That would be a great choice as a stocking stuffer, see the article below for more ideas. If you are planning a fly fishing trip this coming year, you better get moving. Many places are booked up by January. The newsletter this month is dedicated to planning that trip along with some interesting adventures.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

It is that time of the year again. Time for pumpkin pie, Christmas decorations, family gatherings and lots of good cheer. It is good to be thankful for all we have, good health, family, and a few warm days for fishing.

This year has been a hard year for the Mitchell River, our home water. This summer has delivered one blow after another to the Mitchell ecosystem. After spending many years working on restoring the river, planting trees and native plants, stabilizing the banks, we maybe losing the Mitchell fast. It started with two sets of agricultural fields pouring sediment into the DH section this summer. Then Old Beau Golf resort new RV park construction in Roaring gap started pouring sediment into the headwaters of the Mitchell. Mother nature has not been kind by adding more hot days this year than previous years raising the water temperature to the limit of trout tolerance. After many complaints to DWR they finally started checking the river for turbidity in October but can’t seem to find any sediment or the sources, even after receiving many emails with photos and locations this summer. We have been communicating with landowners, Surry county commissioners, and regulators to protect the Mitchell river. Soon we may be asking you to volunteer again at the Mitchell but at this time to measure and document the widespread sediment in the river, to let the regulators know, we are not going to let the Mitchell River just wither and die.

Thank you all for the many hours you spent restoring the Mitchell. Now it is time to step in and protect the river.

Come join us On December 11th at Fiddlin Fish Brewery (4-7pm) for a Christmas social. Make a holiday fly ornament and bring it with you.

Robby Abou-Rizk

DECEMBER EVENT

When: Sunday, December 11th, 4-7 PM
Where: Fiddlin’ Fish Brewery
772 Trade St., Winston-Salem

A social event will be held at Fiddlin’ Fish on December 11th from 4-7 PM. The winners of the Christmas Ornament contest will be selected at this event. See the contest details below.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT CONTEST

There will be two categories to enter

Fly Tying
1) Fly must be tied by the presenter
2) Must be in a glass globe
3) Quality of fly and globe decoration will be considered
4) It must represent a fly that could be used for fishing

Decorating - may or may not include a fly
1) Must be in a glass globe
2) Does not have to include a fly, but must be trout oriented
3) Overall quality of ornament will be considered

Prizes in each category for 1st / 2nd / 3rd prizes

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Put some hand warmers in your gloves and enjoy the solitude of a winter day on the river.”

…..Anonymous
UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Meetings and Events
January 17, Liars contest – story telling, one of our most popular events
February 21, Wes Waugh – Wilson creek watershed
March 21, Patrick Hayes , guide , euro nymphing presentation
March, Annual BRTU fundraiser to benefit conservation and trout in the classroom

OLD BEAU RV PARK FILLING UP THE MITCHELL WITH SEDIMENTATION

This summer our chapter received several reports of an RV park under construction at Olde Beau Golf Resort in Roaring Gap that was spilling sediment into the headwaters of the Mitchell River, also known as Thompson Creek. The creek is home for wild rainbows and brown trout according to WRC. There were sediment barriers at the time in some areas while others were wide open, letting sediment run down the steep slopes into Thompson Creek. BRTU informed the Department of Water Quality (DWR) after receiving the tip. We had already filed a complaint with them about the DH section filling up with sediment and being murky during the height of the summer when it runs low and clear. The agricultural fields above the delayed harvest section were the main contributors to the sediment flow into the DH section. DWR inspected the Mitchell River at various locations and when they went to the Olde Beau RV park found that there has been heavy sediment flowing out of the RV park into the Mitchell River. This had been going on all summer long. They referred the case to the Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources (DEMLR). Olde Beau had to install mitigation controls and barriers everywhere. However, there are lots that are still open with no barriers and open drain pipes that will carry storm water into the headwaters of the Mitchell. The terrain is very steep on top of the mountain and trying to stop sediment run off into Thompson Creek/Mitchell River will be difficult. If DEMLR approves the RV park erosion and sediment control plan, then Olde Beau will not be liable for any sediment run off. Thus a carte blanche to destroy the river without penalties.

