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# THE FLY PAPER

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Volume III, Issue IV

November-December 2003

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

## Hammer Trout Speaks

*Some words from the president...*

This is going to be the last of the columns that I write as President of Triangle Fly Fishers. While I have had fun working with you all over the last 2 years, it is time for someone else to take the reins. That someone, as you know, is Jim Cappy. Good luck Jim! (not that you will need it).

As I look back over the past year, I see that we completed a lot of projects for the Chapter, and we (well, I did anyway) had fun doing it. That's a pretty good combination, and I think you will see it continue next year. We are already planning on having the mostly annual Haw River Derby, and I personally look forward to getting to fish in this one. We will, of course, have another Pig Picking in September. We had a successful fundraiser this year, and we are making some plans to spend some of those proceeds on the Chapter. At this point, we plan on having a spring and fall

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### SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, 7:00 PM:

John Martyn of Martyn's Sea & Stream will present at our November meeting. His program will be on saltwater fly fishing opportunities in North Carolina. Martyn's Sea & Stream in Durham's Woodcroft Shopping Center offers full service fly-tying and casting classes as well as guide services. John is a Fly Fishing Federation certified instructor.

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 7:00 PM:

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual TFF Holiday Social. TFF will be providing KFC chicken, sides, soft drinks, plates, napkins, and silverware. Attendees may opt to bring munchies, side dishes, desserts, or beverages of their choice. Remember to bring some stories and flies to swap with your TFF pals!!

## The Fly Fishing Show!!!!

This year's show is set for February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 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>

To be added to our e-mail distribution list, please send an e-mail to Dave Maeda at [maeda@us.ibm.com](mailto:maeda@us.ibm.com)

# Conservation News

*Fly Fishing for the Future*

## Request for “Stream Champion” Nominations.

Those of you who read TU’s TROUT Magazine may have come across a feature within the Action Lines section of the publication entitled “Stream Champion.” This feature, which has highlighted exemplary volunteers for two years, is a fabulous way to recognize those individuals who inspire, motivate, and embody TU’s mission through their commitment to grassroots conservation and outreach. **TU really needs new nominations for the coming year’s issues of TROUT!!!!**

Nominators, please include contact information both for yourself and for the nominee. Submit all nominations to Trout Unlimited Volunteer Operations’ Russ Schnitzer at (703) 284-9423 or [rschnitzer@tu.org](mailto:rschnitzer@tu.org). Nominations are being welcomed on a rolling basis

## Featured Water

*by Dave Maeda*

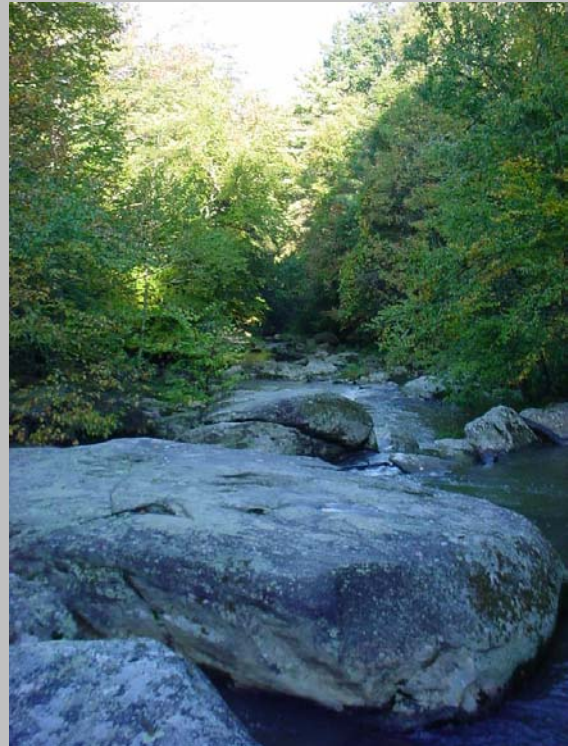
### Elk River, Avery County, NC

There are a couple of stretches of the Elk River that are designated as NC Public Mountain Trout Waters. Both are in Avery County. One stretch is a Hatchery Supported section from SR 1306 to the Tennessee state line. The stretch discussed here is just off SR 184 in Banner Elk on the property of Lees-McRea College. This section is currently classified as Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Water.

