



SNAGS & SNARLS

February 2012

Pisgah Chapter Trout Unlimited



Brandon Apodaca



Wow. The days are getting longer and we haven't been bitten by any major winter storms...yet. It might be one of those years when March roars in like an Arctic blast however. There will still be plenty of time however to enjoy the peace and serenity of winter fishing, as so expertly conveyed at our last chapter meeting by Brandon Apodaca and Joe Moore, and summarized in this issue.

I want to thank all of you, again, who have responded so far to the capital campaign. We are close to reaching our budgeted target. Thanks also for the additional support many of you provided to NC River-course in response to Jim Hefley's pass of the hat.

Our next meeting is our ever popular fly tying workshop. If you're an expert fly tier, you know you cannot know enough, and there will be plenty of opportunity to discuss and compare notes with the other experts in the room. If you are a beginner, like me, the opportunity to pick-up basic tips and techniques from these masters is immense. If you do not know or even care at this time to learn fly tying, there is a great deal to learn from what flies are being tied for what conditions and which streams in our area. This stuff you just cannot pick up from a book, a fly catalog, or even perusing over the selections at the local outfitter's shop.

Hope to see you there!

Yours,

Mark

Winter Fly Fishing in Western North Carolina

January Chapter Mtg. Presentation

So who says that fly fishing can't be done year round? As a matter of fact, there are those, including our January meeting presenters, who feel that winter time may actually be one of the best times to fish.

Brandon Apodaca and Joe Moore made a great presentation highlighting tips and techniques for a safe and successful winter fishing experience on the Davidson River. Their presentation focused initially on the importance of safety and comfort including:

- ⇒ Clothing – make sure to dress in layers and use quality outer wear
- ⇒ Footwear – make sure to wiggle your toes periodically and don't tie boots too tightly
- ⇒ Always bring along extra dry clothes
- ⇒ Have a small survival kit on hand
- ⇒ Make sure to have a good breakfast and stay hydrated during the day.



From a tackle perspective, they made the following recommendations:

- ⇒ 3 to 5 wt medium action rods
- ⇒ Larger and longer leaders with smaller tippets
- ⇒ Midges of any color with the best sizes being 20 to 24.
- ⇒ Egg patterns are also quite successful.



After covering the safety and tackle tips, they shared a number of key techniques and observations.

- ⇒ Trout metabolism is very slow at this time of year so they will have virtually unnoticeable movements.
- ⇒ Look for either pools or slow moving water areas as the best locations to find fish.
- ⇒ Make sure to change your flies regularly.

Their "favorite" winter waters included: Davidson / Green River / East Fork / Cherokee / Tuckasegee / East TN tailwaters and the Bluelines.

Continued

"I caught this fish on Halloween 2010. I was using an egg and midge combo with 6x tippet. Its my largest trout to date, it measured somewhere around 30 in. My girlfriend, Kristen, spotted the fish chasing a small rainbow below the Humble Hole. I got it to take on the third drift, the hook shank was across the fish's teeth. I got lucky! It should have worn through the tippet. It put up a heck of a tussle."



Brandon Apodaca



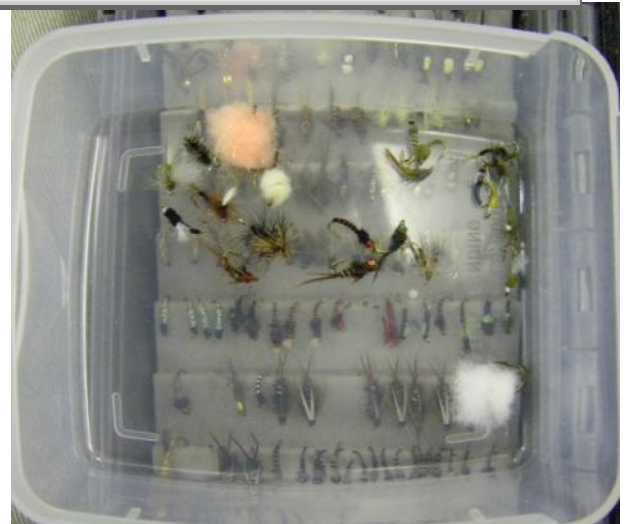
"I caught the fish with the trout in it's mouth twice within 45mins on streamers."

