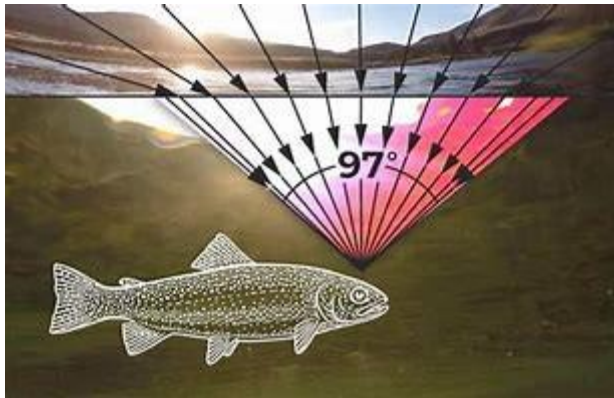


Blue Ridge NC Trout Unlimited



May 2024 Newsletter

Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeTU/>



The fish's field of vision

This month we dedicate the newsletter to helping you to find more fish when you're out there on the stream. Trout have specific habits and knowing them will help you find them. One of the first things to know is where the fish you are looking at actually is. Light does not travel through water at the same speed as it does through air. Therefore, that fish you see is closer and deeper than it appears. Read on and you'll find a simple rule to determine the actual location of that fish. The newsletter will give you this and several other tips for finding that fish in your stream.

President's Message

It's prime fishing season here in North Carolina! The Delayed Harvest streams have had two stockings by now, with the third to follow in early May. Hatchery supported streams are also well under way with their stockings. We have had a mild spring and enough rain to help optimize water levels. Conditions are prime. It's time to get out there and enjoy some good fishing on a stream of your choice. Our members are happy to share some stream recommendations, so come to our next meeting and be "in the know" about where to go!

Our annual Spring Balsam Lodge trip was in mid-April. It was dampened a bit by heavy rains on the day we arrived. Some areas received as much as 3-5 inches of rain. This made fishing difficult on Friday. Saturday was a little better with the streams calming down a bit. Since these trips are planned well in advance, we are taking a chance on what the weather conditions will be. However, it is always an enjoyable experience getting to know our fellow members



and learning a little more about fly fishing. You may hear some stories about past successes (aka bragging), or a tall tale or two.

Our Trout in the Classroom season is wrapping up as the school year ends. The students are now releasing their fish at Stone Mountain State Park. This program provides the opportunity to follow the lifecycle of trout and to experience a stream firsthand. Students also learn about the importance of a stream ecosystem. The goal of Trout in the Classroom is to ignite a spark for the next generation of conservationists. (See the photos at the end of the newsletter.)

Our next opportunity to help with stream restoration is the Wilson Creek project slated for June 8th. See details in this newsletter.

Fred Frank

MAY MEETING

When: Tuesday, May 21st

Where: Little Richard's BBQ
109 S. Stratford Road

Who: Patrick Hayes

TOPIC: Smallmouth Bass Fishing

Pat is a fly fishing guide in Greensboro who offers trips on trout, carp, and smallmouth bass. His website is [PatHayes](#). He is also involved in a charity called [Mended Fly Fishing](#) that mentors fatherless youth through regular fishing trips. The program currently is holding a raffle for a smallmouth float trip. You can enter at [Spring Mended Raffle](#).

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

If you're fishing "new" water and aren't sure where to fish. Stop at the local fly shop and ask. One tidbit of knowledge from a local source could save the day. Once at the water

You are receiving this newsletter either as a member or prospective member of the Blue Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please respond by email to BRNCNewsletter@gmail.com and let us know.

scout your intended area first then go back to your vehicle and gear up. Your recon could save a lot of time. More than once I've found myself on the wrong side of the river.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fly Tying Classes: At 9 AM on Wednesdays Project Healing Waters will host fly tying classes and at 6 PM on Wednesday evenings Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited will host classes. The classes will be held at the South Fork Community Center at 4403 Country Club Road in Winston Salem. The classes are free and all are welcome - from beginners to advanced. No need to sign up, just come join us. If you have specific questions about the evening classes, you can contact, Rusty Berrier at rustyberrier@outlook.com.

