



# Trout Tales

## Rocky River Chapter

### Trout Unlimited

October 2008



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow RRTU Members,

I hope that each and every one of you has enjoyed receiving the monthly Trout Tales Newsletter. In an ongoing effort to keep you, the membership, informed and involved in the Chapter's happenings we plan to continue with the monthly mailing. We are working on a plan to allow you to help offset the cost of the mailing and will present that soon. If anyone has a short story that they would like to have included, please send it to **Tim Wilhelm** at [twilhelm@carolina.rr.com](mailto:twilhelm@carolina.rr.com) for his use please understand that he may have to edit it for content. I want to personally thank Tim for stepping up and handling the newsletter for us.

The Board of Directors has been meeting and we are planning a fundraiser for March of 2009. We are looking at several different ideas at the present time. We are looking at a possibly an expo type banquet or a whole pig, pig pickin' with auctions and raffles to follow. We are open to suggestions from you, the membership, as to what you would like to have as a fundraiser. We are still working on the new RRTU Logo and hope to have it completed very soon.

This month's meeting will be at The Cookhouse Southern Dinin' located at 20936 Torrence Chapel Rd, in Cornelius, NC (Across the parking lot from Madison River Outfitters) on November 19, 2008. We will start gathering around 6:30 and start the meeting at 7:00. Our speaker will be **Capt. Kirk Drowne** of Madison River Outfitters. Capt. Kirk will demonstrate how to tie and fish the Czech Nymph. Capt. Kirk also will speak about fly fishing for strippers on Lake Norman. Our December meeting will be held at Fudruckers in Matthews, NC on December 17, 2008. There will be no formal program on this meeting night. This is a social time to get together and enjoy the company of like minded people. We have a room that can accommodate 50 people, so bring your spouse if you would like.

Please check out the website ([www.rockyrivertrout.org](http://www.rockyrivertrout.org)) and the yahoo groups' page (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rirtu/>) to find out the latest about your chapter. We have a couple of pictures posted on the yahoo groups' page from our Fall Appletree Trip. We are already planning the Spring Trip to Appletree for April 16 though 19, 2009. If you would like to volunteer to help with this camping trip, contact **Bill Thomas** at [bthomas999@bellsouth.net](mailto:bthomas999@bellsouth.net).

Low water conditions have again made it tough to fish in the NC mountains this fall. The fish are stressed enough without have a hook in their lip, so go leaf looking or scout out a new stream to fish later on when we get some water back in the system. Thank you for being a member of RRTU and being willing to protect, conserve and restore our cold water fisheries.

Jim Mabrey  
President RRTU

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## FALL APPLETREE TRIP

BY BILL THOMAS

The Fall Trip got off to a rocky start with a Forest Service camp sitter on scene. Knowing we did not have a permit for Thursday, they charged us for another day. I guess 1 extra day in 4 years isn't too bad and will plan accordingly for the spring trip. This was my first year where I did not get there on Wednesday or Thursday. How sad it was cause I missed Kirk's Thursday night dinner. And the worst part no one saved me any leftovers. HAHHAHA.

**Jim Mabry**, our new President, straw-bossed this trip. The food was excellent with grilled Bubba Burgers and soup on Fri. night. Grilled pork chops on Sat night along with **Dave, "The Dutch Oven Cobbler King" Wilson** cooking a great dessert. I think the most outrageous thing was cooking omelets in a plastic bag. A one word description is "Awesome". Jim where did

you dig this up? Boy scouts??? [Editor's note: When Jim was a Boy Scout plastic had not yet been invented.]

They did not stock the Nan while we were there so we split up. Some fished the Big Nan. Some fished the DH Nan, and some went Wild. I personally took a few to a wild stream close to the campground on Friday and went to Murphy and fished the Hiawassee on Sat. This is one of my favorite rivers. Lots of water and wild. It was a beautiful day. And a few fish were caught by all.

To all the first timers I hope you had a good time and will be back in the spring. A special "Thank You" to **Dr John Benbow** for taking time out of busy schedule to make the trip. He was our first "Rocky River" president and one of the founders of the chapter along with **Alen Baker** who also was there.

I am sure there were other highlights that I am forgetting. Oh yeah, the music was great around the campfire with the BS even better. The weather was a little chilly. **Erin Purves** locking his keys in his car was fun. I can't believe there was not one thief in this group. He caught his share of fish on his way home with Jack. The raffle went well and hope all who won the flies helped. They are some of my favorites.

