

[View this email in your browser](#)



FISHING QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'STRESS IS CAUSED BY NOT FISHING ENOUGH'

STREAMS OF THOUGHT—NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT WINTER FISHING, I GOT THE SHOT, UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Steve Young

I saw the quote at the top of the page somewhere online and thought 'yup, that's me'. I realized that it has been nearly a month since I had ventured out to cast a fly of any type. It seems like the weather has conspired against my, admittedly, relatively narrow requirements. Often plunging water temps

bottoming out in the low 40s and lower and/or rainy, dreary days discouraged me from having a go. The few times the temperature was on the way to decent levels, water levels were also on the way up—way, way up toward levels which Matt Culp, our speaker this past month, calls ‘significant high-water events’. There were a few (very few) scattered days where productive (and comfortable) fishing was possible, and I had something going on (a rare thing in these COVID days!). I know I will get out again but it won’t be soon enough.

Speaking of Matt Culp, we had our first chapter meeting in a number of months this past January via the ZOOM online meeting system. Matt gave us our annual review of Fisheries activities in the GSMNP; it was, as always, informative, well done, and brought us up to date on their latest thoughts on trout (and other fisheries inhabitants) conservation as well as their future plans for streams in the National Park. It was my first go at hosting a ZOOM meeting and everyone helped to get through it successfully. Matt provided a video of the presentation which Joe Hatton has posted on our website; those that missed the presentation can view it there.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that I had gotten the first installment of the Moderna COVID vaccination and told you the second was coming. Well, that has happened and I am now fully inoculated, to the best level modern medical science can achieve. I had a little shoulder soreness and felt a little tired the next day and then was pretty much back to normal. This is matched by my wife’s experience as well as a few fellow firemen in the department at which I volunteer. This also matches our oldest son’s experience; he is a physician with the Army and went through the Pfizer protocol. The full effect is still somewhat in doubt, particularly the fact of whether, despite being inoculated, I am a carrier and spreader. So I still will be wearing the mask (irritating as it is), maintaining social distancing, and washing my hands often, with the goal, if nothing else, to protect those around me.

Returning to winter fishing, even when I get out, I am not very successful and know I could use some pointers to help me up my success rate. To that end I have asked the Rutters to give us some pointers on fly fishing this time of year at the February meeting. It will be on February 23d at 7pm, also via ZOOM. Look for the invite before then.

Other activities coming up are the Pistol Creek Cleanup, the mid-March water sampling exercise in the Park, and hopefully a Little River Cleanup sometime this spring. All great service activities that will get you out of the cabin and into

the out of doors. Look for further information either in the Chapter Newsletter or other announcements

.

Best wishes and tight lines!

February 27 Program



Ian & Charity Rutter are fly fishing guides who live in Townsend, TN. Fly Fishing is not only their business, it's their passion. Ian has been guiding since 1995 in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as well as the Clinch, Holston, and other tailwaters in East Tennessee. Ian has written five books about fly fishing in the area including *Great Smoky Mountains National Park Anglers Companion* and *Tennessee Trout Waters: A Blue Ribbon Guide*. Together they wrote the *Advice from the Guides* series - *Fly Fishing for Brook Trout in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park* and *Fly Fishing with Streamers*, as well as a book of essays and photos *Rise Rings & Rhododendron - Fly Fishing Southern Appalachia*. Charity has been guiding in the Smokies since 2001 and

over the past few years has been named a top female guide by both *Field & Stream* and *Backpacker* magazines. In recent years she has been hosting women's glamping and fly fishing trips in the Smokies.

Together they have guided scores of flyfishers, hosted backcountry camps in the Smokies, conducted fly fishing schools, and hosted group trips to Montana, Idaho, and Belize. In addition to their fly fishing business, both are ardent conservationists and have been volunteering with the National Park Fisheries on a variety of projects from water quality monitoring to native brook trout restoration for over 20 years. They love guiding and teaching anglers of all skill levels and work hard to create a successful day on the river for their anglers.

