 ***Trout Tales***

Rocky River Chapter

Trout Unlimited

March 2014

**President’s Message**

First, I want to say thanks to everyone attending and participating in the Friends of Rocky River Celebration on February 27. It was a great turnout and it was great to see folks and hear **Mr. Squeak Smith**. Very informative about conservation in our area and a very entertaining speaker to boot. Your board of directors worked tirelessly to ensure it all performed flawlessly. Also, how about that video **Dana Hershey** put together? What fun it is to see the year like that. We also bestowed a Lifetime Achievement Award to **Jim Mabry** and **Tim Wilhelm**. Their contributions to RRTU have created the foundation and the success we enjoy today. From their leadership, passion, commitment and downright hard work we are a vital and dynamic group and we owe them our thanks.

Maybe because we can see the end of winter around the corner, March is a very busy month for us. Starting with March 15, we have the final (for the season) **Fly Tying** **Class** at Covenant Presbyterian Church (same place as regular monthly meetings) and we will have **Roger Lowe** as our guest tier. Roger is a tremendous resource not only regarding Southern Appalachian flies, but fishing our local mountain streams. Should be a ton of good information.

The Fly Fishing Film Tour, **F3T**, brought to us by our friends at **Jesse Brown’s** **Outdoor** is coming on March 18. See the website for details. Buy your tickets early and save a few bucks. **RRTU** has a special offer at the film, so don’t miss it. For those of you that were not at the FORR Celebration, Jesse Brown’s is now an endorsed Trout Unlimited vendor. An honor too long in coming, they have been staunch and reliable supporters for as long as I can remember. Congratulations to Bill and his crew!

The monthly meeting this month is back to the regular week, on March 20 at Covenant Presbyterian Church and our guest speaker, back by popular demand, will be our esteemed and lauded member, **Tim Mead**. He will be speaking to “ *If you are* *not fishing with a fly, is it still Fly Fishing* ?”.

With warmer weather and spring around the corner we are having our first streamside on March 22. This time it is on the **Ararat River**, which is a delayed harvest stream in Mount Airy, NC. More info will be available on the website and we are bringing a number of Tenkara rods for your use if you would like to try the new/old method.

Also announced at the Celebration was a new and interesting way to help send a child to Rivercourse. Several years ago **Dave Hollifield** and **Tim Ramsey** suggested a Board Challenge in which we agreed to pay ten dollars per month that if we did not catch a trout. On the honor system, but we would love to see photos. Previously, we have raised several hundred dollars in a years time. It was suggested that perhaps everyone would like a chance to enter the challenge, so we did. Look on the website and to register. **Steve McClure** will be monitoring the results monthly and we will update from time to time. This will run until the next Celebration where results will be announced. I am certain we can send at least one child to the wonderful Rivercourse program and maybe even two. How easy is that.

Last, but not least by any means, **Alarka** is coming up soon. April 3 through the 6th. Not long at all. Sign up via the website and get your space reserved. We are looking forward to seeing you there and just think of all the new fishing possibilities. So much water, so little time.

One last thing – the success of the Friends of Rocky River Celebration was also due to the incredible donations and gifts from your local fly fishing shops and guides. They are out there every day making our experience richer and more successful. I know it is easy to sit at your desk and order stuff from a long way off, but when you have a question or an immediate item or just some down home advice from the experts that live and fish where we do, go the extra and support local business. Like returning a beautiful fish to the water, tomorrow the river will not be empty.

**- Tom Adams** ( [f64rrtu@gmail.com](mailto:f64rrtu@gmail.com) )

**RRTU Calendar**

Mar 15: Fly tying, Covenant Presbyterian Church

Mar 18: Fly Fishing Film Tour, Visulite Theatre

Mar 20: RRTU meeting

Mar 22: Streamside, Ararat River DH, Mt. Airy

Apr 03-06: Alarka fishing and camping trip

Apr 17: RRTU meeting

May 15: RRTU meeting

May 17: Streamside, South Fork New River – Todd Island Park DH, Todd, NC

Jun 15-20: Rivercourse, Lake Logan near Canton, NC

Jun 19: RRTU meeting

Jun 20-23: SMSP-TER weekend, South Mountains State Park

**March 20th Meeting**

Tim Mead, freelance outdoor writer and photographer

If you’re not fishing with a fly, is it still Fly Fishing?

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 2014 Friends of Rocky River program campaign officially kicked off in February.

