Leaders & Tippets

Trout Unlimited
Louisville Chapter - 476

November 2009

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Up Coming Dates

Regular Meeting
November 24, 7 pm

Board Meeting
December 6:30pm

Fly Tying
December 8, 7pm

Christmas Party
December 22, 7pm
Come with bells on your poles.

Elections Held

At our annual business meeting on October 27, the election of Officers and Board Officers were held for the ensuing year.

After nominations and discussions, a vote was taken and the results were as follows:

OFFICERS FOR 2010

President—Larry Lewis.
Vice President—Deloris Cummings.
Secretary—Vicki Lewis
Treasurer—Fred Doyle

Directors

Patti Doyle
Dan Jackman
John Spence
Barney Sutton

Other news:

- The annual picnic was moved to June in 2010. The July date seem to interfere with many other activities.
- The May fishing trip set up by Roy Weeks for April 24 and 25th is now full. However, if you still wish to go, contact Roy and put your name on the standby list.
- Everyone should be thinking about the Kentuckiana Fly Fishing Show that is going to be held January 30, 2010. We will need volunteers to man our booth. More about the show and sign up list at our next meeting in November.

Any members with extra fly tying equipment or materials that would like to donate them to some of our newest fly tiers, contact Larry Lewis.

Lots of Things Going On

FINS, Fish and Water

Dane Balsman, who is an urban fisheries biologist for the state, gave a lecture on the FINS program and the water testing program in the Metro area.

Although the testing is expensive, the state is planning to test three metro waters next year for dioxins. The possible waters to be tested are Cherokee, Tom Watson, and Waldon. As far as the advisory set out by metro parks, Dane says that fish eaten in moderation should be alright but says to avoid eating "big catfish, carp and large mouth bass." The dioxins are not high enough in small fish to warrant exclusion.

Dane also is asking for volunteers to be mentors for fishing clinics at local schools.

Also he asked for volunteers to improve the habitat of the waters by doing a Christmas tree round up and the state would help with the distribution of them. Any further information can be obtained by contacting Dane at Dane.Balsman@ky.gov.

Doing a Great Job!

Chapter President George Smith presented Grayson Patton with a check at our last meeting. The donation was to help Grayson with his masters degree research project about trout in Kentucky waters.

Fall Fly Tie In

Roy Weeks selected Saturday, November 7 as the Chapter's "fly tying" date. Roy couldn't have selected a more perfect day in November for this. The weather was sunny and warm. Maybe he selected too perfect of a day. Only a few members showed up for tying.

We discussed that probably everyone was doing last minute yard work, going to football games, or just enjoying that fabulous day. We couldn't really blame them for that either.

Roy's wife Vicki, made some fantastic potato soup and brownies. Being optimistic, we were hoping that someone else would stop by and later, Tom Walsh came by to visit. Although the turn out was small, we had great food, good conversation and made some beautiful flies. Roy felt that maybe the "Fly Tie In" should be held more towards the beginning of the year when such a glorious day as what we had would be doubtful. Then again, one never knows about the weather. Another fabulous day could happen and members could be enjoying that day too. And who could blame them!

TYIERS BEWARE!

Meet our newest fly tier, Will. He is the son of Kim and Grant. Will came to us during our casting clinic at Waverly Park. His grandfather gave him the money to purchase a fly rod and we taught him how to use it. Will had a couple of flies on hand at the clinic and decided to test his skills. Needless to say he did catch some fish and has been "hooked" ever since. Will has practice his casting technique at home and even caught the ceiling fan (which his father had to disassemble to retrieve his line).

Will came to one of our fly tying classes where he received some personal attention from our regulars and has been coming ever since. His father says that a few days before the classes, he gets excited and starts gathering all his materials for that evening. Will, on behalf of all our members, we say, "Welcome."

Will not only dreams and think about fly fishing, he also writes about it too. Here is a sample of his passion:

The Catch

The burbling brook babbling below me
I lay the bait down ever so gently
The current instantly sweeps the bug bait away
I try another cast
The hook glistens like a crystal in the sun
I see a dart of colors
My hook disappears
My line tightens
My rod bends
All this in an instant
I play the fish in
Its colors are amazing
Bronze, silver, and fox-red intermingled
I set it free
To flash its beauty in the sun
Too gorgeous to put on a plate
It zips into its watery home
I take out my bait and begin again
I love my life as a fisherman

LIBRARY NEWS

Now that the fishing season is slowing down, what better time to catch up on some fishing techniques and tying skills. The library is full of videos, books and such to help all members improve their skills. Check out the list of materials on our web page under Library.

THE TELLICO NYMPH

Comments:

Tellico Nymphs are absolutely necessary for many anglers. If they are not in your fly box go home and get some. The Tellico Nymph is an old pattern that was developed around 1927 by a priest along the Tellico River in Tennessee and North Carolina. The Tellico River basin is one of the Southeast's premier trout-fishing destinations. According to website promos it offers year-round fishing for wild and stocked trout in secluded mountain streams. It seems like every guide or fly shop in Tennessee and North Carolina that has a website mentions the Tellico Nymph. I also see references to huge brook trout, a 20-pound brown and also smaller fish (stockers) that apparently love Tellico Nymphs. It is an approximate imitation of many insects like Golden Stoneflies and bees. Probably most of the time it is fished in streams, but it has been successful in lakes.
There are many variations of the Tellico Nymph, at least 7 or 8 according to Mike Stewart. Mike was tying his version at the 43rd FFF International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave in Whitefish, Montana from July 22-26, 2008. Mike lives in North Granby, Connecticut. This is an easy fly to tie. This is the third pattern (without the reinforcing over-rib) that Mike teaches in his beginner fly tying classes.
Use your favorite nymph fishing technique. One person describing his experience said he made sure it was right on the bottom.

