



# "Trout Lines"

March 2016



## **Fishbone and The Trout**

In this issue we have a real surprise. As you know I have been asking members for material for the newsletter. Tom Moody sent me his entry in a ENCTU liar's contest. It is a great fable that should become part of the historical folklore of Dunloup Creek. Be sure to read this great tale. By the way, he won.

---

## **Trout Facts**

Trout have body language. When competing for a 'lie' they will posture and 'gape' by opening their mouths wide and flaring the gills while advancing on their opponent. Fighting is kept to a minimum. Submissive fish close their mouth, contract their fins, go pallid and drop towards the stream bed.

Trout scales have growth rings, as new hard tissue is added around the edges as they grow. They can be read just like growth rings in a tree.

---

## **Quote of The Month**

"There he stands, draped in more equipment than a telephone lineman, trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb, and getting licked in the process."

*Paul O'Neil*

## **Remembering Charles Hampton**



Charles Hampton passed away suddenly on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Charlie, at one time, served on the board of directors of the our chapter of Trout Unlimited. He had become more active again in the Ernie Nester Chapter in the last few years. He helped stock trout in Loop Creek in 2015, along with other activities. He was 74 years old.

---

## **Historical texts on fly fishing**

Thanks to the internet, numerous rare old texts on the art of fly fishing are just a click away, if you have interest in reading them. This month I read a good description of old rods, written in 1920 by Larry St. John. It is located at [Over My Waders](#)

Written in 1907 by W. Earl Hodgson was "How To Fish, a treatise on trout & trout fishers" is located at the link: [Archives.Org](#) This was written in response to an earlier book "Trout Fishing" written in 1904. Acquaintances thought it didn't give trout fishermen the information they needed.



**Fishbone and The Trout by Tom Moody**

Well, most of you think the High Falls of Dunloup Creek have been around for a long time. Well, they aren't that old and I'm going to tell ya how they came to be. My Grandpappy had a neighbor down in McDowell County named Fishbone Largeass. Now Fishbone got his name from when he was little and his pappy had caught a big ole Blue cat out of the Guyandotte River and brought it home for supper. Ya see Fishbone had 12 brothers and sisters and when they sat down to eat, it was every youngin for themselves. Well Fishbone ate too fast and got a bone from that big catfish stuck in his throat. His Daddy had to hold him down while his Momma dug that bone out with a tire iron! Ever since that day, Fishbone had a sore spot for big fish.

As he grew up, Fishbone became famous for catching the biggest fish from all around WV, Kentucky, and Ohio. When Fishbone heard tell of a monster trout over near Thurmond, he vowed he'd take a few days off and go catch that beast. Now Fishbone worked for the U.S. Steel mines as welder and he had built a rig just for catching these monster fish that he was famous for. He'd taken an old 4 wheel drive drilling rig and turned it into an all terrain fishing machine.

Word was that this trout was more devil than fish and was the biggest fish anybody had ever seen or heard of. Now the fish wasn't hard to find. Everybody between Scarbro and Thurmond knew about the big hole the big trout lived in. After parking his rig, Fishbone sat down on the bank to observe his quarry and was just a little surprised when the fish quietly sipped in three deer that had come down for drink of water at dusk. Well, after watching that and thinking about it most of the night, Fishbone was ready come daylight the next morning. Fishbone had gone and bought a 300 lb hog and chained it to a boat anchor that he had sharpened to a point. Fishbone backed his fishing rig down to the creek, chained it to a big Sycamore tree, and began swinging that pig out over the water. Oh what a sight! That pig was squealing and that big trout was following it back and forth across the pool just waiting for it to drop. When Fishbone released the brake on the cable they said the pig never even got wet! The big trout sucked the pig in and settled to the bottom of the pool.

Now most people would have panicked and jerked the pig right out of the fish's mouth, but Fishbone was a pro! He tinkered around with his rig, greasing the gears, topping off the fuel tank for the winch and even finished off his coffee. And then Fishbone said "All right you big devil, let's see what you got!" With that he fired up the motor and pulled the lever to start reeling in that big trout. Boy, all hell broke loose! The trout thought someone was trying to take that pig from him. He clamped down on that wire rope and took off downstream. Now Fishbone had caught some big fish before but he'd never seen nothing like this. That fish had the rig groaning and the cable was so tight it was singing. They fought each other all morning and pretty soon a crowd had gathered. The fight went on all that day. Fishbone was a blur. Braking and reeling, pouring buckets of water on the clutches, keeping fuel in the tank, and oiling the line. It was a sight to behold.



