

Minutes of Chattahoochee Nantahala Chapter TU692

Date of Meeting January 8, 2026

Time 4:00-6:00 PM

Meeting called to order by Bruce Marchette

Officers in attendance:

Bruce Marchette, Bill Sturgeon

TOTAL NUMBER IN ATTENDANCE

22 Members and no guests

PRESENTATION

We had a very informative and somewhat hands-on presentation on Tenkara fly fishing by our own John Willis. He showed us several types of Tenkara rods, briefly showed us how to rig them along with recommended lines and knots, showed us suitable flies, and demonstrated casting techniques.

Old Business

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the last regular meeting were approved as posted on our website.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bill Sturgeon reported that we had an income of \$165.00 last month and have \$536 in petty cash. All told we have \$7147.00. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Social Media

The private FaceBook page has a total of 65 members and the public Facebook page has a total of 489 members. From Dec 10 to January 7 it had 1,247 views.

Johnson City Fishing Trip

Harold said 8 people have given him deposits for the trip. He said the hotel would give us a discount if we had 10 people. If you plan to come, he will need the \$100 deposit by the next meeting in February. To reiterate Harold's email: The fishing trip to Johnson City, for float trips, is set for April 20,21,22,23. We arrive Monday afternoon on the 20th, and check in. Then we fish on the 21st and 22nd, and return home on the 23rd. The fee for the float trip is \$500.00 per day, you pay for one day, and your boat partner pays for one day. The lodging cost, at the Sleep Inn and Suites, in Johnson City, for three nights is \$340.00, with the fisherman's rate, so your half would be \$170.00. The total cost per person, including meals would be around \$800.00. If you bring your spouse the total lodging cost would be yours, plus they would be out shopping each day, so the expense could be much higher. I have 14 that have signed up to go, and we can take a couple more if needed. Each fisherman needs to bring a \$100.00 deposit for the trip. You may bring the deposit to the meeting on Dec.11 or Jan 8th. **If you cancel after March 30th you will lose your deposit.** The remaining \$400.00 for the float trip is due by the April 9th meeting. After that, only the guides can cancel without loss of funds.

USFWS Confiscated Flies Donation Status

Dick Whittington researched and discussed some likely groups that would be suitable for donation of our seized flies. These included Casting for Recovery, The Mayfly Project, and Project Healing Waters. He included web addresses and contact information for each of the groups. Harold mentioned that members Kelly and Kerian Corcoran (who were not present during the meeting) should have a say in who should be getting the flies.

New Business

We discussed the results of the questionnaire regarding date, time window, and location where the majority of the respondents wanted to have our meetings. There were a total of eighteen respondents, most of which were routine attendees of our meetings. 45% of the respondents chose Thursday as the best day to meet with the next closest being Wednesday and Saturday (20% each). 38% picked the 5-7pm time window with 31% choosing 6-8 pm and 31% choosing 4-6 pm. 61% chose Blairsville as the preferred town with 33% choosing Young Harris and 6% choosing Blue Ridge.

Bruce Marchette looked into several possible venues alternative to the NGTC where we currently meet and are limited to the 4-6 pm time slot. These included the Civic Center (which is booked completely for the next year), the Union County Fine Arts Center (which doesn't have a suitable meeting room), the Union County Schools Agriscience Center (which has a suitable meeting room but it closes at 5 pm). He did find a suitable meeting room at the Copperhead Lodge located off the main dining room in the Flying Trout Restaurant. It seats up to 40 and has the necessary AV equipment. We also have a Mr. Wayne McCullough looking into a possible site at Young Harris College for us (no results as yet however).

Bugs 'n' Bucks, Door Prizes

The winner of Bugs 'n' Bucks walked away with a cash prize of \$72.00 and some nice flies. Lucky attendees also won some donated items including a jacket, t-shirt, and some farm fresh eggs.

Fly Tying

Once again, fly tying continues to take place on the Saturday following our monthly meetings until further notice. Members interested in tying flies or who would like to see how it's done are encouraged to attend. Time and venue are 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Mountain Valley Country Store (2nd floor fishing dept). The address is 670 NC-69, Hayesville, NC 28904. The store is one of the few around that carries fly tying supplies. The proprietor offers a 5% discount on tying supplies to TU members when they present their membership cards.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 pm

Next meeting

February 12, 2026 – Location to be announced after our planned board meeting