NC Trail Days, June 1st in Elkin. Presenting the Mitchell River and affect farming is having.

Spring Alarka Trip. The Rocky River TU Chapter has invited us to join them on their Spring Alarka Trip. Dates are May 16 - 19, 2024. You can see the details and sign up for the trip at [Spring Alarka](#).

June 8th Wilson Creek Event

An invasive variety of giant bamboo is altering the flow of Wilson Creek during flood stage and causing erosion as much as 100' from normal riverbanks. We are asking members to attend and help us rid it. Lunch and an evening meal will be provided. If you have a battery powered sawsall, please bring it with you, we will need several of these. Also please bring a rake and especially a pair of gloves as broken bamboo can be very sharp and wear long pants and boots. Lunch and an evening meal will be provided. If you are coming, please sign up at [Wilson Creek Bamboo Removal](#).



Help us Remove Invasive Bamboo & Reduce Erosion on Wilson Creek!

WORK DAY - JUNE 8th - starts @ 9am
@ Wilson Creek Preserve
(formerly Killians Camp)
Just past the Welcome Center
Lunch Provided
Contacts:
Jackie Greene jackiefishes@gmail.com
Alan @ 828-403-9600

Join us for a day of hands-on conservation work at Wilson Creek Preserve. We will be removing the Invasive bamboo that is causing erosion before it spreads further along the creek.

Follow Our Social Media for Further Details
[@TableRockChapterTU](#) [@Hickory NC Trout Unlimited Chapter 032](#)

Fly Fishing Flim Tour and Auction. A big event coming up in late September. Start gathering up items that you can share for the auction fund raiser. More details later.

Follow somebody's lead by reading the signs. This might seem silly, but if the trail leads straight to the river's edge there's probably a good reason. They are either fishing or crossing.

TU Expeditions Applications Opening Soon!



Launching summer of 2024, TU's Expedition programs will take high school and college students on multi-day, place-based summer adventures on (or adjacent to) BLM lands. Students will examine issues faced by native trout by seeking out the perspectives of stakeholders in the given watersheds, and they will learn about process-based restoration working alongside TU project managers. Whenever possible, TU Expeditions participants will also complete hands-on restoration and assessment projects for targeted streams and rivers and host "stream kids" educational events that will connect local youth to their community waters. Plus, of course, we'll take them fishing and have a good bit of fun along the way. TU's STREAM Education Manager, Cecily Nordstrom (cecily.nordstrom@tu.org) will lead this program-please reach out to her directly with any questions.

[Trout Unlimited Expeditions - Application](#)

Advocacy for NC trout streams

NC trout streams are being impacted by the fast growth in NC population. Mountain properties are being sold at high rates with developments popping up everywhere. This is causing an increase in deforestation of headwater areas of trout streams, rise in temperatures of trout waters and massive siltation of these streams. New owners are also posting their properties that used to provide access to trout streams causing them to be removed from the public trout fishing list.

Concentrated feed animal operations like cattle and poultry farms have also increased rapidly in the mountain areas leading to increased nutrients flowing into the streams

creating algae blooms in the streams and lakes due to lack of buffer zones.

Lack of enforcement of DEQ of our water quality laws only aggravates all these issues.

What can you do about it? The NC legislative session has just started. The NC Senate passed legislation last session to have a 25-foot buffer zone on all trout streams.

S613: <https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2023/Bills/Senate/PDF/S613v2.pdf>

Please contact your house members and ask them to approve this legislation before we lose more trout streams.

[Calling All Trout Anglers and Water Advocates](#)

Thank You
Blue Ridge TU

LANSING CREEPER PARK PLANTINGS

Robbie stopped by to check out the progress of the plantings. The good news is many of the live stakes are already putting out new growth and it seems most survived a pretty good water event recently. The bad news is the Japanese knotweed is also going gangbusters.