Thompson Creek/Mitchell River are both classified as outstanding resource trout water and thus have strict water quality standards that must be upheld by the law. It’s usage as a trout stream, if affected, will also constitute a violation.

Old Beau Resort construction in the 80s led to a similar fate for Laurel creek, a trout stream, filling it with sediment for many miles. The state took Old Beau Golf Resort to court to force it and its contractor to do remediation on Laurel Creek and remove the sediment. Years passed and surveys on the creek showed it was improving marginally, but never to the quality trout stream it was. That will be the fate of the Mitchell River if the sediment keeps rolling down the hill. As of now there are no violations issued to Old Beau golf resort or the contractors for violating all the water quality standards of a trout stream.

BRTU has asked DWR to do a thorough inspection like they have on Ramey Creek, which included turbidity sampling, sediment measurement, temperature measurement, benthos studies, inspecting for oils, deleterious substances, colored or other wastes (including sediment.

The Department of water quality has done several turbidity studies in October and November but those came out normal as we have had a dry fall with streams running low and clear. Also, farming is done for the season and all fields have a cover crop on them. DWR has not been able to find any sediment in the Mitchell River, even though our chapter had sent them numerous emails with photos of mud and sediment running into the Mitchell and identified the locations. Even the photos they sent us show sediment in
them. If any of you go fish the delayed harvest section on the Mitchell, just stick your wading stick in the sediment and measure. Close to Kapps Mill below the first parking lot, the sediment measures at 2-4 inches. The second set of stairs, 4-6 inches. As you go past the gated section the sediment is even more widespread and goes to 8 inches. There are places on the Mitchell that are covered completely by sediment that is measured by the feet. However, if DWR does not see the sediment physically flowing into the river form the fields or Old Beau it cannot issue any violations. All the photos, videos, emails from residents and fisherman don’t count.

DEMLR did respond to our 2nd request and sent info on how we can obtain a copy of the erosion and sediment control plans filed for Old Beau RV park.

Here are photos from old Beau, of erosion, steep slopes and mitigation measures.

I built 7’ 9”, 4 weight rod. I did a basket weave handle and made a matching sock. The reel seat is stabilized elder that I turned on a lathe.

Basket weaving is one of my hobbies. I saw this woven grip online and thought it would be a fitting addition. I was taught by a fellow veteran to use a lathe to make the reel seat. It is stabilized elder. The tiger striped thread is from my Dad’s collection from the 1954 Herters catalog. I felt I needed to add a bit of Dad to my rod.

Building a fly rod is a challenge. It takes persistence and dedication. It’s not a common hobby and I enjoy the novelty of doing something different. It can be relaxing (the learning curve I mentioned), it is challenging, it exercises creativity and the end product is a testament to doing what you love. Also, the connection with my late father and my new friends, both veteran and non-veterans has been very important to my recovery.

My friends are the most important aspect of the program. Both the volunteers and my fellow veterans share a mutual interest that goes beyond just fishing. I am anxious to become more involved.

PHWFF INTERMEDIATE WINNERS

Congratulations to our Winston Salem Rod Building Winners Aaron Trevino and Joseph Ashley. Aaron won 1st place and Joseph won 2nd place in the National Rod Building Competition in Category 2 “Intermediate”.

The attached website includes pictures of each rod build and the stories behind each. Please take the time to visit the website, view and read their entries and pass along your congratulations to them.

Well done Aaron and Joseph!

Thank you for your service and for your participation in our program. I’m very proud of you both.