We hope that participation will grow as we move from year to year with the Friends of Rocky River program. The February 27 FORR Celebration provided an excellent launch for the 2014 campaign! Those funds support our best habits – NC Wildlife Federation, Rivercourse, Trout in the Classroom, streamsides, and fly tying just to name a few!

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

**Joe Harris**

**10226 Hanover Woods Pl**

**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 make a significant addition to our total FORR funds each year. 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 FORR program!

**Note that the 2014 FORR Campaign letter and Pledge Card appear as the last page of the newsletter.**

Thank you!

**- Steve Craig/Terry Hill,** FORR Committee

**February 27 meeting - FORR Celebration !!!!!**

WOW … the Friends of Rocky River Celebration keeps getting better and better. Good food, fishing fellowship, seeing old friends and making new ones, raffles, silent auctions, and to top all that – guest speaker Michael “Squeak” Smith!

Sounds like a good time was had by all who were able to attend. Your RRTU officers and board are already looking at lessons learned and brainstorming ideas for making the FORR 2015 Celebration even better!

Special thanks to these donors who offered merchandise, trips and other “goodies” for the FORR Celebration!

* Appalachian Fly Guides
* Alen Baker
* Jesse Brown’s Outdoors
* Dennis Burries
* Haden Copeland (Appalachian Anglers)
* Scott Cunningham (NC on the Fly)
* Mark Gasior
* Richard Griggs (Carolina Mountain Sports)
* Chris Holler
* Kevin Howell (Davidson River Outfitters)
* John Lord
* Madison River Outfitters
* Kelly McCoy (RiverGirl Fishing Company)
* Lance Milks
* Mountain Tenkara
* Orvis
* Tim Ramsey
* Chris Roche (NC Fly Fishing Guide Service)
* Justin Shroyer (Trophy Water Guide Service)
* Southern Gents
* Joe Spenser (South Paw Drifters)
* Bill Thomas
* Cheryl Thomas
* Lisa Thomas
* Simons Welter

Please remember to support these local businesses next time you are planning a trip or need some new gear.

Thanks to those who were able to attend the February FORR Celebration.

**- Editor**

**Upcoming RRTU Meeting Topics/Presenters**

**March 20**

**Tim Mead**

If you’re not fishing with a fly, is it still Fly Fishing?

<http://www.timmeadfishing.com/AncientAngler.php>

**April 17**

**Matt Green**

Aquatic Ecotoxicology and Physiology Lab, ASU

**May 15**

**Kelly McCoy**

RiverGirl Fishing Company, Todd, NC

<http://www.rivergirlfishing.com/index.php>

**Other Activities and Events**

**-- 2014 Fly Fishing Film Tour --**

This annual event occurs on March 18, 2014 at the Visulite Theatre, 1615 Elizabeth Ave, Charlotte. Pick up advance tickets at Jesse Brown’s Outdoors; or at the door of the venue. Doors open 6:30 PM, show starts 7:00 PM.

<http://www.visulite.com/showDetails.cfm?showID=1793>

**-- 2014 Rivercourse --**

Reminder – it is not too early to be thinking about Rivercourse. I recently received this note from Linda Byington:

For those who may not be familiar with Rivercourse: Coldwater Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp, it is a five-day summer camp held each June at Lake Logan Conference Center on the West Fork of the Pigeon River near Canton, NC. Rivercourse is a NC Trout Unlimited youth camp that is supported financially by chapter contributions and staffed by volunteers who are NCTU chapter members. Among the long-time staff is **Joyce Shepherd**, Rocky River Chapter member.

The camp accepts up to 18 boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 15 for a very full 5 days of fly fishing and fly tying instruction, casting, knots, and stream etiquette, as well as learning sessions on entomology, geology, wetlands ecology, and stream restoration techniques. One day is devoted to a field trip by bus to the Davidson River to tour the hatchery and plant riparian buffer for stream bank stabilization. 2013 Rivercourse saw a full house, with 12 boys and 6 girls, including one camper from South Carolina, one from Georgia, and one from Florida.

One of the first experiences at camp was helping to stock this private section of the West Fork with rainbows, brooks and browns from the John Setzer Hatchery. Each morning campers were awake at 6am, with half the group in the water and half tying flies until 8am breakfast. After breakfast the groups switched, with the early fishermen tying, and the early tiers fishing. After dinner all campers fished again, with a ghillie, until dark. By 10pm bedtime, no one complained about not being tired.

