
THE FLY PAPER

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A Publication of Triangle Fly Fishers, An Affiliate of Trout Unlimited

JCap (a.k.a Jim Cappy, new TFF President) Speaks

Some words from the president...

Happy New Year and tight lines to all! I would like my first message as TFF president to begin with hearty thanks to John Allman (aka Hammer Trout!) for his past two years of strong leadership. One just needs to read the last newsletter to see how successful TFF has been under Hammer's reign. Now, if the next guy can just ...

2004 should prove to be an interesting year. The TFF board has made some adjustments in responsibilities due to members' wishes and time constraints. Paul Parks will continue to be our Program Coordinator but will also assume the previously vacant Vice-President position. Katie McKeithen will work with Paul on programs in (our) hope she will someday take over that role. Ned Jones and Jim Coveney have joined board to add fresh perspective

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SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

MONDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 7:00 PM:

Outdoors writer Jim Dean was planned as our speaker on the 26th, but as you all know, the January meeting was cancelled due to snow and ice. We hope to reschedule Jim for an upcoming meeting. Many of you may know Jim through his column, "Our Natural Heritage", that appears on the inside front cover of *Wildlife in North Carolina*. Or you may have read Jim's work in the two collections he's published, *Dogs That Point, Fish That Bite: Outdoor Essays* and *The Secret Lives of Fishermen*. Hopefully we can reschedule with Jim for sometime later in the year.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, 7:00 PM:

Scott Wood of Great Outdoor Provision Company is the speaker planned for February. Scott will give a presentation on a recent trip to fish the famed brook trout waters of Labrador. This should be an excellent and inspiring show.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST & 22ND:

THE FLY FISHING SHOW

This year's show is set for February 21st and 22nd at the Charlotte Convention Center. This year's show will also feature a special Rod Builder's Show. Go Here for full details:

<http://www.flyfishingshow.com/charlotte.html>

SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD:

4TH ALMOST ANNUAL HAW RIVER DERBY AND CONSERVATION DAY

As in years past, we'll be picking up trash along a stretch of the Haw River during the morning and then have a fishing tournament in the afternoon. Points will be awarded for pounds of trash collected and numbers of fish caught. Full details on this event are coming soon.

To be added to our e-mail distribution list, please send an e-mail to Dave Maeda at maeda@us.ibm.com

Featured Water

by Dave Maeda

Curtis Creek, McDowell County, NC

Curtis Creek is in McDowell County just north of the town of Old Fort and is another stream mentioned in Jimmy Jacobs' book "Trout Streams of Southern Appalachia" (pages 134 and 135). This is a stream with two distinct fisheries. Three if you include its Newberry Creek tributary. The first is a two mile Delayed Harvest (DH) stretch lower down. The second is a three mile stretch of Wild Trout water higher up in the Pisgah National Forest. The fisheries are separated by about two miles of private (posted) lands. Rainbow trout are the primary occupants of the Wild Trout waters. Rainbows, browns, and brookies are stocked into the DH section. There is also a brook trout fishery in Newberry Creek which joins Curtis Creek between the DH and Wild Trout sections. Newberry Creek is currently designated as a Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Water.

Access to Curtis Creek is via Curtis Creek Road which parallels the stream and eventually turns into FS 482 at the junction at Newberry Creek. FS 482 continues to follow Curtis Creek up into the Pisgah National Forest. FS 482A follows Newberry Creek from the junction. The upper end of the DH section is marked by a Handicap Access pier. The paved road ends about a quarter mile further upstream. The upper end of the DH stretch is relatively open. Trees encroach more as you get further down the stream. There is a Day Use Area with some parking and another Handicap Access pier about half way through the DH section. There are also numerous spots to pullover and park along Curtis Creek Road. Look for trout in the deeper runs and pools.

For the Wild Trout section of Curtis Creek, there are numerous turnouts along FS 482 once you get inside the Pisgah National Forest. Up here, Curtis Creek winds its way through the campsites and picnic areas. It is your typical NC small stream with a fair gradient, plunge pools, tumbling waters, and lots of Rhododendrons.