Ed Graham

Category 2 Finalists

One of my earliest memories of when my dad retired from the Navy was him teaching me to use a fly rod in the yard when I was 5 yrs old. We trout fished the NC/TN mountains, ponds, and lakes. I attended the PHW meeting when my VA counselor told me about the program, but I was diagnosed with breast cancer soon after. PHW was an important part of my recovery to kept me motivated. I turned the reel seat and made the grip. It gave me an opportunity to move outside of my comfort zone.
Everyone can use a new Tshirt and this one expresses how most fishermen feel about work versus a day on the stream. $16.98

Although some fly fishermen will take offence to this because of the masses it added to the trout streams, it does express the love of being on the river. $20

It can get a little nippy out there on the stream in late fall and winter, so here is a way to take the nip off the nippy. $19.95

If your fly fisher happens to be a lady, she may want a hat to reflect her feelings about fly fishing. $21.99

This is just a small sampling of the many fly fishing things you can find on www.etsy.com. Just search for fly fishing stocking stuffers. And don’t forget our fly tying column writer, Dave Everhart, can supply you with a wide variety of the flies he ties through Etsy or will give you personal service at jacobsforkflytying@gmail.com.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Fishy New Year.
If you are planning a fly fishing trip, there is a lot to do in an advance of the trip. The first thing I recommend is to teach your child to fly fish. My son went to college at Appalachian State so there were plenty of trout streams nearby. I provide him with the gear he needed and took him out on some of the streams. From there he fell in love with the sport and became a fanatic. Why is this an important step in the process? If I were to ask my wife permission to fly to Alaska on a fishing trip it would be a tough sell, but if my son goes to my wife and says I want to take dad to Alaska, it’s an automatic OK. I should add that my wife actually did join my son and I on our first Alaskan adventure. But it was all about a graduation trip for our son. Once you’ve achieved the permission hurdle the next step is deciding where to go.

The best way to make this decision is to talk to someone who’s been there. If you are a Trout Unlimited member you have a great resource for that by attending your local chapter meeting and talking to other members. Even if you have already decided on a destination, say Alaska or Montana, the people who have been there are a great source of information of when, where, and with who. The time you go can be very critical. For instance, if you want to go to Alaska to catch a Chinook salmon, you normally need to be there during June and July, for a Silver salmon you need to be there in August and September. If you are going for the Chinook, you should no longer schedule in late July as the Alaskan Fish and Game Commission has recently been shutting down the season early. Another example of timing is with saltwater fishing. On a recent trip to Mexico we were unable to complete our last two fishing days because of a very low tide. You can get a lot of information from the internet, but first-hand knowledge from someone who has been there can be invaluable.

Another way to plan a trip is to look for a group trip. Check with your local fly shop to see if they or someone they know is planning a trip, check out trips on the Orvis website, or check out Yellow Dog Fly Fishing. **2022 Yellow Dog Flyfishing Travel Guide**. My son and I used Yellow Dog for booking our trip to Mexico. Overall, we were very pleased with the process. They provided us with a great deal of information including what gear to bring, what flies to use, and an itinerary of the trip. The only point they missed was telling us about the tides. I would especially recommend them if you are looking into an international trip.

The first steps in planning that trip are Where and When. Once you have decided on where, you then need to decide on a lodge or guide. I don’t recommend a first trip to a location without a guide. We did that once on a trip to Prince of Wales Island in Alaska and it was a disaster until we found a guide to spend a day with us. A trip to Alaska gives you hundreds of choices for a lodge and this may be where talking to someone who has been there can be most important. If you are planning a trip to western US rivers you will often stay in a motel or VRBO and hire a guide. Again advice from someone who has been there is the best source of advice. My son and I have made two trips to the Greene River in Utah. We found a good guide service and the first year by luck were given a guide who rates at the top of our experiences and we would recommend him as a first choice. If you can’t find someone who has been to the location to talk to, I would again refer you to Orvis or Yellow Dog. Yellow Dog provides a brochure on locations and lodges that can help you with your plans. **Yellow Dog Travel Guide**

Once you decide on a lodge or guide, check on their website. They are generally good about telling you what is provided and what you need to bring. Some guides and lodges will provide your fishing gear, some even provide waders. Generally, I would suggest you bring your own waders and boots as you can never be sure what sizes will be available the week you are there.

