



Trout Tales

Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited

September 2013



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Though not remarkable in these non-analog times, it seems as though a year has only taken a couple of months. Here we are at the annual business meeting and elections for your board.

Reflecting back, several things come to mind. While we did accomplish some great things, there is a nagging feeling that so much more could be done. I will go over some of the work done from a high level in a moment.

The other thing I am thinking about is the amount of hours spent and personal time devoted by the chapter members to making Rocky River TU not just passable, but, extraordinary. Our chapter members exhibit an underlying concern and desire to make a difference in our state with this unifying, common goal based on cold clean water.

Trout habitat. Whether we chose this fish and sport as a byproduct of caring for the natural world, or, that our love of trout resulted in our wanting to protect our natural resources, the result is the same.

When speaking to a group of one hundred high school students at a recent streamside clean up, and realizing what I must look like to them, I told them to forget me, but, to remember two things. One was "trout don't live in no ugly places" and the other was "it all runs downhill". Those kids worked very hard on a very hot and steamy July day and left with the knowledge that they have, and, can continue to make a difference in *their* world.

Trout Unlimited is a ground up organization. That is to say that any member has the same voice and input as anyone else. While the national headquarters has a handful of paid professionals, the organization is made up of volunteers. You and I. In whatever capacity or involvement we desire. When I first became involved I was amazed by the devotion and efforts from those that wanted our chapter to be successful. Not in a manner for recognition, but from a desire to be with kindred folks and have the best possible environment for fun and for accomplishing the things individuals cannot. This is a powerful group

when the call comes. The talent I have seen is humbling. There are decades of involvement and stewardship that I am proud to be associated with.

Take Jonathan Miller as an example. This is the end of his term on the board and as treasurer, though he will maintain the amazing work on this newsletter. Never seeking recognition (I am sure he will be surprised by this) he has quietly invested an astonishing amount of hours and energy into putting together your news and keeping the finances in order, giving accurate and understandable information on our monies which in turn has allowed the chapter to take on more projects. With Jonathan's steady and relentless pursuit of information for the newsletter to the huge task of assembly and editing we have a very, very good newsletter. In fact, it is nominated again, for the TU Bollinger Award and that is something to be proud of.

So, hug a member today. Shake the hand of a board member. *We* are all in this together and *we* can make a difference.

Now for a short list of what you and your chapter have done this year.

- The Friends of Rocky River exceeded its goal of fundraising in 2012
- By adding the ability to collect donations through credit cards
- The February annual celebration donations grew by three times as much as the year before
- The Fly Tying classes grew and added guest tiers as well as live video
- Established a letter for reaching out to new members
- Trout in the Classroom, growing and reaching more children, adding several new locations
- Publication of Go To Flies, a collection of Fly of the Month articles, which was a very successful fundraiser
- South Mountains State Park Trout Enhancement and Restoration, a five year, hands-on program for RRTU
- South Mountains Nature Day, a very popular day event sponsored by the

South Mountains Park with members teaching casting and tying

- Acquiring an Adopt A Stream for RRTU of the Delayed Harvest section of Wilson Creek adding that to the upper waters for our participation
- Appletree spring, very successful, especially the fun part
- Streamside events, South Mountain and Catawba
- How To Where To monthly meetings, filling the year on non fly tying months
- Rivercourse
- Stream Clean Day on Little Sugar Creek
- Members helping beginners at Orvis 101 and 201 events
- Participation in the National TU Women's and general conference 2013
- Financial aid to the Southeast Land Protection
- Political action at the state legislature on behalf of Trout Unlimited by chapter members

As you can see, through your efforts this has been an extraordinary year.