To get to Curtis Creek from the Triangle, take I-40 west to Old Fort. Get off at exits 75 or 73. Exit 75 will put you on



A Diverse Fishery Exists on Curtis Creek in McDowell County, NC

Greenlee Road. Take Greenlee Road west until it hits US 70. Go straight at the stop sign and this will be Curtis Creek Road. Exit 73 will route you through Old Fort on Catawba Avenue. Catawba Avenue tees into US 70. Take a right at the light (Taking a left will head you towards Mill Creek, a Hatchery Supported stream ...). Curtis Creek Road intersects US 70 a couple miles or so north of Old Fort. Look for signs for Curtis Creek. Take a left at the intersection onto Curtis Creek Road. If you go right, you will end up back at I-40 via Greenlee Road (Exit 75 ...).

All told, it is about a four hour drive to Curtis Creek from Raleigh. Most of it on I-40. An overnight stay at the USFS Curtis Creek Campground in the Pisgah National Forest is a good idea (weather permitting ...).

From the President continued from page 1

and ideas. Familiar faces will remain in the other positions; Ed McGee, Treasurer, Brian Thomas, Newsletter, Marty Gooch, Web Guru, Dave Maeda, Membership and NCTU council liaison, and John Allman, Past-President and Member at Large. This is a hard working group worthy of your support. If you have any ideas, questions or concerns these are the folks, along with myself, you should contact.

Once again this year, the Durham County Wildlife Club has graciously allowed us the use of their facilities at no cost. We will schedule a workday at the DCWC Lake sometime in March-April to show our appreciation. I hope you all will make an effort to help out! The facilities are great and it provides us greater budget flexibility since we pay no rent for a meeting place.

Our first major activity of the year will be the Mostly Annual Haw River Derby on Saturday, April 3. It will run as in past years, with a trash collection component and a fishing contest. More details will be available soon. Hammer outlined some of our plans for the year in last month's newsletter. We'll pass along the particulars as they are finalized. We do expect more conservation related opportunities this year.

I am looking forward to a great year and hope you are also. See you at our next meeting or on the water!

JCap

Members Tips

By Brian Thomas

Lip Balm Soothes Icy Guides

If you've done any trout fishing in the winter then you've probably had the frustrating experience of ice forming on your rod guides. Once a little ice starts to form it doesn't take long before the movement of your line through the guides is practically halted. In order to prevent this frustrating condition try spreading a little lip balm or Vaseline on your guides. You'll need to clear off any existing ice before applying. Once your guides are clear, put a little lip balm on your thumb and forefinger and apply it to each guide – you may want to use a little extra on your tip guide.

Featured Fly

Sparkle Minnow – Thomas Variant

I believe the original Sparkle Minnow was invented by a guy named Greg Coffey. I've never seen one of his, but I saw someone else's attempt at one and thought I need to try tying one of these – I'm glad I did. This fly has produced brown trout, smallmouth bass, and white bass.



Hook: Straight eye streamer hook (size 6 shown)

Thread: White (use something fairly heavy)

Tail: White marabou with 8-10 strands of Krystal Flash

Body: Pearl Wing-N-Flash

Head: Silver cone head bead.

Slide the bead on first and then tie in the tail materials as you would for a Woolly Buzzer. Now form a 6 to 8 inch dubbing loop at the back end of the fly. What you'll do now is pull off 1 to 2 inch hanks of Wing-N-Flash, insert them in your loop, and spin the loop to hold the hanks in place. I use a Dubbit tool for this process. Once your loop is about full, begin wrapping it toward the hook eye. If you're right handed, use your left hand to pull back any forward facing material – do this with each wrap. Continue wrapping until you reach the back of the bead, or until you get to the end of your loop. Start over with a new loop if the first one doesn't get you up to the bead. I usually have to use at least two loops. Now just whip finish and trim the body to remove any excessively long strands of material.

