
THE FLY PAPER

Issue III

May-June 2001

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

The BIG Trout Speaks

Some words from the president...

Mark Zimmerman, *President, Triangle Fly Fishers*

Summer-like weather is finally showing up in the Triangle, and hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to get in some good fishing. TFF activities have continued at a good clip, and attendance at all of the functions over the last couple of months has been very good. At the March chapter meeting, our own local celebrity Tom Earnhardt gave a great presentation on his personal evolution of fly fishing across several (how many, Tom?) decades, highlighting the diversity of fishing opportunities that exist right here in North Carolina. And Tom generously donated several framed prints and some fly fishing gear for a surprise (and free!) drawing.

Attendance is up...come find out why!

Our April program was a casting clinic presented by David Murray from South Carolina. About 35 folks participated at Lake Crabtree in Morrisville, and David did a superb job of instructing – I'm pretty sure that everyone, from beginners to those more

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SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

MONDAY, MAY 28TH, 7:00 P.M.:

“Our Closest Trout Waters” by Jan Hackett. Jan will be presenting a slide show and discussion on fly fishing the Smith River and Rock Castle Creek in VA.

Beat the Memorial Day Traffic home and attend May's Meeting!

MONDAY, JUNE 25TH, 7:00 P.M.:

“Bugs in the Water” by Dave Penrose. Dave is with the NCDENR, Division of Water Quality, Wetlands /401 Unit. Dave will be presenting a program about aquatic life in our area.

UPCOMING TFF EVENTS

TFF WATAUGA RIVER TRIP

ELIZABETHTON, TN

JUNE 22-24, 2001

TFF is sponsoring a “take-yourself-trout-fishing” trip to fish the Watauga and South Holston Rivers in Eastern Tennessee. Seasoned angler and TFF member Malcolm “Beenlately” Finlayson is once again the trip coordinator. Please see Page 4 for more details.

TFF SMALLMOUTH BASS SEMINAR AND GUIDED FISHING TRIP

EDINBURG, VA

JULY 21ST, 2001

This is a great opportunity! Famed smallmouth fly fisher Harry Murray is providing TFF members a seminar on fly fishing for smallmouth bass. The seminar includes guided wade fishing in the afternoon. See Page 5 for more details.

SAVE \$\$ GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY! SEND AN E-MAIL TO flyfishing-hackett@msn.com TO ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST!!

Conservation News

Fly Fishing for the Future

Terry Hackett, Conservation Chairman

Despite having to reschedule the Haw River Derby, the chapter still managed to clean up a lot of trash. Be sure to check with us for upcoming events where you can help. One thing that does help is responding to our requests to contact your government representatives. But you don't have to wait until a crisis occurs. Please write or email your state and federal representatives and let them know how important our natural resources are to you.

TFF Provides Information to United Way

At the request of the State TU officials, TFF officers Mark Zimmerman and Terry Hackett provided information about our chapter to the Triangle Chapter of United Way. A portion of TU's funding comes from United Way.

TU Announces New SE Local Organizer

Kim Ryals was named Southeast Local Organizer for Trout Unlimited. Kim will be working out of Asheville, North Carolina, as the local organizer for the southeast region. Kim recently ran a successful urban fisheries program in Salt Lake City, for the state of Utah. She holds a PhD in pharmacology, as well as a master's degree in fisheries biology. Kim has been a saltwater angler all of her life, but is looking forward to trout fishing in North Carolina. Contact Kim at kryals@tu.org



Roanoke River Update

As many of you know, there was a purported fish kill on the Roanoke River near Weldon in early May. The suspected cause was discharge of untreated sewage into the river. Fortunately, the reports of dead stripers was inaccurate. However, the report of the sewage discharge was true. As it turns out, a new facility called Reser's Fine Foods started operation prior to having the necessary approvals and pre-treatment facility for its discharge. The increase of effluent at the Weldon Water Treatment facility overwhelmed the plant and untreated waste was discharged to the river. State officials were notified and the plant was shut down. The situation is currently being corrected. We are very fortunate that a significant fish kill did not result. We will keep you informed of further developments. Thanks to all TFF Members who responded to this problem.



continued next column.

May's Program, 7:00 p.m.

