
THE FLY PAPER

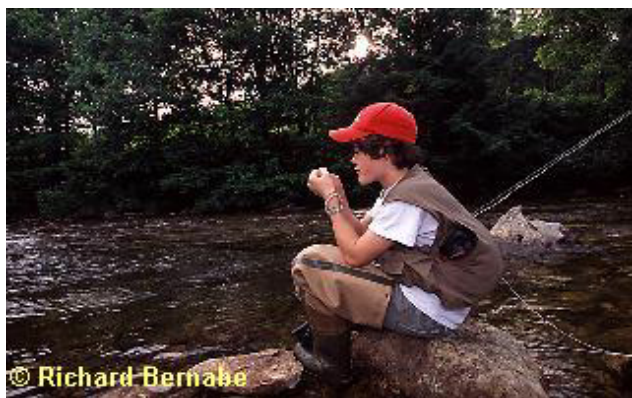
Volume V, No. 1

January - February 2007

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

Ned Jones, TFF President Emeritus, Speaks

As I write these comments, plans are being made for the Rivercourse camp for youth this June in western North Carolina. This is the camp sponsored by the NCTU Council for youth ages 13-16. Campers are eager and motivated by many opportunities. They have to be on the water fishing at 6:15AM and again from 6:30PM till dark. How else would you get 13-16 year olds out of bed? They also learn fly tying and are involved in many other learning activities all day. The list of presenters is quite impressive.



The goal of Rivercourse is to introduce the campers to coldwater conservation and fly fishing. Swimming and boating are optional activities under adult supervision with certified lifeguards. Campers receive on-stream fly fishing instruction mornings and evenings. They also participate in a field trip to the nearby Davidson River to learn about the importance of riparian buffers. The lesson will be reinforced by the campers planting some native species. Also included are fish dissection and a tour of the fish hatchery. Classroom instruction is both outdoors and indoors. Subjects are taught by volunteers from TU, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, the US Forest Service, and other organizations.

Campers receive instruction by volunteers in specialties such as geology, entomology (insects), herpetology (amphibians), botany, wetlands ecology, stream restoration techniques, and environmental policy. In addition, fly fishing is covered in

detail with topics such as fly casting, fly tying, equipment, streamside etiquette, knot tying, and leader building. The goal is that each camper will leave with a lasting appreciation of the importance of environmental preservation and protection, and they will become active participants in efforts that ensure the preservation of clean water and habitat.

Triangle Fly Fishers and other chapters through out the state support the camp with time and money. The camp is run and organized by the NCTU Council. Many council members take an active part in the camp. Triangle Fly Fishers participants are Dave Meada, who is the camp's chief gillie, and Terry Hackett, who will give a presentation on the politics of coldwater conservation.

The future of coldwater conservation and fly fishing depends on getting the next generation involved. Remember, someday these youngsters hopefully will be looking after the streams that we work so hard to care for today.

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G. Richard Mode Honored As 2007 Budweiser Conservationist Of The Year

On January 11, 2007, G. Richard Mode of Morganton, N.C., was honored when he was named the 2007 Budweiser Conservationist of the Year at the annual Budweiser Outdoors press conference held during the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show in Orlando Florida.



G. Richard Mode
2007 Budweiser Conservationist Of The Year

Mode was selected in the annual program that recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the outdoors and conservation. Each year, a committee selects four conservationists as finalists from dozens of outstanding nominees, and adult Budweiser consumers from across the country vote for the Budweiser Conservationist of the Year in an open-ballot process on Budweiser.com.

G. Richard Mode has spent the last three decades mobilizing outdoorsmen into a powerful force that has impacted local, state and federal resource management decisions and legislation. Mode is the founding father of the Table Rock Trout Unlimited chapter in North Carolina as well as an active TU volunteer in various capacities. He has served as national TU President and Chairman of the national TU Board. Mode presently serves as the North Carolina Wildlife Federation Affiliate Representative to the National Wildlife Federation. He is a past winner of the NCWF Sportsman of the Year award

and TU's National Conservationist of the Year award.

"G. Richard Mode's commitment to conservation and his ability to engage others to join him is inspiring," said Donn Waage, director of the Central Partnership Office for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. "I believe Mode will proudly represent Budweiser Conservationists of the Year who came before him and will follow him in the future."

