



Charles Crolley — North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Yates — Trout Unlimited



### Why Are We Here?

- 1. An effective communication program starts with a good plan
- 2. Crafting your message and your brand image
- 3. Building your audience by delivering the goods
- 4. Choosing the right tools for the job

I'm not an expert in each of the thousands of tools out there, and this isn't a how-to guide.



### You're a Diverse Group

- 1. Start from where you are today
- 2. Come up with a manageable 1-year plan
- 3. Move the needle forward
- 4. Track your progress
- 5. Re-evaluate in a year

Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good.



## HATCHING A STRATEGIC PLAN

"If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time." -- zig Ziglar



## Strategy, Schmategy

(or "Forget this noise - I'm headed to the bar.")

- How many of your chapters have a budget?
- How many of your chapters have a strategic plan?
- How many of your chapters have a communication plan?

Communication cuts across every aspect of chapter life.



### A Good Plan

- Sets reasonable, measurable goals and timeframes
- Outlines strategies and tactics
- Provides structure
- Serves as roadmap and guide
- Is evaluated and adjusted regularly



### **Mission First**

### **External** Mission Statement

... to conserve, restore and protect (insert your service area here)'s coldwater fisheries and their watersheds ...

### **Internal Mission Statement**

... to include every member and guest, nurture their engagement and growth in all aspects of chapter life and meet them where they are today ...



### **Plan Elements**

### **Goal (desired result)**

We will establish and grow our council social media engagement, measured using provider metrics, by a minimum 10% monthly for an aggregate improvement of 150% yearly.

### **Strategy (idea)**

Quality, not quantity, of social media posts, fans and relationships

### Tactic (action)

Create quarterly outlines of posts and a theme for ad-hoc sharing



### **Plan Benefits**

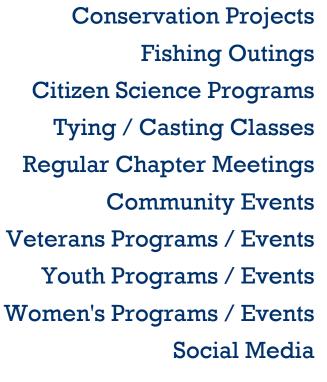
- Reduces urgency
- Distributes workload
- Builds on itself over time
- Reinforces the overall strategic plan
- Gives your messaging purpose and intent
- Makes your message and voice clear and consistent

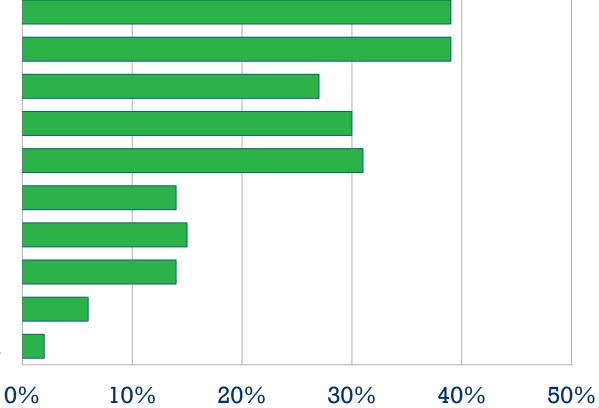


# MESSAGE. VOICE. BRAND.

"Branding is what people say about you when you're not in the room." -- Jeff Bezos

### **TU Member Interests**







### Know Who You Are

- You are more than flannel and beards
- You are made up of diverse interests and backgrounds
- You have a great time doing what you do
- There's no "we and they": you means you
- You focus on the fish, so the fishing can take care of itself

**Meet People Where They Are** 

Lefty Kreh and John Muir Didn't Happen Overnight



## Bring Everyone Along

- Advance our mission of education, conservation and service
- Reset the eye level we fish, but we're not a fishing club



Be honest about the community you are today. Start being the community you want to become.



## Find Your Unique Voice

- Always be truthful
- Let your plan determine your messaging
- BOLO Be On the Lookout for inspiration and ideas
- Develop a meaningful dialog
- Avoid exclusionary language (holidays, gender, etc...)
- Respect the value of everyone's time and interest

Spellcheck and autocorrect can be your worst enemas.