- Tom Adams (f64rrtu@gmail.com)

RRTU Calendar

Sept 19: RRTU meeting (annual elections)
Sept 25: How to Where to session, REI Northlake
Sept 27-29: TU Annual Meeting, Madison, WI
Sept 28: South Mountains State Park Nature Day

Oct 10-13: Appletree outing
Oct 17: RRTU meeting
Oct 23: How to Where to session, Sharon United Methodist Church (South Park)

Nov 09: Streamside, Wilson Creek
Nov 16: Fly tying, REI Northlake
Nov 21: RRTU meeting

Nov 29: Streamside, Wilson Creek

December: no regular meeting or newsletter

Dec 14: Fly tying, REI Northlake (tentative)

Sept 19th Meeting

Annual meeting and elections

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
1000 East Morehead Street
Room 207, 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 2013 Friends of Rocky River (FORR) program campaign officially started in February. The campaign letter went out via electronic mail on February 22.

We hope that participation will grow as we move from year to year with the Friends of Rocky River program. The February 28 FORR Benefit provided an excellent launch for the 2013 campaign! Based upon individual giving and corporate donations we are over 90% towards our \$8,000 goal for this year.

And we want to publicly thank those individuals who donated in August:

Tim Mead, Duke Energy match (Alen Baker)

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

These matching donations from area companies have contributed a full 25% of our total FORR funds for the 2013 year thus far! So donations from employees of companies like Ally Bank, Bank of America, Duke Energy and other companies that match employee giving are VERY helpful for our annual FORR campaign!

Note that the 2013 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

August 15 meeting

Dave Hise. Mr. Hise, owner of Casters Fly Shop in Hickory, joined us at the August meeting.

Casters Fly Shop.

<http://www.castersflyshop.com>

Thank you to our RRTU members and guests who were able to attend the monthly meeting.

- **Editor**

Upcoming RRTU Meeting Topics/Presenters

September 19

RRTU annual meeting, elections.

Please join us as we review the 2012-13 fiscal year and conduct elections for open offices and board positions.

October 17
Lance Milks, Appalachian Tenkara.

November 21
Jake Rash, NCWRC.

Other Activities and Events

Appletree

Our fall Appletree trip is just around the corner. We hope that many of you will join us as we celebrate the beginning of the delayed harvest season that begins in October. And it is not too late to begin planning for the October Appletree trip ... but don't delay too long as we're only four weeks from camping, fishing, eating and fellowshipping at Appletree.

Fall Appletree dates:

- October 10-13, 2013 on Site B

Fees for the fall 2013 Appletree trip will be \$40 per person for two nights and \$50 per person for three nights. Send payment by check, payable to Rocky River Trout Unlimited, to:

Jonathan Miller
2900 Winghaven Ln
Charlotte, NC 28210

If you would prefer to use PayPal, a link is available on our web site home page: <http://www.rockyrivertu.org>. Please include a notation indicating your PayPal payment is for the fall Appletree trip.

For those who may be unfamiliar with our Appletree outings, these events are four day/three night tent camping events on the Nantahala River near Aquone, NC. RRTU supplies a number of meals and handles the camping fee for the weekend. Just show up with your fishing and camping equipment – and enjoy yourself! You will NOT find yourself going hungry or thirsty at Appletree ... plenty of food and drink is shared around the covered shelters and the fire pit. The spring Appletree event had the entire crew enjoying some grilled pheasant fresh from a member's South Dakota

hunting trip! No offense meant to the colonel ... but that pheasant was definitely finger licking good!

And you will most likely hear some tales of flies lost and found, some fish lost via the “long distance release” method, and of course – the very famous **Bill Thomas’** story of the firewood dog. Some have even tried to take notes on this story for future fact checking ... but of course, you KNOW that there is absolutely, positively NO embellishment of this story from year to year!

And there’s a variety of fishing in that area too ... there’s the Nantahala Delayed Harvest fishery, White Oak Creek and the “big” Nantahala all nearby. And if you want to chase blue lines ... Great Smoky Mountain National Park is not too far. Some venture a bit further and fish Fires Creek, the Hiwassee River, Big Snowbird Creek, the Tuckasegee River and countless other streams both near and a little farther.

Here’s a picture from the April 2013 trip.



We enjoy Appletree trip photos, so share them and we’ll include some in a future newsletter.

