
THE FLY PAPER

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

Hammer Trout Speaks

Some words from the president...

The Triangle Fly Fishers chapter has been busy since I last wrote a note you. Our annual Haw River Derby was very successful and received very favorable mention in last Thursday's News and Observer. Go here to read the article:

<http://newsobserver.com/sports/outdoors/story/2522153p-2343131c.html>

In case you missed the event, or the paper, Jeff Pickering won first place, by picking up a large amount of garbage, and catching the most fish. Questioned on how he managed to catch so many more fish than the other competitors, Jeff was quoted as saying, "It was easy, really. All you had to do was wade in over your head, then you could reach the good fishing spots." Congratulations, Jeff, you deserved the top spot. This year, we were fortunate to have support from a great many people. Many thanks go out to Katie McKeithan, for the good-looking T-shirts, Jim Cappy, Ed McGee,

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SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

MONDAY, MAY 26, 7:00 PM:

The May meeting will feature Theo Copeland along with Oliver White from Appalachian Anglers. They will give a slide show covering the Holston and Watauga tailwaters as well as some smallie fishing on the Nolichucky near Erwin, TN. They will also touch on fishing opportunities in the Boone area.

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 7:00 PM:

The June meeting will feature Doug Besler from the NC Wildlife Resource Commission, Div. of Inland Fisheries, Coldwater Research Coordinator. Doug will talk about the Catawba River Tailrace and give an update on the Muddy Creek Project. This should be a very interesting program. Apparently trout aren't the only attractive game fish in the Catawba. Come to the meeting to find out more.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21:

"Gear Day with Great Outdoor Provision Company"

An on-the-water event offering the chance to try out the latest fly-fishing gear. Sessions on Fishing Nymphs with Malcolm Finlayson and Fishing Dry Flies with Jim Rice in the morning. Playing with gear provided by the Great Outdoor Provision Company (in Cameron Village) at the lake at the Durham County Wildlife Club in the afternoon. Food and soft drinks in between. Mark this on your calendar. Times to be announced later.

If there is some specific gear that you would like to play with, i.e. a St. Croix or Sage rod or reel, Winston rod, etc, get your request in to Paul Parks at: pdparks@yahoo.com.

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

Conservation News

Fly Fishing for the Future

TFF's Third Haw River Derby A Success

With all the rain we had in April there was some concern that we wouldn't be able to do any trash pick up around the Robeson Creek canoe access, much less do any fishing. But the river level came down enough for us to do some of both.

At the end of the day more than 480 pounds of trash were gathered from the banks of the Haw and a few of us even caught some fish. Jeff Pickering took first place this year, and he definitely earned it. He searched for trash longer than anyone else, and waded deeper for his fish than anyone else. Dave Maeda took second with a valiant trash collection effort, and Brian Thomas finished third – largely due to a 55-pound tire he found near the parking lot.



Jim Coveney prepares to weigh in his "catch" at the Haw River Derby

The biggest excitement of the day came when Park Rangers rounded up three men who were illegally cast netting for game fish. The men were chased on foot from the Highway 64 access down to the Robeson Creek area where they were finally apprehended. Their illegal catch was confiscated along with their nets.

An added benefit of the Derby was the great press the event and TFF received in the News & Observer. Coverage of the Derby was the feature article in the May 8th edition of the Carolina Outdoors section. Thanks to Debbie Griffith and the News & Observer staff for making this happen.

My Favorite Fly

by Brian Thomas

The Double Bunny



The Double Bunny is a great streamer that will catch just about anything that swims. It was developed by Scott Sanchez and was used to win the 1992, 1993, and 1994 Jackson Hole One Fly contests. The recipe and tying instructions here are adapted from Scott Sanchez's original pattern.

Recipe

Hook: 3XL or 4XL Streamer hook, size 2-6 (I like a straight eye hook as shown in the photo)

Thread: 3/0 Monocord is a good choice. Any heavier thread in a color to match the top zonker strip will work.

Weight: .030" lead wire wrapped around front half of the hook shank.