A \$50,000 grant from Budweiser and the NFWF will be made in G. Richard Mode's honor to support conservation in North Carolina. In addition, the grant can be matched and the value of the award could reach as much as \$200,000.

"Recognition for doing what you love is truly an honor," said G. Richard Mode. "I am elated to win the 2007 Budweiser Conservationist of the Year award and I want to thank Budweiser for supporting the outdoors and all the great programs that protect it."

Three dedicated conservationists were selected alongside G. Richard Mode as finalists for the award: Sallie Dahmes (Monroe, GA), Tom Hutchens (Bismarck, ND) and Ray Scott (Montgomery, AL). The three finalists will each be honored with a \$5,000 grant from Budweiser and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to be distributed to a wildlife or conservation project chosen mutually by the honoree, Budweiser, and the NFWF.

G. Richard Mode is TFF member Katie McKeithan's dad.

Article and Photo Adapted from the Anheuser-Busch Press Kit

TFF Activities at the Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium

TFF and TU will be involved with a couple of different events at the Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium this year. The first is the Aquarium's "Get Hooked" Fishing School on March 24. TFF will have a table at the event and participate in a fly tying demo. Please contact Dave Maeda if you are interested in manning the table or tying flies. For more information on the event or to register as a student, see the Aquarium's website: <http://www.ncaquariums.com/pks/programs.htm>

TU will also be doing a Coldwater Conservation/Trout presentation at the Aquarium on Saturday July 21st. This will be done under the TU "Back the Brookie" initiative. TFF will need some people to tie some trout flies and man a table. Please contact Dave Maeda if you are interested.

Invasive Algae Found in Tennessee and Virginia Rivers

Many of us have experienced or heard of the invasive algae known as “Didymo” or “Rock Snot”. Officials from the Tennessee Valley Authority have confirmed the presence of Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) in the waters below Watauga, South Holston and Norris Dams. These findings are the first confirmed incidence of the algae east of the Mississippi River. To date, it has not been observed in the Hiwassee, Duck, Elk, Caney Fork or Cumberland (KY) rivers. The Roanoke Times and local anglers have also reported Didymo in the Smith and Jackson river tailwaters of Virginia.



Didymo in the Wilbur Tailwater

The Didymo Threat

The algae does not present a health hazard to humans, although some reports indicate that people often experience irritated eyes while swimming in waters downstream from contaminated areas. While it does not appear to affect the safety of drinking water, taste and odor problems may occur.

The real danger of Didymo lies in the impact that it may have on the native ecosystem and fish populations. The alga thrives in cool, nutrient-poor water where it can form massive mats on the river bottom. Didymo attaches itself by stalks to the gravelly bottom of the stream or riverbed, smothering out rocks and other submerged plants. Didymo reduces the area of clean substrate upon which fish nest and lay eggs.

Didymo tends to out-compete and limit the growth of native algal species, many of which are food sources for aquatic insects, which in turn are preyed upon by fish and other creatures. The resulting change in habitat caused by Didymo could cause a shift in the types of aquatic insects present. Prolonged severe blooms have the potential to change the

habitat for trout food insects by smothering the stones, displacing the large desirable insects (mayflies, caddis and stoneflies) and encouraging proliferation of small, less nourishing species like midges and snails.

Didymo seems to become easily established in lake-fed or regulated rivers (below dams), where stable water currents are likely to promote further growth by transferring plenty of nutrients to the mat surface. Cold tailwaters and streams are the most likely candidates, according to TVA scientists.

The good news is that TVA monitoring efforts have not yet indicated any recent declines in fish or aquatic insect populations in the Watauga or South Holston tailwaters. The TVA conducts annual sampling in these tailwaters and has quite a bit of historical data that should help identify any changes in population densities and composition.

What Does Didymo Look Like?

How can you tell if an algal mat is actually Didymo? First of all, it's much more likely to be found in a stream or river. Algal blooms in reservoirs are usually indicative of another species. In early growth stages, Didymo forms small bubbly colonies on the river rocks. Although it appears slimy, it feels like wet cotton wool. It appears as a thick white, light gray, pale yellow-brown, or beige (not green) mass, which may cover over 90 percent of the river bottom in many reaches.

Once established, it may look like a brown shag carpet covering the river or stream bottom. In the advanced stage, Didymo forms long streaming filaments several centimeters long that often turn white at their ends. The streamers and fragments can float downstream similar to clumps of wet tissue paper. It may be mistaken for a sewage discharge. Didymo cells cannot be seen with the naked eye until large colonies form. It only needs one of these cells to be transported for the algae to spread!

