

We conserve, Protect and Sustain our Coldwater Natural Resources

## June 2019 Newsletter

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### Upcoming Events

Board Meeting - June 13th

Rivercourse - June 16th-21st

Chapter Program - Herpetology - June 20th

Brews and Brookies - July 18th



### Chapter Program June 20th- Herpetology

This should be a very interesting meeting!  
Meeting Location, times,  
and info [here](#).

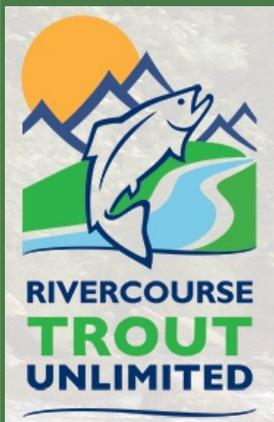
Grover Barfield is currently  
the Director of the  
Carolinas Reptile Rescue  
and Education Center, a

non-profit group dedicated to educating the public about the need to conserve the reptiles of North Carolina and the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of nuisance and injured reptiles mainly in Gaston County, North Carolina and the surrounding counties. CRREC provides educational programs on the Snakes of North Carolina all over the state to schools, civic organizations, Boy and Girl Scout troops and Cub Scout packs, museums, and city, county, and state parks, other government and non-government organizations and agencies, as well as individuals and other groups in VA

and SC.

Mr. Barfield and his son, Zach, have worked with snakes, delivering lectures and programs to elementary and middle schools, YMCA and Boy Scout summer camps, church groups, museums, and individuals since 1990. They have been volunteers at the Schiele Museum of Natural History in Gastonia, NC and have provided several specimens for display at the Schiele Museum, National Whitewater Center, and the Charlotte Nature Museum. He served as the Education committee chairperson with the North Carolina Herpetological Society (NCHS) for four years, and currently is a member of all three working groups of the North Carolina Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NCPARC) and the Education and Outreach Working Group of South East Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (SEPARC).

He has survived three venomous snakebites and untold nonvenomous bites. He has also provided and wrangled a Coral snake for the BBC to use in a documentary filmed at Weymouth Woods NC on the Coral snake and its mimic, the Scarlet Kingsnake. Come join us for this exciting snake-free event, no reptiles or attendees will be harmed in the production of this program!



## Rivercourse Ghillies Needed

RRTU donated \$1200 to Rivercourse this year and they need volunteer Ghillies!

Rivercourse 2019 is just a few weeks away, June 16-21, and they are seeking a few more ghillies to work with this year's campers.



Specifically, we need volunteers to help with the evening sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday – June 17, 18 and 19.

As in previous years, our volunteer ghillies are invited to come early and have dinner with us at 6 p.m. before our 7-9 p.m. fishing sessions.

We also have some ghillie opportunities available in our very early morning sessions.

To volunteer, contact Cemo McConnell  
via email : [cemo55m@yahoo.com](mailto:cemo55m@yahoo.com)  
or call/text : 828-712-6738

Thank you in advance for your response and for your help  
with Rivercourse in years past.

### What's a Ghillie?

Good question! "*Ghillie*" is an old Scots term meaning a person who acts as an attendant on a fishing, fly fishing, hunting, or deer stalking expedition.

<https://rivercourse.org>

## US Forest Service Fishing Day

This was a great event and RRTU really stepped up. A shout out to **George Wilson, Stuart Tucker, Jason Yepko, Cliff Blaney, Peter Valenti, Jeff Bradley, Greg Norman, and Michael Nichols** who all volunteered for RRTU.

RRTU was very fortunate in being invited to the annual Fishing Day by the US Forest Service. Over sixty area folks with special needs were there for trout fishing and a hotdog lunch. There were over 550 hungry trout stocked the day before the event on May 10, so fishing was fantastic.



It is truly difficult to say who had more fun, the volunteers or the fisherfolk. It is not often we at RRTU have an opportunity like this and it sure was a swell day.



## TIC Release and May Streamside- Stone Mountain

By all accounts the TIC release and Streamside at Stone Mountain was a huge success.

We had over 60 kids and parents attend the release, despite the CRAZY weather. The park ranger, Lynette Hicks gave a presentation on stream-side ecology, and then we retired to the pavilion for hamburgers and hot dogs, provided by RRTU.



RRTU honored Lynette Hicks for all of her help with the program. Several volunteers made the program a success including Josh Shriver, Kelly Caudle, Greg Record, Jeff Bradley, Steve and Kate McClure. Oh, and Bill Thomas, of course!



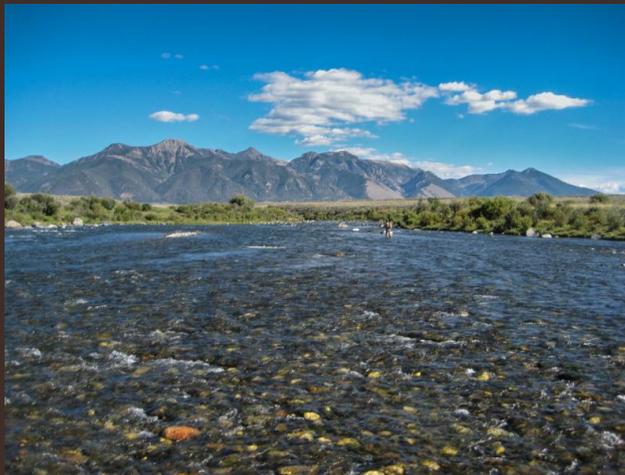
Several fish were caught, with some really nice ones landed in the afternoon.