This is a gorgeous stretch of surprisingly high gradient small stream. I say surprising because you would not expect this in looking at the water upstream of the mill pond. Plunge pools and waterfalls abound. Numerous pools and runs are also available. This section of stream is well canopied. I fished the stream in early September and the water temperature was 65 degrees. While the stream is never far from civilization, there is still a feeling of seclusion.

For equipment, a shorter 3 or 4 wt rod, say in the 7’ to 8’

range, is appropriate. Short casts to tight lies tend to be the rule. Flies that work include both dries and nymphs. The dry fly list includes March Browns, Stimulators, ants, beetles, and caddis patterns. Nymphs include Hare’s Ear, PTs, and caddis patterns.



*Looking Downstream on the Elk River in Avery County, NC*

To get there, take I-40 west and pickup 421 south of Winston-Salem. Continue west on 421 to 105 south. Follow the signs on 105 to Banner Elk. Go past the turn offs for the Delayed Harvest section that runs behind Appalachian Anglers (I know this will be difficult for some of you but please try ...). Take a right on 184 at The Shops of Tynecastle. Follow this road towards Banner Elk. When you see the Banner Elk Holiday Inn on the right, start looking for the Lees-McRea mill pond on the left. It is just over a mile down the road. Take the left just before mill pond. Take an almost immediate right and follow the road around to the pond dam. There is a small parking area below the dam just above the gate. Hike down the road or the path along the river. One suggestion is to hike down the road to the Lees-McRea water treatment plant (about a mile) and fish your way back upstream from there.

*From the President continued from page 1*

trout fishing trip to TN, and (most likely) a smallmouth trip in the summer. Those are great trips, and I recommend that you tag along for one. We are also looking at hiring a “name brand” speaker to come in one weekend and put on a clinic and presentation to the chapter. At this point, I’m not totally sure who we will get, but Paul Parks informs me that it will be big. Very tentatively, it is set for either the Saturday we have our second gear day, or around the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, which is the date of the Pig Picking. Naturally, if you have any ideas of who you would like to see, please see one of the board members.

Speaking of board members, we are pleased to announce that Jim Covney and Ned Jones have both volunteered to help out as new members. Thanks a lot guys. We need all the help we can get.

There are a few other issues that I would like you to be aware of. First off, we will have a meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Just like last year, we will provide food and beverages to all who attend. I hope you will find time to come, and join us for a holiday get together.

In the past, Jim Rice has done an outstanding job of working for the Embrace a Stream project. He was part of the board that reviews grant requests. Next year, other commitments will not allow him to attend. If you think you might be interested in working with the Embrace a Stream Project, please contact Jim or myself, and we will fill you in on the details. Also on the subject of Jim Rice, as my last act as President, I will bar him from the raffles, so the rest of us can will once in a while! It’s been great working with you all. See you one the stream.

Hammer Trout

## Featured Fly

### *The Copper John*

The Copper John is simply one of the best nymphs you’ll ever fish. This fly is particularly effective for me on the S. Holston River. Next time you’re out that way, try a size 18 Copper John dropped about 16” below a sulphur dry on 6x tippet and enjoy! Instead of including a picture and instructions here, I’ll direct you to a page with some of the best photos and most thorough tying instructions I’ve ever seen:

<http://www.troutflies.com/tutorials/cjohn/index.shtml>

Don’t be intimidated by the 34 steps listed here – it’s really not that tough of a tie. Also, I’ve never gotten my epoxy right, but it doesn’t seem to matter to the fish – they like it all the same!

## Members Tips

*By Brian Thomas*

### **Cheap and Easy Wader and Wading Boot Storage**

Thought I’d bring back the Member’s Tips feature and throw out an idea that has served me well out on the stream.

This tip is all about my simple, cheap, and effective system for storing my boots, waders, wading socks, and anything else that might be wet after fishing. I got tired of just throwing my wet waders and boots into the back of the truck, but I really couldn’t justify the purchase of one of those specially-designed bags for carrying your waders and boots. So what I did instead was purchase a Rubbermaid plastic storage box with lid from Wal-Mart for less than four bucks. I added some ventilation holes in the side (not in the bottom!!) and my new wader and wading boot box was ready to go. The box keeps my wet stuff separate from my dry stuff, and allows the wet stuff to air out a little when not in use.

