
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...

Ladies and Gentlemen: A whole lot of things are going to be happening over the next several months, so watch the newsletter for details. We will be having our annual pig picking and fundraiser on Saturday, September 20th. Once again, it will be at the Durham County Wildlife Club.

Building on the success of last year's event, we will again hit the tables late in the afternoon for bingo. Of course, this means that we will need some prizes to give away to the winners. Last year, we asked the members to donate small prizes, which did not have to be related to fly-fishing. We were rewarded with many different things from the membership, and it added tremendously to the fun of the event. So lets plan on doing that again. We would like the pig picking to be a family event, so please bring a small prize to donate to the bingo awards pool. You can bring the prize

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SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

MONDAY, JULY 28, 7:00 PM:

Former Orvis Guide, Seth Thompson, will be the speaker at our July meeting. Seth is originally from Grand Junction, CO. After finishing college he began teaching shooting and flyfishing for Orvis. He spent one and half years in Manchester, VT, a year in Millbrook, NY and another year in Maryland at the Pintail Point school. Teaching flyfishing also took him from Maine to Key Largo. Seth will be showing a slide presentation on his time as an Orvis guide and instructor, and will also be talking about aquatic entomology.

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 7:00 PM:

Our August speaker will be Phillip Gibson, Riverkeeper for the French Broad River. Phillip will talk about the water quality, fishing possibilities, and conservation efforts on the French Broad River. He will also explain his role as a technical resource to industry, citizens, and governmental units and how he educates these groups and helps identify solutions to improve water quality.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20:

TFF's 4th Annual Pig Pickin'!!!!!!

Bring your family out to the Durham County Wildlife Club for our fourth annual pig pickin' and fundraiser. This year we'll have more prizes and items up for auction than ever before. In addition to a silent auction there'll be a live auction for some great fishing trips. We'll also have bingo and raffle drawing for a Trout Unlimited Columbia Pontoon Boat. You don't want to miss this special event!!! Come out and show your support for Triangle Fly Fishers and enjoy great food, friends, and maybe a deal on a guided fishing trip or two. Full details coming soon!!!

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

NCTU Rivercourse

TFF member Terry Hackett was privileged to be one of the instructors at the first annual NCTU Rivercourse, a week-long environmental education and fly fishing camp put on by our state TU council. The inaugural camp had 13 youth who not only learned how to improve their fly fishing skills, but received hands-on instruction regarding stream ecology, fisheries biology, conservation and environmental advocacy. Terry lectured about environmental regulation, but according to Terry the highlight of the trip was getting to fish with the campers. Next year's course should be bigger and better, but additional TU volunteers will be needed to act as "gullies" and fish with the kids.

"It's a great opportunity to share your fly fishing knowledge with young men and women eager to soak up everything they can. Heck...it was like a mini-vacation for me. I was given a place to sleep, good food and had eager trout less 10 steps from where I slept," stated Terry. The course was held at the Lake Logan Center, west of Asheville. Look for additional information on next year's course in upcoming newsletters and plan on spending time fishing with our trout's future advocates.

Eno River Festival

Once again TFF put on a fly tying and fly casting demonstration at the Eno River Festival held in Durham. TFF Members Marty Gooch, Terry Hackett, and Rudy Hillman put on the demonstration, as well as provided folks with information about TU and the Chapter. This is the second year in a row that the chapter has put on this demonstration and has become a crowd favorite.

TFF in the Movies?

TFF will be represented in an educational video production targeting high school students. The video is part of an environmental educational program to raise high schoolers awareness on topics such as water quality. One group will be filming on the Eno River and asked TFF to provide an expert to

talk about water quality issues that affect fishing on the

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Featured Water

by Brian Thomas

Bullhead Creek, Stone Mountain State Park

I expect that most folks interested in trout fishing in North Carolina have probably already heard about Bullhead Creek in Stone Mountain State Park. If you've been there before then you no doubt know that it harbors some of the biggest and trickiest fish you'll find in our state.

For those who haven't heard about this stream, here's the scoop: Bullhead is managed by the park as a catch and release, flyfishing only, trophy-trout stream. Though the stream does boast some nice hatches and insect variety, the trout get big because of the park's feeding program. The feeding program is supported by the \$12/day fee the park charges each angler. The stream is divided into 8 beats, or sections. At the stream parking area there is a sign-up sheet and fee deposit box. Bring exact change. At the sign-up area you sign up for the beat you wish to fish. Only one angler is permitted per beat. While you're signing up, be sure to read and understand the complete park rules for fishing the stream. Among these rules is that all anglers must have a net, and that no non-anglers are permitted on the stream. Once you sign up for a beat, you must stay on that beat.