"Our Closest Trout Waters" presented by Jan Hackett

Please join us to see Jan's presentation on the closest trout stream to the Triangle area, the Smith River. Jan is a TFF member and owner/operator of NC Anglers and Outfitters, a fly shop in Durham. Jan will be sharing his knowledge on how to catch those selective wild browns in the Smith. The presentation will also include fly fishing Rock Castle Creek, a beautiful mountain stream just 30 minutes from the Smith. So beat the traffic and come on home a little early from your Memorial Day trip and join us for this informative program.

2nd Annual Haw River Fly Fishing Derby and Conservation Day

The rescheduled Haw River Derby was held on Saturday, May 5th, and Mother Nature finally gave us some great weather before and during. Eighteen dedicated trash-picker-uppers assembled at Vista Point in Jordan Lake State Park, and caravanned over to the Robeson Creek Canoe Access area for the festivities. The lean-and-mean group scoured the area in a couple of hours, and picked up a total of **255 pounds of trash!** The area looked beautiful when they were done, and many contributions had been made to the dumpster.

Fishing was fun, even though the white bass seemed to have departed the area (based on the fact that none were caught, despite the esteemed talent which tried). Many sunfish succumbed to a wide variety of treats, and a couple of other species were hooked as well – here's the official count, and the certified prize winners:

Biggest fish caught: Brian Thomas, with a carp (estimated to be around 5 lbs!) on a bead-head nymph, landed after a delicate fight with a 4-weight.

Strangest fish caught: Jim Harding, with a snake on his fly! (Jim, how did you end up getting the critter off?).

Most fish caught: Jim Rice, with a professed 39 sunfish and one largemouth bass (but his witness may not be too reliable.....).

continued Page 4

From the President continued from page 1

experienced, learned something new (and some of us learned many, many things!). We had a beautiful day weather-wise, and enjoyed lunch at one of the pavilions in the park. Many thanks to the volunteers from our chapter who helped provide “pointers” to folks during the practice sessions.

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate for our 2nd Annual Haw River Fly Fishing Derby and Conservation Day, which was scheduled for the first Saturday in April. Due to a very heavy rain over several days during the preceding week, the Haw was running extremely high and was un-wade-able, and the Robeson Creek Canoe Access area was completely flooded. So, we were forced to cancel the event and reschedule it for the first weekend in May. Though the turnout was smaller than last year, we had a successful trash collection and a lovely afternoon of fishing (you can read about the results of the contest on page 2 and 4).

We’ve got lots more great programs planned for the coming months, as well as a couple of chapter-sponsored overnight fishing trips. At the May 28th monthly meeting, our distinguished presenter will be Jan Hackett, owner and operator of NC Anglers and Outfitters in Durham. Jan is going to talk about trout fishing on the Smith River and Rock Castle Creek in southern Virginia (and, having been personally beaten-up by the Smith several times, I’ll be happy to tell you how much he strays from the hard-core facts.....). And in June, Dave Penrose from the NC State Department of Wetlands is going to discuss aquatic life in our area, otherwise entitled “Bugs in the Water”.

Also in June (the weekend of the 22nd -24th), one of our Elder Statesmen and Past Presidents, Malcolm Finlayson, will coordinate a “take-yourself-trout-fishing” trip to Eastern Tennessee (Elizabethton area) to fish the South Holston, Watauga, and some smaller streams in the area. And in July (21st - 22nd), the chapter is sponsoring a trip to Virginia's Shenandoah Valley for smallmouth bass with Harry Murray of Murray’s Fly Shop – this will be a guided trip with professionals from Harry’s shop. Additional details on both trips are contained later in the newsletter.

All of these activities are made possible through the hard work of your TFF Board, and I want to again thank them all for their efforts. Hope to see you at the May meeting.



Featured Water

The Watauga River, TN

The Watauga River is a fine tailwater trout fishery located in eastern Tennessee. It is part of the Tennessee Valley Authority system of reservoirs and dams. The river contains both wild and stocked rainbows and browns. Previously, the special regulation section contained some fine trout like the one below. However, in Spring of 2000 a chemical spill into the river resulted in a significant fish kill. Fortunately, state and local officials acted quickly and the river has recovered nicely and is worth the trip. Like all tailwaters in the area, electricity is generated on a regular basis. This means the water is subject to rise quickly and makes wading very dangerous. So if you are headed to the Watauga River, call 800 238-2264 and follow the directions. The flow on the Watauga is controlled from Wilbur dam which is number 42 on the menu.