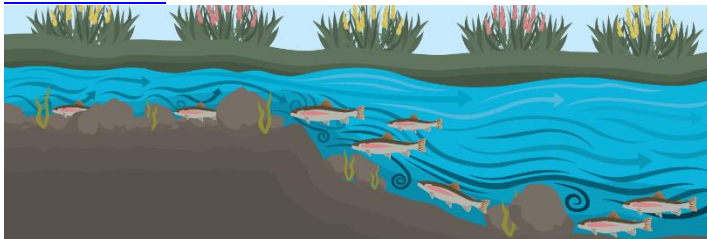


FIX

WHERE'S THAT TROUT?

March 31, 2015

www.fix.com



How to Locate Trout in a Stream

While you might get lucky pulling up to any old spot at a river and throwing a line, learning the areas trout prefer in a stream will increase your chances of catching fish. To understand where to find trout in a river at any given time, it is important to have a basic idea of how trout behave and why they relate to certain areas in the river.

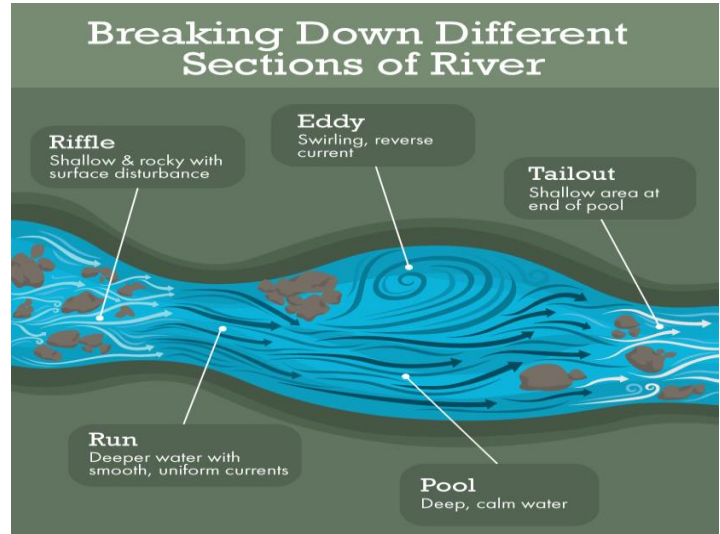
Stream-dwelling trout have a few basic needs:

Oxygen: Trout need to breathe in order to live. In a river you will generally find trout close to current where the water is more oxygenated. Avoid large stretches of stagnant water.

Food: Trout need to eat and will seldom stray far from a food source. Find the food and you will find the fish.

Shelter and Rest: Trout like to be near current, but they are also quite lazy. They like to find objects to rest behind, and other areas where they can sit outside the main flow. They also need a place to hide from predators. This can be the same structure that blocks the current, or it might be overhead shelter like a tree or bush. Bonus points if the area has quick access to deeper water.

Keeping these elements in mind, you can closely examine the stream environment to find some fish.



When approaching a river for the first time, it is easy to become intimidated by the sheer amount of water. Before making your first cast, you should take a moment to “read” the water. This is the process of examining the stream above and below the surface and breaking it down into manageable sections where fish will likely be. Follow almost any stream as it carves its way through the landscape and you will notice a pattern of characteristics. Learn to identify these patterns and you can use them to help locate trout.

Sections of a River

Riffle: A riffle is a rocky, shallow area in a stream where water cascading over rocks creates a noticeable surface disturbance. To identify a riffle, look for a choppy surface or whitewater spilling over shallow rocks into deeper water. A good riffle will fulfill all of the basic needs of a trout. The shallow, highly oxygenated water is a perfect environment for the aquatic insects trout eat. Boulders and rocks create plentiful hiding and resting spots. Deeper water downstream gives trout rest and security. All of these aspects make a riffle a great starting point when looking for trout.

Run: A run is an in-between zone directly below a riffle, where the water becomes deeper and the current is more uniform. Aside from a riffle, a run is one of the top places to look for trout in a stream. Trout like the shelter provided by deeper water and the proximity to an easy meal. Fish often suspend at the edge of the current or lie along the bottom eating insects that are carried downstream out of a riffle.