## May Program - So You Want to Yellowstone?

We had a bit of a scramble with the program last month, and had to quickly come up with a presentation, "So You Want To Yellowstone?"

This was a fun evening, where many of us shared our experiences and provided information that could get you started on planning a trip. We discussed the Yellowstone area, flies, streams, guided trips and etiquette, and logistics. Several volunteers from the chapter chimed in during the presentation.



Thanks to Tim Ramsey, Dana Hershey, and Tom Adams for their help with content and the presentation. The recorded presentation should be available on the website soon.

In Case You Missed it: [Video](#) of the Catawba River Keeper Chapter Event

Many of us live around the Catawba River. We see parts of it from here and there as we drive around Charlotte and other environs. Do you know how big the Catawba River actually is? How many counties its basin covers or how far it reaches? More importantly, how do the urban, suburban, rural populations affect the river and, in turn, how does its quality affect us?



At a recent RRTU meeting, Emily Syrewicse of the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation presented this information and how each of us can help protect this major source of water for the future. Big thanks to Jim Smalley, who has put together a great [video](#) of the event!



## Fly of the Month June 2019

We find it interesting that fly patterns often have parallel origins and very different stories. Since fly patterns were not copyrighted or trademarked until recent times, only in the cases of a patent has anyone in the past challenged who rightfully can claim ownership of a given fly pattern. Historically, fly patterns may be identical or only slightly different with very different names. Likewise, identical names may mean very little and may be different, slightly different or independently originated fly patterns.

One series of fly patterns that was originated by Benny Joe Craig from western North Carolina is the Redhead. His long creative list of flies is a lengthy story to be told at another time. However, there is also a fly pattern from Michigan so named the Redhead fly. In this case there is absolutely no connection between Craig's Redhead series of flies and this Redhead fly found in Smedley's *Fly Patterns and Their Origins* published in 1944.

### Redhead Fly

This squirrel tail fly was first tied by Paul Young of Detroit, Michigan, at the insistence of Jack Redhead, native of, and raised on, the Au Sable River in Michigan, at the mouth of the North Branch; a guide, and a good one. It differs from most squirrel tails in that the hair flares out on each side of the long shank hook, which is lightly dressed in a gold or silver spiral.

## **Redhead Series by Benny Joe Craig**

Craig was a seat of the pants fly tyer who discovered that almost any fly pattern tied with red thread and ending up with a pronounced redhead was highly productive for catching trout in the Southern Appalachians. He used both red thread and fire orange thread depending on the fly pattern. His redhead series includes: Clay County Redhead Caddis, Black Redhead Caddis, Orange Redhead Caddis, Chartreuse Redhead Caddis, Yellow Redhead Caddis, Peacock Redhead Caddis, Golden Redhead, Royal Redhead and Redhead Jassid.

Craig also had two fly patterns that used copper thread, the Dark Copperhead and the Light Copperhead. These fly patterns are totally unrelated to the highly productive Copperhead saltwater fly which imitates a redfish fry.

## **Redhead**

### **Benny Joe Craig (BJC) Redhead Series:**

**Redhead Caddis**

**Black Redhead Caddis**

**Orange Redhead Caddis**

**Chartreuse Redhead Caddis**

**Yellow Redhead Caddis**

**Peacock Redhead Caddis**

**Clay County Redhead Caddis**

**Golden Redhead**

**Royal Redhead**

**Fly of the Month 06.19**

## **Tom Adams and Alen Baker**

References:

Smedley, Harold Hinsdill. *Fly Patterns and Their Origins*, 1944

Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachian, Benny Joe Craig

## **Redhead Caddis**

Hook Dry

Size 14, 16

Thread Red

Tail None

Body Pale green dubbing

Hackle Brown

Wing Light elk hair

Created by Bennie Joe Craig

*Reference: Southern Appalachian, BJC*

## **Black Redhead Caddis**

(same as Redhead Caddis except Body is Black dubbing)

## **Orange Redhead Caddis**

(same as Redhead Caddis except Body is Orange dubbing)

## **Chartreuse Redhead Caddis**

(same as Redhead Caddis except Body is Chartreuse dubbing)

## **Yellow Redhead Caddis**

(same as Redhead Caddis except Body is Yellow dubbing)

## **Peacock Redhead Caddis**

(same as Redhead Caddis except Body is Peacock herl)

## **Clay County Redhead Caddis**

Hook Dry

Size 14, 16

Thread Red

Tail Brown, short

Body Dark brown dubbing

Hackle Dyed-coachman brown grizzly, palmered over body

Wing Squirrel tail, down-wing

Created by Bennie Joe Craig

*Reference: Southern Appalachian, BJC*

### Golden Redhead

Hook Dry

Size 12, 14, 16

Thread Fire orange

Wing Black & White, over hackle, portions from grey squirrel tail

Tail (Tag) Fire orange thread

Body: Harvest gold yarn

Hackle: Dyed-red grizzly

Created by Bennie Joe Craig

*Reference: Southern Appalachian, BJC*

### Royal Redhead

Hook Dry

Size 12, 14, 16

Thread Fire orange

Wing Black & White, over hackle, portions from grey squirrel tail

Tail (Tag) Fire orange thread

Body Wine-colored yarn

Hackle Dyed-red grizzly

Created by Bennie Joe Craig

*Reference: Southern Appalachian, BJC*

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