Dubbing: Color to match top zonker strip. All the dubbing does is help cover the lead and give the zonker strips something to adhere to on the front of the hook.

Body: The pictured fly has a chartreuse zonker strip for the top and a white strip for the belly, but you can use any color combination you want. I'm thinking of trying an olive and white strip to imitate a small rainbow trout.

Sides: I like to tie in a couple strands of both gold and pearl Flashabou Accent along with a couple strands of pearl Polarflash.

Eye: I use 1/4" doll eyes from Wal-Mart.

Adhesive: Goop brand outdoor adhesive.

This is actually a pretty easy fly to tie. Once the lead is wrapped and dubbed, I tie in the top and bottom strips at the hook eye. The bottom strip gets a slit cut into the skin to allow the hook point to pass through it. I use an x-acto knife to cut the slit. The trickiest part to this fly is applying the Goop adhesive to the skin portion of both strips without getting glue all over the rabbit fur. I use a toothpick to pick up small amounts of adhesive from the tube and apply them to the strips. Once you've got glue on both strips, touch the strips together and pull straight back on the tips away from the hook eye. Give this fly a shot – you won't be disappointed.

From the President continued from page 1

Mark Zimmerman and Debbie Griffith.

The board members have made several decisions that I think you will find of benefit to the chapter. We put Paul Parks in charge of designing and securing baseball caps with the TFF logo on them. Paul was able to produce good-looking hats, and we have them on sale for \$5. Yes, that's right, five bucks. The board decided to underwrite most of the cost of the caps, so the members can enjoy a good deal. Please see Paul at the meetings, if you would like one.

We have also decided to purchase two guided trips to raffle off over the summer months. TFF will purchase a day's fishing from a guide who has donated a trip to us in the past, and raffle them in June and July. At this point, I can not confirm who the guides will be, but I'm sure you would recognize their names, as they have been quite active in the past, between speaking at the monthly meetings, and helping with events. The dates of the trips are up to the winner, fishing for whatever species they prefer. Think of these raffles as a free trip to fish when and how you desire. If I win (don't worry, I never do) I would want to go on an Albacore trip. More details on this will be available at the May chapter meeting.

Following the idea of Coastal Outfitters, we are also planning to take a soldier fishing. What we want to do is find a few volunteers to do just that. You don't have to have a boat. If you like to fish for trout, bass, redfish, or carp, that's fine with us. We just are looking for a few good guides (not necessarily a few good men) to take the troops fishing. Ed McGee is running this operation. If you think you will have one day this year to go fishing, please contact Ed to see if we can pair you up with a soldier. Thanks in advance, for your help.

Lastly, you may recall we went on a trout-fishing trip to Tennessee in late April. I am pleased to report that all hands arrived home safely, and many fish were caught. For that matter, nearly as many fish were caught, as were sticks, rocks, trees, hats, people and other assorted flotsam and jetsam. That's only because the water level on the Watauga and Holston was so high, many of us went off to fish the smaller streams in the area. (I use that term very loosely, as Beaver Dam was more than 1 hour away from where we were staying) We ended up with 16 members making the trip, and I hope you all had fun. Perhaps we will plan another for the fall, if there is interest.

Oh, yes, one more thing. I mentioned that all arrived safely back in town. To the unnamed person who arrived in Tennessee a wee bit late after getting horribly lost for hours: For the record, the directions were EXACTLY correct, and that camping sign really does exist. I know, because I have the picture to prove it.

Sincerely, Hammer Trout aka John Allman

Featured Water

Neuse River, Wake County, NC

After April's presentation by Dean Naujoks, the Upper Neuse River Keeper, I thought I'd feature the Neuse as this issue's featured water.

The Neuse is much maligned due to the pfiisteria, pollution, and fish kills that Dean talked about, but it actually offers some pretty good fishing in some areas near Raleigh. The spot most people have heard of is the Milburnie Dam access. To get to this spot, take Hwy 64 east from the beltline, cross over the Neuse, and then turn left onto Old Milburnie Road. Old Milburnie is about 2.5 miles past the beltline. Once on Old Milburnie take the first left onto Loch Raven. There'll be a sign here for the canoe access. Turn right onto Willowblue and follow this down to a small parking area next to the river.