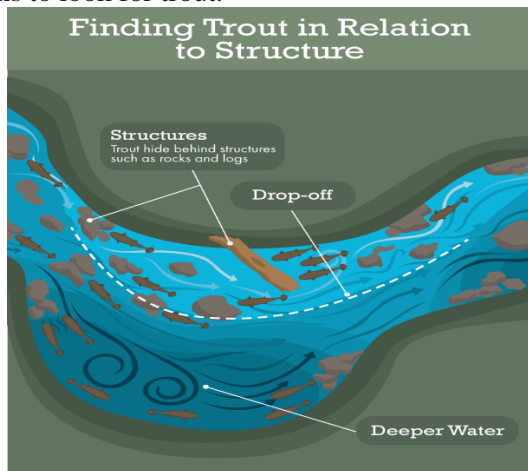
Pool: A pool is the deepest portion of any given section of river with the slowest current. Fish will often retreat to a pool on bright, sunny days or if they feel threatened. In shallow streams, pools might be the only areas that hold fish, but it is different for larger rivers. While most river trout – especially big ones – may spend a portion of their day in a pool, typically this is when they are least active.

Eddy: An eddy is an area of the river where structure such as an indent in the riverbank, a log, or a large boulder blocks the current flow and influences its direction. Directly downstream of the object, a pocket of swirling water will form opposite the main direction of current flow. Trout love eddies because they funnel and trap insects drifting by in the current. Look for foam or bubbles collecting on the surface where the main current meets up with the swirling water and place your casts there.

Tailout: A tailout is a shallow, flat section at the end of a pool before the water spills over into another riffle. Where the water becomes shallow, a natural funnel is formed that brings anything drifting downstream right to the fish. Trout will often wait in a tailout and sip hatching insects off the surface as they float by, so it is a good spot to look for rising fish.

Examining the Structure

Learning to pinpoint [structure in different sections](#) of a river is the final step to reading water like a pro and increasing your likelihood of finding trout. Structure can refer to objects in and around the river such as boulders, gravel bars, holes, and changes in bottom contour. Less obvious examples are eddies and current seams created by the river flow, or shade from a high bank. A good section of river might contain several of these features, and as a rule, areas where different types of structures intersect are prime locations to look for trout.



Boulders, logs, and other obstructions: Any object that impedes the current flow is worth investigating. It's worth bonus points if it is located in a favorable section of the river such as a riffle, run, or tailout. Multiple casts placed upstream, to the side, and downstream of the object will give you a shot at any fish that may be sitting there.

Changes in the river: Bends, gravel bars, shelves, holes, and other changes in the river or bottom contour are great places to look for trout. A good example is the area right

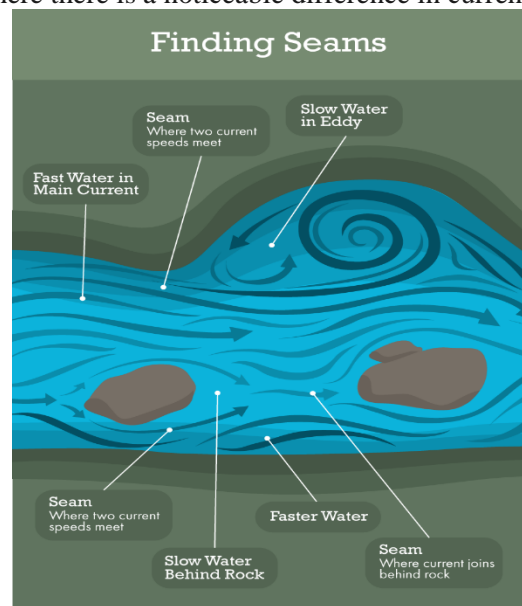
where a riffle drops into deeper water. Trout will often rest in the slower current below the drop-off, eating insects that are swept over the edge.



Other good locations are the insides of river bends, points jutting into the current, and indentations along the bank. A good pair of polarized sunglasses can help locate structure hidden below the surface. Dark areas often signify deeper holes. Look for gravel bars mid-river, and drop-offs or shelves at the river's edge where the current begins to slow. Fish will be resting and feeding on the deeper side of these areas.

Seams

A "seam" is any spot where two currents converge. Trout like seams because the joining currents create feeding lanes that collect drifting food, so when looking at any structure in a river it is important to locate any associated seams. With some experience you will be able to detect seams as subtle lines along the surface where slower current meets with fast. Watch the current carefully as it flows over and around structure. Look for bubble trails floating downstream or any area where there is a noticeable difference in current speed.