### **Build Your Own Brand**

- Get the TU brand book and live by it
- Create your chapter logo in horizontal and vertical orientations
- Connect to the TU mothership brand whenever possible
- Use TU fonts & colors
- Build a brand book & templates





## Council Logo





TROUT UNLIMITED NORTH CAROLINA

TU colors, fonts and logo used as base image



### Chapter Logo





LAND O'SKY
TROUT
UNLIMITED

TU colors, fonts and logo used as base image



## Chapter Logo - Special





TROUT UNLIMITED BEAT 1969 Testablished 1969

TU colors, fonts and logo used as base image



Think Different

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNICATIONS



### **Take Great Pictures**







### **Show Us At Work**





## COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNICATIONS



## **Show Us At Play**







### Show Our Youth





## COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNICATIONS



## **Show Our Diversity**





## COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNICATIONS

### **Show Our Character**







## POWER YOUR IDEAS

You can drive a screw with a hammer,



### Rule Your Own Domain

- What's in a (domain) name?
- Get them while they're hot, and keep them going
- Point jillions of them at one site
- Naming consistency across all platforms
- GoAway from GoDaddy (warning: personal screed follows)



## Email





### The Mixed Bag

### The Good

- It's fast, easy and cheap (a lot like me)
- Control of message and branding, no competition

### The Bad

- NCTU has ~5,000 members and only ~3,500 valid addresses
- Average email readership is ~40% or 1,400 members

### **And the Downright Ugly**

- About 15% of our contacts have NEVER read an NCTU email
- Meaning about 2,250 members haven't heard from us in years

(No address + No open)



### Pick a Platform

### Use a mailing list service provider

- Good control of presentation and layout
- Segment list to meet distribution needs
- Solid analytics & reporting
- Subscriptions via Facebook & embeddable forms

### Mailchimp pricing

- FREE for up to 2,000 subscribers / 12,000 emails per month
- \$13.50 per month for up to 1,000 subscribers / unlimited emails

