



Oconaluftee Streamside News

The Newsletter of the

Spring Issue 2016

Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians

Fly Fishing Museum First Year Attendance

When the ribbon was cut and the doors opened to the museum on June 6, 2015, we started the journey in Southern Appalachian fly fishing history. Open every day until the end of October, visitors steadily came by for chamber information and/or visit the museum. Actual summer and fall numbers were amazing, June 717, July 1126, August 1041, September 751 and October 926. That's an average of 217 per week.

The website, www.FlyFishingMuseum.org, has directions, hours of operation, and exhibit information, as well as membership and donation opportunities. Museum Gift Shop business is steady and promising as one of the means of funding the ongoing operation of the museum. The online fly fishing magazine, [Southern Trout](http://SouthernTrout.com) is providing advertising space for the museum. Don Kirk has generously donated 3 years or about \$20,000 in ad space to the museum. Foremost we are able to keep the angling public aware of museum activities and events through the online magazine. In addition, this newsletter, FaceBook, the museum website and local newspapers carry our messages regarding what is happening at the museum.

As the demand for activities at the museum is very evident, plans to remodel the "conference room" must be moved up on the schedule. Funding for the remodel work, especially the labor portion is needed. The completed conference room will bear the sponsors name for five years in appreciation and recognition. We have already cleared the room and remodeling is underway. Thanks to Billy Shepherd, Chuck H, Dick Morgan, Jerry Southard, Richard Reeves, Ron Gaddy, Tom Hopkins and Bob Nanny for volunteering to complete the room preparation work.

IMPORTANT!!!! The museum is seeking sponsors to partner and help fund the next major project as soon as possible!!!!

The future project is Phase II, the Aquarium Room. We have received a grant that covers the equipment, but funding for the labor portion is urgently needed. The completed aquarium room will bear the sponsors name for five years.

New Exhibits Opening on June 4 and Casting for Hope Fly Fishing Tournament - on June 3-5, 2016.

What's new for 2016, Poppers! Tenkara! More rods and reels from the past! More fly tying tools from the past! More "Stream Blazers!"

The first "**Tie one On**" event was held at the museum on March 6, 2016. Fly tyers participating donated all flies produced during the event to PHW, for use during any PHW fly fishing outings including the annual retreat in Cherokee.

Three (3) **Beginner Fly Fishing 101** classes were scheduled for February 27, March 5 and March 30, 2016. All classes were FULL, but more classes will be scheduled during the year.

Project Healing Waters (PHW) Fly Tying and Rod Building Classes for Veteran Museum Hosts a Project Healing Waters Rod-Building Class for Veterans

The first PHW Rod Building was held on January 23, 2016 – Volunteers for the event were Bo Cash, John Zimmerman, Kyle Bright, Rick Queen Dick Morgan and Bob Nanney. Three vets and one individual now own their very own, personally custom made graphite fly rod. The class was hosted by Museum Activities Coordinator Bob Nanney, Museum Volunteer Coordinator Dick Morgan and Project Healing Waters Leader Rick Queen. Project Healing Waters donated 10 sets of rod wrappers and dryers to the museum to be used in the museum continuing education program. Lowes and our local TU chapter combined to give us the lighting we needed for these classes with this donation we will be able to teach rod building and fly tying.

The Museum is proud to be a partner with Project Healing Waters and for the opportunity to honor those that serve our country. We look for this activity to become a frequently scheduled event... **PHW Retreat** began on October 9, 2015 last year with 37 participants enjoying the evening at the museum. In 2016, the museum will again be the October 2016 host for the Friday evening portion of the weekend event. The weekend includes fly tying and casting clinics, guided and individual fishing and a reunion banquet. Both the skills and the camaraderie are important, and Healing Waters participants will again tie innovative fly patterns while making camp among the fishing memorabilia at the museum... more **PHW Fly Tying and Rod-Building** – to be scheduled.



Wofford College Fly Fishing Class visits the museum - on January 11, 2016

The first event scheduled for 2016 is the Wofford College Fly Fishing Class which will visit and study the history fly fishing. Professor Ron Robinson will bring his fly fishing class to Cherokee for a day in the museum and fly fishing on Cherokee Enterprise Waters. Ron also volunteers his time to the museum as the Museum Biographies Coordinator.



Trout Fishing Events in Cherokee for 2016

Opening Day - March 26,27

Memorial Day - May 27-29

Casting For Hope – June 3-5

Tim Hill Memorial – July 16,17

Qualla Country – September 2-4

Trout Derby - August 5,6 – The Trout Derby will include a fly tying demonstration at the museum.

Museum Fly Fishing Weekend – October TBD

Rumble in Rhododendrons – October 28-30

There are a number of trout tournaments held on Cherokee Enterprise Waters. See www.FishCherokee.com, or www.CherokeeSmokies.com for dates. The museum is planning the first Museum Fly Fishing Tournament hopefully in the fall, details forthcoming.

Founding and Charter Members

Over sixty Founding Members and more than eighty Charter Members donated funds for our original costs. Most of the chapters and state councils of Trout Unlimited and the International Federation of Fly Fishing made major contributions. Many of the Southeastern fly shops and independent guides provided items or guided trips for our major fundraiser in November 2014. Many also contributed again in November 2015. The regional fly fishing family truly engaged with us to make this museum become a reality.