Next time you head to the river, spend a few minutes reading the water before making a cast. Pick out a section and decide which structure you are going to target. Of course, experience is the key to success, so get out as much as possible and practice these tips. When you do catch a fish try to remember the key features of the area you were fishing.

Eventually it will seem like less of an exercise, and reading the water will become an intuitive skill that will lead you to more fish.

For a more in depth look at finding fish in a stream, visit these two videos by Tom Rosenbauer:

[how to find trout in a river part 1](#)

[how to find trout in a river part 2](#)

CAP WIESE FLY FISHING CENTER

Plans are in development to create a fly fishing center at the Patterson School. The school is near Happy Valley just north of Lenoir. The purpose of the *Cap Wiese Fly Fishing Center* is to honor the legendary fly fisherman, George “Cap” Wiese who served as the School Master for Patterson School and as a mentor to his many students. To provide a facility and programs to teach kids, women, minorities and the diversity of “want a be” anglers the art, the science and the skills of fly fishing, fly rod building and fly tying. To provide education and set an example for leadership in the conservation and protection of our natural outdoor resources.

The Patterson School Campus and property will host: Satellite Exhibits of the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians related to Stream Blazer George “Cap” Wiese; an integrated Fly Fishing Reference Library; and, the largest display of hand-tied Fly Patterns as both art to view and appreciate as well as the preservation of skills and knowledge related to functional fly patterns - each accessible to the public. The campus and property will be a fly fishing destination for “giving back” and conservation oriented organizations including but not limited to Project Healing Waters, Wounded Warrior, Reel Recovery - for veterans that are healing through fly fishing programs; Casting Carolinas, Casting for Hope, Casting for Recovery - for recovering cancer patients that are healing through fly fishing programs; and, Boy Scouts of America, Girls Scouts of America, Project Mayfly, NCTU RiverCourse, NCWF Great Outdoor University and many more kids programs that introduce both fly fishing and the great outdoors.

Initial Fund Raising:

A one-time effort to recruit initial funding will recognize in perpetuity the following:

\$5,000 donation, Sponsoring Member

\$1,000 donation, Anchor Member

\$ 500 donation, Founding Member

\$ 100 donation, Charter Member

The goal is to raise a minimum of \$30,000 in this manner before closing the opportunity for recognition.

To make a donation go to [Donate](#), enter the amount and when the note section comes up with a card indicate “fly fishing”.

WHERE IS THE FISH

In the opening of this newsletter we stated that the fish you see is actually closer than it appears. You want to cast, your fly upstream above it so that the fly drifts right over it so you need to know where that line is. The actual distance

to the fish is actually determined by both the apparent distance and apparent depth. While I studied two years of mathematics in college, there is not a chance that I could calculate that formula today, and definitely not in my head. Fortunately I found a rule of thumb from a bowfishing website. Just assume your finger is the arrow, point it at the fish and follow these instructions.

- **10-4 rule:** Your distance from a fish plays a major role in how you aim with a bow. In general, for every 10 feet between you and a fish, aim 4 inches below it. That means if a fish is 15 feet away, aim 6 inches below the thickest part.
- **1-3 rule:** Depth is even more critical than distance and much harder to gauge for inexperienced shooters. A standard guideline is to aim 3 inches below a fish for every 1 foot of depth. If you guess a fish to be 3 feet below the surface then aim 9 inches low.

Now lets put the 10-4 and 1-3 rules together in an example. Say, for instance, you stealthily sneak up to a carp rooting in the mud. You get within 20 feet and you guess the water to be 6 feet deep. Where do you aim?

Since you’re only 20 feet away, aim 8 inches low. But you also need to adjust 18 inches lower because of its depth beneath the surface. Overall, you should aim at a spot 26 inches below the fish’s belly.

Try that while holding your rod and you’ll see that the fish is actually a lot closer than you might think. That means you should be casting much closer than you often think. Of course there is an alternate solution to this problem. Get directly downstream and cast to what you see. The fly will land beyond and drift right over the fish. Just be sure it is the leader and not the fly line that lands on top of the fish.