The secret of this fly's success is the flash created by the body material and the way it's applied. You'll be amazed at the amount of light reflected off the sides and tips of the strands of Wing-N-Flash.

Fishy Stories

And other words of wisdom from our members

“Squeak’s Squiggles”

January 2004

(This is a “name” I’ve used for various reports I’ve provided over the years to chapters and councils. Please ‘consider’ using “Squeak’s Squiggles” in your newsletters, etc.)

(As a TU Board of Trustee member elected by the grassroots membership, one of my primary responsibilities, as defined by the new strategic plan is to provide a direct and accessible link/interface between TU members and TU national staff. Therefore, at the request of NCTU Council and several other chapters from NC, SC, GA and TN, I have decided to initiate this communication “vehicle” to provide information related to projects, issues, and programs that effect council and chapters throughout the area. I will be providing this on a regular basis (? quarterly) to any/all requesting the information (feel free to cut and paste as required/needed) for use in newsletters etc. As the majority of my TU personal involvement is within NC and the Southeast, issues related to this regional area will likely dominate my reports. However, issues of national relevance/significance will be included from time to time, as necessary. The format will be ‘informal’ with bullet points and mini updates on specific areas of ongoing concern. I hope this format, and the information provided, proves beneficial to your specific communications’ objectives. Your feedback/suggestions will be instrumental to the content of future reports/updates.)

NCTU

Muddy Creek Project: Watershed Assessment nears final stage, look for posting on NCWRC website ncwildlife.org soon. Significant work for 03 dealt with landowner outreach and enhanced affiliation with NRCS and using Farm Bill sponsored projects to enhance WQ within the watershed. Attempts to bring additional local governments into the project are moving forward. Design work contracted with NCWRC on a major streambank restoration using an existing Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) grant is nearing completion, with ground breaking to take place this spring. Volunteer work is likely during the summer and fall. Continued/future support from local chapters through NCTU is still required. I have ‘committed’ to raising \$10-12K annually

from TU and other angler organizations for this project. I would request donations be routed through NCTU to simplify accounting procedures. Accomplishments to date: 8,000’ of natural channel design stream restoration, 6,000’ of reforestation has been installed, several cattle exclusion measures have been implemented, an estimated 1,200 tons of sediment/year have been stopped from entering the Catawba River, and over \$1.2 million dollars in funding and in-kind services have been put ‘on the ground’...all this with a TU funding base of approximately \$50K...that represents effective “leveraging” of conservation dollars! Additionally the Project has received two significant awards from the American Fisheries Society and the NC Wildlife Federation.

Catawba-Waterie Relicensing (FERC) Our current involvement with Duke Power and the other stakeholders, both public and private, throughout NC and SC in the relicensing process is proving both active and effective. Kirk Otey and I both serve on Advisory Groups in NC, and are either primary or alternates on the NC State Relicensing Team. If you’d like to keep up with the activities of the process you can check out the Catawba Waterie Relicensing Coalition (CWRC) website www.cwrc.info or the Duke Power website at www.catawbahydrolicensing.com

Our goals for the process include issues directly related to TU’s national conservation agenda: in-stream flows, dissolved oxygen issues, tailrace issues, fish passage, sedimentation control, aquatic habitat, WQ, recreational access, and safety, to name a few.

Linville River Project: NCTU just signed an Agreement with Pilot View RC & D for project coordination on the Linville Project. The multi-phased project is expected to continue for 3-4+ years, and will: restore over 20,000 feet of degraded streambank; eliminate thermal loading below impoundments; work with local conservancies to attain WQ easements with willing landowners; could open some current private water to public access; improve WQ throughout the watershed; enhance the currently degraded WQ within the Linville Gorge Wilderness area; provide educational outreach to local communities; and much more! Currently, we have been awarded a grant from CWMTF for \$257K to do initial design work on the first phase of restoration on the headwaters of the West Fork of the Linville River. In conjunction with a National Forest Foundation (NFF) grant, NCTU and TU National are working to put a TU staff person ‘on the ground’ in the watershed in the near future. The potential for the Linville River Project to become a TU Home Rivers Initiative (HRI) is gaining momentum.

