



Blue Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

August 2011

Catch and Release

By Dave Richards, Chapter President

On a trip to the Smokies to attend the Trout Unlimited Southeast Rally, Sam, Rusty and I got a chance to fish in the National Park. After fishing for a few hours I was back at the truck putting away my gear, and a man drove up and asked me if I caught anything.

"I caught a few," was my answer. "Can I see them?" he asked? "No you can't see them," I responded. "I put them all back." The old boy looked at me like I was crazy. Why in the world would anyone throw back fish, particularly if I was from "Trout Unlimited"?

My wife shares this inquisitive man's line of questioning. The first time I went catch and release fly fishing, about six years ago, with a guide from the Green Drake Orvis Shop, I came back smiling from ear to ear. Elena met me in the kitchen, spatula in hand, ready to fry up the bounties of my day of fishing. "Yes I caught some fish, and no I didn't bring any home" I boasted. She asked me how much did I spend on this guided fishing trip again?

A week or so later I fished some hatchery supported water and came home with a 10 inch and a 12 inch trout. She's used to cooking up tunas, salmons, and snappers, and these "minnows" were hardly worth eating, so small and with too many bones. Embarrassing.

Catch and release provides me with many benefits. First, it helps preserve species like the native brook trout, which might "over-harvested" if everyone kept these little beauties. Second, it gives me a chance to tell "whopper" fishing stories without having to prove anything. Third, my wife isn't complaining that the fish I bring home are too small or too boney. And fourth, there's real class to releasing the fish, and I like to thank the fish as it swims away.

"Fly fishing is the classiest chess game in town and we must be chivalrous enough to leave the pieces on the board so that others can play," said Sheridan Anderson in [The Curtis Creek Manifesto](#), one of my favorite books. Just as a chess player returns the pieces to the board so others can play another day, he challenges us to return the fish to the river, so others can catch them another day. **And isn't that what Trout Unlimited is all about?**

Dave

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug – No chapter meeting

Sept 20 – Chapter Meeting with guide Jeff Payne

Oct 18 – Chapter Meeting

Oct 21-23 – Balsam Lodge Weekend

2010-2011 Chapter Leadership

Officers:

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

Board Members:

Brandon Frakes
Scott Larsen
Robin Searight
Jayne Sommer
Tim O'Connell
Don Davidson
Barry Johnson

Come to our September Chapter Meeting

Freebie Alert!

At our September 20th Chapter Meeting we will be giving away a free **LL Bean Chest Pack** to a lucky attendee! This chest pack is a great alternative to your vest for short trips. All you need to be eligible to win is attend the meeting!

For details about the meeting, see page 2 of this newsletter.

Sept 20th Chapter Meeting Announcement

Our Sept 20 Chapter Meeting will feature speaker **Jeff Payne**, Tristate Angler Guide and Stone Mtn. Chapter President. Jeff has over 25 years of trout and smallmouth fishing experience. He is a professional guide for both species and is coming to share his expertise. He will also be sharing his stream restoration knowledge.

Our chapter meets at Lone Star Steakhouse (formerly the Texas Land and Cattle), at 1110 Creekshire Way, Winston-Salem, just off of Hanes Mall Blvd across the road from Target. Our meetings start at 6:00 PM to allow folks to mingle, order dinner and get settled before the 7:00 program. We welcome new members and visitors. Bring your family with you. This is a family oriented meeting.

For online directions, go to <http://tinyurl.com/blueridgetu>

New Proposed Blue Ridge Chapter By Laws

New proposed chapter by laws have been posted on the BRTU website for your review. They will be voted on for approval at the October 18 chapter meeting, which is also the annual meeting for the chapter. These by laws have been approved by the TU NC State Council, but all chapter members are encouraged to review them in advance of the October 18 meeting. I think you will agree that your club is operating with solid controls and procedures, but don't hesitate to contact club officers with any questions or concerns you may have.

Bob Lassiter, Chapter Secretary

A New Angle to Angling

By Jayne Sommer, BRTU Membership Committee Chair and Board Member

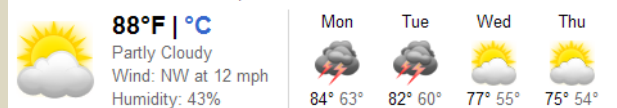
July 28, 2011

Technology has become so ubiquitous I have found it spilling over into my time set aside to be with nature. Having recently bought a **Samsung Galaxy Tablet**, I am still on "training wheels" in learning how to maximize its usage. I am constantly finding its never-ending advantages.

