



# Trout Tales

## Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited

### September 2014



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking back at last year's September letter, it was interesting to see I mentioned how quickly a year goes. Now, it is two years that have passed quickly. Presidents serve a two year term. One to figure it out and another to get something accomplished. Not sure how successful I have been in either category, but it is certainly an enjoyable challenge.

The chapter continues to make progress in reaching out to the many and bringing a few more along. That is a welcome to all of our new members! You and the remainder of the membership *are* Rocky River Trout Unlimited. This group, this collection of diverse and intelligent volunteers bringing energy, creativity, and just plain hard work to move the ball forward. To make others aware of the importance of clean, flowing waters not only to fisherman, but, to every living creature. *It all flows downhill.*

In a way it flows from you as well. The smiles we have on the water, sharing a commonality of purpose and accomplishment are contagious and hopefully inspiring to others. I first came into Rocky River with a skeptical attitude, not being a joiner by nature and shy to boot. It took one day of being around the group to see how much fun sharing likeminded ideas and behavior could be. There was no turning back. Every time I think of the faces and the people behind them I can only smile. This is truly a great group, and it has been my pleasure to do some small part in working to make our chapter continue on, as it has for over thirty years. There is a certain melancholy in things coming to an end, but at the same time, seeing the next group of leadership and members and what an terrific assortment they are, there is a pleasant notion overriding any sadness.

Thanks to everyone who has and continues to contribute, whether it is time or labor, gifts or donations, large or small, down to simply sharing a knowing smile to someone revealing the depth of our passion for all things trout. We are strong from the sum of our individuals, each and every one. Thanks, Tom.

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

### **RRTU Calendar**

Sep 03-07: TU Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, NM.  
Sep 25: RRTU meeting. Annual elections.  
Sep 27: Nature Day at South Mountains State Park.

Oct 09-12: Fall Alarka Fishing/Camping Trip.  
Oct 16: RRTU meeting.

Nov 01: Fly Fishing Museum Fund Raiser, Cherokee, NC.  
Nov 15: Wilson Creek Adopt-A-Stream/Streamside.  
Nov 20: RRTU meeting.

December: no regular meeting.  
Dec 05-06: WNC Fly Fishing Expo, WNC Agricultural Center, Asheville, NC.

### **September 25<sup>th</sup> 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 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, streamside, 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

### **September 25 Annual Meeting and Elections**

RRTU holds the annual, state of the chapter meeting in September. Please plan to attend. At this meeting you will hear committee reports and information on how the past year went. And just as importantly, you will have a chance to vote for 2014-15 officers and board of director candidates.

Nominations are as follows:

**Tim Ramsey**, president  
**Stephen McClure**, second vice president  
**Linda Walden**, secretary  
**Larry Elmore**, director  
**Chet Wisinski**, director  
**Joyce Shepherd**, director

Remaining to finish their terms:

**Dana Hershey**, vice president  
**Joe Harris**, treasurer  
**Joe Beckert**, director  
**Mark Gasior**, director  
**Fritz Mercer**, director

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

### **Past and Upcoming RRTU Meeting Topics/Presenters**

**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>

**June 19**  
**Jack Cummings**  
FFF Certified Casting Instructor. This meeting was held on location at Latta Plantation.

**October 16**  
**Franklin Tate**  
TU Director of Youth Education  
<http://www.tu.org/5Rivers>

**November 20**  
**Wilson Gabriel**  
Guide at Jesse Brown's Outdoors  
<http://jessebrowns.com/2014/08/local-fly-fishing/>

## **Other Activities and Events**

-- Rivercourse, June 2014 --

**Editor's note:** I recently received this perspective and some photos from Linda Byington, Administrative Director of Rivercourse.

### **We're Doing Good Things Linda Byington**

Most of you know about Rivercourse, North Carolina's TU Conservation and Fly fishing Youth Camp. This year was Rivercourse's 13<sup>th</sup> year of providing 13- to 15-year-olds an opportunity to experience for a week the things that we are passionate about as Trout Unlimited members. I am Administrative Director of Rivercourse and a member of the Pisgah Chapter. Another of our long-time, irreplaceable staff is Joyce Shepherd of Rocky River Chapter. This year's camp was held during the week of June 15-20, once again at Lake Logan Conference Center on the West Fork of the Pigeon. We are privileged to have this as our permanent location with its incredible facilities and lodging, not to mention Lake Logan, the Pigeon and drop-dead mountains all around.

