



Blue Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

April 2010

President's Letter

David Richards, President

Spring fishing is off to a great start, thanks to some great weather we have been having and cooperative trout! The spring **Balsam Lodge** trip on April 9-11 was great, with about 15 of our members spending the three-day weekend in the mountains. People fished several places and came back with good fishing reports.

I started out fishing (but not much catching) on the Tuck, but with the high and turbid water I didn't have much luck on the Delayed Harvest Water. Then I remembered that I had a map that I had downloaded from the internet site for the Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail. On the map I found a Wild Trout Stream nearby, called Caney Creek, and so I gave that a try. It was a beautiful clear small stream, which was so nice after fighting the fast high water on the Tuck! And within a few minutes I had caught a nice rainbow from some deep water under an overhanging rhododendron. I caught a couple more rainbows on Caney Creek, and that combined with finding a new place to fish for wild trout, and the beautiful spring weather, made it a fine day.

I found information about Caney Creek on the website for the Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail. That website has lots of information about a dozen or so fishing spots, maps, and even GPS coordinates. The Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail website is a great resource and can be found at www.flyfishingtrail.com.

The next Balsam Lodge trip is October 8-10. I look forward to it, and hope that you can join us, too.

Blue Ridge Chapter Supports Muddy Creek Project

One of the conservation projects that Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited has been supporting is the Muddy Creek Project. This creek feeds into the Catawba, and through restoration we hope to reduce the amount of sedimentation in the river. Blue Ridge Chapter donated this month \$1,000 more as part of our continuing support to this significant project. In addition to the donation of money, Squeak Smith, steering committee member at the Muddy Creek Partnership, has informed us that there will be an opportunity to volunteer with the construction of a bridge at Muddy Creek on the May 23 weekend.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 3 and May 7 – TIC release dates

May 13-15 SE Regional Rally

May 18 – Chapter Meeting

June 12 – Mitchell River Stream Clean

2009-2010 Chapter Leadership

Officers:

David Richards, President
Mike Davis, VP
Bob Lassiter, Sec.
Peter Lloyd, Treas.
Peter Lloyd, Past Pres.

Board Members:

Chad Fulp
Brandon Frakes
Scott Larsen
Robin Searight
Jayne Sommer
Steve Hennings

Southeast Regional Rally 2010

The Rally will be in Townsend, TN, May 13-15.

More info at <http://www.tu.org/events/serally2010>

CHAPTER MEETING MAY 18TH

Please drop by on May 18th for our chapter meeting. The meeting will start at **6:00 PM** to allow folks to mingle, order dinner and get settled before the 7:00 program.

Our chapter meets at **Texas Land and Cattle Steak House** just off of Hanes Mall Blvd across the road from Target. We welcome new members and visitors. Bring your family with you. This is a family oriented activity.

Welcome New Members!

Dell Jennings and John Penry

Blue Ridge TU Chapter VP Presents at Environmental Awareness Days

Mike Davis, BRTU chapter Vice President, presented at the Stokes Soil and Water Environmental Awareness Days at Hanging Rock St. Park. The presentation about Stream Restoration and Fly fishing was given to about 120 Stokes Co. 5th graders. The kids were shuttled through 8 different stations setup in the park including Beekeeping, Plant id, Forest Fire safety, Soils, Rock formations, Wildlife, Water Quality, and our Stream restoration.

Mike covered NC River basins, examples of pollution, stressors and other things that impact water on its journey to the sea. Also covered what problems a waterway may have that would indicate the need for Stream Restoration such as erosion, channeling, lack of plant life, etc. and methods to repair such as leveling out eroded banks, getting livestock out of the water, rechanneling stream meanders, what are rock vanes and root balls and why re-plant trees and shrubs.

Also covered was bug life and trout food and why clean water is so important to those ecosystems followed by some fishing talk.



Mike Davis presenting to Stokes County 5th graders

Mitchell River Stream Clean Planned

We will be doing a stream clean on the Mitchell River, near the town of Dobson, on June 12th. We hope you can come out and donate a few hours of your time to help pick up trash along the river and along the road. It's always a lot of fun and by doing it as a team we get a lot accomplished in just a couple of hours. More information will follow in the May newsletter and on the website.

Trout in the Classroom Release Dates

The classrooms participating in the Trout in the Classroom project will be releasing their fish into the wild on May 3 and May 7. Check out our website at www.blueridgetu.org for more information.

Fishing Mentor Program

By Scott Larsen

When I look back over the last year or so it is truly amazing how much the mentors in our local chapter have helped my confidence level to catch trout.

This however did not come especially quickly, I had been coming to most of our meetings for about a year but am not the most outgoing person in the world, was not aware of our chapters fishing mentor program (It is still one of the most closely guarded secrets of our chapter) and was not having much luck on the water. But I hung in there, joined the board, helped out with the banquet and did get an invitation with a mentor to go to Mitchell River last fall. I learned the basics and caught a few fish and spent time on the water to build on those skills. I exchanged emails with another mentor listed on our web site and got invited to go Wilson Creek and then the North Toe. I signed up for the Balsam Lodge trip this spring (It was a great experience and I would highly recommend it) and ran into another **mentor who helped me catch my first fish on a dry fly!!!!** As a result of the help I received and a very generous portion of luck I have been able to land **eight fish over 18"** this spring plus generous numbers of smaller fish. **That is truly amazing progress!!!!!!**

So if you are a little frustrated with your fishing ability or your ability to make connections with our chapter members I can sympathize but **suggest you hang in there**. Be patient with your self and our chapter, **get involved with our chapter** during stream cleanings, sign on for the trip to Balsam, join the board, and **get in touch with some of the mentors listed on our web site (It is carefully hidden under the "Local fishing tab" on the top of the web site tabs)** or if you have any suggestions on how to improve our chapters mentoring program get in touch with me or one of the other members of the board. Let's go fishing!!!!!!!!!!!!



New Nymph! Have you tried the **Moorish Pickpocket**? They are available at the Great Outdoor Provisions store, or tie your own! Demo video online at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYSRTjTFE34>