Where Did Didymo Come From?

The TVA is not sure how Didymo may have arrived in East Tennessee. Anglers' equipment, boats and birds can all transport the algae to new rivers and streams. However, the pattern of rivers it has appeared in does implicate anglers as a possible source of contamination.

The alga has been documented in Arkansas, Montana, Washington, Colorado and South Dakota. A number of rivers in New Zealand have also experienced Didymo



A Didymo "streamer"

outbreaks. Although considered to be native to the northern boreal regions of the Northern Hemisphere (Canada and Northern Europe) its biological status in the United States remains uncertain. There does not appear to be a clear explanation for the recent range expansion and appearance of excessive Didymo growths in North America.

Scientists do not know what has changed to allow Didymo to take on the characteristics of an invasive species. It has been postulated that the emerging invasive populations are the result of a new genetic variant or strain of Didymo that has broader environmental tolerances than the original. It has also been suggested that increased exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation may favor Didymo growth by either reducing the grazer population or limiting populations of other algal species that might outcompete or repress Didymo growth.

Didymo Control

At this time, nothing can be done to remove Didymo from these rivers. Didymo can spread to new waters on fishing gear, especially felt wading boots. Didymo is difficult to kill and can live for weeks on damp boots. You can prevent its spread to other waters by thoroughly cleaning your gear before entering new waters. Anglers should clean any gear that is in contact with the river bottom (boots, boats, trailers, nets, etc.). Take the following two steps to clean your gear:

Wipe off any debris from your wading boots and other gear as you leave the river - leave it there. Before entering new water, kill the Didymo on your gear. You cannot see it, but it may be there. Allow wading gear to completely dry, and then let it dry for an additional 48 hours or soak wading gear for one minute in a 2% bleach solution (1 cup household bleach and 3 gallons of water).

Remember, Didymo only needs one cell to be transported for the algae to spread!

Sources of Didymo Information

This article is a compilation of information provided by variety of sources: Frank Fiss and Owen Schroeder of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tyler Baker of the Tennessee Valley Authority, Sarah Spaulding of the US Geological Survey, EPA Region 8, and Cathy Kilroy of Biosecurity New Zealand. Researchers in New Zealand have conducted some of the most detailed investigations of Didymo biology and ecology. Two excellent sources are:

“Ecological studies on *Didymosphenia geminata*,”

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/pests-diseases/plants/didymo/niwa-ecology.pdf>

“A new alien diatom, *Didymosphenia geminata*: its biology, distribution, effects and potential risks for New Zealand fresh waters,” <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests-diseases/plants/didymo/didyo-schmidt-report.pdf>

Compiled by Bob Robde

TFF Scheduled Programs

January Meeting: Jan 29th

Monday, Jan 29th at 7:00 pm at the Durham Wildlife Club. Featured speaker will be Jan Hackett. The topic is Small Stream Tactics and Gear. Rumor has it Jan will also be providing some locations for such activity.

February Meeting: Feb 26th

Monday, Feb 26th at 7:00 pm at the Durham Wildlife Club. Featured speaker will be TU's Squeak Smith. Presentation will include updates on the Muddy Creek and Linville Gorge projects and NCTU Rivercourse. Squeak is on the TU National Board of Trustees and a recipient of TU's Ray Mortensen Award for Volunteer Achievement.

March Meeting: Mar 26th

Monday, Mar 26th at 7:00 pm at the Durham Wildlife Club . Featured speaker will be Sam Stitche. The presentation will be on rod building. Check out his website at: www.rockyriverflyfishing.com

April Meeting: Apr 30th

Monday, Apr 30th at 7:00 pm at the Durham Wildlife Club. Featured speaker will be Doug Besler of the NCWRC. Doug is, among other things, the person responsible for NC's Trout Management Plan and is NC's representative to the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture project.

Send suggestions for programs/speakers to Jim Burchette, jburch01@aol.com

Featured Water: Clearwater Lake

By Dave Maeda

Clearwater Lake is a 5 acre spring fed “pay to fish” impoundment in the southern portion of Orange County just off Mt. Carmel Road. It lies on a piece of property currently owned by the YMCA of Chapel Hill. The key here is spring fed. The springs moderate the temperature of the lake, keeping it cooler in the summer and warmer during the winter than other bodies of water in the area. Several years back, Rick Hagan figured out that this might allow trout to survive at least over the cooler part of the year. He convinced the ‘Y’ to allow him to stock some trout and charge to fish the property. The Clearwater Trout Camp was born and trout came to the Triangle.