"The big brown trout on the cover of Snags & Snarls was caught on a double streamer rig. It had a 12in brown in its mouth and spit it up. It was circling the dead trout fish like a shark, I brought the streamers close to the fish and it engulfed both of the flies. Last year the winter the fish gods were especially good to me."

Brandon Apodaca



Brandon's recommended flies for Winter trout





**Joey's midge
fly box**



Fly Fishing School 2012 Announcement

Spring is just around the corner and that means one thing (well one thing other than the onset stellar dry fly fishing) our annual fly fishing school. This school gives our chapter exposure to those that are not aware of us and what we do. The more people we can introduce into the sport the stronger voice we will have to protect the resources that we all hold dear. Last years school was a huge success, we had a great turn out of students and volunteers. The feedback we received was outstanding, this school is truly one of the greatest values for anyone seeking to take up our beloved pastime. I would like to thank all of those who helped make it possible. But it is time to start looking forward to this year's school, which will be **Saturday April 28th**. This school would not be possible without the continued support of our chapter members, so mark you calendars now! There are several things that we need to make this school as successful as it has been in years past.

- ⇒ First off tell everyone you know that may be interested in getting their feet wet, by far and away word of mouth has historically been our greatest promotion. Carry some fliers when you go fishing or send any prospective students to our website.
- ⇒ We will need around 10 volunteers that can help teach basic casting techniques
- ⇒ I would like to have roughly 5 volunteers to help with knots, nothing fancy just the basics
- ⇒ Part of the course we offer is a half of days fishing, so anyone that may be available to take a budding fly angler fishing let me know. I would like to have as many people able as possible so that we may best meet our students' needs.
- ⇒ We will also need as much help distributing fliers as we can get, If you know of a location that you think will draw prospective students, or would just like to have some handy in your vest let me know so that I can get you a packet.

In the March newsletter I will post a roster of all the volunteers and positions that are still available. There is nothing more fulfilling than seeing that spark ignite in the eyes of a new fly fisher.

Thank you for your continued support with the school. As most of you know this is our biggest fund raiser of the year, so it is very important to have another strong turnout. It also gives our chapter exposure to the community and prospective members. The more people that we can get involved in the sport and our cause the stronger we are as a whole in our continued fight to persevere protect and restore our fragile resource.

For more information, visit our website at www.pisgahchaptertu.org . If you are willing to help, please contact me at either brandona52@hotmail.com or (828) 674-5161.

Thank you

Brandon Apodaca

From The Editor

A little bored, I guess, I recently found myself going through back issues of Snags & Snarls. I came to an article written by Powell Wheeler and Dale Klug that appeared in March 2008. The title was: **Triploid Fingerling Brown Trout to be Stocked in the French Broad River**. The original article appears on **page 7**. Powell was kind enough to reply with the results of these stockings on **page 8**.

In October of 2007 The Pisgah Chapter of TU had 290 members and 142 on our e-mail list. We now have 318 on our email list and 271 members.

On **pages 9 & 10**, Jack Frisch tells of his experiences re-finishing a bamboo fly rod. This would be a great winter project. There are numerous old bamboo rods available on e-Bay.

On **page 11** is an article written by Tony Brooks president of the Brevard FFF Chapter and fly fishing guide.. "Not catching fish can make you a better fishermen. Change your mindset and add some different tools to your tool belt and just PRACTICE." If anyone is interested in contacting Tony his number is (828) 696-9514 (H), (828) 329-9068 (C) or by email shelton1011@aol.com.

How many ways can you tie a San Juan worm?

Well, here's another. on **page 12**.

The Squirmy Wormy

James Hoskinson

Snags and Snarls

is published eleven times a year by the Pisgah Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a non-profit organization for its members and supporters.

