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# THE FLY PAPER

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Volume III, Issue V

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

## Hammer Trout Speaks

*Some words from the president...*

Thanks to one and all for coming out to the pig picking fundraiser this past Saturday. I had a fantastic time as I'm sure all of you did as well.

We were lucky enough to get support from many sources this year, resulting in the large number of items that were auctioned off and awarded as bingo prizes. The list of sponsors is long, but please bear with me while I go through some of them. I don't think we would have much to offer the club, except for the support of Scott Woods of the Great Outdoor Provision Company, and John Martyn of Martyn's Sea and Stream. Thanks guys, we might not always say it, but your support makes it all happen.

We were also blessed with support outside the fishing community. In fact, Mike Smith of A Cleaner World called me FOUR times, before he finally gave up trying to reach me, and just sent in a gift

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### SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 7:00 PM:

Jimmy Jacobs will give a presentation discussing tailwater fishing in the south. Jacobs is the author of several books including, Trout Streams of Southern Appalachia (2nd ed.), Tailwater Trout in the South (2nd ed), and Fly Fishing the South Atlantic Coast. This should be a fantastic presentation as Jimmy will be sharing some of his knowledge of the 46 tailwater trout streams found in nine southern states. Did you know there were 46 tailwater fisheries in the South? I didn't until I checked out Jimmy's website, which you can do here: <http://home.earthlink.net/~jacobsfish/>.

#### MONDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 7:00 PM:

"Triangle Fly Fishers Flea Market" – Come out to the Durham County Wildlife Club for a tag sale, flea market, and general buy/sell/trade session. This will be the perfect opportunity to unload all that gear you thought you just had to have but ended up never using. Bargain hunters, you don't want to miss this meeting! To make the deals even sweeter, several of the chapter's best tyers will share with us some of their most productive patterns and how to tie them.

#### EASTERN TENNESSEE TRIP, OCTOBER 17-19TH:

Coordinated by Malcolm Finlayson. We plan to fish for trout on the South Holston and Watauga Rivers, and some smaller streams in the area. This is a "self-guided" trip - we'll try to pair beginners with those more experienced on these waters.

If you plan to attend the trip or have questions, please e-mail Malcolm Finlayson at [mdfinlay@email.unc.edu](mailto:mdfinlay@email.unc.edu)

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*

### NCTU Awarded "Tomorrow's Trout"

NC Trout Unlimited has just won the Tomorrow's Trout: State Council Award for Excellence by National Trout Unlimited. Beginning in 2003, the State Council has been raised in status with the establishment of the TU National Leadership Council, A volunteer governing body which empowers each state council with national representation. We were selected as this year's recipient because of our ability to cultivate a strong and effective state level organization while pursuing high profile conservation campaigns. It is truly a great honor to be the first recipient of this award. I believe, also, shows National TU's interest and commitment in cold water conservation in the South.

The Council's successes included:

- Established the "Southeast Regional Rally," which brings together leaders from North Carolina and neighboring states to discuss conservation and organizational issues transcending state boundaries.
- Drafted and adopted new bylaws with which to govern the operations of an active Council.
- Held the first Rivercourse Conservation Youth Camp, attended by 14 young anglers, and supported by numerous partnerships including TU's First Cast Program.
- Implemented a state wide outreach program utilizing informational kiosks, supported by TU Volunteer Operations' Mini Grant funds.
- Rolled out a broad scale conservation campaign addressing acid rain, which impacts the Southeast's only native salmonid, the Appalachian brook trout. This campaign brings together TU chapters, the State Council, other Councils, state and federal agencies, and TU National on behalf of a key Conservation Agenda issue.

These are just some of the things that NCTU has done this year. IF you would like to hear more, please check our website: [www.NCTU.org](http://www.NCTU.org)

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## Featured Water

*by Paul Parks*

### Watauga River, Elizabethton, TN

Several weekends ago I went to Elizabethton, Tennessee and kayaked the Watauga River from Wilbur Dam down past the water treatment plant. The 18-miles trip lasted just over 6 hours. I didn't fish on this float. Instead, I explored and made notes about the river and simply enjoyed the exceptional company of my wife Tammy and long-time friend Earl Crow.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has declared a portion of the Watauga River a quality trout fishing area. This area is from just upstream of River Ridge Campground, [www.methodsmart.com/riverridge](http://www.methodsmart.com/riverridge), (essentially Smalling Bridge) downstream to the CSX railroad bridge. The campground is the only public access area in the quality trout fishing area and offers anglers an excellent place to wade or put-in for a float trip. The daily usage fee is \$5 per person.