I went to Cataloochee Valley to see the Elk in rut and was not disappointed. I got out of receiving a speeding ticket from a Highway Patrolman that also was a fly fisherman and, like me, loves the Hiawassee. I might have to ask him to join us next trip. I'm sure he could get to the streams faster than I can.

See you all at the next meeting and thanks for a great weekend.



**What would Appletree be without Dave Wilson's world famous dutch oven cobbler.**



**This pair would spook fish any where they went! Ken Walker and Dave Wilson prepare themselves with chips and donuts prior to fishing.**

## NATURE DAY AT SOUTH MOUNTAIN BY JOYCE SHEPHERD

On October 18, 2008 four members of Rocky River TU manned a display booth at South Mountains State Park's sixth annual Nature Day. While **Nick Marmigas** and **Joyce Shepherd** demonstrated the art of fly tying, **Bill Thomas** demonstrated and provided fly casting lessons from 11:00am to 4:00pm to all park visitors. There was a lot of interest from young children to adults who have never held a fly rod. Bill proved to be a great caster and teacher. **Alen Baker** spoke with visitors about Trout Unlimited and our mission of cold water fisheries conservation and captured the information of all interested individuals. He also provided pictures of our most recent stream clean-up of rock dams, our bank restoration efforts which included moving rocks to shore up eroded banks, the planting of trees, shrubs and other vegetative materials to close unauthorized trails made by hikers and fishers in South Mountains State Park and Goose Creek.

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## BREAKING THE SNAIL MAIL HABIT

Before offering an email version of the newsletter to the general membership, I wanted the officers to test and critique the listserve that is available to us. I have three reasons for doing this: 1) to show them how easy it is, 2) to enlist them as advocates of the listserve, and; 3) to get good feedback from them on issues that might arise. We have 12 officers when you include the immediate past president and a month ago an invitation was sent to all of them with instructions on how to sign up. Seven of them have signed up and will receive their newsletter this month both early and by email. The other five have not subscribed to the listserve and will receive this issue again by mail. Why I mention it here is that even though it seems like everyone has an email address, email doesn't work as well as we hope. Based on some automated replies I got when I sent the invitation, AOL doesn't view me as a friend and where I am viewed as a friend that's family, I think was ignored like family.

Here is what I would like the five remaining officers to do. Using the email account you would like to use to receive the newsletter send an email to [sympa@list.nctu.org](mailto:sympa@list.nctu.org) and include in the subject line **subscribe rrtu-news yourname** as the subject line. You will then receive further instructions by email.

Once we can get this running smoothly with the officers, we'll extend the invitation to the rest of you to join.

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## TELLICO OHV LAWSUIT

The attorneys representing the OHV clubs filed a motion to voluntarily dismiss the lawsuit they filed against the Forest Service. They withdrew their suit after the Forest Service filed their motion to dismiss. Because the Forest Service's action to date has been temporary and taken to allow them to collect data before making permanent recommendations, the suit brought by the OHV clubs had no legitimate claim.

Possibly by the time of the next meeting the Forest Service will have issued their recommendations. There will be about a half dozen plans one of which will be identified as the Forest Service's preferred plan. The Forest Service will then allow a 45 day comment period and I will pass on to you the plan that is supported by TU.

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## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President..... **Jim Mabrey**  
1st Vice President .....**Bill Thomas**  
2nd Vice President .....**Justin Souma**  
Treasurer .....**Dave Wilson**  
Secretary ..... **Sue Hartsell**

Directors: **Dave Stakel, Steve Craig, Joyce Shepard, Alen Baker, Erin Purves and Terry Hill.**

Well we got this one out but you will notice, if you look closely, there is a lot of this

*(white space)*

in this month's edition. You can only adjust margins and line spacing so much to fill up a newsletter before you need content. For the president and me it is part of our job description to fill up the white space and I am grateful that Joyce Shepherd and Bill Thomas helped out this month. We'll be sending out another one in December and if you have something that can help me fill in the white space, I'd love to read it. You can reach me at [twilhelm@carolina.rr.com](mailto:twilhelm@carolina.rr.com) and thanks.

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November Meeting

Program: Capt. Kirk Drowne

*Tying and Fishing Czech Nymphs & Lake Norman Strippers*

**Cookhouse Southern Dinin'**

**Cornelius, NC**

**Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Social Time: 6:30 pm**

**Meeting Starts: 7:00 pm**