Another nice thing about this system is that it reduces the amount of time spent getting geared up once I finally hit the water. Instead of missing out on a bunch of rising fish while I’m searching through a pile of stuff to find my socks, waders, and boots, I just open up the box and I know that everything I need is right inside. Fishing time is important – I think anything that helps me get on the water just a little bit quicker is a very, very good thing.

This box has proven even more useful than I had originally imagined. In addition to keeping my waders and wading boots in it while I’m out on a fishing trip, it also stores these same items at home. The advantage here is that unlike some people who will remain nameless, I never forget my waders and boots when I’m packing for a fishing trip. I just grab that box off the shelf in my garage where it lives and load it right into the back of the truck. In a second I know that waders and boots will not be forgotten.

One final thing to note – when you get home from a trip, you do need to take all your wet stuff out of the box and let it dry. Once it’s dry back in the box it goes until next time.

Hope this little tip proves as useful to you as it has to me. Good fishin!

# Fishy Stories

*And other words of wisdom from our members*

## New Members Inducted Into TFF Hall of Fame

*Jim Rice, Jim Burchette, and Malcolm Finlayson*

One of the highlights of the 2003 TFF Pig Pickin' was the induction of four new members into the TFF Hall of Fame: Buzz Bryson, Judy Bailes, Harry Bailes, and Pete Zwadyk.

The Hall of Fame was established by the TFF Board in 2001 to honor individuals whose contributions over the years have been pivotal to the vitality and success of TFF. At the 2001 Pig Pickin' president Mark Zimmerman presented the first Hall of Fame awards to Jim Burchette, Malcolm Finlayson, and Jim Rice. That surprise announcement left the three initial recipients honored and nearly speechless (shocking in itself for this trio), but also acutely aware that there were others in our midst fully deserving of this award. The Triangle Fly Fishers we enjoy today would not exist without the dedication and commitment of many who have led the way.

This year's Hall of Fame awards recognize four more of those influential people. We couldn't possibly relate all of their many contributions, but here are just a few highlights:

**Buzz Bryson** Buzz is a Life Member of Trout Unlimited and has been a member of Triangle Fly Fishers from the start, more than twenty-five years ago. During this time, he has served on the board of directors, as chapter president, and on the state TU council. His leadership helped get TFF up and rolling. In addition, Buzz has been a regular contributor to our banquet and fund raising projects, and a consistent voice for TFF on environmental issues of concern to us.



*Buzz Bryson, Second from Left, is Inducted into the TFF Hall of Fame*

**Judy Bailes** Judy's leadership propelled TFF to a new level of activity and accomplishment locally and at the State Council level, with conservation efforts, youth environmental education, and more. Perhaps not surprisingly, while Judy was our President TFF received the Silver Trout award from national TU, the second-highest award for TU chapters. Her enthusiasm and example established the standard for us.



*Judy Bailes Accepts Her Award as a Member of the TFF Hall of Fame*

**Harry Bailes** Harry was the inspiration and driving force behind TFF's Rivers of Understanding program in the late 1980s and early 1990s. As Gorbachev's "glasnost" policy of openness took root in the Soviet Union, Harry saw a unique opportunity for us to connect with people there through our common love of fishing. Through his efforts TFF established official TU sister-chapter relationships with salmon fishing clubs in Murmansk and Moscow that opened a special window between us at a unique time in history (in fact, TFF was hosting sister club members from Murmansk in August of 1991 when the failed coup attempt occurred and the Soviet Union crumbled). The relationships and communication that Harry's efforts established concerning everything from fishing and conservation to politics and everyday life had a profound effect on many of us on both sides of the Atlantic.

**Pete Zwadyk** "If I'm going to be in a organization, I'm going to be active." That quote exemplifies Pete's attitude and his commitment to TFF. He served us as President, Vice President, and a stalwart pillar of many banquet fund-raising efforts. Whenever we needed help, Pete volunteered (and still does!). His efforts translating ideas into action have made TFF a group where good things happen, and set the example for the rest of us to follow. Pete lives in the mountains now (poor guy), so we




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*Hairy Bailes, Second from Left, Becomes the Newest Member of the TFF Hall of Fame*

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presented his plaque to him on the October TFF trip to Tennessee. True to form, he was so busy grilling steaks for the group we could barely drag him away long enough to make the presentation.