Throughout the week campers saw and learned things many had never encountered. In some cases that new thing might be sitting down at a white tablecloth with a full array of eating utensils, or maybe removing one’s used dishes from the table to stack them for transport to the kitchen. Some campers had never fished before, some had some experience and were pretty good at it. But by the end of the week when a tournament for pairs of campers took place, all were very acceptable anglers. For the tournament each camper tied one fly for the competition, and awards were given for fish caught, with each member of the each team catching at least one fish.

At the end of camp, parents were invited to have lunch with campers and staff and to enjoy a slide show of the week’s activities. The success of what we do at Rivercourse is evidenced by the number of campers’ siblings and friends attending camp in following years. But it is really hard to decide who enjoys camp the most, the campers or the staff volunteers.

2014 Rivercourse will be held June 15-20. More information about Rivercourse, including financial and volunteer support as well as camper application, can be found at [www.rivercourse.org](http://www.rivercourse.org).

**-Editor**

**Alarka – spring trip. April 3-6.**

**Mark your calendars and begin making plans for the spring Alarka trip. Remember to register and pay early if you can as this helps with planning … especially for meals. Most of our membership enjoys those whole pig roasts – a large group would encourage our meal planners to consider one of these for Friday dinner. Here are a few details:**

Cost per person:

$50 for 3 days/2 nights

$70 for 4 days/3 nights

Hot Showers.

Sheltered Mess Area.

Meals:

- Thursday dinner (4 day, 3 night folks)

- Friday breakfast & dinner

- Saturday breakfast, lunch & dinner

- Sunday breakfast

Two truckloads of firewood for campfires and tall tales.

DH Streamside Camping and Fly Fishing.

Friday One Fly Tournament.

For information on Smoky Mountain Meadows Campground:

<http://smokymtnmeadows.com/>

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**We hope you will join us. Please include “Spring Alarka trip” as a description/note on any payments (check or PayPal).**

If you are paying by check, make your check payable to **Rocky River Trout Unlimited** and mail to:

**Joe Harris**

**10226 Hanover Woods Pl**

**Charlotte, NC 28210**

For more information regarding the Alarka trip:

<http://www.rockyrivertu.org/2014-spring-alarka-trip.html>

**- Editor**

**- Jim Mabrey**

**RRTU Fly Tying Class for 2013-2014**



**We are about to enter into our fifth season of fly tying instruction**.  **Here is some early information for our RRTU fly tying class.  The first session starts on November 16, 2013.**

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif

Last year we had several **Guest Fly Tyers** which we think was a successful addition.  We would like to have the guest tyers demonstrated in the afternoon, and do it in such a fashion that our own tyers can follow along and tie what is being demonstrated.

**Beginners:**  
In the past we have focused on teaching beginners about the tools used and some basic techniques.  Our beginners tend to focus on traditional flies such as the Hare's Ear, Pheasant Tail, Zebra Midges, Caddis flies, and, of course, the old standby the Woolly Bugger.  We might juggle that selection around a little this year.   
  
Each fly that is tied requires certain materials and techniques. We will discuss the use of thread and how the different sizes are used and the use of different glues in fly tying.  You will learn how to tie the half hitch and in a later session how to use the whip finisher.  In the first session, you will learn about the fly tying vice and will use a bobbin, the bobbin threader, the bodkin, and other basic fly tying tools.  At the end of the first session, we will all tie a Wooly Bugger.

Since we have use of the **REI** **TV**, we can focus on one tyer, and everyone can see what the tyer is doing.  We are suggesting that in the late afternoon of each Saturday session that we have one of our own tyers demonstrate for the group how to tie a particular fly. We will let you know what we will be tying and what materials you will need to be able to tie this fly in advance of the meeting.

If you would like to participate in the Beginners Class, please let us know.  You are not committed to it, but by responding, we will have an idea as to how many people will attend.  Drop and email to [jmcneary@gmail.com](mailto:jmcneary@gmail.com)

**Advanced Tying:**  
This year the advanced tyers will be working on the CDC techniques of Rene Harrop, whose flies are both highly functional trout magnets and little works of art as well. In addition, the flies of Davie McPhail are marvelous, modern adaptations of traditional flies, plus some of his original creations. Both of these tyers are masters and their work is quite fun to tie.

Generally, tying Caddis of all stages and instars and Mayflies, both dry and nymph, are scheduled. Tying a No Hackle Harrop mayfly will be a particular treat.