**Fishbone and The Trout Continued:**

By evening the word of the fight had reached Thurmond so the put their card game on hold and loaded up the dancing girls on a flatbed trailer and brought them up the creek to cheer Fishbone on. The fight went on all through the night. Then the fish just stopped. Fishbone tried every trick he knew. He gave him some slack. Then he tightened up the cable and hit it with a sledge hammer trying to aggravate the fish, Nothing worked. Well Fishbone had to know what was going on down there so he shucked off his boots and shirt, tied off to the cable and went into the water. He was down there a long time and just when folks was getting worried that the big trout had ate him, Fishbone came a sputtering out of the water. He told the crowd "that big ole rascal done wedged himself into a crack at the bottom of the pool" Well, now what are you gonna do? Someone in crowd asked. Fishbone eyed him kind'a mean like and said "I done tried everything I know, I think I'm whapped". Fishbone sat down on the bank and just stared at the point where the cable disappeared into the water. Fishbone finally stood up and began hooking up his cutting torch to cut the cable and put an end to the fight. Just as he was putting the flame to the wire rope, he cocked his head to one side like he was listening to something. Way up in the head of the holler came sound like a train whistle. As it got closer it became clear that's what it was. And it was coming down the creek. Well, a big grin spread across Fishbones' face as he shut the cutting torch off and grabbed the release lever on the cable reel. Fishbone free spooled about 100 yards of line off the reel and hauled it up the bank to the rail road tracks. By now some of the crowd had figured out was Fishbone had in mind and began scrambling up the other bank to get out of the way. Well, about the time Fishbone got up the bank with the extra cable, the train came around the last bend. Man oh man! It was a 100 car coal train, fully loaded, and rolling fast. Yep. You guessed it. Fishbone was gonna lasso that train!

As that train blew by Fishbone looped the last car and then dove over the bank, swam the creek and scrambled up the other side. He hollered "watch out folks, cause somthin's gonna give!" Well, when that train pulled the cable tight the first thing to go was the s-curve in the tracks...straightened right out like two telephone lines! Then the cable got really tight and just when Fishbone thought that fish was going to stop the train, there came a sound like you can't describe. The ground shook and a wall of water raised up and out of the pool like a tidal wave! Up out of the depths of the pool came the big trout. Only it didn't stop! It went flying over Fishbones' head, tore the boom off of his rig and landed right on top of the last coal car. Now when all of this was over and the people started coming out of hiding, they gazed upon the darndest sight. There where that big trout had wedged himself in the crevice, was what is now the High Falls of Dunloup Creek!

What about the big trout you ask? Well, that train had such a head of steam that nobody could stop it. About a week afterwards they heard that it fell off in Philadelphia and it fed 632 people. And for Fishbone? He took it pretty hard, but last my Grandpappy heard from him was a letter he got from Fishbone. Seems he was visiting a cousin in Scotland and was helping him try to catch a "fish" called Nessie.



I found this online and thought everyone would benefit from Ernie's knowledge of Elk Horn Creek trout and the flies that worked there. It is offered with great respect. *Written by Bruce Ingram*

### **A 2010 Interview With Ernie Nester**

“Some of the flies that I use on Elkhorn Creek include Yellow Caddis dry flies, Mark's Carpet Fly, and gray nymphs and Red Brassies on beadheads,” said Nester. “I started tying a generic gray nymph with a beadhead about 10 years ago and it has turned out to be a very productive pattern. I catch more trout on this pattern than on any other fly I use.

“I normally use the Gray Nymph beadhead in a tandem rig with a Yellow Caddis dry as the strike indicator. It works for brook, brown and rainbow trout and I have caught trout on the Gray Nymph beadhead every month of the year.” Nester relates that he uses 3X long streamer hooks, such as a Mustad 9672, for all of the nymphs that he ties. He builds up the thorax with lead wire and gray chenille. The Fayette County resident has tried different colors for the bead, but it seems that gold is the best hue. Folks who do not like to use one can do away with the beadhead.

