My son probably won’t be too happy with me letting everyone know the great success he has on our local rivers with trout beads. Ever since we first used them in Alaska he’s fished them on the streams here on every trip he takes. Read the article below on how to rig them and then give it a try. You’ll be happy that you did.

**PRESIDENT’S CORNER**

The time of the year we have been waiting for is upon us. It is fishing season. The streams are stocked, flies are hatching with the warmer weather and the trout are obliging. Make sure to check your fishing license expiration date before you head out of the door. It is also time to stuff your vest pockets with all the new gadgets, tippet, leaders and the boxes of your flies that satisfy any trout’s taste. Go have a wonderful time on the water this season but make sure to play and release all your fish gently.

On behalf of the officers and members of Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited we would like to thank our wonderful sponsors (see attached at end of newsletter) for their magnanimous generosity of trips and merchandise for our annual fundraising auction. We would also like to thank the BRTU and PHW officers and members who gave their time and treasures to procure and donate auction items. The untiring efforts of all concerned, allowed us to realize a net gain of over $8,100 (a record) that will be used to further our cold water conservation efforts and our 12 school Trout in the Classroom (TIC) efforts. THANK YOU!!

Robbie Abou-Rizk

**APRIL MEETING**

*When*: Tuesday, April 18th, 6 PM  
*Where*: Sixty-Six Grill and Tap House  
3440 Frontis St, Winston Salem  
*Who*: Jason Sparks  
*What*: Tenkara

Jason Sparks is a leading ambassador for Tenkara fly-fishing and founded “Appalachian Tenkara Anglers”. Appalachian Tenkara Anglers | Facebook He established “Tenkara Jam” as the first multi-vendor educational exposition in North America. Jason developed the first state supported Tenkara curriculum which he conducted for NC Wildlife Resource Commission. He has written articles for “Tenkara Angler”, “Blue Ridge Outdoors”, “Southern Trout”, and “Tenkara Talk”. Jason is a Navy Veteran that has fished the world in waters from the Azores to the Appalachians. He carries a Tenkara rod with him everywhere he goes.

**MARCH CHAPTER MEETING**

Patrick Hayes packed our chapter meeting with almost 40 members. His presentation on euro nymphing, flies, casting and hands on demonstrations, showed why this fishing style has become so popular. Patrick also talked about his charity the Mended fly fishing and mentoring, kids without fathers and taking them out fishing. Patrick donated a couple trips to our fundraiser. He also has a sweepstake to benefit his charity in which you can win an Orvis euro nymph rod, or guided trips. Please check out the sweepstakes that ends in April and help Patrick out. See the Bar code below or go to go.rallyup.com

As a thank you BRTU donated a check for $150 to the Mended Fly fishing charity.
Photos from the March Banquet:

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

May 16 **Chapter Meeting**, Sam Methvin – Orvis Greensboro manager, Salt water fly fishing  
June 20 **Chapter Meeting**, Derrik Warr, a forester from Duke Power will be speaking.

**Fly Tying Classes**

At 9am on Wednesdays Project Healing Waters will host fly tying classes and at 6pm on Wednesday evenings Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited will host classes. 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.

**Balsam Fishing Trip : May 4-7**

In the spring and fall of each year, we host a chapter fishing outing at Balsam Lake Lodge located in the Mountains of Western NC. Balsam Lodge is close to many streams & rivers with Delayed Harvest, Stocked and Wild trout as well as Balsam Lake itself. Unfortunately the trip sold out when we announced it at the chapter meeting in January. You can sign up for the waiting list on by contacting Fred Frank at ffrank234@gmail.com, 336-442-4676

**Bryson City fall trip:** This year we will switch from going to Balsam in the fall to Bryson city in early October. That area hosts all kinds of streams and opportunities. Details will follow in the next few months.

**Trout in the Classroom:** April 20th (Thursday) will be our first of three TIC release days (May 5 and 9th). We will have Davie High school, Forbush and two classes from Reagan release their trout at Stone Mountain State park at 9 and 9:45 am. We could use some help that day in making sure everyone gets where they need to and stay organized for a smooth release. If you like to assist as a volunteer or present a program like fly tying or casting, please let Tom Jackson or Frank Beasley know. You can sign up on our website at TIC - SIGNUP or call Tom Jackson (336) 239-0697 or Frank Beasley (336) 391-2004.