There will be a list before the first session of the year’s plan for tying, to give everyone a chance to prepare. Hard to find or specific materials will be provided. When possible, recipes will also be available beforehand.

Any input or requests for certain representations are terrific, we will need time to prepare, so contact me Tom Adams at [f64rrtu@gmail.com](mailto:f64rrtu@gmail.com) and let me know your thoughts.

**Location and Times:**

The sessions for this fall and spring are:

|  |
| --- |
| **November 16** |
| **December 14** |
| **January 11** |
| **February 22** |
| **March 15** |
| **REI Northlake Mall** |
| **9755 Northlake Centre Parkway** |
| **Saturday 10:00 am to 3:00 \* pm** |

\*We have extended the sessions by one hour this year.

**Lunch**Lunch will be picked up for a $5.00 charge and include a beverage. You can bring your own as well.

**Charges**

Our total charge for the five lessons is $10.00.  We provide vices and materials for the beginners.If you have your own equipment and materials, please bring that with you for each class session.  
  
We look forward to a successful fly tying season.  If you are an experienced fly tyer and are interested in helping as an instructor, let any of the three of us know.

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

**Tom Adams** [f64rrtu@gmail.com](mailto:f64rrtu@gmail.com" \t "_blank)

**Alen Baker** [alenandscottie@aol.com](mailto:alenandscottie@aol.com)

**South Mountains State Park Trout Enhancement and Restoration**

This update from **Tim Ramsey**:

**Alen Baker** and I meet with Amanda Lasley (South Mountains Park Ranger) on March 2nd for a tour of the demolition site. Once plans are finalized, the park service will bring in the heavy equipment between early May and June to start the break-up.

Our part in this project begins on Friday June 20th. We'll need to provide enough volunteers to transfer all of the debris to UTV's with dump beds. The UTV's will haul the debris to a nearby dump truck; the dump truck will carry the concrete and re-bar the remainder of the way. We'll plan on having dinner and spending the night at the upper camp once our work is finished. The park service has offered to deliver our gear and supplies to the camp site. Please bring your fishing equipment. Once the work is finished, you should have Saturday afternoon and Sunday to explore the streams in the upper reaches of the park.

This is a very unique opportunity and I hope you'll be able to participate. Please contact me if you would like to participate or need more information.

**Tim Ramsey**

tramsey@wardtank.com

980-621-4562

The Trout Enhancement and Restoration (TER) initiative at South Mountains State Park has officially started. On April 14, 2013 **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.



**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](mailto:tramsey@wardtank.com) , Cell # 980-621-4562.

**- Tim Ramsey**

**Streamside Program 2014**

Our first streamside event of 2014 will occur on March 22 in Mount Airy on the Ararat River Delayed Harvest water.

**When : Saturday, March 22**

**Where: Mt. Airy, NC, Ararat River DH**

**Stream side lunch ($5)**

If any one is interested, we plan to provide Tenkara instruction at this streamside event. Do not worry about Tenkara equipment as that will be provided. We'll plan to meet at Riverside Park on the morning of March 22.  We'll have lunch available for $5 at 12:00 noon sharp.  The Ararat is paralleled by a greenway with asphalt jogging trails and park benches. The stream is heavily stocked and the access is hard to beat.

Please RSVP so we can plan for lunch.

Riverside Park

350 Riverside Dr

Mt Airy, NC 27030

36°30'17.2"N 80°36'06.5"W

**Tim Ramsey**

tramsey@wardtank.com

980-621-4562

Our streamside team has already made some tentative selections for additional outings this year. These include:

May 17 – South Fork of the New River, Todd Island Park DH, Todd, NC

We would like to try for an August trip on the South Fork of the New River. This would involve camping and smallmouth bass fishing; hopefully the weather will cooperate this year with the right amount of rain in July.

Early November – Wilson Creek cleanup

November 28 – Wilson Creek DH

For those of you that are interested or want more information on the RRTU streamside program, please send email to [NCTroutScout@gmail.com](mailto:nctroutscout@gmail.com).

**- David Hollifield**

**Carolina Raptor Center – fish needed!**

RRTU received a request from the Carolina Raptor Center late last year 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](http://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 [rrtujim@gmail.com](http://webmaila.juno.com/webmail/new/5?userinfo=274238b12220735488232d3cc1d0ab8c&count=1378900770&randid=1507842437).