Ian and Charity have been members of the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited for over 20 years. (Charity since 1999, Ian since the mid 90's.) They currently volunteer as Trout In The Classroom hosts for Townsend Elementary and Heritage High School. They have been very active with the chapter serving on the board and Ian as chapter president in the early years of the club. TroutFest was the brainchild of Charity Rutter & past president Joe Hatton.

OTHER UPCOMING PROGRAMS - (All Online via Zoom)

March 30 - Spey-Rod Fishing by Tim Flagler, a well-known fly tier and fly fisherman. Some of you may think Spey Rod fly casting in the Smokies? Well maybe not there but on tail waters for sure. I have got a spot picked on the Clinch above the Weir where this technique holds real promise when they are running 1 or 2 generators (way too often lately!). Plus, you Steelhead junkies (Yes, you Ernie and Joyce) can think about this technique. Also, this is the 5th Tuesday in April—the only time we could book Tim.

April 27th - The Great Smoky Mountain Institute at Tremont (GSMIT) by Catey McClarey. Catey is the President and CEO of GSMIT and will be updating us on how they are weathering the COVID Storm, plans for the latest land acquisition, and programs for the coming summer.

Pistol Creek by Ernie Frey



Nathan with his big catch from the January stocking.

The last stocking on Pistol Creek was done February 11. According to TWRA creel survey, the Pistol Creek location is the second most popular site in the state!

We are going to schedule a Pistol Creek clean-up on Saturday, March 13, meeting at the old Blount County court house parking lot on Lamar Alexander Parkway across from the First Baptist Church at 10:00. Bring your waders if you have them, but not necessary. Do bring gloves. There was a lot of tackle hanging in the branches the last time I was down at the creek. LRCTU will provide bags and grippers.

Trout in the Classroom by Jim Jeswald

After getting feedback from our TIC schools and coordinators, it looks like we will not be doing the spring program, with exception of two schools. Most of the teachers still had concerns about maintaining in-class studies, visitor access and chemical treatments of the classrooms.

Clayton Bradley Academy 2nd grade (Amber Clark) and Porter Elementary 4th grade (Jennifer Childers) will be doing TIC this spring. Ernie Frey has made arrangements to help with the Clayton Bradley tank after school hours and Jama and Tim Hurst will be helping Ms. Childers with the tank at Porter Elementary.

Heritage High School and Townsend Elementary are still raising their fish from last fall. Can't wait to see how big they are for the spring release!

Ernie contacted the Buffalo Springs Hatchery in Rutledge and made arrangements to pick up eggs for those schools and a school being sponsored by the Clinch River Chapter.

We made a trip to the hatchery on Wednesday, February 3rd. Access to the hatchery is not allowed but a TWRA employee met us in the parking lot with the eggs where we divided them for each school. TWRA has gone above and beyond to help us with our TIC program and it is very much appreciated.

Let's all hope that things return to normal enough for us to have TIC return in September.



Bugs and Flies

January - March			
Hatch	January	February	March
Blue-winged Olives	All Month	All Month	All Month
Blue Quills		2nd Half	All Month
Quill Gordons		Last Week	All Month
Hendrickson and Red Quill			Last Week
Little Black Caddis		2nd Half	All Month
Winter Black Stoneflies	All Month	All Month	All Month
Early Brown Stoneflies		2nd Half	All Month
Midges	All Month	All Month	All Month

Smokey Mountain Hatch Chart for the 1st quarter of 2021 has been provided by David Knapp of Trout Zone Anglers.



This month's fly is the **Quill Gordon**, *Epeorus pleuralis*, pronounced - e p or us - ploor alice

Hatches begin in early spring while the air temperature is still very cool. Epeorus nymphs are clingers, preferring fast moving riffles and require clean, pollution free water. Hatch activity begins during the warmest time of the day. Epeorus pluralis nymphs shed their husk under water and the duns swim to the surface providing a good opportunity for wet fly patterns and emergers. Spinner activity usually starts as the air temperature climbs into the 50's. Look for a mixture of duns and spinners during this period. Thanks to Jerry Hadden from Delaware River Fly Fishing for his description.