**FISHING GEAR EXCISE TAX IS A GOOD TAX**

That may sound like an oxymoron and any compliment of a tax coming from me is pretty rare, but the Dingell-Johnson act of 1950 on fishing gear provides great paybacks to fishermen. Many of you may not be aware of the 10% excise tax we all pay on fishing gear because it is collected at the manufacturer level or the import point and we never see it itemized. The tax is collected not only on fishing gear, but has been amended to collection on marine gasoline and gasoline for small engines and this adds a large amount to the total.

There are two things that make this a good tax. First, the full amount collected (less a management fee) is returned to the states to support Sport Fish Restoration. Second that money is given directly to groups like our Wildlife Resources Commission along with a 25% match from the state. The distribution to each state is based 60% on the number of
licensed fishermen and 40% on its land area. NCWRC then, with a few restrictions, decides the best use for the money. Over the years some of the programs have been the repair and upgrades of the hatcheries, brook trout conservation, aquatic habitat restoration, restoration of the Roanoke River shad fishing, fishing education center training, and much more. For more details on some of the programs visit SFR_Pub.pdf (ncwildlife.org).

So the next time you buy a new rod or reel or fill your boat with gas, realize that you and all other fishermen are helping to make our days on the water better and thanks to Wildlife Resources for implementing a great program for us.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL RENDEZVOUZ

The SERR was a great success. It was held in Asheville on March 9-12. There were many chapters and members from Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. Jake Rash from NCWRC opened the conference with an update on Brook trout which was followed by many good lectures and topics from TU national staff members. Food was excellent, fishing was good and the entertainment and Iron fly contest was a big hit. It was definitely worth attending. We thank NCTU council and the many chapters and volunteers that made this happen.

NATIONAL TU SWEEPSTAKES

National TU had rolled out a sweepstakes that night for all the chapters attending to sell to their members and affiliates. The money will go straight to the chapters. It includes prizes such as 3 day fishing trip to the Blackfoot River for four Anglers and Lodging at the North Fork Crossing Lodge, an Orvis endorsed lodge. The drawing will be in July. Please visit go.tulocalevents.org or scan the following bar code. Make sure to select our Chapter from the list, the Blue Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Be aware there is a Blue Ridge Mountain chapter in Georgia so don’t mix them up.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The streams of the mountains please me more than the sea……from the song “Guantanamera” by the Sandpipers

HATCHERY SUPPORTED WATERS REOPEN IN APRIL

NC Wildlife Resources Commission will reopen them at 7 a.m. on April 1. Anglers can harvest a maximum of seven trout per day, with no minimum size limit or bait restriction.

The hatchery trout stocking schedule and additional inland fishing information is available on the Wildlife Commission’s website at: nckent.org/trout

2023 STOCKING SCHEDULE

MITCHELL RIVER UPDATE

BRTU has started a sediment study along with Wake Forest University to assess sediment flow and sources in the Mitchell from Devotion to the Delayed harvest section. You may see sediment tubes at the upper portion of the DH section and sediment gauges with markings as well as temperature data loggers on top of metal rods in the river. The tubes sit just above the water with a sediment bag attached in the back. When there is a high water event water will rise and any sediment in it gets trapped in the bag. Once the bag is removed, any sediment sample can be measured to determine sediment load and the sediment can be sent to a USGS lab to identify the source of the sediment.

The sediment gauges with the 2 inch markings show you if there is sediment accumulations since they were put into the Mitchell.

The temperature data loggers will show the influence of storm water runoff into the Mitchell. Storm water runoff
changing the temperature of the water over ½ a degree is a violation of trout water quality standards.

We will need help in checking them every few weeks. Please let us know if you are available to help us check these sediment boxes and gauges. Contact Robby Abou-Rizk at drrobbayab@gmail.com or call (336) 972-3949.

SOUTHERN FLY FISHING HALL OF FAME WEEKEND – MAY 5-6 2023

The 2023 Hall of Fame Weekend will feature: A Friday, pre-event evening fundraiser: 'Lagers with Legends' on the rooftop at Mountain Layers Brewery, 90 Everett Street, downtown Bryson City. 6-9 pm. No cover charge.

On Saturday, the Hall of Fame Ceremony will be at the historic Fryemont Inn, 245 Fryemont Street. The event begins in the back garden with a 'Meet and Greet' at 12 pm offering light hors d’oeuvres and drinks. We will move inside at 1 pm to enjoy a luncheon prepared by the Fryemont's Chef, George Brown.

The Induction Ceremony will begin immediately following lunch. Categories are: Communications, Conservation, Recreation, Crafts, Humanity, and Ambassador. 2023 Inductees The 2023 ceremony welcomes the first Saltwater Inductee into the Hall of Fame. Tickets are Adults $45; and Children 16 and under $25.

To purchase tickets visit Buy Tickets.