**-Alen Baker**

**Trout in the Classroom (TIC)**

Many of our TIC schools have already scheduled their trout releases at South Mountains State Park. Please check our new calendar to make sure of the dates if you plan to attend one of the release events. You will find our calendar here:

<http://www.rockyrivertu.org/calendar-of-activities.html>

These are the dates currently listed:

**April 14 – Lincoln Charter**

**April 29 – Charlotte Country Day**

**April 30 – Quail Hollow**

**May 27 – Charlotte Prep**

Please continue to check our web site for more TIC news as the April and May releases will be here soon!

**Current TIC Schools:**

- Cannon School of Concord

- Charlotte Country Day School

- Charlotte Preparatory (new for 2013-14 school year)

- Community School of Davidson

- Davidson Day School

- Lincoln Charter School

- Providence Day School. Web site:  <http://pdsblogs.org/chargertrout/>

- Quail Hollow Middle School

**- Bill Thomas, Dana Hershey**

**TU – National, North Carolina and RRTU**

TU Women’s Membership Drive

March 1 – May 31. Check here for more info:

<http://www.tu.org/blog-posts/tu-womens-membership-drive-0>

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

Got a TU question? That question may already be answered in the Ask Trout Unlimited section located here: <http://www.tu.org/about-tu/faqs>

**- *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 here:

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

**- NC Trout Unlimited -**

<http://www.nctu.org>

**- Rocky River Trout Unlimited -**

<http://www.rockyrivertu.org>

**- Editor**

**Where to go Trout fishing November – March plus April**

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

**- Editor**

Many consider from November through March to be the cold season when being outside in the woods is not a first choice. However, it’s a great time to trout fish. Rainbow and Brook trout make their spawning runs upstream and all three species of trout continue to feed, although mostly sub-surface in the water column down to the stream bottom. There are occasional warmer days when some insect activity brings trout to surface feed for brief periods, so do not rule out dry fly fishing totally. There are a number of challenges including dressing warmly for windy, cold even freezing conditions. You may find snow falling or sheet ice on the streams at times but it simply adds to your learning curve.

In District 7, the closest delayed harvest streams include: Horse Creek (new for 2012), Elk Creek (an additional upper section is new for 2012), Helton Creek, Little River (new for 2012) and Mitchell River. Within Stone Mountain State Park East Prong Roaring River and Stone Mountain Creek are readily accessible. If you prefer to stay close to civilization, Ararat River along the greenway in Mount Airy and Reddies River by the hospital in North Wilkesboro are additional choices to consider.

In District 8, also reasonably close delayed harvest streams include: Curtis Creek, East Fork French Broad River, Green River, North Fork Mills River, both sections of the Watauga River and Wilson Creek. Within South Mountain State Park and very close to Charlotte is Jacob Fork. Also, North Toe River along the park in Spruce Pine provides easy access.

For the adventurous, there are two wild card fishing trips to consider in February only: attempt to catch Kokanee Salmon on the Nantahala River just above the lake and attempt to catch Steelhead on the Rocky Broad River just above Lake Lure. The key word is attempt!

**Where to Go Trout Fishing In April**

April is the traditional beginning of trout season on hatchery supported trout streams in North Carolina. However most fly fishermen have paid little attention to this as Wild, Catch-and-Release and Delayed Harvest regulated streams are open year-round. Insect activity begins in April, we schedule our first Alarka trip in early-April and weather conditions are typically much warmer and predictable. Regardless, April is the time to shake off that winter case of cabin fever!

In District 7, the closest delayed harvest streams include: Horse Creek (new for 2012), Elk Creek (an additional upper section is new for 2012), Helton Creek, Little River (new for 2012) and Mitchell River. Within Stone Mountain State Park East Prong Roaring River and Stone Mountain Creek are readily accessible.

In District 8, also reasonably close delayed harvest streams include: Curtis Creek, East Fork French Broad River, Green River, North Fork Mills River, both sections of the Watauga River and Wilson Creek. Within South Mountain State Park and very close to Charlotte is Jacob Fork.

In District 9, delayed harvest streams best visited during Alarka trips include: Nantahala River, Tuckasegee River, West Fork Pigeon River, Big Laurel Creek and Shelton-Laurel Creek. Within DuPont State Forest the Little River is another choice.

April provides the first reliable month of the year to fish Wild streams and Catch-and-Release streams including fee-based fly fishing on the Cherokee C&R during our Alarka trip.