This June we had 16 campers--12 boys, 4 girls. They came from all over NC, SC and TN, with some having fished before but never with a flyrod, some being avid fly fishers already, and some having no clue why they were at camp. Each and every one left with information and skills that may alter the course of their lives, whether professionally, ethically or recreationally. Some will be ace fly fishers and tyers, some will go into environmentally-oriented careers, all will be members of Trout Unlimited, and each and every one will remember their week at Rivercourse.

Each year Rivercourse has space for 18 campers. This year we had campers from Trout in the Classroom programs, campers whose moms participated in Casting for Recovery, and campers whose parents and grandparents are TU members. Among this year's campers was a young lady sponsored by Rocky River Chapter and one of its members, Tim Ramsey. Holly

van Ravesteyn is from Kannapolis, NC, and happens to be a neighbor of Tim's.

Rivercourse, Trout-in-the Classroom, Casting for Recovery—we're doing good things. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered over the years for any of these, whether as full time staff or ghillies. This couldn't happen without you. Rivercourse relies on chapters in NC and SC for volunteers, donations, and camper sponsorships. If you are interested in being involved with Rivercourse, as a staff member, as a presenter, as a ghillie, as a donor, or if you just want to come up and spend a day at camp next June, just let me know. My email is [nctu.rivercourse@gmail.com](mailto:nctu.rivercourse@gmail.com). Check out the website at [www.rivercourse.org](http://www.rivercourse.org). And...if you have a child, a grandchild, a neighbor or relative in the 13- to 15-year-old range, tell them about our camp and show them the website.





**-- Nature Day, South Mountains State Park, September 27 --**

Join us for the 12th Annual Nature Day at the park. A variety of programs, exhibits, hikes and music are scheduled for your enjoyment. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Contact the park office for more information at (828)433-4772.

Starts at: 11:00 Meet at: Jacob Fork Parking Area

**-- Wilson Creek Adopt-a-stream, November 15 --**

RRTU board member Joe Beckert is organizing our November Wilson Creek Adopt-a-stream event. Mark November 15 on your calendars and plan to join us for a bit of work and a bit of fishing.

We will meet at Brown Mountain Beach Resort on Wilson Creek at 10:00 AM on Saturday. We will continue with the work we started in June – the removal of the invasive Japanese knotweed. And after lunch we should have some time for fishing the Wilson Creek DH water. Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP to [mailto:Joseph\\_m\\_Beckert@ml.com](mailto:Joseph_m_Beckert@ml.com) so we can order food.

Please watch the RRTU web site for more information; we will also send an Evite for this event.

**-- WNC Fly Fishing Expo, December 5-6 --**



-Editor

**Alarka – fall trip. October 9-12.**

**October is NEXT month already! So if you are planning to join us at Alarka, please make your reservation/payment as that helps with planning for food and camping costs.**

**Here are a few pictures from the spring 2014 Alarka trip that are fairly representative of what happens ... food, fellowship, fishing and some relaxation:**





**When you are ready to sign up, please include “Fall 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-fall-alarka-trip.html>

**- Editor  
- Jim Mabrey**

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

A small group of RRTU members met on the weekend of June 20-22 at SMSP to assist with the TER project. Volunteers were able to camp Friday and Saturday nights. The big work effort – to remove pieces of some old bridge abutments from the area above the High Shoals Falls. Once the work was completed, a bit of fishing and some fine campground food, ambiance topped off the weekend. You will find pictures on our RRTU web site that document this event:

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

Here’s more information on our project:

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**

Please see the RRTU web site for a few notes and pictures from the August New River smallmouth fishing trip. It sounds like the weather and the trip turned out just fine for those who were able to attend!