MATERIALS

Hook: Mustad 3906B or similar, size 8 (this can be tied down to 16, but Mike swears by size 8)
Thread: Black, 3/0
Tail: Hen back hackle, mottled brown
Over-Rib: Copper, brassy size or smaller
Weight: Lead or lead substitute, 0.020 inch dia.
Rib and shellback: Peacock herl
Body: Floss, bright yellow
Legs: Hen back hackle, mottled brown; (alternatively you can use **any brown feather)**

Step 1: Start thread about 1/4 of the way back from the eye, and wind toward a point near the barb.

Step 2: Tie on a few fibers of hen hackle to make a tail that is a shank length long.

Step 3: Tie on the over-rib. You could use a finer wire than what he used because you really do not need the flash. He folds a little of the wire back and wraps the thread over it to be sure it is secure. The wire reinforces the peacock shellback and rib that will be put on later. The Tellico is easily shredded by the sharp teeth of fish. The wire over-rib solves that problem.

Step 4: Put about 12 wraps of lead or lead substitute. Use a half hitch tool to roll and smooth the ends of the wire.

Step 5: Use some "Sally Henson's Hard as Nails" clear fingernail polish over the wire and build up a thread ramp at each end. Select a bunch of peacock herl. How many you need depends on the bulk of the fibers. Some strung herls are thin so more are needed. Mike used 12 on this fly. Tie them in near the eye so the materials can be tied down smoothly over the back. Put all the herls in a material clip. Select a nice full herl from a feather. This will be the rib. Tie it in with the others and secure it in the clip so you can find it later. Leave thread near bend of hook where you tied-in the tail. Tie the yellow floss just in front of the peacock herl. Use 8-10 inches of floss for size 8 hook. Double the floss over the thread, slide it to the tie in point and secure it. Smooth out lead with thread to get nice ramps front and back of lead. Wind thread forward to about an eye length from the eye.

Step 6: Wetting your fingers before starting to wrap helps prevent fraying the floss. Also, when wrapping floss pass it from one hand to the other rather than sliding it through the fingers, again to prevent fraying the floss.

Step 7: Take the full herl and spiral it forward in five wraps. Secure it at front of floss.

Step 8: Pull herls forward and put one wrap of thread over the top.

Step 9: Now start counter wrapping the wire. First make one wrap at the back like a tag. Counter-wrap wire over the shellback and ribbing at evenly spaced wraps as was done for the rib. Use your thumb to keep the shell-back on top. When you get to the last wrap, stop and unwrap the thread while keeping tension on the wire. Tuck shellback herls out of the way. Take one more spiral wrap of the wire, then tie down the wire with three wraps of thread, pull the wire back to lock it in place and tie it down. Use "kluncky" (a new fly tying term? for those poor quality, inex-pensive scissors used on bulky and hard, tough materials) scissors to snip off the wire. You have to get down with the point of the scissors to cut the wire, and that will damage good scissors.

Step 10: Select a hackle with barbs that will almost reach the point of the hook. A hackle gauge can be used. Stroke the fibers back, and tie it in softly by the tip. Then Mike pulls it back through the thread a tiny amount (about 1mm) so a tiny amount of shaft is exposed. Trim the barbs sticking out front.

Step 11: One wrap of the hackle is usually enough. If the feather is not webby you might need two wraps. Finish wrapping on top of hook, so it not critical if you clip a fiber or two when the feather is cut.

Step 12: Collect all the herls, pull them down and then forward. Make a soft wrap, check to make sure everything is centered. Then put on two more wraps, first one soft and second tight.

Step 13: If you have a stray fiber, grab it with tweezers and snap it off. Form a head and finish with a whip finish. Put on head cement or "Sally Henson's Hard as Nails."

Closing Comments: Mike goes through a hundred Tellico Nymphs each year. He uses so many of them because they catch fish. If you really want it to sink fast put a bead on it. There is so much great fish catching history attached to this fly, particularly in the eastern U.S., that fly anglers in the rest of the world should check it out. Mike actually caught his first striped bass using a Tellico while smallmouth bass fishing on the Connecticut River.

Editor's Notes

Here are just a few last minute items that needed to be mention to all members.

Any member that wishes to serve on the Board of Directors, can do so by contacting any Officer or current Board Member. We are allotted up to eight directors, and currently have four elected. The only way that we can keep our Chapter moving ahead, is by fresh ideas and those ideas come from our members stepping up and presenting them.

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Help!!!

The December news letter is going to be an accumulation of events that have taken place during the year. I will need items and pictures from members who participated in these events. I will try to get the news letter out in late December or January. Please send in pictures and stories about your trips. I would love to include them. Email the webmaster pdoyle@louisvilletu.org with your news. I'll be getting my own email soon.

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The Officers and Board of Directors, old and new, would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Dan Jackman