Look At It From The Fish's Point Of View

POSTED ON [MARCH 23, 2024](#) / BY [LOUIS CAHILL](#)



A Yellow Sally Pattern From Below. Photo by Louis Cahill

Light affects what fish see and how they eat.

I am teaching a young man to fly fish. We have fished well past sundown. There is only a band of warm red along the horizon giving way to a glowing blue sky. A bright moon and stars just beginning to show themselves. Forty feet away the surface of the water dimples and rings in rhythm as trout rise the the evening hatch. My student is frustrated.

“I don’t think they like this fly. Let’s change it.”

"It's too dark to tie on another," I tell him, "let's try this one a little longer. Maybe a few feet longer cast." I know this is the right fly. He just isn't reaching the fish.

"I think it's too dark. They can't see it."

"They can see it."

"How? It's totally dark. I can't see it."

I resist my smart ass nature. I don't say, "Well they can sure as hell see the naturals." Instead I tell him, "Look up. Can you see those swallows? That's what the fish sees. Mayflies, like swallows flying above them."

This is a simple idea, but one fly anglers don't often think about. The fish looks at your fly from a different point of view. An almost exact opposite point of view than ours. The world looks a whole lot different from below. Light, and the where it's coming from, play a huge roll in how you choose and present your fly.

Trout are always looking up.

Even when they are eating nymphs they look for food which is at their level in the water column or higher. Not all species feed in this way. Bonefish or carp for example feed on the bottom. Other species like tarpon look up for their food. The roll which point of view plays in their eating habits, and in your presentation, will vary from species to species. Let's look at a couple of examples.

If you read the article, "[What Does The Trout See](#)," you know that trout have very acute color vision when the light is bright. That doesn't always mean that fly color is crucial in full sun. Let's say it's mid day and the sun is high in the sky. When fish look up at a dry fly, they are looking right into the sun. Not only is this uncomfortable for them, it seriously limiters their vision.

A fly floating on the surface with the sun directly above will appear as a silhouette. A tiny pattern in a precise color may get little attention. A larger, more pronounced silhouette may get some attention where precise imitation fails. In the morning or afternoon when the sun is lower in the sky, and lights up the dubbed body and hackles of your fly, you had better have your size and color just right.

Let's say you're bonefishing.

That sounds nice, let's say it again! You're bonefishing! And it's an overcast day. A fly with a little more flash will make your fly look more alive. It will shimmer in the soft overcast light. In full sun a fly with a lot of flash might look like a kids toy covered in flashing lights. Bonefish may run from it.

Light affects more than fly selection.

It affects your presentation too. Let's talk about tarpon fishing. Say you find a laid up tarpon and she's facing into the sun. Her ability to see a fly is greatly diminished. You will need to put the fly pretty close for her to see it. Luckily, the glare of the sun will also help subdue the splash of the fly landing. If you are in that same scenario, except this time the the fish is facing away from the sun, she will have a great view. You had better lead her a lot more and land that fly softly.

Let's get back to the trout stream for a minute.

And let's say we're fishing nymphs. The lighting may affect more than our choice of fly or how far we lead the fish. It may even affect our choice of indicator. If the sun is high in the sky, a bright pink Thingamabobber might not be the best choice. It's translucent and it's curvature focuses the light causing a bright pink point of light. That's why fish so often eat them. This bright pink spot floating above may distract fish from your fly or even spook them. Better to go with yarn or wool.

New Zealand Indicator (left) Thingamabobber (right)



On overcast days a white wool indicator is pretty stealthy. Like Johnny says, match the sky. A white or clear Thingamabobber is a good choice too. Don't get too worked up about it. Fish see stuff floating downstream all the time. It's worth taking a moment now and then to look up. Think about how the light affects what the fish see. Hold your fly up against the sky and look at it from the fish's point of view. After all, it's what he sees that matters.