Address comments to:

Snags & Snarls

PO Box 841

Hendersonville NC 28793-0841

E-Mail jimhosk@bellsouth.net

The Pisgah Chapter web site is:

<http://www.pisgahchaptertu.org>



Triploid Fingerling Brown Trout to be Stocked in the French Broad River

The following is a correspondence between A. Powell Wheeler District 9 Biologist and Dale Klug

The upper French Broad River has historically been managed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for trout angling. The hatchery supported section begins at the confluence of the North Fork French Broad River and West Fork French Broad River and extends 34.1 km to NC 276 crossing south of Brevard. The trout fishery in this reach is stocked between March and June with catchable-sized (mean size, 250 mm TL) brook *Salvelinus fontinalis*, brown *Salmo trutta* and rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. In addition to the stocked trout fishery, the upper French Broad River may support naturally reproducing wild brown trout.

The geology of western North Carolina produces streams that are typically very nutrient-poor and support low densities of wild trout. The trout populations in these streams are typically not limited by natural reproduction but by the productivity of the stream. Thus, these streams are poor candidates for put-grow-and-take fingerling trout management. However, the upper French Broad River may be an exception and experience poor or erratic trout recruitment because it is substantially impacted by agriculture (row-crop cultivation and livestock grazing) throughout its riparian corridor. Agriculture generates fine sediment pollution by encouraging runoff and destabilizing stream banks. Suspended and deposited fine sediment inhibits all phases of salmonid recruitment by preventing egg fertilization, disrupting redd function, and reducing fry growth.

The current put-and-take catchable trout stocking strategy is difficult to apply to the upper French Broad River because there are very few stocking points that allow hatchery staff to safely access the stream. Also, a reach this long would require the production of an extremely high number of fish to achieve the typical hatchery supported trout stocking density of 30 trout/ha. As a result of these factors, the river is stocked with a low density of catchable fish which are concentrated at the few stocking points.

If fine sediment impacts reduce wild brown trout recruitment, the population size may be limited by the magnitude of natural reproduction. Thus, it may be possible to increase the number of brown trout recruiting to catchable size by augmenting the population with hatchery reared fingerlings. If the fingerlings can survive and recruit to adulthood, this strategy can minimize some of the problems encountered by catchable trout stocking in the French Broad River. Fingerlings can be produced quickly and cheaply using existing hatchery resources, and are easier to evenly disperse throughout to the river via boat stocking.

Beginning in May of this year, we are going to stock 50k triploid fingerling brown trout per year in the HS section of the upper FBR from 2008-2010.

The fingerlings will all be individually tagged with a Coded Wire Tag, which is a nearly microscopic flake of magnetized metal lodged under their skin in their head. When we shock the section every September, we will be able to determine whether or not the fish were stocked by waving a special metal detector over the fish to see if they have the tag or not. So every year we will shock a bunch of fish and that way we can see if the ones that we are stocking are really contributing in the adult population or not.

A. Powell Wheeler

District-9 Fisheries Biologist



Powell Wheeler, NCWRC, speaking to PCTU in June 2008

continued

From Powell Wheeler January 11, 2012

We stocked 50,000 triploid fingerling brown trout in the French Broad River for two years (2008 and 2009). We spent a lot of time sampling in the Fall with electrofishing and we caught quite a few brown trout in our sampling, but only one was stocked as part of this experiment. So, we considered this attempt a failure and abandoned the final year of the study.

The lesson learned is that if fish can reproduce on their own in a system, in the long-term you can almost never increase the abundance of that species by stocking more. For whatever reason the fingerling hatchery fish just were not able to survive to adulthood in that system.

I really wish that this experiment had been successful, but we learn from the failures also.

Let me know if you have any additional questions

Powell

Welcome New Members

Michael Rigney

Susanne Woosky

OUR VISION

Pursue a future where healthy populations of native and wild cold water fish thrive in the Western North Carolina region for following generations to enjoy.

