Ever since the movie “A River Runs Through It” came out several years ago the number of fly fishermen on the rivers has grown exponentially and today it’s not unusual for them to be crowded when we arrive. Not really as bad as the above photo (except on the day that Delayed Harvest becomes Hatchery Supported water). These crowds often create anger and much of that is because many don’t understand the common courtesies of trout fishing. If everyone knows and follows the basic rules it would make for a much more pleasant time on the river for everyone. This month we will present those rules and hopefully we can all learn to share the rivers together without anger.

**PRESIDENT’S CORNER**

It is time for our annual fundraiser. This year our fundraiser will start with an online silent auction on Feb 25th - March 7th [On-Line Auction Items](#) followed by a banquet on March 9th at Camel City BBQ in Winston Salem. The cost will be $25 per person which will include your meal and a drink. [Fundraiser Dinner Tickets](#) We will have a live auction that night, raffles and door prizes. The money raised will go to conservation and Trout in the classroom program. If you can’t attend but would like to give a donation, you can do that by going to our website [Donate to BRTU](#) or click the link.

We have a lot of great fishing trips, fly rods, artwork, gift cards and many assorted baskets to please everyone at our silent and live auction, so please join us at the banquet.

We ask you to RSVP if you are coming to the banquet as we have to order food by March 3rd and seating is limited. We look forward to seeing you there and thank you for your donations.

**MARCH MEETING**

**When:** Tuesday, March 21st, 6 PM  
**Where:** Sixty-Six Grill and Tap House  
3440 Frontis St, Winston Salem  
**Who:** Patrick Hayes  
**What:** Euro Nymphing

Patrick Hayes guides in NC, TN, and VA waters. The presentation is about Euro Nymphing techniques. Patrick has a great presentation and an easy to understand overview of this popular technique. His discussion includes information about rigging, gear, finding the best water, flies and general technique.

Patrick and his wife also run a non profit that takes kids who for whatever reason have no father in their lives on fly fishing trips. For more information about this program visit [Mended Fly Fishing](#).

**FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP**

In February we had a presentation about the 501(c) organization A Clean Wilson Creek (ACWC) that is dedicated to protecting this National Wild and Scenic River in its natural state for future generations, as well as conducting conservation education opportunities for Wilson Creek visitors and recreational users. ACWC was founded in 2018 to expand the effort that had been developed and run by Bruce Gray at Old Betsy’s General Store. Our thanks to Wes Waugh, Director, and Patty Mozzicato, Assistant Director, who filled the room with a great ACWC Video and presentation about the efforts of ACWC. To learn more about ACWC and to make a donation, please visit their website at [A Clean Wilson Creek - Wilderness Conservation, Clean Water](#).

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"Flyfishing does have its social aspects – on some of our crowded trout streams it can get too social - but essentially it’s a solitary, contemplative sport. People are left alone to enjoy the water and the beauty of nature."

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 BRNCNews@gmail.com and let us know.
with themselves in beautiful surroundings to try to accomplish something that seems to have genuine value. .......John Gierach

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 18 Chapter Meeting. Jason Sparks – Tenkara presentation
May 16 Chapter Meeting, Sam Methvin – Orvis Greensboro manager, Salt water fly fishing
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.

Event: BRTU Fundraiser
Date: March 9, 2023
Time: 6:00 - 8:00pm
Location: Camel City BBQ

In order to support our ongoing cold water conservation work and the Trout in the Classroom program we are happy to announce the kick-off of our 2023 fundraiser. More information will be coming quickly.

We are looking for volunteers to help collect silent auction items that can be donated. Items or experiences (guide trips or weekend get aways) are gladly accepted. Joel Shepard (jeshep1967@att.net) and Fred Frank (ffrank@pathwaytech.com) are leading the effort to collect prizes and auction items. Please, contact them as they specifically needing help gathering items and reaching out to local retailers.

On March 9 we will have a BBQ dinner at South Fork Community Center for prizes and final silent auction bids. This will be an important event to support critical outreach from our Chapter.

For more information, please read our information release regarding the fundraiser.

Balsam Fishing Trip : May 4-7th
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: Every year our chapter has 10-12 schools participating in this educational program. Our chapter provides aquarium set ups to teachers and trout eggs at the beginning of the school year for students to raise trout in their aquariums to later release into Stone Mountain State Park streams. In that process the students learn about conservation, biology, water chemistry and environmental science. Each aquarium set up for new school costs us around 1500$ and there is yearly maintenance cost of $2-3000.