The river is only wadable when Wilbur Dam is not generating and is navigable before and during generation but extreme caution needs to be taken when the water rises. There are several rapids that must be scouted before running. In several cases it is best to get out and portage around the rapids, especially during generation when the river has several class III rapids. It's an exciting ride in a kayak, but is considerably more dangerous in a canoe or pontoon boat. My advice is for canoeists and pontooners to be off the river before the water rises.

The TWRA has added a small watercraft take-out below the quality fishing area near the CSX railroad bridge. It's located off of Hwy 400 on Wagner Road just after you go over the railroad tracks. It has a new concrete boat ramp, plenty of parking and is approximately 2.5 miles from the campground put-in.

To contact the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for a generation schedule call 800-238-2264; choose option 4, then 42 for Wilbur Dam.

Quality Trout Fishing Regulations:

Daily limit—2 trout, Possession limit—2 trout, Size limit—14" minimum length

Use or possession of any bait is prohibited and trout less than 14" in length may not be possessed within the Quality Trout Fishing Area.

*From the President continued from page 1*

certificate for dry cleaning. Barry Burnette, of Toddler Tables not only donated, but hand delivered the plaques he made for us. Cabela's, Hurricanes, and Panthers all responded to our requests, and we just can not thank them enough.

And yet, that is just part of the list of sponsors, because I left out all the members of the club, and the board of directors, who have really put a whole lot of effort to making this past weekend a friendly time for you and your family. Please be sure to thank them!

Speaking of the board, I would be remiss were I not to include here that we can use a few new members to serve a term on the board. We already had one board member move out of the area, and (lucky for you all) this will be the last year that I serve as President. Jim Cappy, our current Vice President, will be President next year, and I'm sure he won't mind if you volunteer to help him run the club. Its not too much work, but it is rewarding.

Lastly, I want to remind you that there is yet one more Triangle Fly Fisher's trip this year, coming up in mid October. If you want to go, please contact me, or Malcolm Finlayson, to reserve your place. You will be glad you did.

It has been a pleasure working with the Triangle Fly Fishers. Thanks for the memories.

HammerTrout

## Featured Fly

### *The Dog Nobbler by Dave Maeda*

"The Flytier's Manual", Mike Dawes, Stoeger, 1985, page 102, gives the following pattern for a Dog Nobbler:

**Hooks:** Down-eyed 6-10 long shank

**Thread:** Colour of body

**Tail:** Marabou

**Body:** Chenille

**Hackle** (optional): Same as tail

**Head:** Weighted and varnished; it can have a painted eye

One of the pictures that accompanies the pattern in the book shows what looks like an orange Wooly Buzzer with bead chain eyes (and a gold wire rib which isn't mentioned in the pattern or tying instructions). A second picture looks like a Wooly Buzzer without the palmered hackle.

The defining version of this fly, in my opinion, is the one with the bead chain, dumbbell, or hour glass eyes. I generally weight my Wooly Buggers and Lefty's Cactus Minnows with either lead wire (or substitute) on the shank or with a bead or cone head. This is to get the fly down in the water column. Dumbbell eyes will do this too. But they also do something else: They make the fly ride hook point up. In this respect, the Dog Nobbler is also similar to the Freaner Flasher which uses a keel hook to achieve the same end. This can be an important factor when working snaggy bottom structure. For me, this is what differentiates the Dog Nobbler from a Wooly Buzzer or Lefty's Cactus Minnow.

From a construction standpoint, I tie a Dog Nobbler almost exactly as I would a Wooly Buzzer or a Lefty's Cactus Minnow. The only difference is that I leave a tad more room just behind the hook eye for the lead eyes and tie them in last.



As for material substitutions or additions, a couple of strands of Krystal Flash in the tail adds some sparkle to the fly. I have tied Dog Nobblers up to a size 2 for bass applications with good results. On larger flies, i.e. sizes 6 to 2, crystal or ice chenille (medium to large) makes for a simple, no hassle (no hackle) body. On smaller flies, i.e. 8s and 10s, I like to replace the chenille in the body with several strands of peacock herl twisted together. I have also been known to use Craft Fur (aka Troll Hair) instead of marabou in the tail. Craft Fur is a bit stiffer than marabou (but still provides plenty of movement ...) and holds its shape better on a downstream retrieve in faster water.