OUR MISSION

Conserve, protect and restore cold water fisheries and their watersheds in the Western North Carolina region.

Restoring a Bamboo Fly Rod



About thirteen years ago I purchased a vintage bamboo fly rod on an online auction similar to e-bay. The rod was in fair condition but it needed some restoration work in order to make it fishable, especially on the tight waters of Western North Carolina. It was sold as a 9 ft, 3pc, Montague Rod.

A little research has revealed that Montague was one of the early 20th century bamboo rod makers. Montague was purchased by Thomas and Thomas, the Massachusetts rod maker who continues to make fine bamboo and graphite fly rods.

Further research tells us that there are 91 genera and 1000 species of bamboo. Bamboo is a grass, not a wood. Only 2 genera and 2 species have traditionally been used in the building of bamboo rods: *Bambusa tulda* (*Calcutta Cane*) and *Arundinaria amabilis* (*Tonkin Cane*). The former from the Indian sub-continent, while the latter comes from China and not from the Tonkin Gulf.

Now to rebuilding the rod. After removing what remained of the hardware (guides, etc.) I decided that a 9ft rod with a very slow action was not suitable for our waters here in Western North Carolina. I decided that a 6ft rod would be more useful. I discarded the heavy butt section and focused my efforts on restoring the middle and tip section as a nice useable 6ft rod.

Step one was to remove what was left of the finish. I used a product called "3M Safe Stripper", this allowed me to work indoors without any toxic fumes. I applied several coats of stripper to the bamboo, carefully wiping off the finish between each coat. I inspected the rod to make sure that none of the six sides were damaged. After the finish was removed I sanded the rod blanks carefully with the finest grit sandpaper I could get, being extremely careful to not round any of the six sides. After wiping all the grit off the blanks with a soft rag, I applied several coats of marine spar varnish to seal the rod blanks. I sanded the blanks with superfine emery cloth. Again wiping off any residue between sandings. When I was satisfied that the rod was ready to be rebuilt, I added a maple wood, slip ring reel seat, a cigar cork handle and a nickel silver winding check. The next step was to wind on the guides, install the tip and a ring hook keeper. The guides were wrapped with a red silk thread. The entire rod was once again given another couple of coats of marine spar varnish to seal the wrappings.

continued

The rod was now ready to be fished. With some experimentation, I decided that the rod cast best with a 4 or 5wt, weight forward line. Thus, I have a 6ft, 4/5wt, medium action bamboo rod.

I immediately took the rod out to the Davidson River and caught several different sized trout. I described the sensation as amazing. If you caught a standard nine inch trout (a "SNIT") you felt the hookup all the way down to the butt of the rod; if you caught something in the 14 to 18 inch range you felt the hookup down to the soles of your wading shoes. Quite an experience! If you have not fished using grass you are really missing a thrilling angling experience.

By the way, some more trivia about bamboo fly rods. They usually came with two tips, not because bamboo broke easily (that is a myth), but to prevent the tips from getting a bend set in them. Tonkin cane has the same modulus as IM6 graphite. Rod tips break, whether they are bamboo or graphite if they are mishandled.

I have owned other bamboo fly rods. I sold a USLAN five sided fly rod at an auction. Nat Uslan was a bamboo rod maker in the 1950's who set up shop in Spring Valley, NY. He believed that a five sided rod was stronger than the traditional six sided cane rod. The model I sold was a model 8014, 8 ½ foot, 2pc rod that was made for Jimmy Deren who owned the Angler's Roost in New York City. The other rod that I sold was a Horrocks-Ibboston Cascade, 8 ½ ft, 3 pc. I currently own a South Bend 353, 8 ½ ft 3 pc rod that needs restoration work. South Bend rods were mass produced and usually sold in the local hardware store for \$15-20.

When the opportunity presents itself I love to fish bamboo. As any of our members who have recently built or acquired a bamboo fly rod will tell you, nothing matches the experience of fishing with grass.