Your donations will help keep the program running. The trout release days have been set for April 20th, May 5th and 9th at Stone Mountain State Park. We will have 250- 300 students and teachers at the release events. We ask for volunteers to help us manage the logistics of busses and students arriving and leaving on those days. Please sign up on our website SIGN UP. Thank you.

MITCHELL RIVER UPDATE

This winter the water has been clear on the Mitchell. Old Beau Golf Resort has instituted a lot of mitigation efforts which stopped sediment run off. The agricultural fields that contributed to all the sediment last summer have a winter crop on them and farming season has not started. However the big field above the DH section keeps pouring sediment into the Mitchell with every rainfall. Soon all the fields will be tilled and that is when the major sediment flow will show up.

This year we are teaming up with Wake Forest University to place sediment collection tubes in various locations above and below the sediment sources. Wake Forest students will monitor the sediment in the devices after rainfall to establish the sources of sediment. We will then share that information with regulators so they can address the situation. We will also be installing sediment gauges and putting in more temperature loggers in many locations of the Mitchell and its tributaries.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL RENDEZVOUS
March 10th-12th in Asheville, NC

Join fellow TU members, supporters and volunteers from a cross the Southest on March 10-12th, 2023 at the Crowne Plaza in Asheville, NC for some great fishing, informative presentations, inspiring dialogue and engaging camaraderie with those who share your dedication to TU and our mission.

Located in the heart of the Smokies, where the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers meet. A mecca of Appalachian fly fishing, this is the perfect location to join us for the weekend – and stay longer or make a family trip or fishing buddies escape around this great event!
Asheville is within striking distance of some amazing trout fishing opportunities, and we hope to score some great Spring weather to make that a reality!

TU regional rendezvous are occasions to be inspired – by the work of TU staff, lessons from volunteer leaders, and conversations with newfound friends. They are also an excellent opportunity to discuss the unique issues facing the region as well as a chance to network and build relationships with fellow TU volunteer leaders.

For more information or to register go to: Rendezvous

HATCHERY SUPPORTED WATERS CLOSED IN MARCH

NC Wildlife Resources Commission will close approximately 1,000 miles of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters to fishing at 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 28 and reopen them at 7 a.m. on April 1.

While fishing is closed, Wildlife Commission staff will stock the designated waters, which are marked by green-and-white signs, in preparation for opening day.

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are stocked at frequent intervals March through June annually. In 2023, Wildlife Commission personnel will stock approximately 964,000 trout — 96% of which will be at least 10 inches in length, with the other 4% exceeding 14 inches in length.

Anglers can harvest a maximum of seven trout per day, with no minimum size limit or bait restriction. These waters will remain open until Feb. 29, 2024.

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

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.

FLY FISHING ETIQUETTE

Etiquette on the River

» A section of water belongs to the first angler fishing it. It is inconsiderate to crowd them and just how close an approach is permissible is an obvious variable. You should maintain a distance of at least two very long casts away from another angler. Before entering the water near another angler, confirm the direction they are fishing (upstream or downstream), and ask their permission before entering the water near them.

» A slow-moving or stationary fisherman has every right to remain just where they are. If you are moving, leave the water and walk around him, being certain not to disturb his fishing or the water he might be working. In a similar vein, a fisherman may be resting a pool or planning his next move. It is still his water, and you should not jump in without his permission.

» The angler that is traveling up-stream always has the right of way over an angler traveling down-stream.

» An angler has the right of way, upstream or downstream, when they have a fish on.

» Don’t enter the water on a small river directly across from another angler. » Wading upstream against the current forces you to move slowly, cover less water, and you are approaching the fish from behind. The fisherman working in a downstream direction covers more water, more quickly, and has the potential to disturb more water. For instance, careless wading could send silt or debris washing downstream to alarm fish that someone else is working over.

» If you are fishing downstream, and approach an angler downstream to alarm fish that someone else is working over.

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» If you are fishing downstream, and approach an angler working over, get out of the river (100 yards) before you jump in without his permission.

» Fish quietly. Sound carries well in water. Test have shown that trout as far as 200 feet downstream from a careless wading angler will spook and run for cover. Clanking wading staffs or moving rocks will scare fish upstream and downstream for long distances.