Rick stocks all three species of trout: rainbows, brookies, and browns. Some brown trout have even been known to hold over the summer if it is not too severe. He also does not believe in stocking small trout. Some of the brookies have been truly prodigious.

Being a body of stillwater, it presents a different context and some different problems than many of us are used to, at least in terms of trout. Most of us are used to trout in moving water where you can see the bottom of the stream. Clearwater is up to 20 feet deep. Fortunately most of the fish taken are in the top 24” or so of the water column and a floating line will generally suffice. The most commonly used presentation is probably stripping a streamer or a nymph as one would for sunnies on a local pond. However, don’t forget that these are trout, and depending on their mood and what the forage is

doing, dry flies and dry/dropper rigs will also take fish. An underutilized presentation is wind drifting a dry or dry/dropper rig. This is where one allows the wind (if there is any ...) to move the fly and fly line across the surface of the water. I have not heard of anyone having to resort to an extremely long (15’+) leader with indicators and chironomid patterns to catch trout at Clearwater. It might not be a bad idea to keep this in mind during the midday period when the fish seem to go deep to avoid the bright overhead sun. Regardless of the fly pattern and presentation being used, don’t forget to work shade lines early and later in the day. Casting to rises is also a productive technique. That is, work the area where the fish are rising.

Dark (black, olive, or brown) Woolly Buggers in sizes 8 to 12 are probably the most consistent fish producing flies at Clearwater. Similar flies, i.e. Kevin Howell’s “The Bug” or a Bill’s Provider, in similar sizes also work well. Other subsurface flies that take fish include Pheasant Tails, Hare’s Ears, Gartside Sparrows, and soft hackles. Surface flies that have been known to produce fish include Elk Hair Caddis, Stimulators, Madam Xs, Parachute Adams, and Foam Beetles.

Clearwater also has midge hatches, small midges. When this happens, midge patterns may be necessary to take trout. Patterns such as a Griffith’s Gnat, Brassie, Serendipity, Miracle Midge, or Zebra Midge in sizes down to 24 may be necessary to tempt fish. Midges can be presented on a sinking tip/leader configuration or as the dropper in a dry/dropper rig.

In short, while Clearwater is stocked trout in a stillwater setting, that does not mean the fish are pushovers. Diligence and persistence still count.

The current price to fish Clearwater is \$75 per person with a two person minimum. Contact Rick at troutzilla@yahoo.com for additional info or to schedule a date to fish.

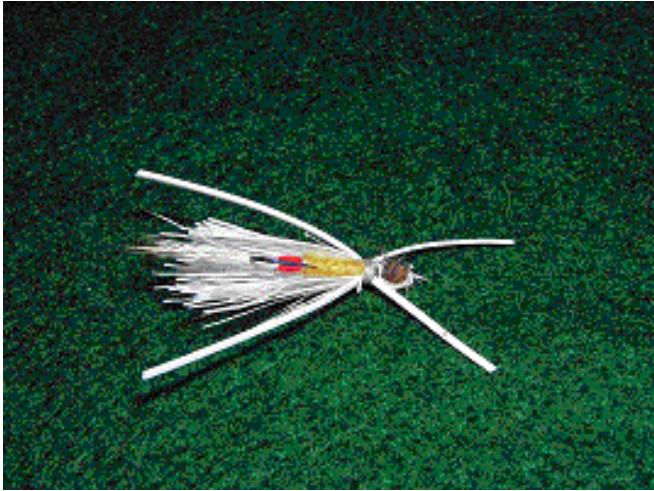
Where Do My Dues Go?

As a TU member, have you ever wondered where your dues go? While it is impossible to say they went to a specific project, i.e. Muddy Creek or Linville Gorge, we can say this: TU returns 75% of funds collected in “membership benefits.” Roughly translated, this means \$85 per member goes to coldwater conservation projects. This means your dues plus another \$50 from grants and other sources. In short, your membership dues are just the beginning.