The following articles will provide you with more information on planning and preparing for that trip. Get together with a child or friends and get to work right away for an adventure that you will remember for a lifetime and maybe one that will get you planning earlier for the next year.

**HOW TO PLAN A FLY FISHING TRIP**

March 18, 2011 By: Philip Monahan

Have a question you want answered? Email it to us at ask@midcurrent.com.

**Question:** I’ve always dreamed of fishing in Alaska, and I’m close to having the money saved up. How can I ensure that my once-in-a-lifetime trip is as good as it can be?

**Sandy H., New York City**

**Answer:** Booking a trip to a place you’ve never been is a leap of faith — especially when there is a lot of money involved — but there are ways that you can protect yourself from making a bad decision. When I was a guide, I was constantly amazed by how few people had bothered to research their destination before getting on the plane. At one Alaskan fly-fishing-only lodge, I was amazed to see two guests arrive carrying spinning gear and Plano boxes full of trout lures. When we told them that their tackle was illegal on our home rivers, they were shocked and indignant.

I could cite many more examples of clients whose expectations were out of whack with the realities of the lodge they’d booked. Part of the problem is that most brochures for fishing lodges are full of embellishments and inaccuracies because the lodge wants to paint itself in the best possible light. Always keep in mind that a brochure is an advertisement, so it should be treated with healthy dose of suspicion. And double-check the information that is important to you. There is no substitute for good research.
1. **Where do you want to go?** Whether you’re heading to Alaska or Argentina or the Bahamas, you have lots of options to consider — ease of access, available water, available species, weather, and more. Do your research and decide where you want to be. Your final decision may be a compromise that takes into consideration the terrain, the fishing, the weather, and the ease of access. Whereas one person may be willing to brave rain and high winds for a chance at a 30-inch rainbow, another may want better weather, luxurious accommodations, or mountainous beauty, even if it means the fish are smaller.

2. **When do you want to go?** You have to decide which species of fish you’d like to catch and then plan your trip accordingly. Do you dream of a 40-pound king, or would you rather catch acrobatic silvers? Is your heart set on tarpon, or will you be happy casting for bonefish in case there are no tarpon around? Just because a lodge lists many available species, don’t assume the species you’re after is always available. Most lodges will recommend booking based on the species you’re after — just be sure to ask.

3. **What should you look for in a lodge?** Again, there is no substitute for research. Use the Web, talk to folks who have spent time in your destination, etc. Here are a few tips:
   - For any destination that involves fly-outs, choose a lodge that has home water. That way you can still fish when the weather is too nasty for flying.
   - Fly fishermen should choose lodges that cater to them, rather than to conventional anglers. Is there a fly shop on the premises? (This is particularly important if you don’t plan to bring flies or aren’t sure what to bring.) Do they fish in fly-fishing-only waters? Are their guides accomplished fly fishermen?
   - Does the lodge specialize in a particular species? Some rivers don’t get runs of all kinds of salmon and some flats see few permit.
   - How comfortable are the accommodations? What are you willing to sacrifice for the fishing? Don’t set yourself up to be shocked by a lack of amenities. Decide beforehand what you can and can’t live without.
   - What’s the schedule for a typical fishing day? When a fishing day begins and ends — and what time and type of meals are served — are easily overlooked but important considerations.

4. **Important steps to take and questions to ask.** Remember: It’s your money, so don’t feel that any question is too trivial. And be specific!
   - A. Get a list of references, and actually call them. Pick the brains of previous guests with very specific questions. If you’re interested in dry-fly fishing, ask about it. You may find that, although the brochure says the lodge does it all the time, the previous guests may have never done it. That’s a red flag. Ask about the guides, the food, the schedule, etc.
   - B. Ask what percentage of the lodge’s business is repeat customers. This is a good indication of quality.
   - C. What is the guide-to-client ratio? If this is important, get a written promise that you won’t be left on a sandbar by yourself or stuck in a group of eight with a single guide.
   - D. When is the best time to go? Ask about peak times for the fish and the lodge. If the lodge is booked solid, that’s a good indication that the fishing is good at that time. See if you can get in a week on either side of that. Or, can you book for that week NEXT year?
   - E. What extra fees can you expect? These may include licenses, booze, flies, etc. Don’t set yourself up for sticker shock at the end of a fun week.
   - F. What is the tipping policy? Guests are expected to leave a tip. Most lodges pool the tips, with an equal share going to each employee. Ask what the standard amount is. Then give a little more, if you can.