**- Alen Baker**

**Tales from the Stream**

Editor’s note: We are always excited to hear from RRTU membership about their fishing adventures. This month we have a “painful” story from **Alen Baker** titled: Why We Should Bend Down The Barb

He kept my fly. The most productive fly of the day...the Partridge and Orange Soft Hackle fly that caught several wild rainbows in freezing water. Caught using my brand new first time ever used, TenkaraUSA **Rhodo** tenkara rod. It was another day in paradise for me. A gorgeous day.  But let me tell you the rest of the story and the dark side.

**Tom Adams, Tim Ramsey, Charlie Campbell, Walter Hazelrigg** and I all met at South Mountain State Park at 10:00 AM with park staff and NCWRC fisheries biologists to firm up coldwater conservation projects for 2014. It is going to be an exciting year of project work but that's yet another story to tell.

    After the meeting, we had planned to break out the Tenkara rods to try out, learn more and wet a line. As we fished the wild section above the Jacob Fork DH section, I ventured further up stream skipping pools for Charlie and Walter to alternate into. It was a challenge to get a strike in the very cold water and even more challenging to keep a wild rainbow on once it did strike. I hooked 3 total and only actually got one fish to hand. Part of the problem was learning to play and land a wild trout with the tenkara rod.

    In the last pool just below the walk-way below High Shoals Falls, I slipped into the lower end and crossed to fish a more remote pool thinking any wild trout there would see very few flies over time as the pool was difficult to reach. Well, no strike. I was getting cold being waist deep in the frigid 36 degree water, so I rolled up my furled line onto the EZ-Stops (it's sorta a reel for the Tenkara rod).

    I slipped some on a rock and felt a deep pain in my finger. The Partridge and Orange Soft Hackle fly embedded in the tender side of my index finger. It was deeply embedded and blood was dripping in the stream at first. I waded back across, got out of the water, pulled out my forceps and decided to remove the fly. Well, no luck, I had forgotten to bend down the barb and the skin held the fly in place too, too well. For now, I decide to cut the tippet and just leave the fly in until I could get back to the car and see what other tools I might have that would help to remove the fly.

    When I got back to the parking lot Charlie and Walter were there as I packed up. Being somewhat embarrassed that I embedded a fly in my finger, I did not tell them figuring that I would eventually get it out. They went back on the stream and I packed up. I tried yet again to remove the fly, this time using the conventional line pull like you see in the First Aid books. That barb held the fly in place much better than I ever imagined. It would not come out. I tried the forceps again with a huge tug. Pain, pain but the fly remained! So, now I simply drove out of the park, decided to get ice cream at Redbone Willy's and ask where the nearest urgent care was located. Shelby!!!! No way.

    So I knew there was one in Mooresville where I needed to be at 6:30 PM so I headed out with ice cream in hand. The lady serving up the ice cream could not believe I was walking around with a fly in my finger. Of course I could not either at this point. But I was doing just that. Thirty-three years of trout fly fishing and never once had this problem! Yes, several embedded hooks but they always came out readily.

    My main concern was that I had had no tetanus shot in 15 years and 3 trout had the fly in their mouth and the hook could have rust, who knows. Better safe than sorry. So at the urgent care, the PA numbed the finger, used a large needle to widen the hole and remove the fly. The PA and I talked fly fishing some and he was very interested in learning to fly fish, enough to give me a card to contact him later. The nurse gave me a tetanus shot and I was on my way. As I reflect back on the day, I recalled ... he kept my fly!



**-Alen Baker**

**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.

Here is a good rule of thumb for dropper lengths for bumping the bottom:

For a slow current use 2 times the depth which is 2 feet for every 1 foot of depth.

For a moderate current use 3 times the depth which is 3 feet for every 1 foot of depth.

For a fast current us 4 times the depth which is 4 feet for every 1 foot of depth.

**- Alen Baker**

**Fly of the Month**

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

**Fly of the Month**

The Adams dry fly is by far the single most well-known fly known by name by both fly fishers and non-fly fishers. It’s alphabetically near the top of every list anywhere among fly shops so the fly gets attention. Besides being well-known, the Adams fly pattern in general has a strong reputation for catching trout everywhere. The exclusive upright and divided grizzly hackle tips as wings in conjunction with a brown and grizzly mixed hackle bares the Adams label regardless of other characteristics and features.