- **Editor**
- **Jim Mabrey**

South Mountains State Park Trout Enhancement and Restoration

The Trout Enhancement and Restoration (TER) initiative at South Mountains State Park has officially started. On April 14 **Jim Mackey** and **Tom Raispis** joined me as we started the documentation of natural barriers and potential stream projects within the park. One potential project – the removal of the reinforced concrete bridge abutments near the upper falls campsite. During high water events these abutments divert water around these structures and this erodes the edges of the stream bank; this, in turn, leads to silt and debris being carried downstream in Jacob Fork.

Picture from the April 14 event:



TER Initiative Objectives:

1. Identify, prioritize and complete coldwater conservation projects within South Mountains State Park that are defined while executing the Trout Enhancement and Restoration initiative.
2. Develop a comprehensive profile of wild and native trout populations within South Mountains State Park.
3. Provide a general education to anglers and the general public in regards to wild and native trout populations within the South Mountains.

4. Restore one or more selected headwater tributaries within South Mountains State Park to native trout if deemed appropriate by state-of-the-art scientific methods.

We've put together two blue backpacks that are available to check-out at the ranger's station of the park. Each contains a handheld GPS unit, handheld pH meter, stream thermometer, creel cards for documentation and a notebook with instructions for each. You're welcome and encouraged to check-out the equipment any time you're available.

If you're interested in coming out or lending a hand, please give me a call or shoot me an email at tramsey@wardtank.com, Cell # 980-621-4562.

- **Tim Ramsey**

Streamside Program 2013

Our first streamside event of the 2013 year was held on Sunday, March 17, in South Mountains State Park (SMSP). Several RRTU members and guests attended and found that you CAN fish on St. Patrick's Day!

The second 2013 streamside was held Sunday, May 19, on the Catawba River Delayed Harvest water in Marion, NC.

Our third 2013 streamside was a washout ... all the rain forced us to cancel the planned South Fork of the New River fishing and camping trip that was originally scheduled for August 2-4. We will keep you posted on any future planning for a similar trip.

November 29: Wilson Creek

This event represents our traditional post-Thanksgiving streamside. We will fish Wilson Creek in the morning, have lunch at the Mortimer Campground shelter and then fish a bit more in the afternoon. More details as we finalize plans.

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

- **David Hollifield**

Wilson Creek - adoption

Please join your RRTU officers and board in thanking board member **Joseph Beckert** for his recent efforts to add another section of Wilson Creek as RRTU "adopted" water! Ask Joe about all the phone calls, letters, electronic mails that were part of the adoption process. And to celebrate we hope you will join us on November 9 as we have our first event on this section of Wilson.

-**Editor**

Adopt-a-Stream clean up event at Wilson Creek.

We will need RRTU members to meet at Brown Mountain Beach Resort on Saturday November 9th at 10:00 AM at the check-in station.

Camping at the Brown Mountain Beach Resort that night is \$10 per person if interested; food will be provided for lunch plus dinner/breakfast the next day for campers.

Our club has adopted the delayed harvest section of the Wilson Creek and this is our first clean up event, with plans for twice a year.

Fishing while picking up trash during the day followed by more fishing on Sunday is the plan. Garbage bags will be provided and there is a dumpster located at the Brown Mountain Beach Resort.

The delayed harvest section will be stocked earlier that week so this should be a great event. Please RSVP to **Joseph Beckert** at Joseph_m_Beckert@ml.com or 704-362-3322 so we can plan for food and camping interest.

-**Joseph Beckert**

Carolina Raptor Center – fish needed!

RRTU recently received a request from the Carolina Raptor Center regarding an immediate need for several of their raptors ... two injured Bald Eagles and four

injured Osprey. Here's a portion of the electronic mail we received:

...
We currently are trying to rehabilitate two injured Bald Eagles and four injured Osprey. Unfortunately, we are in a tough spot right now, as we are very low on a supply of fish to feed our patients. The eagle's diets are about 80% fish, and the osprey diet is 100% fish.

I'm trying to contact the various local sport fishing organizations, in hopes that they might be able to help us out... as there is an immediate need. We have run dangerously low. Any type of fish will do. I was hoping you might be able to put out a quick call to your members and advise them of our situation. As you probably know, we treat over 1000 injured birds of prey a year, and have a 68% successful release rate... among the best in the country. I believe some TU members already make some fish contributions to the CRC, but I thought I'd see if any of your associates could help us out again. Our need is constant throughout the year, but our supply is not that constant.