» DO NOT cast to a fish that is holding on a spawning bed. Spawning takes a lot of energy for the fish, and to attack a fly could make them weaker and stressed at a time when they need strength. Spawning fish are typically not hungry, so if they strike at a fly, it is normally out of anger.
» Be aware of the water temperature where you are fishing. Avoid fishing if the water temperature is over 70 degrees.
» Recognize that skilled anglers and/or heavy fishing pressure with excessively liberal limits can greatly reduce the available fish populations in any stream section unless voluntary restraint is practiced. A legal limit is not a quota. Let your fishing motto be: “Limit your kill; don’t kill your limit.” FFI supports the Catch and Release philosophy of angling, allowing fish to mature, reproduce, and live to challenge other anglers in the future.
» Multiple recreational use of streams is common. We may share the resource with tubes, canoes, and kayaks. It is the responsibility of the angler in the canoe/kayak to recognize that the angler in the river has established a position before the canoe/kayak floated into view. The angler in the canoe/kayak should try to pass behind the wading angler. If space doesn’t permit this, the angler in the canoe should float by quietly and with minimum disturbance.
» While saltwater fishing, and in particular surf fly fishing, be aware of the people who may be behind you. For example, joggers, bicyclers, skateboarders, etc. They are not thinking about, nor aware of your backcast. Be cautious. Etiquette - on the river
» Tipping etiquette in the sport of fly fishing follows the same general rules that apply to all service industry workers in a given country. In the U.S. for example, gratuities of more than 20% means you were extremely happy with the experience; tipping less than 10% means you were dissatisfied.
» GUIDELINES FOR TIPPING INDEPENDENT GUIDES: an “Independent Guide” is not part of a lodge setting or outfitter. If you are budgeting for gratuities, figure in 15% for an average level of service from an independent fly fishing guide, but not less than 10%. As a rule, you should plan on tipping $40-$50 to a bonefish guide for a day in the Bahamas or around the Caribbean and Central and South America. In Iceland, on the other hand, you should plan to tip a salmon Guide $50-$100 per day.
» GUIDELINES FOR TIPPING AT DESTINATION FISHING LODGES AND ON PACKAGE TRIPS: Be sure to ask your booking agent or lodge manager for their advice. Count on an extra 7-12% of the total package cost (not including taxes, travel and other non-destination service charges) in the form of cash or personal check. Travelers Checks are one of the least favorite forms of gratuity, since banks often charge significant fees to have them deposited. Suggestions for total tips will range from 5-15%, depending on your booking agent, the destination, and the total package price. Often times the lodge manager will recommend a "collective" gratuity for your entire stay, whereby the lodge manager will distribute the funds to staff.
» If you want to tip a Guide working from a lodge operation directly, a $40-$50 tip per day is the norm, at least in Alaska (wait till the end of the trip). » If you are planning a “float trip” with a Guide, be sure to determine if the posted “Guide Fee” is based on a per
Etiquette Off The River
» STAY ON VISIBLE PATHS AND TRAILS; shortcuts kill vegetation, and lead to erosion and silting, which endanger fish and destroy aquatic life.
» DON’T LITTER. Take a plastic bag with you so you can collect and take out trash left by others. Dedicate a vest or shirt pocket to hold the monofilament line you cut off
» NO TRESPASSING. Obtain permission before walking on private property, or don’t fish there. Close all gates behind you. Most likely you are not the first person to ask a land owner if you can access the water on their property. They may have an established rod-fee. Be polite and respect their policies.
ETIQUETTE – FLOAT FISHERMAN
» After getting your boat in the water move it away from the ramp. If you need to tie up or anchor, move your boat upstream of the ramp. However, be aware of your anchored boat’s location in relation to other boats who need to launch before you can get underway. Also, be aware of other boats who may be using the same launch to land their boat. Keep your anchored boat properly away from the launch site.
» After your boat is in the water and safely tied up or anchored, immediately pull your vehicle and trailer out of the water, then drive to the parking lot to secure tie-down straps.
» As you float down the river, give wading anglers a wide berth. Limit your use of the oars or motor. From the boat, do not make a cast into the same area as the wading angler. If the wading angler is standing in the middle of the river, pass your boat behind the angler.
» If a boat is occupying a known hot spot, but no one is fishing, never assume you can slide into the spot. Ask if they are staying in the spot or moving on.
» If your fishing partner in the boat gets a fish on, reel your line in and help them land/net the fish. Of course, in a drift boat with a Guide, the Guide will help your partner land the fish, but be cautious to not interfere in any way with their attempt to land the fish.
» When you see a bottle floating in the water or a can stuck on a flat, pick it up. Be aware of trash in your boat. When you pull anchor and decide to head to another hole, make sure you have secured all paper/plastic that could away as soon as you plane up. Dispose of trash properly.
» After the float, when you have arrived at the take-out, tie up or anchor your boat downstream of the ramp, and out of the way of other craft approaching or using the ramp. Move your boat to the take-out only after your vehicle is in place. Help clean the boat when you are done fishing.

