (Ever wonder why it is called fiddle back maple.)

I stopped in to talk with Bob and asked him what he did with his scraps. After telling him about the rod project, and finding out that Bob is also a fly fisherman, I have a box of fiddle back maple cutoffs coming my way. Hopefully I can find a piece in that box that is suitable for a reel seat and if I do, I'll try to work it into the rod.

I've decided to make a 7-0 foot 4 weight taper called the "Sir D." The original taper was developed by Wayne Cattanach by blending two tapers: the Paul Young Midge (6'-3", 4 wt) and the Cross Slyph (7'-0", 5 wt). The resulting taper was then modified again by the late Darryl Hayashida who beefed up the tip a little bit and is the reason the taper is referred to as the "Sir D." I'll try to upload a little more information about the taper to www.rockyrivertru.org but I think everyone will be pleased.

All of my rods, except one, have been flamed and I tend to lean towards orange or brown color scheme. I already have Leonard style cap and ring reel seat hardware made by Tony Larson (<http://rushriverrods.com/reelseats.html>). If I don't already have the proper sized ferrule, I'll probably order that from Tony too.

The rod will be a two piece two tip rod. The guides will be Snake Brand guides, which in many makers' minds are the best snake guides made. Stripper will be agate; thread will be Pearsall's Gossamer.

- **Tim Wilhelm**

2012 Officer and Board Challenge

A member of our board, **David Hollifield**, recently challenged the RRTU officers and board. David's proposal was this:

- Catch at least one trout per month in 2012.
- "Catch" means in the net. The Jim Casada "temporary connection with another life form" does not count; some refer to this temporary connection as the "long distance release."
- The penalty for not catching at least one trout per month - a \$10 Rivercourse donation for that month.

This challenge seems to offer a win on both sides of the coin ... either we are out fishing more than usual and (hopefully) catching more trout or we miss a month and support Rivercourse.

Please check here to see a chart which shows challenge results:

<http://rockyrivertru.org/boardChallenge.asp>

If you would like to join us in this worthy pursuit, contact an officer or board member.

- **Editor**

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

President: Bill Thomas – 704.231.7492

1st VP: Joyce Shepherd – 704.392.8499

2nd VP: Tom Adams – 704.877.3367

Secretary: Tim Wilhelm – 704.442.1253

Treasurer: Jonathan Miller – 704.552.0051

Paul Isaacs (2012) – 704.960.3649

Open TBA replacing Jonathan Miller (2012)

Alen Baker (2013) – 704.875.1505

David Hollifield (2013) – 704.938.8735

John Oliver (2014) – 704.467.1063

Tim Ramsey (2014) – 980.621.4562

Jim Mabrey (past president) – 704.786.034

February 2012

To: Members of Rocky River Trout Unlimited (#348)

Re: Friends of Rocky River (FORR)
2012 Fund Raising Campaign

We are pleased to advise that our 2011 campaign raised over \$5,500 or almost half of the funds required for our operations budget and chapter activities. Our goal for 2012 is \$8,000 which will constitute the majority of the funds needed to support our chapter activities.

Our purpose in establishing the FORR Program is to transition our primary fund raising initiative away from a banquet program format over to cash contributions. While we will continue to have selected raffles, auctions and companion trip opportunities throughout the year, we want our primary funding to emanate from cash donations from our members, friends, and business sponsors. Prize and trip donations to auction or raffle are likewise welcomed.

The funds raised in 2011 enabled us to support the following projects, activities, and programs:

Sponsored youth scholarship for the Rivercourse program
Trout in the Classroom
North Carolina Wildlife Federation Scholarship
Donated to TU Southeast Land Protection project
Winter fly tying program for all skill levels

Below is a pledge card for our 2012 drive. We are requesting this to be returned with your donation by May 1st. We appreciate your loyal support and look forward to hearing from you. Please phone Steve Craig (704-609-7098) or Terry Hill (704-847-4438) if you have any questions regarding the FORR program.

Steve Craig
Co-Chair Friends of Rocky River
RRTU President 1983-1984

Terry Hill
Co-Chair Friends of Rocky River
RRTU President 1990

Friends of Rocky River 2012 Pledge Card

Name: _____

Date: _____ Email address: _____

Amount: \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other _____

Make checks payable to **Rocky River Trout Unlimited**. Mail your donation to:

Jonathan Miller, 2900 Winghaven Lane, Charlotte, NC 28210

If your employer has a matching gifts program, please include those forms too!