Anything you might be able to do would be appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact the following individual:

Carly Smith
Rehabilitation Coordinator
Carolina Raptor Center
(704) 875-6521 ext. 213
www.carolinaraptorcenter.org

For those that just like to fish around our Charlotte area here is a mission for you. Go catch any fish locally, maybe with your kids, at one of the access places on Lake Norman or a local pond. Whatever you can keep legally, take home, freeze and let one of our RRTU leaders know you are actively working to help the Carolina Raptor Center. You can either take your catch directly to them in Latta Park or coordinate to have someone in the chapter take your fish to their facility. Need a pond to fish, Contact Jim Mabrey rtujim@gmail.com.

-Alen Baker

TU – National, North Carolina and RRTU

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

Got a TU 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>

- NC Trout Unlimited -

<http://www.nctu.org>

- Rocky River Trout Unlimited -

<http://www.rockyrivertu.org>

- Editor

Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

The 2013-2014 TIC activities will begin when school starts. Watch this space for additional updates.

Note that we have already purchased the necessary equipment for the RiverGirl setup at Kelly McCoy's fly fishing shop in Todd, NC. And the tank there has fish now ... here's RRTU's **Bill Thomas** delivering brown trout from the Marion Hatchery in late August:



Current TIC Schools:

- Cannon School of Concord
- Charlotte Country Day School
- Community School of Davidson
- Davidson Day School

- Lincoln Charter School
- Providence Day School. Web site:
<http://pdsblogs.org/chargertrout/>
- Quail Hollow Middle School

And we have some other schools that have inquired about the TIC program recently.

- **Bill Thomas**

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 24th How-To-Where-To Session at Sharon United Methodist Church (South Park)

- Fly Fishing with Dry Flies
- Fly Fishing Delayed Harvest Streams

May 22nd How-To-Where-To Session at REI (North Lake, Huntersville)

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

June 26th How-To-Where-To Session at Sharon United Methodist Church (South Park)

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

July 24th How-To-Where-To Session at REI (North Lake, Huntersville)

- Fly Fishing with Wet Flies
- Fly Fishing Stillwater

August 28th How-To-Where-To Session at Sharon United Methodist Church (South Park)

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

September 25th How-To-Where-To Session at REI (North Lake, Huntersville)

- Fly Fishing with Dry Flies
- Fly Fishing Delayed Harvest Streams

October 23rd How-To-Where-To Session at Sharon United Methodist Church (South Park)

- 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**

Where to go Trout fishing in September

Alen Baker has compiled a list of streams to consider at various times of the year.

- Editor

September is the month when virtually all stocked streams are at an annual low in terms of trout populations. Those that harvest trout will have done a very effective job leaving only the most enduring trout within their respective stream. However, for those that persist to trout fish in September, there are a good number of choices in North Carolina as we have a wealth of Wild and Catch-and-Release streams.

September is a great month to dry fly fish Wild streams and Catch-and-Release streams including the fee-based fly fishing on Bullhead Creek and Rich Mountain Creek within Stone Mountain State Park. Also consider the fee-based fly fishing on the Cherokee C&R or even the private waters of the Davidson River Outfitters. Another consideration is to pursue smallmouth on the New River.

- Alen Baker

Tales from the Stream

Editor's note: We are always excited to hear from RRTU membership about their fishing adventures. No story this month ... if you have one, please share and we will publish. These need not be elaborate or long ... just the old who-what-where-when-how format of our school days.

-Editor

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.

From RRTU member **Tim Wilhelm**:

For a real low tech and low cost nymph indicator, try using yarn and a small piece of surgical tubing. First double the leader to make a loop. Second, insert the leader loop through the tubing. Third, put a small length of yarn through the leader loop, using a length of yarn about 1 to 1 ½ inches long. Finally, pull the yarn partially back thru the tubing. If there are no knots in the leader it is possible to fish leaders of any length you desire. When the indicator reaches the tip top it will slip down the leader when landing a fish and it is easily adjustable at any time.