In the Queen's English, a nobbler is one who pesters. A dog nobbler could be construed to be one who pesters dogs (ostensibly to obtain fly tying material ...). Given the Dog Nobbler's English roots, I wouldn't be surprised. Enjoy.

## Fishy Stories

*And other words of wisdom from our members*

### Dan Saylor writes:

A couple of weeks ago, John Allman and I spent a Sunday morning on the Eno. After a couple of hours and lots of fish, ("cough," none over 5 inches), John came upstream and says, "There is something fairly large down by the grass." We snuck through the grass and something thrashed out. We worked around the grass and spotted the pictured bass head for the far bank. I started working up the bank. Up about 30 feet was a sawed off trunk perpendicular from the bank. Put a Sneaky Pete just off the end. Wham. A lot of fun on an 8' 4wt.



*Dan Saylor With an Eno River Largemouth Worth Smilin' About*

### Fishing in East Tennessee

Still trying to decide whether or not to go on the October TFF trip to Eastern Tennessee? Here's a shot from a recent trip that may offer a little extra encouragement (like any of us need it.) In all honesty the fishing in East Tennessee's tailwaters and smaller mountain streams is among the very best in the area. In fact, it's absolutely my favorite place to fish in the entire region. True, the fishing on the South Holston and Watauga can be very technical at times, requiring long, supple leaders and precise casting, but the potential rewards are well worth the efforts. Once you tangle with even a 12 or 14 inch rainbow on the Holston you may forget all about those big delayed harvest fish in NC. These fish are strong and thick, and they don't like to come to hand easily. So make plans now to join your fellow TFF'ers this October on what could be the best trip of your entire season.



*A South Holston River Brown*

## Furled Leaders

By Dave Maeda

I tend to get suspicious whenever I see something followed by a lot of superlatives. Based on the recent press coverage, furled leaders might appear to be the latest "must have" item to hit fly fishing. However, furled leaders are nothing new. They have been around for several hundred years. What is new about the latest generation of furled leaders is the materials used to construct them. One of the original materials for furled leaders was hair from a horse's tail. The current crop of furled leaders favor materials such as monofilament (mono), spectra, and fly tying thread. It was this later material that pricked my curiosity. The thought that I could fashion a viable leader out of the same material that I tied flies with and routinely broke off in the most disadvantageous places seemed more like fantasy than fact. But it was still fascinating ...

Jim Cramer's article in the March 2003 issue of "Fly Fisherman" put me over the edge. I downloaded the construction details per the article and collected the necessary materials one Saturday afternoon on my way back from the Eno River. The total bill was less than \$20. The big ticket item was a Fiskars hand drill (\$12) from a local Ace Hardware store. I furled my first leader that evening and fished it the next day on the Elk River.

That first leader was a basic three step taper leader made of tan Ultra Thread 140. It turned over better than any mono leader I had used to then and easily handled the size 14 Woolly Bugger and Madam X that I was throwing. It also cast a size 14 bead head nymph with a #6 split shot as well as anything I had used previously. What really impressed me was the softness and precision with which it dropped the flies to the water. I could also clearly see what the currents were doing to the leader and compensate accordingly. For sub-surface applications, it was like having a 6' strike indicator. Hmmmmmm ... May be there was something to all the superlatives in this case ...

### Pros and Cons

Commercially available furled leaders are not exactly cheap, even off E-Bay. This cost could be prohibitive unless you "roll your own". It cost me roughly what I would have had to pay for a commercially available furled leader to setup a simple jig of my own. Having done that, a furled leader made with 6/0 Uni-Thread is about 50 cents worth of materials and takes about the same amount of time as a hand tied mono leader. Using something like Berkley FireLine, material cost goes up to about \$2.50 per leader. Adding a single strand of Kevlar or dental floss for reinforcement keeps the cost to around a \$1.00 per leader.

A furled leader made of tying thread requires more care and maintenance than a mono leader. It needs to be greased with a paste floatant before each use. This does two things. First, it helps preserve the buoyancy of the leader. Secondly, it prevents the leader from getting soggy and losing strength. At the end of the day, the leader needs to be dried before storing. This is to prevent deterioration from things like mildew. If a furled leader gets yucked up with algae and the like, a bath in warm, soapy water may be necessary.