2014 streamside event(s):

- March 22 – Ararat River DH, Mt. Airy, NC
- May 31 – Todd Island Park DH, Todd, NC
- August 01-03 – New River smallmouth, Sparta

Our streamside team has already made some tentative plans for one final 2014 outing:

November 15 – Wilson Creek Adopt-a-stream event

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 [rtojim@gmail.com](mailto:rtojim@gmail.com).

-**Alen Baker**

## **Trout in the Classroom (TIC)**

The 2014-15 school year will begin for many local schools in August. And this is a busy time for our Trout in the Classroom planning as well. Some schools like Charlotte Country Day run their tanks year round; most start fresh each year though and the tanks/water needs to be conditioned so they are ready for the eggs in September. We have some new schools ... Charlotte Latin, Northwest Cabarrus Middle, and Cannon School will start a second tank at the middle school.

Please continue to check our web site for more TIC news as you will find pictures and video of some April and May TIC releases.

<http://www.rockyrivertu.org/trout-in-the-classroom.html>

### **Current TIC Schools:**

- Cannon School of Concord
- Cannon Middle School of Concord (new for 2014-15)
- Charlotte Country Day School
- Charlotte Latin (new for 2014-15)
- Community School of Davidson
- Davidson Day School
- Lincoln Charter School
- Northwest Cabarrus Middle School (new for 2014-15)
- Providence Day School. Web site:  
<http://pdsblogs.org/chargertrout/>
- Quail Hollow Middle School

And allow us to thank our 2014-15 TIC volunteers. TIC volunteers for the 2014-15 season include **Bill Thomas, Dana Hershey, Alen Baker, Jim Mabrey, Chet Wisinski, Bill MacDonald, Ed McLean, Tom Adams, Fritz Mercer, and Ray Hill**. Anyone interested in participating in this program designed to reconnect our increasingly urbanized youth with the watersheds that sustain them should contact Bill Thomas or Dana Hershey.

- **Bill Thomas, Dana Hershey**

## **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](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 – September and October**

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

### **- Editor**

### **Where to Go Trout Fishing in September**

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.

### **Where to Go Trout Fishing In October**

October is the peak of fall season when the brown trout make their spawning runs upstream and the temperatures cool down through the perfect range for feeding activity of all three species of trout. The one downside is the beautiful autumn leaves fall into the streams and provides a continuous challenge for the angler according to Newton's very last law - a fly hook and a leaf attract regardless of the distance apart.

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 Wataaruga 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.

Although October is the first month of the delayed harvest period in North Carolina, the greater challenge and typically the aesthetics are on Wild streams and Catch-and-Release streams including fee-based fly fishing on the Cherokee C&R during our Alarka trip.

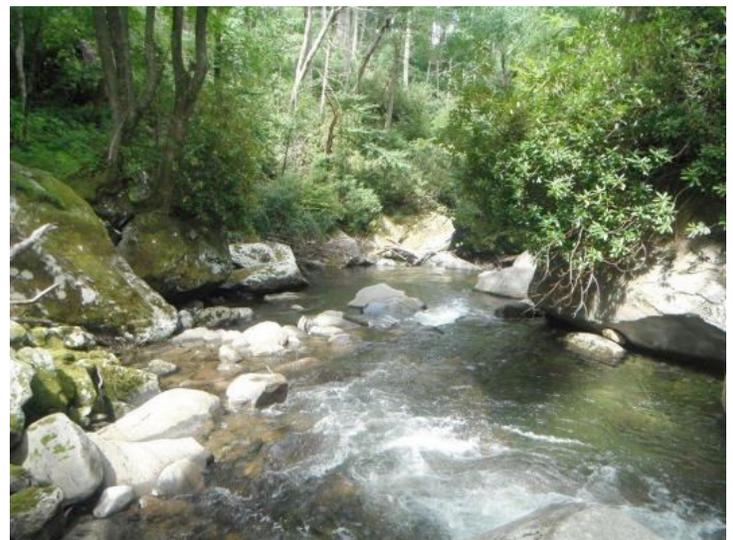
- Alen Baker

### **Tales from the Stream**

Editor's note: We are always excited to hear from RRTU membership about their fishing adventures. This month we have notes and pictures on a trip from RRTU member **Randall Fullerton**.

