

We conserve, Protect and Sustain our Coldwater Natural Resources

## August 2019 Newsletter

### Upcoming Events & Calendar

Citizen Scientist Training - August 9-10th

Little Sugar Creek Cleanup - August 17th

Chapter Program - No Meeting in August

Chapter Program - Business Review - September 19th

South Mountain Nature Days - September 28th

Fall Alarka - October 10-13th

### Volunteers Needed - Little Sugar Creek Cleanup - August 17th!



Here is a conservation opportunity in our own backyard! We will be

cleaning up a portion of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway, near the Wendy's/Target in Uptown on August 17th. It's a light effort, from 10am until noon, so it won't be too hot!

The City will be providing gloves, vests, and bags along with pick-up of collected trash. RRTU will be providing volunteers and water.

[Register to Volunteer!](#)

We are not providing lunch, however many of us plan to have a bite and a beer afterwards, all are welcome. A great chance to catch up!



## Citizen Scientist Training August 9-10th

There is an opportunity to be involved in the USFS Community Science program through the aquatic organism passage (AOP) surveys, where stream crossings are assessed to identify whether culverts, fords or bridges are barriers to fish passage. Data collected from

this program will lead directly to on-the-ground land management and conservation plans.

This is a great way to spend a bit of time improving the quality of streams, and learn some new water.

Email Jake Hansen, [jake.hansen@tu.org](mailto:jake.hansen@tu.org), for more information. There is also more info [here](#).

## July - Brews and Brookies



Brews and Brookies was a great event at the Olde Mecklenburg Brewery in mid-July. Over 30 people registered and it seemed close to that braved the thunderstorms to make it out. It was great to see many of the regular crew and quite a few new faces!

In addition we raffled off flies courtesy of Tom Adams and raised about \$200 dollars, or to put it in TIC terms, about 40% of a new tank. Thanks to Tom and everyone who

contributed!

**RRTU Social Media - Check it Out!**



facebook



Rocky River Trout  
Unlimited

Did you know that RRTU had a Facebook Page? Check out

@RockyRiverTroutUnlimited for new events, chapter info, and general interest items.

Also, we just fired up an Instagram account ([rocky.river.tu](https://www.instagram.com/rocky.river.tu)) to post the same information and pictures. We've only had a couple of posts but expect more in the future. A big thanks to Jim Mabrey for getting the Facebook account going and to Patrick Holmes who has stepped up and

volunteered to help us manage these accounts!

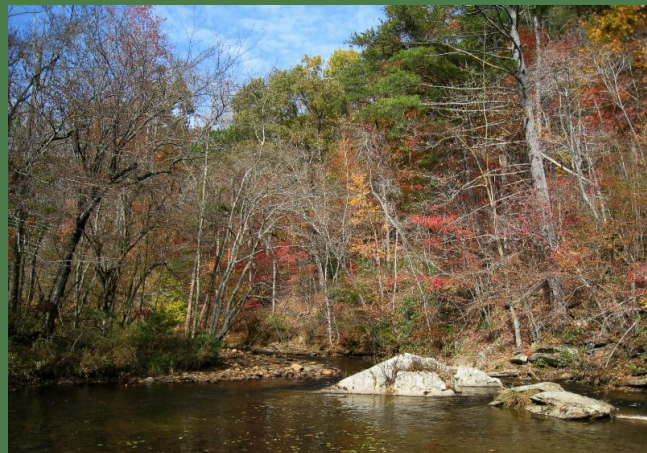
## Fall Alarka - 10 Weeks and Counting

Fall Alarka is October 10-13th! (Check the [calendar](#).)

Alarka is a 4 day camping/fishing trip to the DH and Wild Western North Carolina streams. We stay at the Smoky Mountain

Meadows Campground (hot showers, laundry room, ice on site). The chapter provides most of the meals for the trip for a flat fee. The meals range from pizza at a local brewery, catered pulled pork barbecue, and catered fried chicken dinners over three nights, and continental breakfasts in the mornings.