The first video shows you how to prepare the quills.
The second video shows you how to tie the **Quill Gordon**.



Another suggestion on prepping quills, thanks to one of the guys at Little River Outfitters, is to soak the quill in hair conditioner.

Parachute Quill Gordon

Hook: 12 to 14 dry fly

Thread: 8/0 Black

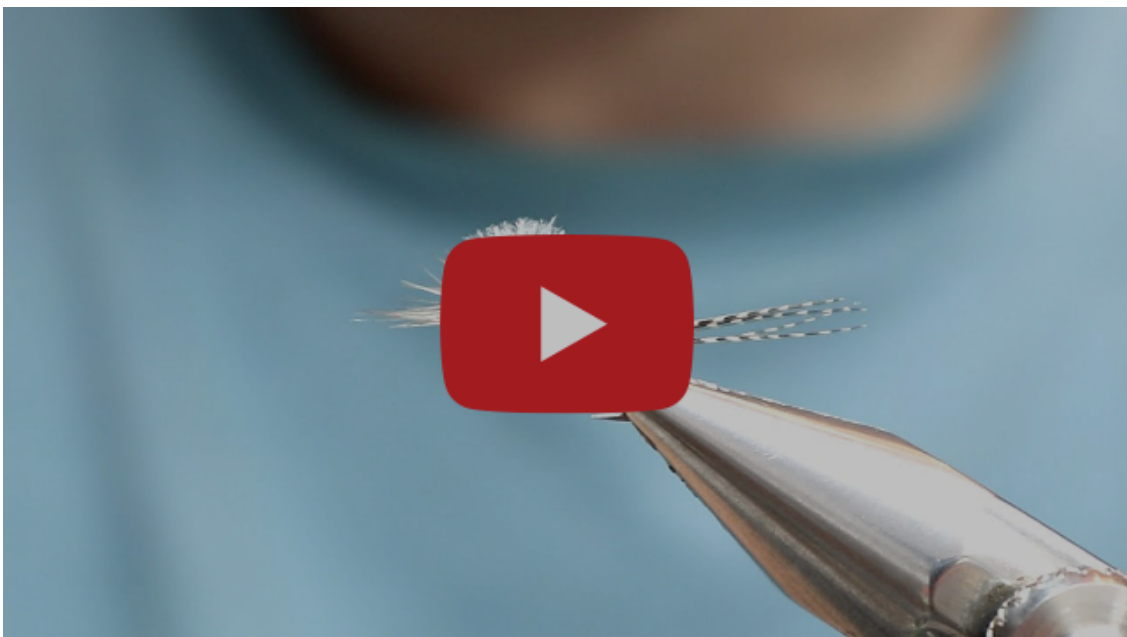
Tail: Bronze Mallard

Quill: Peacock Eye

Post: CDC light dun or white

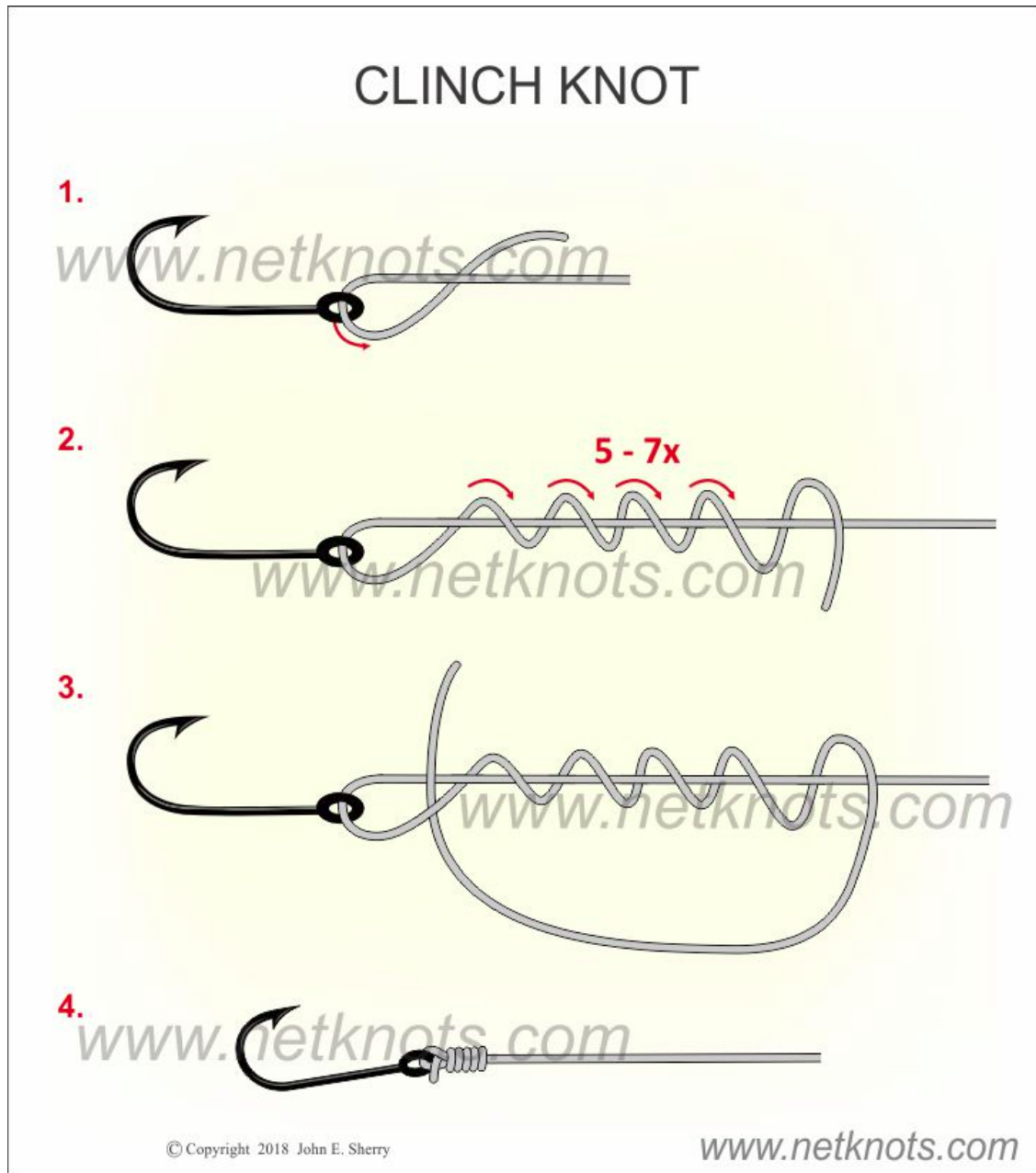
Hackle: Dark Dun

Dubbing: Dark Hare's Ear Mask



Knots by Joyce Frey

This knot is to attach the fly to the tippet. There are many different videos on how to tie this knot, which fingers to use, etc. which is why I haven't included a video. The important thing is to keep a big enough loop at the hook eye to be able to easily run the tag end through it. Several of the demonstrators also stressed that when tightening the knot, don't hold on to the tag end, just pull the standing end. Search out videos and practice which one works for you.



Clinch Knot Tying Instructions

- Feed the line through the eye of the hook, lure or fly.

- Double back parallel to the standing line and pinch the two lines together with thumb and forefinger of right hand.
- Insert index finger of left hand (Feel free to reverse hands in steps to and three if you are left handed.) and begin twisting to put about seven twists in the line below the hook.
- Feed the tag end back up through the opening behind the fly or hook.
- Moisten the lines and pull the knot tight.
- Optional Dropper for fly fishermen: Skipping step one above, use the same method to create a loop and slip the loop over the first fly's hook and pull tight.

[Twitter](#)[Facebook](#)[Website](#)

Copyright © 2021 Little River Chapter, Trout Unlimited, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

[Email Marketing Powered by Mailchimp](#)