USGS topo map of Elizabethton, TN and Watauga River



A nice Watauga River Rainbow caught by a somewhat famous Triangle Fly Fisher that edits the Newsletter (photo by J. Hackett).



Conservation from page 2

Haw Derby Results Continued...

Strangest trash: Marty and Sheila Gooch with an intact bedspread (no one volunteered to take it home and wash it), and Dave Maeda with a pair of pantyhose (I can verify that Dave did not take them home, either).

Best Photo Op: John, Ed, Mark and Jim trying (and succeeding) to open Jim's car (where *were* the keys, Jim?) with various pieces of fly rod and trash from the dumpster.

1st Place Prize – Brian Thomas with 130 points (108 trash points and 22 fish points). Brian takes home a \$100 shopping spree at a local fly shop, plus a 1-year pass for access to fish the Pigeon River, plus a Derby t-shirt.

2nd Place Prize – Dave Maeda with 105 points (90 trash points and 15 fish points). Dave won a \$50 shopping spree and a Derby t-shirt.

3rd Place Prize – Bill Peters with 100 points (90 trash points and 10 fish points). Bill receives a \$25 shopping spree and a Derby t-shirt.

Raffle Drawing – Jim Rice, for a \$25 shopping spree

Congratulations to all the winners, and many thanks to everyone who participated and helped make this a successful event. Thanks also to Mr. Robert Holden, Solid Waste Manager for Chatham County, who graciously arranged to have a dumpster placed in the parking lot at Robeson Creek for trash removal, and to Ranger Meaghan Lynch at Jordan Lake for arranging the necessary permits.

We'll present the prizes and certificates at the May meeting, and we'll also have Haw Derby t-shirts available for sale at \$10 each.

Right...TFF Member Scott Owenby "weighs-in" his bag of trash collected during the Derby. The "Big Trout" (President Mark Zimmerman) and Program Coordinator Ed McGee verify the results...obviously, that bribe Scott gave them didn't help since he didn't place in the top 3!



TFF Watauga River Trip

JUNE 22-24, ELIZABETHTON, TN

"TROUT ON YOUR OWN"

Malcolm Finlayson will act as trip "coordinator", and will provide information on how to get there, where to fish, what to use, and which motel most folks usually stay in. There's no cost for the trip, and everyone will be responsible for their own lodging, transportation, food, and licenses. There is plenty of wadeable water in the area, and some anglers may choose to float the special regulation (trophy) section of the Watauga near Elizabethton. This is a "self-guided" trip, so folks are on their own to make fishing arrangements – once we know who's going, we'll try to pair up those with and without experience in the area. In addition, some paddlers may have room in their canoe for a "rider".

Anglers can also fish the South Fork of the Holston which holds large browns and several smaller freestone streams in the area. Your trip coordinator will provide a "parade route" tour of some trout hot spots in the area and will include a good place or two for lunch. However, be forewarned that fishing success on these rivers can be tough at times, but you can also provide some terrific fly fishing. If you're interested in participating, please e-mail Malcolm at mdfinlay@email.unc.edu for all the details.



Smallmouth on the Fly!

TFF Smallmouth Bass Seminar and Guided Fly Fishing Trip

JULY 21ST , EDINBURG, VIRGINIA

Famed smallmouth fly fisher, Harry Murray (owner of Murray's Fly Shop in Edinburg, VA www.murraysflyshop.com) is providing TFF members with a how-to seminar followed by guided fly fishing on the Shenandoah. The cost for the seminar and fishing will be \$65/person, and we'll have a guide for each group of 10. There are plenty of campgrounds and motels in the area, and each person will be responsible for their own food, lodging and transportation. If you would like to participate, we need a commitment (and your \$65 check) **NO LATER THAN MAY 30TH** – e-mail Mark Zimmerman (zimmflyfish@nc.rr.com) if you would like to join us, and send him your check as well (mail to: 4310 Swarthmore Rd., Durham, NC 27707).

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**Remember,
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Friends
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The editor...