- Hot Showers, Sheltered Mess Area.
- Meals:
  - Thursday Pizza dinner at [Brewery in Town](#) (some early arrivals)
  - Friday breakfast & dinner (many arrive late Friday afternoon due to work schedules)
  - Saturday breakfast & dinner
  - Sunday breakfast (pack up to leave by mid-morning to fish and travel home)
- 2 truckloads of firewood for campfires, tall tales, guide talk from a local flyshop, and occasionally a fundraiser raffle (Helios 3, anyone?).
- Countless DH and Wild fishing opportunities within 45 minutes of camp.





- Typically the Weekend following the early-April or early Fall NCWRC stockings on the Nantahala, Fires Creek, Tuckaseegee and Big Snowbird.
- Cabin rental Options:
  - Talk to [Dana Hershey](#) to get on the list for group cabins (each sleeps 8)
  - Contact [Smoky Mountain Meadows](#) directly to rent one of their small cabins at the campground.

**NEW** This year we are using registration on the email to collect the base fee of \$65 per person to cover the venue, food, and tent campers. In the registration form, you can also select a \$100 per person option for the cabins based on availability, after confirming with Dana.

**NEW** This year we are hoping for more member engagement. Please let us know in the registration form if you can help. We have opportunities for:

- Grocery Shopping (1-2 people, an hour or two Wednesday before, preset Costco list)
- Cold Item Shopping Thursday Night (1 person, 30 min, set list, after Pizza Dinner)
- Thursday Pizza Round-up (2 people, 5-8 pm, pre-order at noon.)
- Friday Dinner Crew (3 people, 5-8pm)
- Friday Breakfast Crew (1-2 people, 6:30-7:30 am)
- Saturday Dinner Crew (3 People, 5-8pm)
- Saturday Breakfast Crew (1-2 people, 6:30-7:30 am)

Dinners: Catered with a set menu, the team is responsible for pickup, setup, and tear down at camp pavilion.

Breakfast: Continental, the team is responsible for setup and tear down in a cabin.

Pizza Dinner: Set orders and pickup of pizza, delivery to Brewery. Super EASY.

All activity costs paid with RRTU credit card/check or reimbursed.

[Register Now](#)

[I can't make it](#)



## **Fly of The Month 08.19** **Cock-y-Bondhu**

Modern fly pattern design for a beetle is often based on utilizing some type of foam material. However, there was a time when there were no foam materials available (foam was not even invented yet) and fly tyers imitated beetles with a bulky dark body of wool yarn, peacock herl, dyed black ostrich herl, or black Chenille and primarily with cock-y-bondhu feathers, then later with simply brown or black hen feathers as a hackle.

The Red Tag fly pattern is a classic example of a beetle imitation for trout and grayling from the north country of England. The Red Tag is still in use today in Australia and Tasmania as a beetle imitation. But this article is about the beetle imitation that once used the cock-y-bondhu feather in the past. Subtle colorations of chicken feathers made all the difference to our ancestral fly-fishers who believed that nature's colors meant the difference in fly pattern performance. For the most part, dying chicken feathers was a practice adopted more so in the late-1800s, prior to that, natural was the in thing.

Note: The cock-y-bondhu may be found spelled many ways. We have used the spelling which appears to be the one most commonly used today.

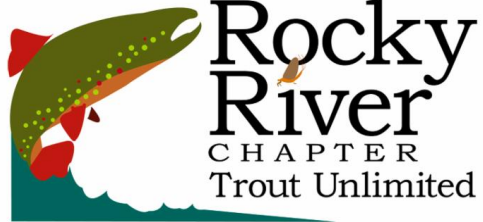
Please check out the website for more information on this and other patterns.

Note: *The website Fly Patterns page is under construction and it is a work in progress. There are partial or incomplete patterns and not all are available as of now. This will be a vast improvement, so please bear with us for a short time. Thanks.*



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conserve • protect • restore