Louis Cahill

Gink & Gasoline

www.ginkandgasoline.com

CASTING CAROLINAS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Hello there my wonderful River Helpers! Casting Carolinas is having their annual alumni retreat next month (May 18/19) and will need some help both days. Some of these ladies know how to fish but there are several that need a little help. We won't be assigning you to any one person but just having you there to help out where needed would be amazing. If you could help out both days that would be great, but even one of the days will be immensely helpful.

We are working on where to fish Saturday (May 18)- this day is usually 2pm to 4pm. On Sunday we usually fish the North Toe in Spruce Pine- typically 9-1pm. We will provide lunch on Sunday!

To Volunteer go to : [Volunteer - Casting Carolinas](#)

I'll be looking forward to getting you signed up for the fun!! Please let me know if you have any questions

We have our Fall retreat October 13th at Lake Logan.

Jennifer Stubbs

[Retreat Leader](#)

[Casting Carolina's Alumni Coordinator](#)

910-520-7559

ARE YOU READY FOR THE 'CHICDAPOCALYPSE'?

For the first time in 221 years, more than a trillion of two particular periodical cicada broods are set to surface this spring. The last time this emergence happened was in 1803, when Thomas Jefferson was president and busy finalizing the Louisiana Purchase.

The Green River in Utah is famous for a spring cicada hatch and the trout gorge on them. When we were there in July a couple years ago it was nearing the end of a great day on #16 dries. For fun the guide put a cicada on my line. I cast it out and a huge brown spotted it land from 20'away. He came flying across the river, grabbed the fly, flew out of the water for about five feet and dove back in. It is a vision I will remember for the rest of my life. Trout love big food and even though it hadn't seen one in over a month it knew there was a meal there.

My bet is that you can throw a big cicada at the trout any time of year and get action, but with a giant cicada hatch coming it will just turn the trout onto them even more. This month Dave Everhart will give you a pattern to try it out and maybe get a trout to fly out of the water for your fly.

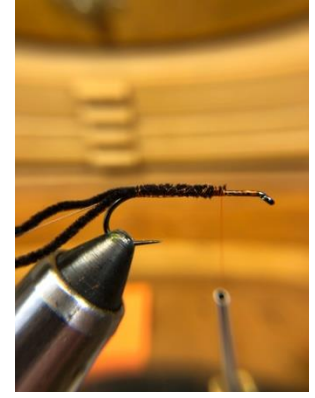
ADVICE FROM THE VISE

May's article most always gets written from Ashe county and this month is no exception. It's been another excellent week of fishing this year. The water is cold and the weather has been perfect. This month Chick suggested addressing the coming Cicada Brood X hatch, so I thought I would spin up some designs and give them a test run.

I found a lot of dry patterns, and George Daniel's has an excellent sunken caddis, but I felt like the bug itself as a non aquatic critter would behave more like a spent bug that would sink slightly rather than sink but not really float either to get into the upper feeding zone. Here's my version of the Swamped Cicada.



Starting off with a 2x long dry fly hook. Using orange thread on this one. Tie in two strands of black micro chenille (one of regular will do just fine) from about a third from the eye to the bend.



Tie in a strand of hot orange ice chenille, and a strand of Ox tippet for ribbing. I'm not wrapping the chenille as is typical, just pulling it taught as the underbelly. This creates less bulk and lets the fly swamp faster. Tie that in and rotate to the top



of the fly and pull the black strands taught and secure with a couple wraps. Wrap the ribbing up to the eye, and secure with a couple snug wraps.

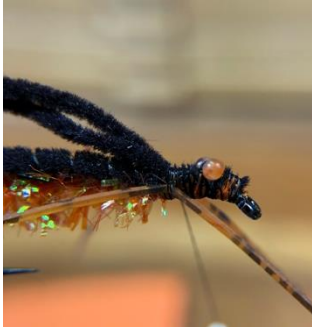
Trim out the butt ends of the orange chenille and rib. Wrap back about 1/3 from the eye, and tie in some a few strands of crystal web fibers, orange and pearl to form a wing, trim the ends to extend just over the bend.