I camped 3 nights and fished 2 days recently. I fished Saturday, August 23, on the river off highway 441 (Mountain Tops access) using a guide service. Then on Sunday, August 24, I fished in Cherokee (Oconaluftee River). The Saturday fishing was all wild rainbows in the 4-10 inch range. I camped at the Mile High Campground just off the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Here are a few pictures from the trip:



-Randall Fullerton

## **Fly of the Month**

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

### **Fly of the Month**

Caddis flies are more predominant in many of our North Carolina Trout Streams than Mayflies or stoneflies. Unlike the mayfly or stonefly, the caddis flies undergo a complete metamorphosis. I know, it is a big word and what has it got to do with fly fishing, uh? Rather caddis flies undergo a complete body change from larva, to pupa, to adult. Mayflies and stoneflies do not as their body changes from nymph to adult or what is termed incomplete metamorphosis. Well, so much for science and background.

When we do see rising trout and suspect that we have a caddis hatch, often we correctly select an Elk Hair caddis or some other dry fly that imitates the caddis fly. Between you and me, it may not have mattered which dry fly caddis imitation we selected. As most North Carolina freestone streams have trout that are opportunistic, we have success with the dry fly and pat ourselves on the back for the great selection we made.

Have you had a time when the dry fly did not work and the rising fish seemed to be going after the caddis? Well, this may have been one of those times when the caddis flies are emerging and the trout are taking the caddis pupae as they emerge. Okay, to be fully prepared for trout taking caddis flies one needs one or more adult dry fly imitation of various colors also. Caddis flutter on the water, they lay still on the water, they lay eggs on the water, they even dive and release eggs underwater. Caddis pupae are found in the water column and subsurface as they emerge. Again, one needs one or more pupae imitations of various colors also.

These various opportunities for trout to take caddis flies leave the angler scrambling for a big enough arsenal. However, there is the additional Caddis Larvae stage that is found on the bottom, on rocks and even drifting down the stream. Caddis larva builds nets, build home of rocks and wood and even simply move along and

grab prey without any structure surrounding them. Again, one needs one or more larvae imitations of various designs and colors also.

So after presenting a lifetime of problem solving the imitations of caddis flies, let's narrow the list down to a specific fly pattern that imitates caddis larvae. This fly pattern has been around since World War II and has proven its value as a "nymph" that imitates free-living caddis larva. It is the Breadcrust or sometimes actually called the Breadcrust [Nymph] as it may also imitate some reddish-brown mayfly and stonefly nymphs as well.

### **Breadcrust [Nymph]**

As the dog days of summer are here, our fly fishing opportunities change drastically toward terrestrials. However, nymphing for trout continues to be productive especially where free-living caddis larvae is abundant. So, keep in mind that not only is there adult caddis and emerging pupa caddis around when there is a hatch, there is always caddis larva as well.

The Breadcrust [Nymph] originated in northeastern Pennsylvania in the Pocono Mountains by Rudy Sentiwany. He is credited with inventing the original fly pattern in the early-1940s. The fly pattern was intended to imitate both a cased and a free-living caddis larva.

Ed Rolka, fly tyer in that area tied his first Breadcrust at the age of thirteen and later tied it commercially. He made “THE fly back East” says Ed Rolka, popular by making the Breadcrust available to fly shops all over the country. In 1970, Ed Rolka moved to Denver due to a job transfer. Soon after, Bill Logan, outdoor editor of the Rocky Mountain News wrote a column on the Breadcrust [Nymph]. After the article, and success on such streams as Roaring Fork River and Frying Pan River using the Breadcrust, word spread and fly shops all over the Rockies were selling out soon after each delivery.

The key to tying this creative fly pattern is in the preparation of the quills used for the body of the fly. The quill of a red-phased ruffed grouse tail feather is used. Some shops actually carry the quills already

prepared. When tying a body with a quill, be sure to soak the quill in water prior to wrapping the quill around the hook shank.