The fact that furled leaders made of tying thread are opaque has its upside and downside. The upside is that you can see it. The downside is that the fish can also see it. The good news is that the fish don't seem to care (within reason). As long as the presentation is soft, quiet, and natural (which furled leaders do well ...), the fish will do

their part.

A furled leader of tying thread or similar material (FireLine comes to mind ...) tends to be more buoyant than a mono leader. This is a plus for working dry flies but takes some adjustments (read more weight ...) for sub-surface applications.

Furled leaders are very supple. A furled leader of tying thread or FireLine is about as limp as properly cooked angel hair pasta. With a loop tied directly in the leader's butt section, attempting a loop-to-loop connection to a fly line resulted in something that looked like a girth hitch rather than a square knot. Adding a short mono butt section of an appropriate diameter with a uni-to-uni knot takes care of this problem. A perfection loop in the free end of the mono allows for a proper loop-to-loop connection (one that looks like a square knot). The suppleness mismatch is still there but the uni-to-uni knot puts it on the same axis as the line which minimizes problems (hinging etc).

Lastly, confidence. If you don't think 6/0 tying thread is up to the job, you have several choices: Increase the number of strands, increase thread size (i.e. 3/0), add a strand of FireLine (4# or 6# test), Kevlar, spectra, or dental floss to each leg during construction, or make the leader out spectra or FireLine. Six strands of 6/0 or 10 strands of 8/0 tying thread is sufficient for most NC trout. 10 strands of 6/0 thread works nicely for bass.

### In Summary

Furled leaders, particularly those made of tying thread, are different than the mono leaders we are used to. They look different. They fish different. They are not for everyone or every fishing scenario. Sinking line apps with leaders less than 4', for example, seem inappropriate. However, if presenting flies on or near the surface is your thing, you owe it to yourself to give furled leaders some consideration. Two specific scenarios that come to mind are throwing small dry flies or emergers to trout in shallow water and slinging larger bugs and poppers for bass and panfish.

### For Further Investigation ...

If this sounds interesting or you wish to actually give this a try, I would recommend taking a look at Jim Cramer's articles on the [www.flyfisherman.com](http://www.flyfisherman.com) website. A Google search on "furled leaders" (quotes included) will also bring up reams of information. Enjoy.

# Fly Fishers Wanted

*Classifieds for Triangle Fly Fishers*

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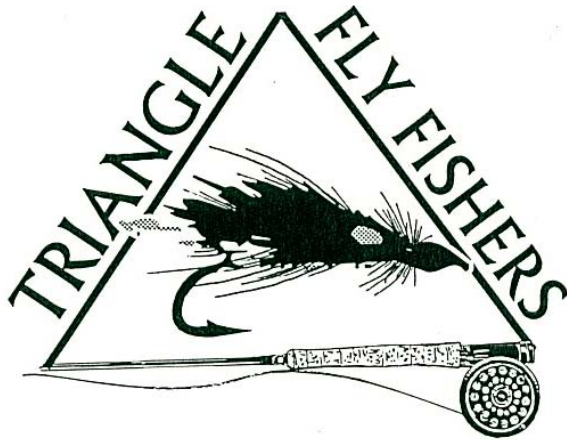
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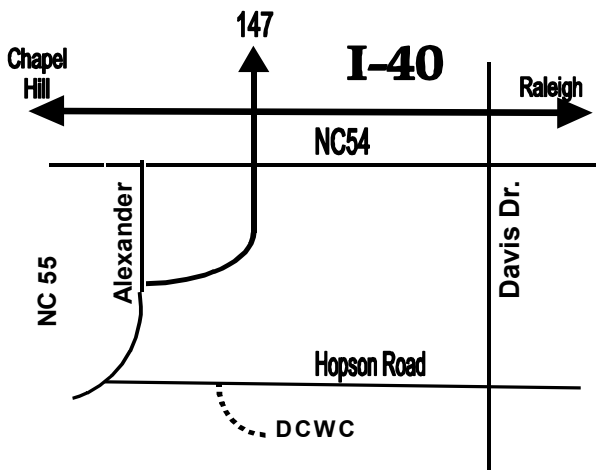
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**Monthly Meetings:** Last Monday of every month @ 7:00 PM except December at Durham County Wildlife Club (DCWC) in RTP off Hopson Rd

**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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