The Neuse hosts spawning runs of shad and stripers just like the Roanoke does, and Milburnie Dam is the farthest upstream these fish can go, so this is where a lot of the spawning activity occurs. This past March I caught a 4-pound American Shad on a 5 wt. rod just below the dam. I spoke to another angler there who had caught a 22-pound striper from the same spot last year.

This area can be waded, but it can be very tricky, especially in high water. Exercise caution!!! Perhaps the best way to fish this area is from a canoe. The current is light enough to allow paddling upstream, so you can launch and take out at the same spot. Fishing from a canoe also gets you to some areas you can't reach by wading.

Another option on the Neuse is to put a canoe in at Milburnie Dam and float down to the takeout on Poole Road. I'd estimate this float at about 3.5 – 4 miles. You can also put a canoe in at the Falls Dam access area (look for signs near the Dam) and float down to the take out off of Buffalo Road. This trip is a little longer, maybe 7 – 8 miles. When leaving a vehicle at the Buffalo Road take out, make sure you take a look at the river so you'll be able to recognize the takeout from the river.

For more info on the Neuse check out the Neuse River Foundation's website at: <http://www.neuseriver.org/>.

For online maps of the area, go here:

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=3961293&e=722417&s=50>

Fishy Stories

And other words of wisdom from our members

Trip Report: Roanoke River Stripers With Dave Fussell

By Brian Thomas

I had been looking forward to going striper fishing with Dave Fussell ever since I won the companion trip at last year's pig pickin'. I've caught lots of shad on the Roanoke, but due to a variety of circumstances had never been able to get out to do some striper fishing. So I was pretty excited about finally getting a shot at some stripers after hearing others talk about how good the fishing can be.

My wife Dianne and I arrived at the Weldon ramp about 6 am where we met Dave. The weather wasn't in our favor as a recent cold front had just passed through. I had heard that this had made the fishing a little slower than normal, but I knew I'd be happy just getting a few stripers, so I wasn't too concerned.

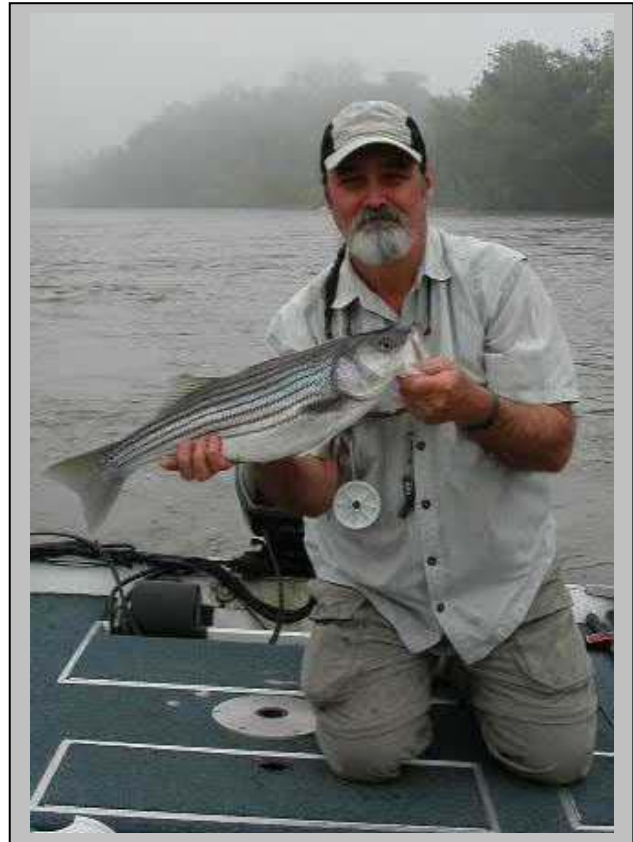
We started out by drifting downstream from the ramp. I was throwing a chartreuse/white super-hair clouser on a 400 grain line while Dave was throwing a big popper to try and draw some surface strikes. As it turned out it didn't take long for me to get my first striper. About twenty minutes into the trip I had fought and landed my first Roanoke River striper. It wasn't a big fish, but that didn't matter, I was just happy to finally get one.