Buzz, Judy, Harry and Pete, thank you for all you have done for TFF!

**Furled Leaders: Mono vs Thread**

*By Dave Maeda*

As materials for making furled leaders go, the basic choices are monofilament (mono for short) or thread of some form. For this discussion, thread will also include materials such spectra, kevlar, and Berkley FireLine (tm) as they are more threadlike in nature. There are advantages and disadvantages to both material types.

A supple, premium 2 lb test mono line, about 7X, is a good place to start a mono furled leader ( 2 lb test P-Line CX is a good example). A clear mono will yield an opaque white leader. A mono furled leader is much like any other mono leader in most respects. It fishes much like a knotless or hand tied mono leader. However, it is more supple, turns over somewhat better, and lays out straighter than other mono leader types. Not as supple and a bit heavier than a furled leader made of thread, it comes down a bit harder on the water (but not any worse than any other type of mono

leader). Care and maintenance is much the same as any other mono leader. It doesn't necessarily need to be greased before using (for floatation and wet strength) and won't deteriorate if put away slightly damp (it is still a good idea to dry it before storing though). From a cost perspective, materials costs for a mono furled leader are about \$1.00 per leader.

A furled leader made of thread is lighter and more supple than their mono cousins. This makes for a softer, quieter presentation and it turns over exceptionally well. However, due to their buoyant nature, some adjustments are necessary as they fish somewhat differently than a mono leader (furled or otherwise ...). They need to be greased with a paste floatant prior to using to maintain buoyancy and preserve strength. They also need to be thoroughly dried before storing to prevent deterioration due to mildew. More buoyant than a mono leader, they also require additional weight for subsurface applications. Adding a strand of kevlar, spectra, FireLine, or dental floss to the thread mix adds overall strength and improves wet strength. Being opaque, these leaders are easy to see on the water. If you can see it, the fish can see it too. Fortunately, the finny ones don't seem to care (within reason ...). For something really visible, try a fluorescent orange butt section with a tan tip! I have found Uni-Thread (the same thread I tie flies with ...) in 8/0, 6/0, or 3/0 to make a solid leader. Material cost range from about \$0.50 (Uni-Thread) to \$3.00 (FireLine) per leader. A leader made of Uni-Thread plus a strand of kevlar, spectra, or dental floss is between \$0.70 and \$1.00 per leader.

Furled leaders of both materials will stretch to help protect a light tippet. Even a furled leader made entirely of a "zero stretch" material such as spectra or FireLine will contain some give (just not as much as tying thread or mono). Thread furled leaders which utilize kevlar, spectra, dental floss, or FireLine for reinforcement purposes will stretch somewhat less than unreinforced leaders.

It is not the case that one material is generally superior across the board. Application and personal preferences weigh heavily in selection of one material over the other. A mono furled leader may be the best all-around leader going. But if you're presenting small dry flies to selective trout, a furled leader of 8/0 thread may be the ticket to catching fish. Think of these materials as being a way to further refine your presentation.

# Fly Fishers Wanted

*Classifieds for Triangle Fly Fishers*

## Marketplace

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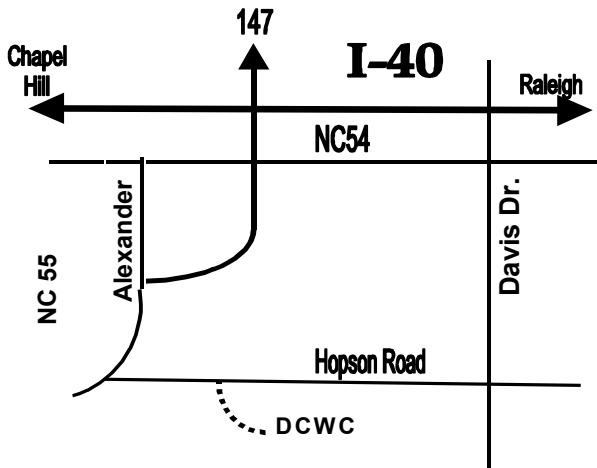
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 Photos of a satisfied customer:  
<http://www.triangleflyfishers.org/Photos/photos.html>



**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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- Vice-President.....** Jim Cappy, 851-5520 (H)  
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