Okay, now what? Photo: Tosh Brown.

It’s that time of year again. Our early run salmon (namely king, chum, and sockeye) are in full spawning mode, and because of that our rainbow trout and dolly varden are impatiently waiting for any lone salmon egg that happens to come tumbling down river.

Salmon eggs are an easy meal for trout and dolly in our neck of the woods, and therefore we fish a lot of beads during the back half of our season. Not only are beads the most effective imitation of salmon eggs (call it matching the hatch if you like), when pegged above the hook they’re also far safer on the fish than an egg pattern tied directly onto a hook, and that’s a win, win.

However, we find that many of our guests have never rigged a bead before, so today we present you with three different methods for rigging beads for trout.

1. Pegging Beads

Pegging beads is by far the most common way to rig beads. First, thread your bead onto the leader and tie on your hook. Then, position the bead 1.5 – 2 inches above your hook (check your local regulations) and jam a toothpick into the bottom opening of the bead until it is tight. Finally, break the toothpick off flush with the opening of the bead. If done right, this will ‘peg’ the bead roughly 2 inches above your hook with little slippage. While a toothpick is probably the most common pegging material, other materials such as 80-100 monofilament or even weed whacker cord is often used as well.

Step 1: Insert peg

Step 2: Break peg off.
**Pros:** Quick, cheap, and effective.

**Cons:** For extra wary trout, some believe the small piece of toothpick showing out the ends of the bead doesn’t create the most natural imitation of an egg, although that’s not usually an issue on our river.

2. **The Bead Knot**

Another popular way to rig beads is with a simple bead knot. First, slide your bead onto the leader. Then, thread the end of the leader back through the bead so that the bead is now threaded on a loop. Next, wrap the hook end of your leader around the loop 5-7 times, and pull tight. If done correctly, the knot will seat inside the hole of bead leaving nothing but a strand of mono on the outside of the bead. Finish the rig by attaching the hook with your favorite tippet to fly knot. For an illustration of the bead knot, click here.

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**Pros:** More natural presentation, easy to adjust bead position, no leader damage.

**Cons:** The most time consuming to rig.

More on Fishing with Beads

- Painting Beads for Trout – 3 Methods
- JEB Hall’s Bead Rig
- Spicing Up Your Fly with a bead

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**Fishing With Beads: 5 Guide Tips For More Fish**

By Graham - River Guide / Instructor January 22, 2023

**Fishing With Beads: 5 Guide Tips For More Fish**

(troutandsteelhead.net)

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Editor’s note: If you are serious about fishing with beads I recommend you click on the link above. This is an extremely detailed article on fishing with trout beads. It includes information on types of beads, colors for different fish, rigging, setting the hook and much more. It was too lengthy to include here, so please see the link if you are interested.

**Tip:** A quick and easy trick for changing the look of your fly; add a small colored bead to the tippet above your nymph or streamer.

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**DON’T BECOME A LIGHTNING ROD**

A wise guide once told me to lay down my fly rod when a thunderstorm passes nearby. Your fishing rod is made of graphite and acts like an antennae, and lightning will strike right on the rod because it is closest to the sky in your fishing area. Hence, you will be electrocuted quite badly. During a thunder-storm, lightning can strike around 10 miles from where it was sourced.

This picture shows you what a graphite rod looks like after being hit by lightning.
ADVICE FROM THE VISE

Spring is finally in full swing and water levels in WNC are just about perfect. Had an old buddy from Montana that used to say “fish bite best when they’re wet”. Guess that holds true no matter what. I was reviewing my Don Kirk for the Tellico last month and realized that there’s some similarities between one of my favorite searching patterns and the Smoky Mountain Fork Tail—an old traditional pattern. The Knuckle Dragger tied originally by J.C. Newberry, has all the elements of a great nymph to bounce on a drop shot or, as I fish this, point on my euro rig with a smaller emerger or Perdigon as the dropper.

You can tie these in a #4 with a 5.5mm bead on down to a #18 with a 2.5mm bead. The seller on this one is the rubber legs. These are MFC barred centipede legs in clear tan. I prefer the round to the floss on these, just an aesthetic choice. The bead is slotted tungsten in coffee, the hook is a 400 barbless jig. The abdomen rib is midge size vinyl D-rib in amber. I use an olive wool blend for the abdomen, pure squirrel for the thorax and peacock ice for the collar.

Start with a thread base and tie in the leg material for the tail. Anchor them just behind the bead and use some gentle tension as you tie wraps rearward to the bend. They will naturally split with the snug wraps at the bend. Next tie in the d rib with the rounded side against the shank so that the orientation of the “D” has the round aspect up.