Not long after catching my first, we talked to some guys in another boat who had just released a 14 pounder caught on a flyrod. We weren't fortunate enough to tangle with one that size, but it was encouraging to know that they're in there.

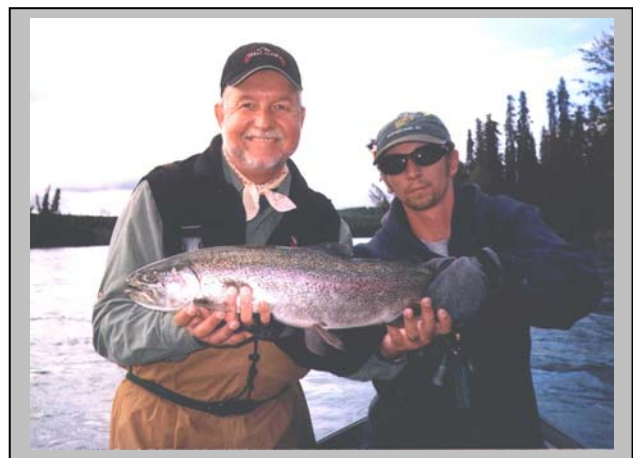
The action for the remainder of the day was not exactly hot and heavy, but we did manage to land fish at a fairly steady pace. My biggest was about 3 pounds. Not a giant fish, but stripers are strong and in the heavy current they can really pull. I might've caught a few more if I hadn't had to unhook so many fish for my wife. She knows I'm just kidding, but as usual she fished the least and caught the most.

Dave really knows the river well and did a great job positioning the boat. If you have the opportunity to bid on a companion trip with Dave at this year's pig pickin' I encourage you to do it. Even under less than ideal conditions, my wife and I had a great time, and both caught some fish to boot.

Braggin' Rights:



Jim Burchette with a fine Roanoke River striper




Dan Orr and a whopper Alaskan rainbow

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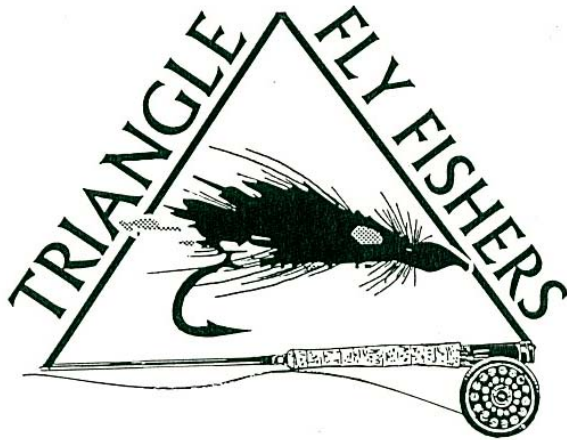


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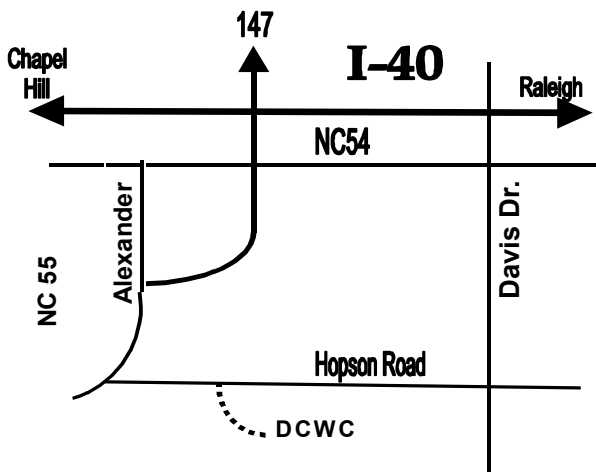
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Monthly Meetings: Last Monday of every month @ 7:00 PM except December at Durham County Wildlife Club (DCWC) in RTP off Hopson Rd

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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