So, let’s name the fly patterns that we know that bares the Adams label. They include but are not limited to the Adams Dry Fly, Female Adams Dry Fly, Yellow Body Adams Dry Fly, Rusty Body Adams Dry Fly, Quill Body Adams Dry Fly (Whitcraft), Adams Parachute, Adams (hi-vis orange wing) Parachute, Adams (indicator) Parachute, Yellow Parachute Adams, Black Adams, Smokey Mountain Adams, Adams Waterwisp, Adams Variant Dry Fly, Adams Superfly (Quigley), Adams Wet Fly, Downwing Adams Wet Fly, Adams Midge, Adams Wulff, Adams Humpy, Adams Goofus Bug, Adams Irresistible, Female Adams Irresistible and yes even an Adams Caddis (which is a variation of the original Adams Dry Fly). No doubt there is Female Adams versions of every fly pattern listed above and then some.

**Adams Variant**

The Female Adams (believed to have originated locally), Adams Variant, Yellow Parachute Adams, Black Adams and Smokey Adams are each a fly pattern unique to the Southern Appalachians. The very popular Adams Variant is a local fly pattern that was developed by Allene Hall. It was tied and sold by the late Bryson City residence Fred and his wife Allene Hall. This is one of their trademark dry flies that made them fly tying legends here in the south. Fred Hall is credited for originating the Black Adams and the Smokey Mountain Adams.

Another Southern Appalachian characteristic is the use of Golden Pheasant tippets for the tail. If you look at the other dry fly variant recipes you will find that the common characteristic of most variants is the use of oversized hackle and the absence of an upright and divided wing of any type. The lesser known variants are fly patterns that have many of the characteristics of another fly yet varying enough to be deemed a variant. This is the case of the Adams Variant- very much an Adams yet very different in the other characteristics. The tail is Golden Pheasant tippets not hackle fibers and the body is yellow ostrich herl with a rear grizzly hackle rather than muskrat fur dubbing.

Note that beyond the classic use of the Golden Pheasant tippet as on a good number of Southern Appalachian fly patterns, yellow is used in some manner. Does the yellow ostrich stem from the inability to use of the illegal Yellarhammer feathers maybe? Maybe not since the Yellow Parachute Adams is simply a yellow dubbed body or the Female Adams has a hint of yellow with the egg sac. Regardless, the yellow is a proven color that attracts an aggressive strike from both wild and hatchery trout.

The Adams Variant is fished much like a Wulff pattern. The rear grizzly hackle adds float capabilities that hold up well in roughwater. The Adams Variant is my personal “go to fly” on delayed harvest waters where the ripples and runs contain rising rainbow or brown trout.

You will not find this timeless, local fly pattern in most fly shops as it is not as well-known as the Adams, but none the less, it is highly effective as a go-to roughwater fly pattern. You may well find the fly available and sold locally in tackle shops, service stations and general stores throughout the North Carolina mountains where a local tier is making part of his living tying and selling his flies. For example, the Citco along NC 19 in-route to the Nantahala River has a display of locally tied flies that includes (before they sell out each month) the Adams Variant tied typically in size 12 and maybe size 14. You will have to tie your own size 16 and size 18.