   Make sure that you decide exactly what you want out of the experience, and then do everything you can to make sure that you get it. Never settle for less than you want. There are usually plenty of other options.

   Whenever someone asks me if it’s worth the money to go to Alaska or Belize or Tasmania, I say the same thing: If your ability to have a good time is predicated on catching lots of huge fish, then don’t go. However, these trips are worth every cent for the angler who can enjoy the splendor of the scenery and the wildlife, even if he’s not catching fish. Be prepared to make the best of potential bad situations, and you’ll never be disappointed.

   Good Luck!

   For more information on tipping, read MidCurrent’s guide to "Tipping Fishing Lodges and Guides."

**FISHING WITH LIVESTOCK**

Our rivers are getting more crowded all the time. If you’d like to get away from the crowds the high mountain lakes and streams are the ideal place to go. Unfortunately that means carrying in a heavy pack with tents, food, fishing gear, flats for the lake, and more. If you’re like most of us flatlanders, that’s a tough task even down where we live, but above 8000 feet it really gets tough. That’s where the livestock comes in. I’m not talking dairy or beef cows, but goats, llama, and
horses that can carry that gear or even carry you up to the high country waters. Goats Hike

I first heard about pack goats a couple years ago from my sister who has really gotten into hiking with her goats. She sent me information about a fellow in Idaho. He provides a 3 day trip for $3,500 or a 4 day trip for $4,500. The basic trip is for 2 people and he will take up to 6 people for an additional $250 each. If you can find a group to go, that makes a very reasonable cost per person. This also makes a great trip for the family and your kids will probably be well up the trail ahead of you. The link to his website is Pack Goat Trips.

This sounded like a lot of fun so I started searching the internet for additional pack animal fly fishing trips and was amazed at how many there were. In addition to goats there are several llama and horseback trips you can take.

If you’ve never fished the back country in Yellowstone National Park you have a choice of either llama or horseback. The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is one of the largest, most intact temperate-zone ecosystems remaining on earth. As a result, it contains the largest concentration and greatest diversity of wildlife in the lower 48 states, including megafauna such as grizzly and black bears, gray wolves, mountain lions, American bison, Shiras moose, bighorn sheep, and elk. Yellowstone Park’s 2.2 million acres are the heart of this ecosystem, with thousands of miles of streams, stunning waterfalls, myriad lakes, and the greatest collection and most dynamic hydrothermal features in the world.

Three subspecies of cutthroat, rainbows, cutbows, browns, goldens, brook and lake trout, grayling, and whitefish reside within the area’s pristine waters. Although cutthroats, grayling, and whitefish are the original gamefish, stocking was phased out in most waters in the 1950s, providing wild and self-sustaining trout populations. Remote backcountry waters are a dry fly angler’s paradise. The link to the company providing the trips is Yellowstone Pack Trips.

In researching on the internet I discovered several available companies that provide guided pack trips in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and even around the world. Let me qualify this by saying that I have not been on these treks and am providing them only as examples of what you can find out there on the internet to plan your trip. Here are a few more if you want to research for a trip: Idaho Goat Treks, Montana Llama Treks, Colorado Llama Treks, Wyoming Llama Treks, Montana Horseback Treks, Colorado Horseback Treks, Worldwide Horseback Treks.

WHAT TO BRING ON YOUR FLY FISHING TRIP

GENERAL CHECKLIST:

Packing well for a trip is always a challenge and having the right fly-fishing gear is essential for your success and enjoyment. That said, it is also important to pack efficiently and thoughtfully, and to leave behind the extraneous gear that you will not need. Please refer to our fly-fishing gear checklist before you bring a pile of unnecessary tackle; we’ve done this for a while, and though we know how important some of your favorite gear is to you, we can help you streamline the packing and planning process by helping you leave behind the tackle that you just don’t need to bring.