Watermill Access Project: A cooperative project between Table Rock TU (TRTU), Burke County and the city of Glen Alpine to provide a boat launch and recovery site on the Catawba River, 8 miles below the Bridgewater Dam on Lake James. In an effort to provide public access to the Catawba River, without having to wait for the relicensing process to be finished, I initiated this cooperative venture. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to NCTU Council, the many NC Chapters and individuals from all over the country who have donated funds and time to this project. We have ‘broken ground’ and two workdays have been scheduled for volunteers to ‘get their hands dirty’.

January 31 and Feb 14, 9am-?, meet at the site, lunch will be provided. Come dressed to ‘work’ and bring any personal equipment appropriate for laying concrete forms, spreading rock/gravel/mulch....and a strong back. If you'd like to volunteer RSVP to squeaksmith@earthlink.net, if we have a weather cancellation, I'll contact known volunteers by email.

Youth Education: NC had its first NCTU sponsored, week long, youth education program in 2003....**Rivercourse:** coordinated and directed by Betsy Craig was a huge success, the 2004 program promises to be even better. Deadline for applications is March 15, 2004. Please contact Betsy if you want to volunteer or if your chapter wants information on sponsoring a camper (or 2?). ercraig@citcom.net

Back the Brookie (BTB): Under the guidance of Kim Ryals kryals@tu.org, and volunteer leadership provided by NCTU Council Vice Chairman and BTB Chairman Jeff Pierce jb Pierce@charter.net, the BTB Campaign is rapidly expanding to meet numerous strategic goals and issues. Through active participation by NCTU members from around the state, this program, initially funded by a C.S. Mott grant, will soon receive regional funding from NC and 6 other states from Delaware to Georgia. The RTB program is receiving significant national attention as a model for organizational development and capacity building. For more details on how you can get involved personally or at a council or chapter level, contact Kim or Jeff.



Sign at the new Watermill access ramp on the Catawba River



Looking up at the launch ramp at the Watermill access site

FlyFishing Poetry:
 The flask frae my pocket
 I poured into the socket.
 For I was provokit unto the last degree:
 And to my was o' thinking
 There's naething for't but drinking'
 When a trout he lies winkin' and lauchin' at me.
 W.C. Stewart

Fly Fishers Wanted

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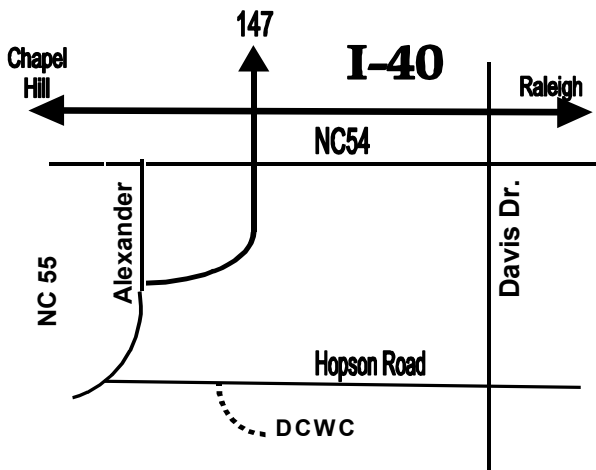


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Monthly Meetings: Last Monday of every month @ 7:00 PM except December at Durham County Wildlife Club (DCWC) in RTP off Hopson Rd

Directions: Take I-40 to the Davis Drive exit (exit 280) and go south 1 mile to Hopson rd. Turn right and go one mile to Innovation Drive and turn left. Go about 25 yards and turn left on to the gravel drive and follow it back to the wildlife club. The pre-program starts around 6:45 and the regular meeting starts at 7:00.



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