- Alen Baker

Fly of the Month

This "fly of the month" represents the latest in the **Alen Baker/Tom Adams** series.

The first recorded incidences of mankind using a fly dates back to Roman times when a piece of red wool was tied to a hook to attract fish. The use of a fly by the Cherokee Indian nation may well date back thousands of years earlier when a very narrow strip of deer skin with the hair still attached was wound and tied on a stone hook. The Cherokee also tied the yellow feather of a flicker woodpecker to stone hooks. It is believed that the Spanish explorers in the 1500s introduced metal hooks to the Cherokee which greatly improved the effectiveness of these early fly patterns. Thus, the deer hair fly and the yellowhammer are considered some of the first local fly patterns.

Fly patterns evolved beginning with wet fly patterns primarily. Hackle from domestic chickens from two centuries ago or earlier were not stiff enough to float well, so a wet fly pattern was greased to keep a fly on the surface. Many wet fly patterns are simply a color combination of materials each of tied with similar design named after someone who created it or used it.

As hackle in the last half-century has been bred to be stiff and even very long for use in tying multiple flies, dry fly patterns may have evolved the most. From the fanwing and catskill designs; to thorax, cut-wing and burnt wing designs; to parachute, extended body, and spinner designs; to no hackles, comparadun and CDC

biots designs; all evolving as improvements for different situations or to utilize new materials and techniques.

Streamers for Atlantic salmon, steelhead and even trout began with wet fly color combinations as well as some basic colors that imitated small forage fish. Wet flies at some point began to be replaced in every fly box with newer more impressionistic nymph patterns and softhackle designs of wet flies. Dry flies patterns expanded to include terrestrials which have evolved to Chernobyl's and other foam patterns. Nymphs and dry flies have now evolved to include emergers and parasols. Today even stillborn, crippled and crumpled fly patterns are used to imitate the insects that fail to hatch or get into trouble due to damaging winds.

Fly tying and fly patterns have a rich history and continue to evolve as we discover new materials and better techniques to fool fish. The ole patterns still catch fish, so there are an overwhelming number of fly patterns to consider, but it is part of the fun. We continue to develop new fly patterns that exploit new materials and the many food sources available to trout.

As a beginner of fly fishing over thirty years ago, I was instructed from day one that there were primarily four major aquatic insects in a trout's diet. The mayfly, the caddisfly, the stonefly and the midge have dozens to hundreds of fly patterns literally for each phase of their life cycle and then some. These four insects exist as many, many species in a variety of sizes and colors. Since their entire life cycle is in and above water they are considered fully aquatic and prime trout food to imitate. With all the variations of these four insects mentioned above, one would think that's all we need to know.

But there are many more food choices for trout. What comes to mind are terrestrials that are available for most of the summer. But what is one of the most important available year-round beyond the basic four that we encounter in the southern Appalachians?

Hellgrammite

The hellgrammite is the larval stage of the dobsonfly. It is also known locally as a "grampus", "go-devil" or

"bottomcrawler" by anglers that use the larva as bait. The dobsonfly in the adult stage is not a viable food source for trout since it spends the entire adult life up to several miles away from water finding and mating with another dobsonfly. Males have very long, harmless pincers and live about three days. Females have short, pain inflicting, defensive pincers and live about ten days. Males use their pincers for positioning and mating only. The dobsonfly is not venomous, but possesses an irritating, foul-smelling anal spray as a last-ditch defense. The females return to lay their white, circular egg masses on streamside rock ledges or overhanging branches.

The larvae hatch from eggs that have been deposited on streamside rocks and crawl or drop into the stream where they live for years underwater and grow up to 2 inches to 3 inches in length. They live under and around large rocks with the less fortunate hellgrammites serving as a high protein, superior food source for trout. Trout love hellgrammites!