**- Alen Baker**

**Female Adams Variant**

**Fly of the Month 03.2014**

**Female Adams Variant**

**HOOK:** Dry Fly, standard length. Tiemco 100 or equivalent. Size 10,***12,14,16***,18

**Thread:** 8/0 Uni Black

**Tail:** Deer Hair body

**Abdomen:** Grizzly rooster hackle, Yellow Ostrich herl

**Wings:** Grizzly tips

**Thorax hackle:** Grizzly and Brown rooster hackle

**Directions:**

1. Begin thread wraps two or three eyelengths back from eye and wrap tightly about one third of the length. Let the bobbin hang
2. Select two equal size grizzly hackle tips. Generally speaking, the excellent dry fly hackle we use has terrible tips for use as a wing. Spade or saddle hackle is much broader for the wing profile. The tips should be about the length of the hook shank. Strip a short section and tie in together with the “cupped” sides facing away from each other. Secure the tips, facing the hook eye with several wraps on top of the hook shank. Advance the thread to in front of the tips and pull upright by tensioning the thread in a parallel to the shank pull. Once they stand up, add several turns in front and behind to secure their place. Divide the wings using several ‘x’ wraps and take the thread in touching wraps to above the hook barb. Let the bobbin hang.
3. Select a small bunch of natural deer body hair and clean the underfur thoroughly. Stack and tie in on top of the hook shank with the length being about the same as the hook shank. When tying in use several light wraps for position. The deer should start at the wing and then extend beyond. This will make a smoother body without big lumps of varying materials. Once the position and length are good, tie in firmly, starting at the wings and moving to the above the hook barb (you may need to pinch the hair on top of the hook shank by using your left hand to keep it from rolling at first) and let the bobbin hang.
4. There is a short section of hackle immediately in front of the tail. Choose a size or even two smaller than “normal” for this section. When it is wrapped it should be smaller and not extend past the hook. You only need two or three wraps. Tie in, trim the waste and let the bobbin hang.
5. Select a piece of yellow ostrich herl with barbs not exceeding the hook when wrapped and tie in immediately in front of the grizzly. Advance the thread to the wings. Wrap the ostrich in touching turns to the thorax, tie off and trim the excess. Let the bobbin hang.
6. Select a brown and a grizzly rooster that are matching, not only in the length of the barbs but also in the diameter of the stems. Strip their tips and tie in behind the wings. Advance the thread to in front of the wings and let the bobbin hang. Advance the brown hackle leaving space in between turns for the grizzly. Tie in the brown in front of the wings leaving room for the eye. Trim the excess and repeat with grizzly. After trimming the grizzly form a nice head with thread, trim and apply head cement.

**Female Adams Variant**

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**- 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.

March 2014 update:

Great News...although there is much work to be done to get legal work in place, exterior renovations are underway on the 5000 sq ft building in downtown Cherokee. The building is located across from the Cherokee Natural History Museum and the drama ticket sales office - beside the Cherokee Visitor Center. Better location, more parking, and still on the Oconaluftee River. The exterior renovations will bring the building's appearance in line with the heritage theme of other buildings within the cultural district.

The other work underway is rewiring to bring the building up to electrical code.

In the meantime, there are other efforts beginning to get underway including:

* developing the museum board by-laws, appointing an initial board and filing for a 501c3 status to be completed by the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce BOD
* completing a long-term lease agreement on the building with EBCI
* developing architectural plans for interior renovations
* contracting a firm to build the live trout exhibit
* developing a museum logo, marketing materials and some fundraising

Tenatively, there will be a booth at the SEFFF festival at WNC in May.

**- Alen Baker**

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

The subject line of this email should read:

**Subscribe rrtu-news firstname lastname**

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

**RRTU Officers and Board Members**

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: Joe Harris – 704.619.3536

Open TBA replacing Tim Ramsey (2014)

Joe Beckert (2015) – 704.362.3322

Mark Gasior (2016) – 704.806.9185

Steve McClure (2016) – 704.654.1367

Fritz Mercer (2016) – 704.577.2193

Linda Walden (2016) – 704.618.3320

Bill Thomas (past president) – 704.231.7492

March 2014

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

Re: Friends of Rocky River (FORR)

2014 Fund Raising Campaign

We are pleased to advise that our 2013 campaign raised over $8,000 or about two thirds of the funds required for our operations budget and chapter activities. Our goal for 2014 will again be $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 through our annual FORR member drive. While we will continue to have two (2) strategic raffles, monthly sweepstakes, auctions, contests and companion trip opportunities throughout the year, we want our primary funding to emanate from cash donations from our members, friends, business sponsors. Prize and trip donations to auction, raffle or utilize in a fund raising sweepstakes or contest are likewise welcomed.

The funds raised in 2013 enabled us to support the following projects, activities, and programs:

* Sponsored a youth scholarship for the RiverCourse Youth Fly Fishing Camp.
* Increased the number of Trout in the Classroom schools.
* Donated to a North Carolina Wildlife Federation Scholarship program for a college student seeking a degree in the fisheries or wildllife fields of study.
* Donated to the TU Southeast Land Protection project toward the acquisition of unique, coldwater watershed tracks of land.
* Winter fly tying program for all skill levels.
* Several streamside events plus the spring Appletree/fall Alarka trips.

Below you will find a 2014 campaign pledge card. 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 Terry Hill

Co-Chair Friends of Rocky River Co-Chair Friends of Rocky River

RRTU President 1983-1984 RRTU President 1990

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**Friends of Rocky River 2014 Pledge Card**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Amount: O $100 O $250 O $500 O $1,000 O Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Joe Harris, 10226 Hanover Woods Pl, Charlotte, NC 28210**

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