We want to make your trip as enjoyable as possible, so do not hesitate to contact us with any additional packing questions you may have. Fly-fishing rod and reel outfit – see length and line weight recommendations for the listed rivers if you have questions. Make sure that fly line is in good working order, clean and free of cracking.

Waders, wading boots, and other personal fishing gear – essentially, the gear that you will want on your body during the course of the fishing day. Rain jacket, fully waterproof.

Clothing appropriate for the length of stay. Consider the clothes that you will want to wear fishing, and the clothes that will be comfortable in our relaxed and comfortable lodge setting. Hat - wide-brimmed, for sun and eye protection.

Polarized sunglasses, ideally with some sort of retainer.

Day pack or fanny pack.

Spare corrective eyewear, glasses, or contact lenses.

Camera or smart phone.

If horses give you saddle sore and your up to walking, you can sign up to have a llama do all the heavy work for you. Lilar Adventures Unlimited can plan an adventure for you. Their website is Llama Treks.

Day pack or fanny pack.

Spare corrective eyewear, glasses, or contact lenses.

Camera or smart phone.
• Books and other reading materials.
• Compact binoculars.
• Bandana or buff.
• Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries.

CLOTHING CHECKLIST

• NON-FISHING ATTIRE: Linehan Outfitting lodge and cabin settings are very casual, and no special attire is necessary. Blue jeans, khakis, shorts, casual shirts, fishing shirts are all common. Evenings can get chilly depending on the season, so a fleece or sweater is recommended.
• OUTERGARMENTS: Waterproof rain jacket, preferably lightweight and packable. We ask that you always carry this with you! Fishing-specific Gore-tex or similar products are best. Layer for changing weather conditions; we recommend quick-drying synthetic materials such as polyester, nylon, etc. Even though you may be visiting in summer, it’s always a good idea to include a good fleece jacket or similar wind-blocking product. Long-sleeved, quick drying fishing shirts, pants and shorts are recommended; gloves and stocking cap just in case.
• UNDERGARMENTS: Long underwear, top and bottom, at least one pair. Mid-weight, quick-drying wool or synthetic is most versatile. For cold weather and days spend wading or floating, we recommend heavyweight underwear or fleece garments under breathable waders.
• FOOTWEAR: Sandals are great for float fishing. Neoprene booties and/or non-cotton socks. Technical wool or synthetic fleece socks are the best bet.

FLY FISHING CHECKLIST

RODS AND REELS
• 8 1/2 or 9-foot rod with 5 or 6 weight floating line is most appropriate and versatile.
• 3-4 weight rods for small streams.
• 5-6 weight rods for bigger rivers.
• Matching reels and lines.
• Sink-tip line on a separate reel or spool.

LEADERS AND TIPPETS
• 9 to 12-foot tapered leaders work throughout season. Monofilament leaders are fine.
• Spools of 3X, 4X, 5X, 6X tippet material.
• Most versatile leader is 9-foot 4X.

WADERS AND WADING BOOTS
• Lightweight/breathable waders with layers underneath.
• Felt-soled wading boots.

OTHER STANDARD GEAR
• Fishing vest, hip/chest pack, or other pack type item to hold gear.
• Fly floatant, liquid or powder/shake.
• Nippers.
• Forceps.
• Optional - net and wading staff.

ADVICE FROM THE VISE

Time to close down the year and enter into winter fishing. I love being on the water this time of year. The fishing is slower as the temps keep the fish from being super aggressive, but they still have to eat. Pressure is down from some of the more popular waters, and it makes a nice quiet day in the woods. Winter fishing comes down to a simple equation, the most calories in with the least calories expended. That means that chunks of protein presented into the holding run are the ticket to a take.