The hellgrammite prey on other insect larvae with the short sharp pincers on their head which also can inflict painful bites on humans and draw blood. They have only six legs – the rest of the "legs" are actually gills. Hellgrammites leave the water by crawling out and burrowing into the muddy stream bank. The larvae then find refuge and stay in under large rocks or logs on land in the pupal stage for several weeks before molting and emerging to find a mate. Note, the pupa form is not a viable food source for trout either.



Male (long, harmless pincers)





Female (short, painful pincers)

The dobsonfly is nocturnal. They are attracted to a night light and are often seen around a lantern while camping streamside. They may be up to 3 to 5 inches in length and fold their four wings flat, two to each side. The mating occurs on land and the egg laying occurs at streamside during the night. In this regard, the dobsonfly will behave like some species of stonefly.

For example, the eastern salmon (stone) fly and the golden stone fly adults are nocturnal. We would probably be imitating the adult lifecycle stage of both the dobsonfly and these stonefly species if we did much night fly fishing. (Night fishing for trout is illegal in North Carolina except for the lower Nantahala River where an exception allows anglers to fish without a raft coming down on top of them.). Large adult stonefly patterns have been developed and are utilized out west as similar species of these stoneflies are not nocturnal and create daytime opportunities for anglers. However, here in the east, we rely heavily on stonefly nymph patterns and the same is true to imitate the dobsonfly larvae, the hellgrammite.

An angler may experience fly fishing a hellgrammite larva and not even be aware of the occurrence. So how is this possible? At some point we all have fly fished with a black, brown or dark olive woolly bugger. The woolly bugger is considered a general attractor fly pattern or at best a leech imitation. Frankly, I have never seen a leech in our clear, cascading mountain streams. I have seen an occasional leech in still water and they are more likely in a cold mountain pond with trout and in our northern states rather than in our streams..

My point is that in general a dark woolly bugger is large, bulky and very much imitates a hellgrammite. Particularly when fished like a nymph (larva) rather than a streamer. Most hellgrammite larvae that I have found while turning over rocks have been dark brown or dark olive to almost black in color. I know that there

is a smaller specie of hellgrammite in the Ozarks that is light olive.

The hellgrammite is such an important food source for trout that we present to you one of many hellgrammite fly patterns.

- Alen Baker

Hellgrammite Fly of the Month 09.2013

Hook: Tiemco 5262 or equivalent, 4,**6,8,10**

Thread: 6/0 Uni or equivalent in Black

Tail: Black Ostrich

Body: Black Chenille

Hackle: Black Rooster Saddle

Eyes: Bar Bell lead or equivalent

Antenna: Round Black Rubber legs

This is the heavy pattern, due to the eyes. A lighter pattern is the same but uses lead wraps in the abdomen/thorax for weight. The one illustrated will fish not unlike a Clouser pattern and offers less chance for snagging.

Directions:

1. Make several thread wraps starting at the hook eye to about half way and bring back to about one third away from the hook eye. Position the eyes in front of the thread and make two or three "x" wraps to hold the eye in place. Make two or three turns around the thread holding the eye above the shank where the eye contacts the shank. Make several more "x" wraps and take the thread, in tight wraps, to above the hook bend. Let the bobbin hang. Apply one or two drops of zap a gap or equivalent on the thread wraps holding the eye.
2. Select a very generous portion of black herl and tie in, on top of the hook shank. Trim length in a straight cut to the same as the shank.
3. Select a section of black chenille and prepare by stripping one end to the thread. Scissors, with gentle pressure will pull the chenille material off. Tie in the thread so that the first wrap of chenille will be at the tail tie off.

4. Advance the thread to the halfway point and let the bobbin hang.
5. Wrap the chenille forward to the thread position, using one light wrap of thread, if necessary, let the chenille hang.
6. Select a black rooster saddle feather. The barbs should be slightly longer than the hook gape. Tie in by the tip, immediately in front of the chenille and advance the thread to the behind the eye.
7. Wrap the chenille forward to the eye and secure with one wrap of thread.
8. Palmer the rooster forward to the eye and secure firmly with thread. Take the thread to the hook eye and let the bobbin hang.
9. Advance the chenille making one "x" wrap over the eye and one tight turn in front of the eye. Secure with thread wraps and trim the waist of rooster and chenille.
10. Tie in the rubber legs. Whip finish and trim the legs to a short length.