Cicadas have that very distinctive red-orange eye, so wanted to include it. These are easy to make out of heavy mono, a lighter and hackle pliers or tweezers. Simply cut a strand of mono about an inch long, place the pliers in the middle of the strand and gently heat the end, as it melts into a ball, be sure to blow it out before it goes too far. Repeat on the other side, then use a permanent marker to color them. Tie them in at the midpoint of the head area using a figure-of-eight wrap to keep them even.



Tie in some rubber legs of your choice, I used speckled orange, on both sides of the fly.



Wrap the chenille to form a head, secure it and whip finish the fly.



Took this pattern to Ashe County DH water this week for a road test and it passed with several fish.

If you have a pattern you would like to see in the column, shoot me an email and we can feature that in an upcoming month. As always, I'm honored to answer questions, give a lesson, or just talk fly tying and fishing. Don't hesitate to contact me at Jacobsforkflytying@gmail.com Please check out some of my current ties on Facebook and Instagram at Jacobs Fork Fly Tying.

IF4 AND BANQUET



We have a couple of exciting fundraising events coming up in September and will need help to support these efforts. September 20 at Paul J Ciener Botanical Gardens in

Kernersville we will host a film showing for the International Fly Fishing Film Festival and on September 26 will be the BRTU Banquet.

Both events will need volunteers to help coordinate, secure raffle prizes, get sponsorships, sell tickets, and help promote the event.

To volunteer, please sign up at [VOLUNTEER](#).

Keep Your Rod Tip Off the Water for Longer Drag-Free Drift

POSTED ON JANUARY 22, 2024 / BY KENT KLEWEIN



Scott McEnaney, Eastern Director of Orvis Endorsed Lodges, demonstrates proper rod tip position. Photo By: Louis Cahill

Are you finding yourself struggling to get long drag-free drifts on the water?

If the answer is yes, you may be holding your rod tip too close to the water during your drifts. When your rod tip is positioned too low, you're putting unnecessary fly line on the water that you in turn have to manage in order to maintain a drag-free drift. As soon as this unwanted fly line hits the water's surface, it's immediately subjected to the surrounding currents. Depending on how fast the current is at your feet, the less time it will take for it to be pulled downstream and begin effecting your drift. Eventually all the slack will be pulled out in your fly line and your drag-free drift will be compromised. There's of course a happy medium though, on rod tip position. Too high, and anglers will find it difficult to effectively mend and set the hook. I generally tell my clients to keep their rod tip at least three feet off the water's surface. Here's a simple drill to help you understand and visualize how improper rod tip position on the water can negatively effect and decrease the length of your drag-free drift. Lay out a nice 30+ foot cast on the water. Make sure you stop your rod tip high above the water (a good 4 feet). Watch your drift for a few seconds, and then quickly drop your rod tip all the way to the water. You'll almost immediately notice the slack in your cast eliminated and shortly after drag on your fly. This is a simple technique mistake I see on the water all the time, particularly with anglers dry fly fishing.

Kent Klewein
Gink & Gasoline
www.ginkandgasoline.com

Fish will hold in slow water, but usually the food drifts with faster current. Fish the transition between fast and slow water, trout will dart out from the slow water to feed.

NORTH TOE RIVER

I've never fished the North Toe, but I've heard some good things about it and it's far enough away from major population that it might not be as crowded as streams south and east. If you are interested in checking it out there is an article about it in *On The Fly South* magazine this month at this link [Trout On The North Toe](#). This is a free on-line magazine so while you are there consider subscribing.

We'd love to hear your input. If there is a topic you'd like addressed or if you have something to share in the newsletter, please contact us at BRNCNewsletter@gmail.com.

2024 TIC RELEASE

Over the past several days, the Trout in the Classroom program ended the year by releasing their trout fry into the East Prong of the Roaring Fork River in Stone Mountain State Park. Summit, Ledford, School of Arts, East Davidson, and Davie High released their fish. Due to last minute conflicts, Reagan, DDCC, and Lexington were not able to attend the release this year.

Just before everyone left Wednesday, the hatchery truck came a week early and released 2088 trout while the students watched. It was very interesting watching the trout, who had been raised in the hatchery, now released and trying to figure out where to go, what to do, think, ...where are the fish pellets!

We would like to thank everyone who helped make this year another great success and special thanks to the teachers who participated in the program this past year.



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