Those big chunks of slow moving food come in the form of the small crawfish and the stonefly nymph. Crawfish also slow down as the temps drop making them easy pickings if they venture out, but stonefly nymphs continue to feed, drift and move around much like the rest of the year. There’s usually the opportunity to have little black stone hatches in mid winter on a sunny day, so have some black EHC ready to go if you are lucky enough to find yourself in a hatch. I was fishing Wilson some years back and took several fish on a dry fly in mid January. The rise didn’t last long, and it was right place, right time purely by accident. But lesson learned, be prepared.

My favorite fly for this time of year is a Pats Rubber Legs. I know we have tied this in the past but wanted to share this very effective color pattern this month. You can be sure if you catch me in Jacobs Fork, I’ll probably be starting the day with this fly. It’s effective from a #14 up to a #6. Tying this in an #8 is an excellent all rounder as it’s big enough for you can swing and strip it, light enough to tight line it or fish it under an indicator. It’s big enough to get those sluggish feeders to move on the larger bite.

You can also adjust the weight on this by adding a few -or many -lead free wire, and using tungsten vs brass beads. So I keep some in light, heavy and depth charge by adjusting weights on the same #8 hook. There’s lots of colors you can tie these in, in the spring I swear by the worm green in #12. In winter, I use the brown/black pallet’s. This is my go to-coffee/black. The chenille is a design of Lance Egan and is marketed by Fly Fish Food as Stonefly Chenille. It comes in lots of colors, all work great, and it’s the perfect blend of fuzz to be a little buggy while still having defined wrap segmentation.

I like to match my legs with the color of the fly so there is as much of a match as possible, and I really like the Montana Fly Company Centipede Legs in speckled Brown. You could use plain brown or black, but I think the barring adds to the contrast of the fly as it’s moving through the water. As an alternative you can use the silicon floss (Sexi-Floss). It’s a bit thinner and find it’s nice for smaller sizes.
For the hook, I use a 3x long streamer hook with a wide gap or 2302 curved hook. This is my mid weight, 7 wraps of .30 wire and a tungsten bead. For the heavyweight, I go with 21 wraps of wire and a tungsten bead, and for the lightweight, brass bead and 7 wraps of wire. Ok, let’s get tying.

Start off with dressing from the eye back about a bead length, and tie in the front antenna. Trim out any butts and whip finish. Keep your thread as minimal as possible, you need to slide the bead over these wraps. Trim the antenna for use on the tail.

Wrap the wire and butt it against the bead and tie that in. Dress to the rear of the hook and tie in he tail pieces. Return the thread to the wire and build a bit of a ramp to hold the wire and to transition to the thorax.

Tie in the chenille, I use a length about the width of my vise base or about 5 inches. Start this at the end of the wire, this gives you a smooth foundation. Take touching turns up to the start of the wire.

Tie in the legs. I fold them over the thread and take one wrap to secure them, then position them where I want them, then take a couple wraps to secure them in place.

Next wrap the chenille through the middle of the legs and then touching turns in front of the legs to the bead. Pull the legs slight taught to ensure the chenille gets snug around them. Tie off the chenille at the bead with some snug wraps and snip off the butt end. Takes a few more wraps and whip finish.
Give it a good brushing to make the hairs fluff up and trim the legs to size. I like them a little long for this pattern, more motion gets attention.

Tie up a bunch of these, and you will be ready for the winter to toss some protein snacks at those lazy winter trout. Enjoy this challenging – but rewarding - time of the year that we are fortunate to enjoy here in WNC.

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

**TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM UPDATE**

The trout the schools are raising are doing well. They are eating, swimming, and growing. They are about 2 inches long. The count varies at schools from 15 to over 50 fish. We have had two schools with fish kills, one due to excess ammonia in the water and the other was a malfunction in a pump. However, schools have been generous including Davie Davidson community college aquarium center and Reagan by giving the schools affected some of their fish.

These fish will be released at Stone Mountain at the end of April/May.

Dave Everhart

**A FEW MORE PHOTOS OF SITTING AT THE MITCHELL RIVER**

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