Fishy Stories

And other words of wisdom from our members

Another Convert

By Terry L. Hackett and Larry Longo

As some of you know, I took a new job earlier this year. I found out that there were a couple of fishermen in the new office and that they were planning a trip to the western part of North Carolina for some trout fishing. They invited me to go along and being the good employee, I decided I just "had" to go in order to build a strong company team. Grant Watkins organized the trip. Grant has been fly fishing for about 3 years and did very well on the trip. The other person going was Larry Longo. Larry had never fly fished, but was an avid bait/hardware chucker. Larry reluctantly fished with a fly rod, knowing that his ultra-light spin rod was nearby. However, Larry never reached for the spinner. Instead he stuck with the fly rod and caught several nice trout. Below is an e-mail Larry sent to his non-fly fishing buddies...Larry likes to "stir" the pot!

-----Original Message-----

From: Longo, Lawrence

Sent: Monday, May 07, 2001 8:04 AM

To: 'Leonard, LF'; 'Leonard, Olo'; 'Longo, Justin'; 'Longo, Peter'; 'Longo, Sandy'; 'Collier, Bob'

Subject: Fly Fishing

Well, I'm back from my first fly fishing trip. We hit 5 streams located in western NC. (Where?...yeh, right. Like I'm going to tell you where.)

How did I like fly fishing? Well, let me put it this way.....anyone want to buy a half dozen or so spinner rods and reels and a ton of bait casting equipment and jigs? Yes, that's right, I have joined the elite of the elite fishing brotherhood of fly fishermen. Us fly fishermen are real sportsmen, unlike you meat fishermen with your white pails, coffee cans of worms, cane poles, boom boxes, treble hooks, etc. Why my new fishin' buddies and I refuse even to fish stocked steams. Us purist fly fishermen back-pack several miles deep into the wilderness and only fish for wild trout in unchartered waters. And let me tell you.....we can pull trophy trout out of a few inches of water. (Pictures? You want to see pictures?...well, I uh... I dropped the camera in the water as I was landing one of my many trophies.....)

So that's the deal my friends. Keep on eye out for my picture on the cover of the next Orvis catalog landing a 20-inch brookie. Or perhaps you might see me in the up coming movie sequel...."A River Runs Through It - Part 2".



Braggin' Rights...



TFF Member (and Public Relations Officer) Debbie Griffith shows a nice Piedmont warmwater "trout" caught at a secret spot on Jordan Lake. This healthy largemouth bass was caught pre-spawn this Spring (Photo by Ed McGee).



New TFF Member, Jim Coveny poses with this nice blue gill caught at a secret pond in Orange County...the fish was released to "grow bigger" (T. Hackett photo).

From the Editor...

Please remember that this is YOUR newsletter. That means we are looking for pictures, stories, and items for the "want ad" section. Without support from YOU, I'll be forced to put in the same old boring stuff.

Terry "T-bone" Hackett, the editor

CHANGE OF E-MAIL: If you are on the TFF e-mail list, you may submit e-mail address changes to flyfishing-hackett@msn.com

Not on the TFF E-mail List but want to be? Simply send an e-mail to flyfishing-hackett@msn.com.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please DO NOT send change of address requests to the editor. Instead contact TU directly at (703) 522-0200 or e-mail TU at membership@tu.org. You can also change your address or renew on-line by visiting TU's web-site, www.tu.org



Do you have a fishing story or photograph you would like to share? If so, please send via e-mail to flyfishing-hackett@msn.com



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For Sale

Have an item to sell? Sell it here!

Wanted

Wanted to buy...two 9-foot 6-weight fly rods with medium-fast or fast action. Please contact Jim Westmoreland at westmore@niehs.nih.gov or 919-541-3556.

Well known Wyoming outfitter, Ron Dube, needs to fill last minute vacancies on a 9-day horse pack trip into the Thorofare region of the Bridger-Teton Wilderness area. Trip is scheduled for July 9-17. For more information contact Rus Rice at (919) 489-0455.

Personals

Personally, I think TFF adds sell better than any others!



Do you have a fly fishing related item to sell? Are you looking for something or someone? Do you wish to place an ad?

Classified adds (For Sale, Wanted, Personal) can be placed free of charge by TFF members. Non-members and "Marketplace" advertisements are available for a modest fee. Contact one of the officers or the editor for details. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed on the last page of the newsletter.



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Monthly Meetings: Last Monday of every month @ 7:30 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 7:30.