ETIQUETTE FROM A FLATS BOAT
» Number one rule: be quiet! Saltwater fish are easily spooked and the noise of cooler lids, camera cases, and beer bottles banging around against the hull travel for great distances.
» Don’t be a bow hog. Share the time on the bow fairly with your fishing partners.
» Develop some rules with your partners. For example: If you take 3 shots (casts) you sit down;
If you catch a fish, you sit down;
If you are on the bow for 30 minutes, you sit down.
» The Guide is the boss. There is a reason they call him Captain. It is his boat and his rules. Do not wear studs or traction devices on your wading boots while you are in the boat. Etiquette - From a flats boat

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TENKARA ANGLER MAGAZINE

If you are a Tenkara Angler or if you are interested in becoming one, the Tenkara Angler magazine is out there and free to read on the internet. The magazine is published quarterly back to Fall of 2016 and can be viewed at Tenkara Magazine.
chased fish in Louisiana city parks? And what’s going on with the women in Montana that caused these fishing regulations? (Just an F.Y.I.: devote these little nuggets of weird knowledge to memory and share them with your fishing buddies on your next excursion!)

THE HISTORY OF THE MCGINTY FLY

I’m a bit cheap in nature and books become free fifty years after publication, so I decided to try out The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway. Hemingway was an avid fly fisherman and even wrote a book about fishing the Two Hearted River in Michigan’s upper peninsula. He was also a liar (of course since he was a fisherman) as he actually fished a river nearby, but that’s another story. In the book he took a trip to the Irati River in the mountains of Spain. The main character used worms, but the friend with him used a fly called the McGinty. I had heard the name McGinty mentioned before, so decided to dig a little deeper into it.

There is no solid proof of the origin of the fly, but it is generally attributed to have been developed by Charles McGinty in 1883. McGinty was said to be a bartender in Chicago who tied flies and sold them to his clients. There are many reports of the popularity of the fly in Michigan and that is probably where Hemingway learned of and probably fished with it. It was said to be developed as a bass fly, but was used as a wet fly and found to be very popular with trout. Growing up on the trout streams of Michigan I often used a similar bumble bee dry fly and I agree it is a favorite of the trout.

Now that I am living in North Carolina I have often used a fly called the Tellico which was named after the Tellico River. No one is certain just who first tied the Tellico. The only record is that it was first sold by a man named Peckinbaugh of Chattanooga.

It turns out though that it is a modification of the McGinty. Northern anglers brought the bee-like McGinty with them starting in the late 1800s, but no self-respecting Dixie boy was going to use a Yankee bug – until they saw how well it worked. So, they played with it and modified it into the modern day standard Tellico.

So next time you fish the Irati river in Spain or any of our rivers here in North Carolina, tie on a Tellico (McGinty) and see if it works as well for you as it did for Ernest Hemingway in his book.

ADVICE FROM THE VISE

My calendar says February but feels like April. Well, any day is a good day on the water, but looks like spring may just come early and stick around. Good for bugs and good for fish. This month we will tie the Tellico Nymph. Lots of stories and lots of variations about this fly.

I’m using a recipe that’s hopefully representative of the materials that were available about 100 years ago when this fly made its first appearance in the Smoky Mountains. The tailing is Guinea fowl, the body is yellow chenille and yellow is a magnet in Appalachian waters, wing case is turkey tail, and the rib is a palmered peacock herl. For the hackle, I’m using furnace hackle that would be found on your average Sunday dinner rooster. The Hook is a Sierra 2312 barbless wide gap. Won’t be using a bead, but will weight the fly.

Start off with 14 or so wraps of .30 lead free wire. Dress the hood forming a thread dam a bit behind the eye. We want to leave it open for the hackle and to build a head.
Tie in a dozen or so Guinea hen fibers for the tail. Align the tips and pull them off the shaft. Tie this in just behind your weight. Trim the butt ends and tie in a dozen wild turkey tail fibers. Are sure the overs are long enough to cover the eye when pulled forward.

I like to use a bit of black dubbing at this point on the head to form a solid base for my hackle. Build that up and tie in the hackle.

Tie in a single peacock herl that will be used to rib the fly, and then tie in the chenille the length of the body to ensure a smooth foundation.

Wrap the hackle and tidy up the head a bit and pull the wing case turkey tail fibers to the back of the eye, keeping them centered and secure those with a few snug wraps. Trim the butt ends closely.