Hellgrammite



- Tom Adams, Alen Baker

Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians

When Ron Gmerek and I were returning from Atlantic salmon fly fishing in Nova Scotia, Ron proposed that we establish a fly fishing museum - a place where an old bamboo rod could be shared. A place where one could learn more about the fly fishing legends of the Smokies and the Blue Ridge Mountains. A place where the local flies could be admired and recipes copied. A place where our heritage of fly fishing and trout fishing could be better appreciated and, most of all, where the public could learn more about our great Southern Appalachian experiences and stories worth telling.

We are working with Forrest Parker, board member of the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce, Cherokee, NC to establish such a place. If all works out, our future will include such a museum. A world-class group including Jim Casada, Don Kirk, Roger Lowe, Kevin Howell, Jim Dean, Richard Mode, Frank Smith, Ron Beane, Bill Everhardt, Ron Gmerek, Bo Cash, Squeak Smith and many others are helping to make this a reality. If you have ideas, items, know a fly fishing legends, you have something for the museum. Stay tuned for more updates.

- Alen Baker

2013 Catch-a-trout-every-month Challenge

Once again in 2013 RRTU board member **David Hollifield** has challenged all RRTU members (yes ... that means YOU) to the following:

- Catch at least one trout per month in 2013.
- "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.

During the 2012 year our officers and board members participated in this challenge; please check here to see a chart showing 2012 challenge results:

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

A new 2013 chart should be available soon ... join the challenge and we will add you to the fish chart.

It is a brand new year, so throw your hat in the ring and I am quite certain that this small incentive will lead to more fishing for you in 2013.

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

- David Hollifield

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

Back the Brookie License Plate

You have probably noticed that some of our local RRTU members have the NC Trout Unlimited License Plate. The NCTU web site gives some history of this license plate and how to obtain one:

http://nctu.org/tu_plate.html



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. Check stream flow 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 annual savings for the paper newsletter printing and postage costs is over \$3500; plus the newsletter has grown as there is no additional cost for more electronic pages. RRTU uses an electronic mail list server for sending the monthly newsletter. The instructions for requesting the monthly electronic newsletter follow.

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: Tom Adams – 704.877.3367

1st VP: Dana Hershey – 704.577.7700

2nd VP: Tim Ramsey – 980-621-4562
Secretary: Joyce Shepherd – 704.392.8499
Treasurer: Jonathan Miller – 704.552.0051

Alen Baker (2013) – 704.875.1505
David Hollifield (2013) – 704.938.8735
John Oliver (2014) – 704.467.1063
Open TBA replacing Tim Ramsey (2014)
Joe Beckert (2015) – 704.362.3322
Joe Harris (2015) – 704.619.3536
Bill Thomas (past president) – 704.231.7492

February 2013

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

Re: Friends of Rocky River (FORR)
2013 Fund Raising Campaign

We are pleased to advise that our 2012 fund raising initiative met our \$8,000 goal. We extend our most sincere appreciation to all of you who donated last year. Our 2013 goal will again be \$8,000; we encourage and challenge all members to participate with a contribution. In addition to cash contributions, items donated for lodging, trips and raffles are likewise welcomed.

The funds donated in 2012 enabled us to support the following projects, activities, and programs; we have similar plans for 2013 with one notable addition – the South Mountains State Park project:

Trout in the Classroom Program – expanded to seven schools
Youth Scholarship for the Rivercourse Program
North Carolina Wildlife Federation Scholarship
TU Southeast Land Protection Project donation
South Mountains State Park Conservation Initiatives (new for 2013)
Supported a May, 2012 Wounded Warrior Event
Winter Fly Tying Program for RRTU membership
How to/Where to Fish Program for RRTU membership
Three streamside events plus the spring/fall Appletree trips

Below you will find a 2013 campaign pledge card. We are requesting the return of these pledge cards with your donation by April 1st. We appreciate the loyal support provided by our members 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 2013 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!