Featured Fly: The Madam X

By Dave Maeda

The Madam X was designed by Doug Swisher for trout on the Bitterroot River in Montana. The literature seems to be divided as to what the Madam X actually represents. Some say it is a stonefly. Others classify it as a hopper/cricket. Regardless of how it is classified, it catches fish. It is also an easy pattern to tie. The basic pattern I use for the Madam X is as follows:



Hook: Dry fly (or light wire), 3XL, sizes 6 to 14.

Thread: 6/0, tan.

Tail: Natural deer hair.

Body: Orange, yellow, tan, or olive dubbing over the butt ends of the tail, about two thirds hook shank length.

Head and Wings: Natural deer hair, stacked, trimmed, and tied in bullethead style to about mid-tail with hair gathered on top of the hook.

Legs: Rubber or silicone strands tied to form an X.

A number of variations on the basic pattern are possible. Body materials can vary. I have seen patterns utilizing floss for the body material. On larger flies (6 or 8), wrapping the body from a strip of 2 mm foam to makes for a more buoyant fly (just don't stretch or compress the air out of the foam). With a dubbed body, add several turns of red or yellow dubbing to the tail end of a contrasting body color. A tail of red or yellow deer hair is another possibility. Laying down a layer of dubbing (color to contrast body) over the hair before pulling the hair back to form the head and complete wing forms a larger, fuller head.

While I have not used the Madam X extensively for trout, it

has worked well for bass and bream on the Haw and Eno Rivers locally.



A Few Words From Your New Fly Paper Editors

Kay and Bob Rohde

Kay and I are happy to serve as the new editors of the TFF newsletter. We took up fly fishing four years ago during a wonderful vacation to New Zealand. On our return, we learned about TFF. We have enjoyed the TFF meetings, outings and events, so we realized it was time that we returned something to the club.

We have professional backgrounds that allow us to take on this task fairly easily. Kay has owned a freelance court reporting business in Raleigh for many years. For the past 9 years I have worked in the pharmaceutical industry with the electronic publishing of new drug applications to the FDA. However, we need your help in providing good content for each issue. Even if you do not have the time to author an article, a suggestion or idea may be all we need to get a new and interesting article off the ground. Please send your articles and ideas to b.rohde@earthlink.net.



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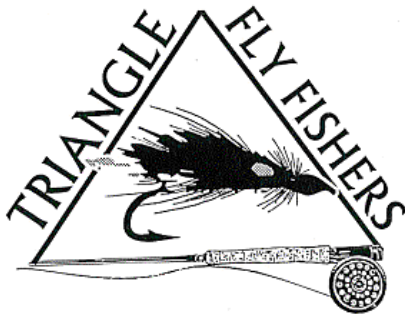
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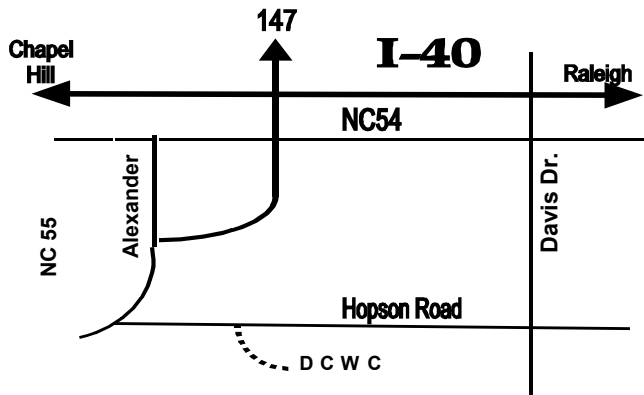
Calendar of Events

- January 29** TFF meeting, 7:00 pm, DCWC
- February 3** TFF trip to Charlotte Fly Fishing Show (space available!)
- February 22** TFF Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Rudino's
- February 26** TFF meeting, 7:00 pm, DCWC
- March 23** "Get Hooked," NC Aquarium, Pine Knoll Shores
- March 26** TFF meeting, 7:00 pm, DCWC
- April 30** TFF meeting, 7:00 pm, DCWC
- May 12** Gear Day and Catchout, Clearwater Lake
- May 28** TFF meeting, Field Trip to Hillsborough Wastewater Treatment Facility
- June 24** TFF meeting, 7:00 pm, DCWC

Monthly Meetings

Last Monday of every month @ 7:00 PM except December at Durham County Wildlife Club in RTP off Hopson Road

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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