A 20" Bullhead Brown Caught by Marty Gooch

Bullhead is a great place to fish for some outsized fish. And don't think it'll be easy just because the fish are fed. They've seen it all before – stealth and accuracy in presentation are critical. Remember to respect the rules and your fellow anglers. The state is not obligated to continue this program. If the privilege is abused, it will be taken away.

From the President continued from page 1

with you to the pig picking, or if you are very industrious, to one of the chapter meetings before hand, and I will hold your prizes until the pig picking.

We will have the usual trips to raffle off, as well as a special raffle for a 9-foot pontoon boat. I'm sure you will hear much more about that, as we get closer to the day of the event. (As an aside, I have been asked by several members, who requested to remain anonymous, to insure that Mr. Lucky, a.k.a. Jim Rice, will not win the boat...again. I promise to lose all the raffle tickets he gives me, but only after he pays for them!)

One thing that we are going to do differently this year is to request donations from outside sources in the local area. Not just from the fly shops, but a wide array of local businesses. With luck, that will provide us with some really interesting non-fishing prizes to raffle or give away. It might even help us raise more money!

Your board members have worked hard this year to make the club run smoothly. I really think they have done a terrific job. One of them, Mark Zimmerman, is going to be moving shortly to Virginia. We will miss you, Mark. Thanks for all you have done for the club.

Sincerely,

Hammer Trout

Conservation News continued from page 2

river, especially in regards to a proposed dam removal near Pleasant Green Road. Since we couldn't find an "expert", we had to settle on TFF member Terry Hackett.

Terry will also talk to the youth about fly fishing, but it will be up to the video editors to determine how much exposure Terry and TFF will get.

We are concerned that Terry may get bit by the movie bug and insist that the video center on him. However, Terry is not getting a swelled head and will not be moving off to Hollywood...this according to Terry's agent. All kidding

aside...this is a great opportunity for TFF to gain additional exposure. We can think of no one better to represent TFF when it comes to fly fishing the Eno or the environmental concerns the river faces. In fact, we found out that Terry will once again feature the Eno in an upcoming article to be published in the Southern Anglers Journal.



Fishy Stories

And other words of wisdom from our members

TFF New River Smallie Trip, 30 May - 1 Jun 2003 by Dave Maeda

I picked up Jim Harding about 5:30 am Friday morning and we wandered over to Ed "Chainsaw" McGee's for a 6:00 am rendezvous with Brian Thomas. Jim Cappy surprised us and showed up as well. The caravan proceeded to Martyn's Sea and Stream where we met up with Paul Parks and Jim "Puddin'" Covney about 6:30. From Martyn's it was off to Mouth of Wilson, VA via the requisite breakfast stop at the Cracker Barrel at Exit 141 in Burlington. We arrived at the Bear's Den (This is the name of the house Ed had found for the trip ... No kidding ...) about 11:30 am after only missing one turn ... The one into the dirt road that lead down to the house after the very concrete "wooden" bridge on the road with the extra word in its name ...

After unpacking it was time to hit the water and we headed for the trout (yes, I said trout ...) streams in the area. Ed and Jim Cappy decided to fish the stretch of Big Wilson Creek that ran through the property the Bear's Den is located on. The rest of us headed for Helton Creek (back in NC) about 20 minutes away. Puddin' and Parks (sounds like a rock group or something ...) headed to the stretch above Sturgills. Brian, Jim H., and I fished the stretch downstream of the hamlet of Helton.

Don Brannon got in sometime while we were out fishing.

Jim H. and I got back in time to join Ed, Jim Cappy, and Don for dinner at Ona's Country Kitchen. Brian pulled into Ona's just as we were coming out. We would have several other meals here during our stay. It was the only restaurant within about a 12 mile radius. Very reasonable price. Okay proportions. Great atmosphere. Don't get the steak unless you like it medium-well ...

Somewhere in here it started to drizzle. Joyce Shepherd joined us at the Bear's Den after dinner. She muttered something about would have been here a bit sooner except for the road with the extra word in its name ...

Suffice to say that the crew on the Helton caught fish. 40+ easily between the five of us based on the claims of that evening. Jim and Ed were planning to auction off the location of some secret hole they had found and were keeping mum about any specific fish counts ...

The post dinner activities were mainly associated with preparations for the smallie trip the next day. Things like repacking vests with boxes of flies for bronzebacks, preping leaders, etc. This was proceeding in a fairly business like manner until Jim H. pulled out a plastic fluorescent green tackle box. I had my back turned to the scene until I heard comments like: "Ouch, my eyes ...", "Where's the ducky?", and "You da Green Machine" ... And so Jim became the "Green Machine" as decreed by TFF's own Grand PooBah (Ed).