Wrap the chenille using touching turns and secure it at the end of the weight wrap. Palmer the ostrich herl and tie that off the head. Sometimes delicate stuff near the tips, so make sure you have a long enough herl that will be strong enough at the tie out point.

Take several wraps to build up a thread head, and whip finish the fly. Carefully use some black UV or varnish to get a nice shiny head on it and you are ready to get in the water. These are great fished on a double drop shot rig in the spring, or under an indicator. It makes an excellent dropper under a foam terrestrial or stimulator pattern. These are typically tied in a larger size, this one is an #8, and I would go one size up or down and feel I was in the zone for size.
But there are no rules, so tie it as you wish. It’s had a home in my box for as many years as I can remember, my ole dad would call it an oldie but a goodie.

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.

Dave Everhart

VOLUNTEER TIME FOR THE PAST YEAR

Annually we are asked to fill out total time our members have volunteered in several areas. Please, download and fill out the attached spreadsheet. Please, review and fill in your appropriate time. This gets submitted to the TU headquarters. You can send the spreadsheet to: blueridgetuws@gmail.com.

REVISITING BANNER’S ELK

In the January 2023 newsletter we published a short story by Mary Noailles Murfree (alias Charles Egbert Craddock) titled Trout in Western North Carolina. The story was about a group traveling from Tennessee to Banner Elk to go trout fishing in June of 1886. Remember that date as it becomes very important later in this story. The story described their trip and stay in some detail. As Joel mentioned in his column, we were both intrigued by the story and decided to track their trek though North Carolina. If you’d like to revisit the story you can view it at http://www.hkynctu.org/past-newsletters/.

The group traveled by rail to Johnson City, TN and there connected with the newly built East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad. The ET&WNCR carried them to the town of Cranberry and then they traveled by hack to Banner’s Elk where they stayed at Mrs. Banner’s boarding house. They fished a triangular route of the Elk, Linnville, and Watauga rivers whose origins meet on the side of Grandfather Mountain.

On our search, we did not trek all the way back to Johnson City and the railway to Cranberry no longer exists. If you’d like to hike it, much of the old road bed and trestles still exist. The only section of rails that still remain is the section out of Boone operated as the Tweetsie Railroad, the name Tweetsie coming from the high pitched whistle from the old engine. There is a great deal of information and many photos on the internet. The section of railroad that carried the group to Cranberry was completed in 1891 through the Doe River Gorge to serve the timber and iron mining industries. Cranberry had a major iron mine, but that’s another story.

Once settled at Banner’s Elk, the party began their fishing trips. From Banner’s Elk the river travels up stream toward the Blue Ridge Parkway. Where it ends on the slopes of Grandfather, it is within a couple miles of the sources of both the Linville and Watauga rivers, which both flow downstream from there, the Linville to the south and the Watauga to the east. For high mountain streams, all three of these rivers are reasonably large and flow through several valleys which make the fishing easy. Unfortunately today, much of the river that the group fished either belongs to clubs or developments that only let members fish there or is posted with no trespassing signs. As Joel describes in his column, this is a serious issue as more and more of our rivers are being shut off the public.

In our trek, we were able to identify many of the locations identified in the story, but a couple eluded us. We
spoke with several people and no one could identify the location of McCandless Cabin Gap, Webb’s Pond, or Estes. One of the last points on our trek was the Banner Elk Museum. This was a Saturday and they had a large staff on hand greeting the visitors. We were fortunate to meet and talk to Jean who was very knowledgeable on the history of the area. She told us that Mrs. Banner’s boarding house that the party had stayed in had burned down in 1898 and was replaced by a new home that still stands, but she knew of a museum book that had a photo of the previous home. In the book it described the people as follows:

This photograph of the Lewis B. Banner house was taken on a rainy day in June of 1986. The photographer was Mr. G. C. Conner who was probably a guest in the Banner house. Only the lady in the center can be identified. She is the daughter of Nancy and Lewis Banner, Martha Hellen, better known as Patti, who operated the Banner Boarding House. The visitors are Judge Cloud of Nashville, Tennessee and his party. Whether he was a relative, a friend, or just a traveler in the area is not known.

Now take a good look in the photograph and you will notice that both Judge Cloud and the lady next to him are holding fly rods and creels. They are from Tennessee, and as identified at the beginning of this article the story was written about a trip there in June of 1986. There is a good chance that this may be a photo of our author Mary Noailles Murfree, but we will probably never know for sure.