Jack Frisch

The Classic Angler



STREAM REPORT

Slow and low are the keys to winter time fishing. Be patient. Fish are lethargic with much cooler water temperatures. Use tungsten bead heads and keep adding the shot to get our flies down. Use a dropper rig with a large stonefly or nymph with lots of weight and drop an 18" to 24" tag to a much smaller nymph, stonefly, soft hackle or midge size 18 to 26. Be sure to let your rig swing at the end of your drift and let your flies rise up to the surface before making a new cast.

That lift at the end will many times produce a strike. Keep an eye in the water column and likely strike zones. You may not feel a strike but you may see a flash in the water tipping off where the feeding lane is. Reposition yourself downstream or add mends to your drift to control your drag, slow the speed through that feeding lane. Many times you should take your strike indicator off. Add some biostike to your leader instead so that the depth of your flies can vary in the water column rather than fishing at the same depth relying on a strike indicator. Raise your rod tip high as your drift comes toward you and start lowering it as it passes you. Watch your leader to straighten, pause, sink suddenly or see the end of your fly line dart away from you. Keep stripping slack out of your line and set on anything unusual. Try to catch every rock in the river sometimes it's a fish and occasionally it's a fish of a lifetime.

Committed to dry flies? Use a dry/dropper rig. Tie a 24" to 30" 6X or 7X tag to the bend of your dry fly and use a size 18 to 26 nymph, stonefly, soft hackle or midge with just enough shot to let the bottom fly sink just under the surface. You may want to add line dressing to the first 18 inches of your dropper tag to help keep the fly just below the surface. Use the same technique as described above. Winter hatches consist of very small midges and trout will rise to them. Keep a look out for these small and brief hatches. Also try $\frac{3}{4}$ casts downstream and let your flies swing downstream, varying the speed by adding mends to your line then taking up your slack by raising your rod tip and stripping line.

None of that working, Fish just ain't biting. You want to go home. Don't do it. There's still daylight. Time to tie on some of those streamers lost in your fly box that you never use anyway.

Might as well have them lost in a tree, the bottom of the river or perhaps in the jaw of a huge hungry brown trout. Vary the speed and vary the retrieve. This is an excellent way to locate fish for your next trip.

Winter time fishing is an opportunity to try something else. You've already accomplished not catching fish, its time to start practicing something that you don't normally use. Good things happen when you're just practicing. Change your mindset. Practice mending up stream and down, try a different cast or angle, take up slack more efficiently, be stealthier or use a different approach to a hole or run. Fish water you usually pass up. The practice will pay dividends, maybe on the next cast, maybe on the next trip or in the spring. Quit trying to catch fish, rather practice catching them. What's it hurt?

Tony Brooks

Acting Membership Chair

French Broad Fly Fishers



Tony Brooks and his dog Shadow help stock the Little River

FLY OF THE MONTH

Delayed Harvest Waters: Fishing has been average on the Shelton Laurel, North Mills River & West Fork of the Pigeon. Next stocking will be the first week in March. Flies to use: eggs, pheasant tails, San Juan's (have you tried the Hise's Squirmy Wormy? DEADLY!), Soft Hackles (14-20), Midges (20-24) *Shane Buckner, Hunter Banks*

A Google search for Hise's Squirmy Wormy took me to Dave Hise at Caster's Fly Shop.

Caster's Fly Shop Hickory NC

Squirmy Wormie™ Starting at: \$1.95

Squirmy Wormie™ - All we can say is DEADLY! This squiggly worm has the tendency to TEAR THEM UP. The only fly that I've used (in 30 years of fly fishing) that fish move 5 to 10 feet on a consistent basis. Keep in mind, this pattern will make you squeamish if you're a purist. Angler's often ask me if I am a purist. I respond, "Why.... yes. I am a nymph, egg and worm purist.

Color: Glow in the Dark, Orange, Red, Inchworm, Purple, Blue. Specify below if youd like the beadless or beadhead version (glow Squirm has glow in the dark beads and the others have the rainbow hued bead).
Size: 12.