Using the olive dubbing, form a noodle and wrap that up to the bead and secure that in. Using counter wraps (just for durability), wrap the d rib the length of the shank and secure that at the bead, trimming the tag end.

Walk the thread back to the ¾ point to tie in the legs. You can use either a trap wrap or a pinch wrap for this, up to yourself. Adjust those for position on either side and that they have plenty of length in the front—that’s the knuckle dragger part of this pattern. Remember, this guy fishes point up, so the motion of those legs and tail wiggles with each bump on the bottom.

Using the squirrel (a little wax and water work great here), build up a dubbing noodle. Wrap this between the legs with a couple turns the finish it up at the bead. The squirrel is nice and spikey and also has a nice motion in the water.
Trim the legs for size the back ones are shorter with the front being exaggerated. I trim those to the look rather than any specific size. A little peacock dubbing noodle finishes the collar and gives it one more reason to catch the eye as it drifts.

It has a great profile and gives that nice small stonefly feel that always appeals to our local fish given the number of stones in our area water. Hope this searching pattern is as effective for you as I find it to be.

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 Jacobsforkflytyimg@gmail.com or check out some of my current ties on Facebook and Instagram at Jacobs Fork Fly Tying.

FLY FISHING MUSEUM MOVING

The Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians in Bryson City is moving to a new location. It will still be located in Bryson City, but will shut down for a brief period for the move.

Construction is making excellent progress with the upcoming move likely in the April to June timeframe. The new facility is a little larger but is designed to maximize exhibit space. There are over 100 exhibits to be moved and another 40 to be added. The drift boat, tying bench, the flies and the rod & reel porch will be the first and largest exhibits to move.

There will be a packing phase and a new setup phase during the move, taking care with the fragile exhibits. The museum will be closed for a few weeks during the move but another grand opening will be scheduled soon.

We will continue to care for this wonderful creation that celebrates our fly fishing heritage.

LOST REEL

 Announcement for Allyson Jones, one of our volunteers: Allyson Jones lost a reel and case on the Mitchell: "January 16th and I was fishing the section before the end parking lot and above the Mitchell house bridge. I’m missing the reel and the reel case"

If anyone finds it she would love to get it back. Please contact her at ally_oop@me.com or 678-602-7289.

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.

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Joel Shephard..........VP
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Please support and thank our sponsors!

The following sponsors donated items or services that made our auction successful:

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Float & Wade Trips- 2 Full Fly shops, Cashiers & Highlands, NC

Headwaters Outfitters Fly Shop & Outfitters- Rosman, NC 828-877-3106
Float & Wade Trips- Full Fly shop

South Holston River Fly Shop- Bristol, TN 423-878-2822
Float & Wade trips- Holston & Watauga Rivers- Full Fly Shop

Explore Fly Fishing- Donated by David Richards, 843-422-0325
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Patrick Hayes Fly Fishing- Greensboro, NC 336-338-2907
Wade & Float Trips

Mitchell River House- Donated by Olinger Family
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Fly Tying Supplies

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Gypsy Road Brewery- Kernersville, NC 336-904-6020
Check it out! Food Trucks and live music most weekends!

Mast General Store- Winston Salem, NC 336-727-2015
Apparel and outdoor type items

Sam Stitcher, Professional Artist, BRTU Member, Donated artwork

Paul Schepnik, & Linda Clineman, BRTU Member, Donated Rose Bay Rhododendron, Artwork

Chick Woodward, BRTU Member, Donated Jacket & Artwork

Michael Mac, BRTU Member, Donated Fly lines & book

Alex Trevino, PHW Fly rod builder, donated custom fly rod

George Daniels https://www.livinonthefly.com/ Donated signed book and DVD.


Fleming Candy Shop  [https://flemingcandycompany.com/](https://flemingcandycompany.com/)  Donated knife.

Tenkara, USA  [https://tenkarausa.com/](https://tenkarausa.com/)  Donated rod kit.


Tim Britton  [https://timbritton.com](https://timbritton.com), Donated custom Knife

Sarah Gardner & Brian Horsley Photography & Fly Fishing, Donated artwork

**Thank your BRTU Team**

The following BTRU members donated items, gathered items from vendors and helped make our auction successful!

- Robbie Abou-Rizk
- Jon Bowman
- Rick Connor
- Rickie Woodson
- Joel Sheppard
- Sam Ogburn
- Sam Stitcher
- Troy Machamer
- Barry Parks
- Tom Jackson
- Jimm Barberry
- Tim Moore
- Duke Ison
- Ed Graham
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