After breakfast at Ona's on Saturday, we bid farewell to Puddin' and Parks as they headed back over to the Helton (and Big Horse ...) and then home (via Little Richard's in Yadkinville ...). The main body drove over to the east side of Independence for a 6 mile float for smallies on the New River. The putin was just off Hwy 58. Mark "Big Trout" Zimmerman was there to meet us along with our guides, Marty and Clarence. The water was up due to rains over the last couple of days and a bit turbid. You could still see 18" to 24" down into the water. The wind hadn't died nearly as much as we might have wished. This wouldn't be an issue until later in the trip.

Our guides recommended something "black and ugly" with a sinking leader. Ed went with some LC-13. I found that the length of what I thought was some Rio T-14 wasn't (it floated ...) and switched to a Rio Type II sinking leader with a black #4 Dog Nobbler (aka a Wooly Bugger with lead eyes). The Sneaky Pete contingent went straight to their Sneaky Petes ...

It took us a bit to get organized (pump up and assemble pontoon boats, decide we didn't really need the yellow canoe, setup the shuttle, and other details ...) and we were on our way down the river by about 11:00 am. Jim and Joyce in the drift boat with Marty. Green Machine and I were in a three person pontoon boat with Clarence. The flotilla of single pontoons (Ed, Brian, Big Trout, and Don) spread out over the river. It was quite a sight.

Green Machine and I both got fish within the first hour working mid-river structure (rock, holes, ledges, and any other current breaks we could find ...). We heard calls over the radio that the skunk had been banished from several of the other boats as well. We had a couple of rain squalls go through and some wind gusts but nothing more than an inconvenience. After one of these squalls, Don was seen floating down the river with a plastic baggie over the crown of his hat ... Ed switched out the LC-13 before we broke for lunch. Too many encounters with the Big Ball. The Sneaky Pete contingent had done well off the banks. Smaller fish but more action than we were seeing out in the middle of the river. I switched to a

chartreuse/white minnow streamer right after lunch. I had decided to retire the first Dog Nobbler when I lost a nice fish just before lunch due to metal fatigue in the hook. I had several encounters with the Big Ball myself and had to rebend the hook each time. I went back to a Dog Nobbler about a half hour later. Green Machine got a fish that literally ran around the boat. I lost another nicer fish. Both of us managed another fish before the wind came up one last time ... It had come at us from every point on the compass over the course of the day. At one point it even pushed us upstream. Big pontoons handle wind about as well as canoes do. In other words, not very well ... We easily had gale force winds in this last set ...

Somewhere in all this we caught a glimpse of something going on in the drift boat. It looked like Marty had Joyce by the arm and Joyce was half out of the boat. We couldn't tell if he was giving her a hand with something or trying to prevent her from jumping overboard ...

The last mile or so was pretty nasty but at least we had a quartering tail wind pushing us towards the bank the takeout was on. We had been eyeing a stretch of bluff bank when a tree fell across what would have been our course. We were well out of its way but it was still quite a scare. No warning. Just a loud splash ... About the time my pulse had recovered, we heard a loud CRACK. Looking up the bank, a good size tree had snapped about a third way up its length and was sliding down the hillside towards the river. It took out a couple more trees before getting hung up on the hillside. We took this as a sign that we probably didn't want to fish that bank anyway ... About this time the takeout came into view and we set a course for the ramp. It was a relief to get out of the wind.

Big Trout headed back towards Boone, NC and the rest of us headed for dinner at Ona's. Dinner at Ona's was good natured but a bit subdued (for this group anyway ...). I think everyone was a bit worn out from the day's activities. I did learn that I had not been the only one to see Don floating about the river with a baggie over his hat. Don claims this was to keep his hat dry ... In any case, he had already been dubbed the "New York Bagman" in some discussion that I had missed prior to dinner. Joyce, of course, got questioned about the "half out of the boat" episode. We had never seen anyone try to "hike out" on a drift boat before and were curious as to how that worked. Joyce's explanation is that Marty had accidentally hit a pair of rocks. Not hard but just enough to unbalance her. The first one caused her to lose her balance and the second one almost put her overboard.

She assured us that Marty had prevented her from taking a swim ... All Jim said was something like "Yeah, we hit a couple of rocks ..." and claimed to have been looking the other way when this happened. So much for story confirmation. Joyce was warned that a naming process was at work here ... and that she would be emailed if necessary ...