- Alen Baker

### Breadcrust

#### Fly of the Month 09.2014

The original recipe calls for ruffed grouse tail feathers in the red phase and these are virtually impossible to find. Substitute the red tail feather from a Hungarian partridge. Substitutions are completely legitimate in tying. Either more modern materials, which can be improvements or some old materials that are not available or not responsible caretaking to use, are very appropriate.

HOOK : Tiemco 5262, size 10,12, <b>14,16</b> ,18
THREAD : Danville 6/0 black
Abdomen : Underbody black thread, red tail feathers
Thorax : same as above
Hackle : Grizzly hen

1. Begin selecting a red tail feather. Hold the tip and stroke the barbs making them extend at a right angle from the stem. Trim the length of the barbs to about one sixteenth for both sides. Cut straight as possible. Soak the stem in water as you do the next step. The longer it soaks the better.
2. Mount the hook and begin with tight touching and then overlapping turns advancing from above the hook barb to the two thirds mark. Continue making wraps to form the caddis cigar shaped body. Once the shape is complete let the bobbin hang at the hook barb.
3. Don't panic, this is not as hard as it sounds. Remove the red tail stem from the water and using a razor blade split away the inside of the stem. That is, the dull side of feather barbs. Begin by gently aligning the razor with the stem, inserting with light pressure and push the barb into the blade. The idea is to remove the white pulpy material from inside the stem to make it flexible enough to

wind on to the hook. Split the stem down to a reasonable length of stem. Soak again for as long as possible. Do this step for as many as you are planning to tie at the time. After this process the tie is simple and quick.

4. Tie in the red tail feather, advance the bobbin to the two thirds mark and let the bobbin hang
5. Wrap the red tail feather to form the abdomen and thorax. While it is not touching turns it should still cover the black thread base. Tie off and trim at the two thirds mark
6. Select a hen grizzly feather and tie in by the tip as a soft hackle. To tie in, hold the end of the tip with one hand and stroke the feathers back, away from the tip, starting with the length you want to begin with. Cut the remaining tip to form a small triangle to aid in holding.
7. Wrap the hen grizzly one or two wraps, stroking the barbs back as you wrap.
8. Tie off, cut the waste and form a nice head by whip finishing, apply head cement.

### Breadcrust



- **Tom Adams, 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.

During the time of low, clear water, especially when fishing a flat pool, try fishing downstream. In slow water, trout have a much longer opportunity to study their food before taking, and a leader is quite visible in slow, clear water. If a leader is the first thing a fish sees, as would be the case with traditional upstream casts, he will generally reject the offering. Obviously, if the fly arrives in the trout's window before the leader, as with a downstream cast, he is more likely to be fooled.

**Editor comment:** This is what I should have been doing on Elk Creek this summer as the water has been low and slow. I've seen plenty of trout running on that first upstream cast!!

- **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 legend, you have something for the museum. Stay tuned for more updates.

August 2014 update:

The museum Board has been formed and has conducted three (3) meetings as of August. An advisory board for museum content and operation will be formed in the coming months as the legal work is completed. Legal work continues with filing for incorporation, developing by-laws and filing for 501c3 status. Over 60 potential exhibits have been identified with brief narratives as part of a long-term plan for the museum.

The facilities and the plans to prepare for the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce occupancy are progressing well. Insulation, duct work, electrical and plumbing is all underway. Stucco walls completed and painted. Woodwork is near completion.

The chamber plans to complete the retail area of the building and begin operations immediately. The Museum Gift Shop will also begin operations soon after provided the inventory of items can be acquired in a timely manner. Occupancy may be as early as September.

- **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**

## 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>

## 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](http://nctu.org/tu_plate.html)



## 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  
1<sup>st</sup> VP: Dana Hershey – 704.577.7700  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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

May 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 wildlife 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  
Co-Chair Friends of Rocky River  
RRTU President 1983-1984

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

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**Friends of Rocky River 2014 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:  
**Joe Harris, 10226 Hanover Woods Pl, Charlotte, NC 28210**  
If your employer has a matching gifts program, please include those forms too!