“Once again I want to recognize everyone that provided the initial support for the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians. The Founding Members list consists of organizations including Armstrong Fly Casters - Chris and Annette Holler; Biltmore House; Casting for Hope; Cherokee Chamber of Commerce; Cherokee Preservation Foundation; Community Foundation for Greater Chattanooga; Davidson River Outfitters and owner Kevin Howell; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; EBCI Division of Commerce; EBCI Fish and Wildlife; Edgemont Club, Ltd.; Georgia Women Fly Fishers; Hilltop Fly Tyers and Glover McMurray; Hunter-Banks and owner Frank S. Smith; Nat Greene Chapter of Trout Unlimited; North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited; North Carolina Wildlife Federation; Resource Institute; Rocky River Chapter of Trout Unlimited; Rocky River Split Cane Rods and owner Richard Teeter; Saint Clair Mapping and owner Fred Turner; Smoky Mountain Meadows Campground and owner Terry Houghton; South Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited; Southern Trout (Online) Magazine; Swain County Chamber of Commerce; Temple Fork Outfitters and Captain Gary Taylor; Tennessee Valley Authority; Triangle Fly Fishers; Tuckasegee Fly Shop and owners Dale Collins and Bobby Bennett; Upper Creek Angler and owner John Zimmerman; West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited; and, Wildscape and owner Kathy Stout; and individuals including David, Meta and Sally Armstrong; Alen D. and Scottie S. Baker; Gene and Kathy Barrington; Ronald R. and Christine W. Beane; Guy F. and Yvonne M. Bradley; Jim Childers; Bob Cogan; Joyce Cooper; Peter Croes; Cecil L. and Gale E. Dills; Paul Duffy; Gary W. Frey; Sharon and Ron Gaddy; Mark Gasior; Ronald F. and Elaine D. Gmerek; Scott Haires; Edward T., Jr. and Dorothy B. Hinson; Mary Jenkins; Cameron and Joyce Keels; Bobby Kilby; Jim and Sheila Mabrey; Joe D. Manley; Ricky and Betty McCarver; John McDevitt; Bob Nanney; Amy and Forrest Parker; Robert R., Jr. and Lisa P. Rollins; Hank and Mary Schmulling; Tonia and Alan Sheppard; Capt. Michael "Squeak" and Connie Smith; Douglas and Carron H. Suddreth; Joseph T. and Mary L. Summer; Wanda Taylor; Scott Wagner; Brad and Michelle Walker; Tim and Terri Wilhelm; and, Ray E. and Teresa Williamson.

The Charter Members list consists of organizations including Appalachian Anglers; Bass Pro Shops; Brookings' Outdoor Village Anglers; Carolina Mountain Sports; Casting Carolinas; Casting for Confidence; Casting for Recovery; Cataloochee Chapter of Trout Unlimited; Caylor Flies; Chad Bryson Fishing; Chattooga Chapter of Trout Unlimited; Choo Choo Coffee; Clement Law Office; Endless River Adventures; Fly Fishing the Smokies - Eugene Shuler; Fontana Guides; Headwaters Outfitters; Indian Creek Campground - Bill and Heather Murphy; Jesse Brown Outdoors; Kentucky Council of Trout Unlimited; Little River Outfitters; Macintosh Law Firm; Mid-Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited; Mountain Tenkara, Bob Ivins and Lance Milks; Nantahala Outdoor Center; Northern Kentucky FFF; Outpost Mountain Outfitters; Popular Springs Farm Shooting Preserve and Kennel; Project Healing Waters; Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited; RiverGirl Fishing Company; Rivers Edge Outfitters; River Through Atlanta; Saluda Valley Guides and Barrens Fly Shop; Sequoyah National Golf Club; Smoky Mountain Host; Smoky Mountain Outdoors Unlimited; Smoky Mountain Railroad; Table Rock Angler - William Bo Cash; Tuckasegee Chapter of Trout Unlimited; and, Unaka Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Bobby Hand; and individuals including Tom Adams; R. Gary Baker; Beau Beasley; Dr. John M. Benbow; Dr. S. Walker Blanton; Carol Bracewell; Alan Briggs; Denny Burries, post humus; Jim Casada; Marvin Cash; Broderick and Michele Crawford; Carl Davis; Captain Bryan DeHart; E. Bruce Elliston; Jim Erik; Bill Everhardt; John G. Fuller; Dr. Charles D. and Nancy Hershey; Phil and Bessy Hinton; Bobby Hogan; Noel Hudson; Paul and Amy Issacs; Laura Kennerly; Mike Kesselring; Roger Lowe; Edward W. McLean; Justin Mickens; John Miko; Johnathan Miller; The Mortensen Family – Eric and Glenn Mortensen; Duane Ravers; Mickey Reavis; Shelley Reynolds; William J. and Georgia Ritter; Ron Robinson; W. H. Bill Stuart, Jr.; Bob Tupper; Stanley Tuttle; Kenneth Walker; W. Brad Weeks; Jim Willey; and, Rex Wilson; Jr.

On behalf of the museum board, thank you for your support!” - **Alen Baker**, Museum Board Member 704.507.6191

Bob Nanney, Museum Events Coordinator, and Dick Morgan, Museum Volunteer Coordinator, have been helping with public shows, scheduled events at the museum as well as back-fitting the catalogue of museum items. Thank you both!

The Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians, which is also home to the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce, is open daily and situated along U.S. 441 in Cherokee.

*Winter hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Summer hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. **Temporarily closed until early March, except for scheduled special events.***

The address is 516 Tsali Blvd, Cherokee, NC 28719 and, for now, admission is free. Phone number is 828.788.0034.