Post dinner activity was again similar to the previous evening's. Repacking vests with trout flies et al ... New York Bagman had wanted to discuss Izaak Walton's "The Complete Angler" but settled for a lesson in Blood and Surgeon's knots from Ed and myself. Joyce bid us good night. Sometime later I heard Ed say "Driftboat Annie". Jim and I concurred and we all went to bed ... We informed her in the morning.

After breakfast at Ona's on Sunday, we made a last trip back to the Bear's Den to finish cleaning up. Anna Joines, the house's owner, had seen us at Ona's and followed us back. I thought it was Brian's TFF cap that gave us away. She said it was my "Here Fishy, Fishy" shirt (with Royal Wulff). We all got to thank her in person. Ed had already left her a nice note.

It was in the ensuing discussion that we found out what REALLY happened on Friday: Ed and Jim had fished hard but not found a whole lot of fish ... It is still a great location with very pleasant surroundings. Excellent facilities. We will be back.

And Yes, the Bear's Den lived up to its name. Powered by Chainsaw with assistance from Puddin' and Weed Whacker (aka Kahuna Trout). We were also told that Jim Cappy should also have been banished to "The Den" ...

Jim had to head back to Raleigh to catch an afternoon flight and New York Bagman headed straight over to the Helton. Ed, Brian, Driftboat Annie, Green Machine, and I decided to take a look at the Special Regs section of Big Wilson Creek up at Grayson Highlands State Park. After a detour up Rt 817 to check out Harry Murray's directions from his article "Virginia's Five Best Trout Streams" from the Summer 2000 issue of the Flyfishing & Tying Journal magazine, we proceeded over to Grayson Highlands State Park. The detour had at least afforded us a look at this stretch of Big Wilson Creek. It is a gorgeous (pun intended), high gradient stream with plenty of plunge

pools. Getting to the stream could be difficult (drop plus rhododendrens ... we didn't try). After getting to the trail head and consulting the maps that came with the \$3.00 park entrance fee, it was decided to head back to Helton Creek for a couple hours of fishing before heading home.

Ed and Brian decided to fish about a quarter mile downstream of where Green Machine and I had fished on Friday. Green Machine, Driftboat Annie, and I proceeded about another mile upstream and fished the stretch just downstream of Helton. Water was a bit higher and just a tad more stained than it had been on Friday. I tied on a black #14 Wooly Bugger and worked downstream from the access at Helton back to the truck. I got four fish and lost twice that many in about an hour and a half of fishing. It was fun. It was a good way to end the trip.

Braggin' Rights:



*The Editor of this Fine Publication with a Fat Bullhead
Brown*

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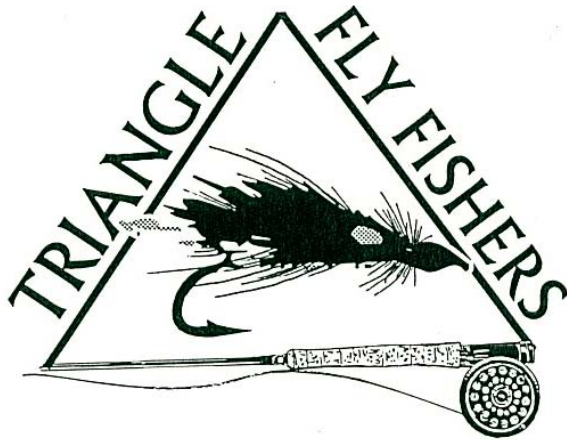
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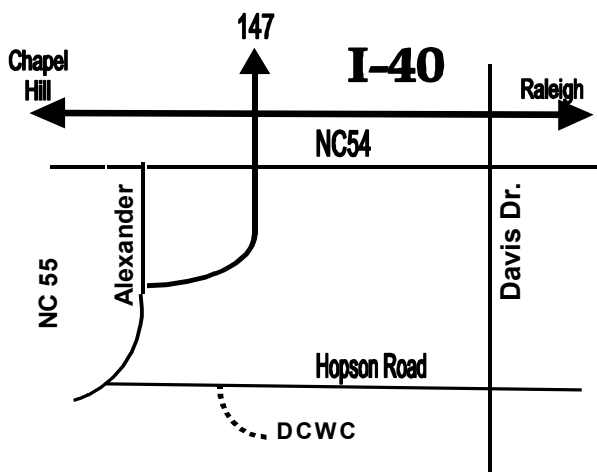
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Monthly Meetings: Last Monday of every month @ 7:00 PM except December at Durham County Wildlife Club (DCWC) in RTP off Hopson Rd

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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