Nester says that he first began using sizes 14 and 16 Red Brassies on Pennsylvania streams about eight years ago and then found that they performed equally well on Elkhorn Creek. “I normally use the Red Brassie in a tandem rig with a good floating, highly visible strike indicator fly, such as a yellow body caddis,” he explained. “Although the Red Brassie works without a gold beadhead, I

normally use the beadhead version. Currently, size 14 is the most common size that I use. The Red Brassie works well for wild reproducing browns and for reproducing rainbows.”

Nester believes that one of the reasons the Red Brassie works well is because of the red wire that he uses to tie it, as well as the scud-type hook and gold beadhead, which combined help the fly descend deeper. The small diameter red wire is not easy to find, he advises. For readers that like to tie their own patterns, the only source that he knows of is Hunter's Angling Supplies, Central Square, Box 300, New Boston, NH 03070, and (800) 331-8558. Nester uses the medium (.010) for size 14-18 hooks and the small (.006) for size 18 and smaller hooks.

“I tie some red yarn just behind the gold bead to prevent the bead from sliding back over the slender body,” he instructed. “Tie in the red wire about halfway down the bend of the hook, leaving a tag that will reach up near the bead. Wrap the tying thread around this tag so it will lie under the hook shank. For the collar, twist black thread with two strands of peacock herl to make a more durable collar.”

**ENCTU Trout Lines Newsletter**  
Harry E. Moran II – *Editor*  
[enctu.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:enctu.newsletter@gmail.com)



Scheduled Events

February 18, Brainstorming session on gaining new members, at the South Charleston Library. 6:30 PM - Contact Larry Orr

February 23, Board meeting at 6:30 PM at the South Charleston Library.

February 26, The Fly Fishing Film Tour at the Capital Theater. http://www.flyfilmtour.com/ for more information.

March 8, ENCTU Banquet at the Elks Club

March 22, Board Meeting - 6:30 PM at the South Charleston Library

Be sure to attend membership meetings.

Guide To The Catch and Release Trout Streams Of West Virginia

Maps, Tips, Hatch Charts, & Lodging Info. \$10.00 Each All proceeds benefit the Ernie Nester Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Call Jason Hodges 407-547-5446

Email: wvflyfishr@gmail.com

ENCTU Officers

President

Steve Young, Ph.: 304-941-6955 shy1wv@suddenlink.net

Immediate Past President

Jeff L. Nelsen, Ph.: 304-768-3933 jefflnelsen@suddenlink.net

Vice President Programs

Bill Todd, Ph.: 740-645-7835 Dutchstar37@yahoo.com

Vice President Fund Raising

Homer Sweeney, Ph.: 304-546-9328 tu166@suddenlink.net

Vice President Environmental

Mike Sayre, mike.sayre@hotmail.com

Vice President Membership

Tom Moody, Ph:304-744-4083 scpeeod@yahoo.com

Secretary

Paula Clem, Ph.: 304-757-3384 kittycatclem@gmail.com

Treasurer

Alice Riffce, Ph.: 304-586-4125 alicer138@frontier.com

Newsletter Editor

Harry E. Moran II hemoran@suddenlink.net

Stocking Coordinator

Steve Sattler, Ph.: 304-872-1633 ssattler90@yahoo.com

Youth Liaison

Vacant

TIC Trout in Classroom

Homer Sweeney, Ph.: 304-546-9328 tu166@suddenlink.net

Board of Directors

Terms Expiring- 2016

Harry Moran, Ph., 304-965-7770 hemoran@suddenlink.net

Rhonda Mullins, rmiller78@msn.com

Terms Expiring—2017

Phil Clem, Ph.: 304-757-3384 oatsvilleslim@gmail.com

Ralph Douglas, Ph.: 304-776-6462 rdouglas38@suddenlink.net

Brian McClung, Ph.: 304-353-9003 brian.mcclung@morganstanley.com

Terms Expiring - 2018

Greg Shaffer gkshaffer@suddenlink.net

Charlie Krepps cmkrepps@suddenlink.net

Mike Vigilante vig88@hotmail.com