I purchased Walker's Squirmy Wormies™ from the Davidson River Outfitters. The tying instructions are the same as the San Juan Worm, except the material very squirmy.

jh

Walker's Squirmy Wormies™

Steelhead Trip to Upstate NY

The trip consists of two weeks from April 14 thru April 21st and April 21st thru April 28th. I have 4 slots available for the first week and one slot available for the last week. The cost is \$150 per week per person and the cost of the food is split among all the guys on the trip that week. Transportation will be on their own but several car pools are being set up now. I have put this trip together as an accommodation to all my Steelhead buddies but no one is a guide on this trip and no one is making money on the trip. There are experienced fishermen on the trip that will put you on fish and help out the newbie's. The info on the cabin is at www.cabinatthegorge.com.

My Phone is 828-223-7959 for more info and to book the reservation.

Gene Conley



Coming in March Ben Batson and Gary Tolbert



2012 Stocking Schedule	March	April	May
Green River	2	4	4
Little River	2	2	1
North Mills River	5	4	4
East Fork—French Broad	2	3	4
Shelton Laurel / Big Laurel	1	2	1
West Fork—Pigeon	1	4	3
Nantahala	5	3	3
Tuckasegee	6	5 & 9	2 & 3

Reference Phone Numbers

NC Wildlife Violations 800-662-7137

NC Wildlife Resource Comm. - Doug Bessler 828-659-8684

Fish Biologist - Lorie Stroup 828-877-3265 ext 219

Fish Hatchery Kiosk - Shirley Johnson horselady294@gmail.com

Water discharges on the Green River 800-829-5253

Or <http://www.duke-energy.com/lakes/scheduledflow-releases.asp> (TUXEDO)

Water discharges on the Nantahala River & Tuckasegee River 866-332-5253

National Trout Unlimited www.tu.org

Pisgah Chapter Trout Unlimited www.pisgahchaptertu.org

Mentors List

Chapter Members listed below are available to accompany one or two members who would like to learn more about fly fishing in our streams. If you are just beginning to fly fish, here's an opportunity to get help from some knowledgeable anglers.

Bob Daubert 693-6262

Steve Fromholtz 674-2450*

Dave Maxwell 894-0308

Steve Herring 749-9352

Dale Klug 243-6783

Legend: * weekends only

Calendar of Events—2012

January 31 Board Meeting 6:30 Tractor Shed
February 9 General Meeting 6:45 Social 7:15 Meeting
February 28 Board Meeting 6:30 Tractor Shed
March 8 General Meeting 6:45 Social 7:15 Meeting
April 3 Board Meeting 6:30 Tractor Shed
April 12 General Meeting 6:45 Social 7:15 Meeting
April 28 Fly Fishing School Harmon Field, Tryon

Pisgah Chapter Directory

President	Mark Byington	864-979-7436	markb@byingtonla.net
Vice President.	Chris Ellis	864-458-6240	chris.ellis@us.michelin.com
Secretary	Shirley Johnson	828-749-1370	Horselady294@gmail.com
Treasurer	Skip Sheldon	828-891-3264	shelhalla@bellsouth.net
Past President.	Kiki Matthews	828-696-1599	kikimatthews@bellsouth.net
Director	John Kies	828-698-5207	ohnkies@bellsouth.net
Director	David Pierce	828-891-8991	piercefordp@yahoo.com
Director	John Johnson	828-749-1370	johnjohnson153@gmail.com
Director	Charlie Dotson	828-245-8469	sdotson@bellsouth.net
Director	Joe Moore	828-551-8809	No e-mail
Director	Brandon Apodaca	828-674-5161	brandona52@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Scott Shafer	828-698-2927	sdshafer1@bellsouth.net
Davidson River Project Leader	Tim Schubmehl	828-891-5163	tschubmehl@hotmail.com
Snags & Snarls	Jim Hoskinson	828-891-8440	jimhosk@bellsouth.net