Case in point: This past weekend I was on the North Toe near Minneapolis, NC (Avery County) fishing with friends. We had piled into one car. When they decided to head back to the Piedmont, I went to pick up my car where we had dropped it off in Newland. I had some extra time to fish, so I headed back to where we had been so successful earlier. I caught a couple extra rainbows, then I drove downstream a bit when it started POURING rain. I sat in my SUV waiting for the worst of the deluge to be over and contemplating where to re-approach the stream. I was parked right next to the stream and could see mud giving way on one side of the stream. "Not to worry", I said to myself. Its shallow enough I can wade to the other side to fish....Nooooo problem! I whiled away the down time by piddling with my new Samsung tablet, pulling up a good map of the area right where I sat, and it even showed where various streams curved nearby in relation to the roadways. But then, I looked up and noticed the *entire* stream in front of me was all silted up. ARRRGH!

Okay, Plan B: I have had good luck at **Cane Creek**, and it's a whole county away (Mitchell County). Maybe the weather's different there! Yeah, normally I'd just head that way and take my chances. But it was just too tempting, given the circumstances, (not wanting to waste gas by driving all the way there and finding similar conditions). So I checked my handy-dandy little tablet again for local weather, where it was accurately showing current conditions for where I was as: "rain". Next, I checked **Bakersville, NC**, where it showed the current conditions as "partly cloudy". So, you guessed it; off I go on my confidently optimistic way for about a 30-mile drive to Bakersville. I found exactly as promised: partly cloudy skies. And I had the entire length of the Cane Creek Riverside Park all to myself. The showers did finally catch up with me, but I was already mid-stream and catching trout. I finally left when it started thundering though. I'm not a compleat idiot!

Weather for Bakersville, NC



Mitchell River Stream Clean Report

A hard working group of eight Blue Ridge TU members met up at the Mitchell River at 9:00 AM Saturday, June 11th to pick up litter left from the spring fishing season and the June 4th "open harvest" weekend.

We spread out and worked until around 11:00, and then the group met for a stream-side lunch and the always entertaining and educational fly box and fly rod demonstration by Paul Scheponik. Half of the group stayed after lunch to cast for the trout still left in the Mitchell, and a couple struck out for Stone Mountain Park.

Much appreciation is due for the efforts of this group on behalf of Blue Ridge TU (also thanks to board member Don Davidson's son and Ledford High School sophomore, Ryan, for joining us... we really appreciate his giving up his Sat. morning to help us)!

The land owners have told us they appreciate these clean ups, and hopefully these efforts will ensure that this close-by delayed harvest trout water will continue to stay accessible to us. Also, these clean ups are a great way to pay back the Mitchell for providing us many good fishing times over the past season.

Bob Lassiter, BRTU Secretary and Conservation Committee Chair

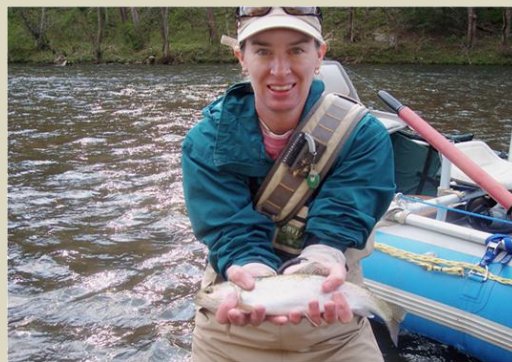


June 2011 Chapter Meeting Report

RiverGirl Presented at June Chapter Meeting

By Scott Larsen, BRTU Board Member

Our June Meeting was presented by Kelly McCoy who is a fun loving conservation minded (she sponsors regular free boat rentals for folks who will pick up trash) Fisheries Biologist and has set up a business in Todd NC (between Boon and Jefferson) on the New river where you can come to get a guided fishing trip or fly fishing lessons (Kelly specializes in native brook trout), go biking, tubing or canoeing on the new river or see her pet pig Petunia.. For more information go to her website rivergirlfishing.com or visit her [facebook home page](#).



BALSAM LODGE FALL TRIP PLANNED

The next Balsam Lake Lodge dates for are **October 21-22-23**. This is a chance for camaraderie and fishing the rivers and streams of the Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail. No experience necessary... a great way to learn from our fishing mentors.

You can make your reservations with Allie by e-mail Allie.Hutchison@hutchisonallgood.com