Others: Constant Contact, GetResponse, Active Campaign



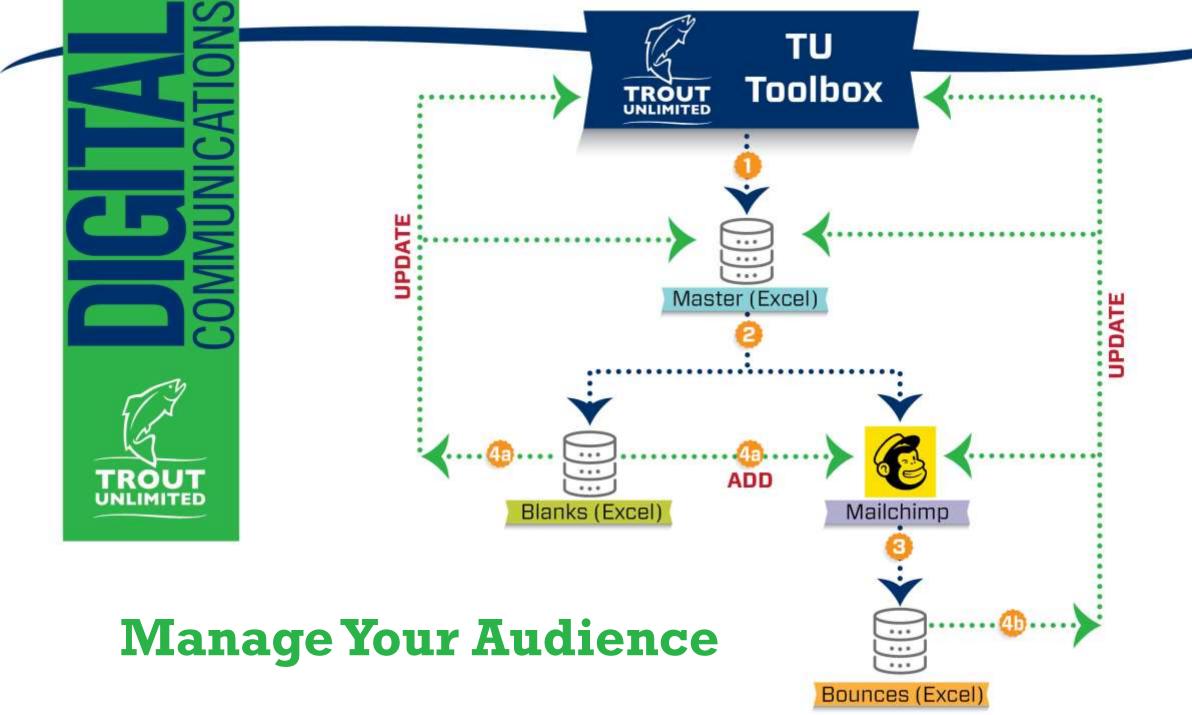
### **Build Your List**

- Clean up TU Roster as much as possible
- Download & sanitize .csv file
- Import to Mailchimp
- Mailchimp will not import a record with no email address
- Send your first email several will "bounce"
- Combine bounces with blanks



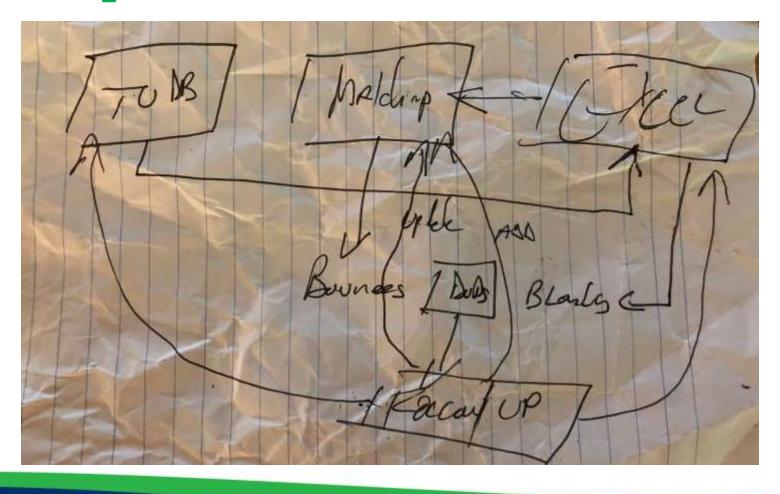
### Manage Your Audience

- Develop a phone script & assign volunteers a call list
- Where unsuccessful, follow up with postcards
- Update TU Toolbox, Mailchimp & your local roster
- If not imported (no address) you must add subscriber to Mailchimp
- Import new members & transfers from TU reports monthly
- Add a subscription form to your website / Facebook page





## Marry Someone Smarter



## **Evaluate Regularly**

Open rate	45.3%	Click rate	13.8%
List average Industry average (Non-Profit)	38.2% 21.0%	List average Industry average (Non-Profit)	8.8% 2.3%
1,358 Opened	412 Clicked	94 Bounced	6 Unsubscribed
Successful deliveries Total opens	<b>2,995</b> 97.0% <b>3,323</b>	Clicks per unique opens Total clicks	30.3% 559
Last opened	4/22/19 10:59AM	Last clicked	4/19/19 6:08PM
Forwarded	0	Abuse reports	0



### Results

- Learn from the clicks
- Follow readership trends
- Limit your output

Don't think of a group email as a BLAST.

Do you like to have things BLASTED at you?

It's one side of a continuing dialog.



Land O' Sky TU Meets Tonight.

Jake Rash from the Wildlife Resources Commission is the speaker for tonight's chapter meeting. He's somewhere behind that monster.



LOS gathers tonight at 7:00pm in the REI conference room, upstairs at REI in the Biltmore Park center.

Our speaker for the evening is Jake Rash, Coldwater Research Coordinator for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Jake will be treating us to a presentation he's titled "Overview of Selected Wildlife Resources Commission Trout Management Efforts."

If you haven't been to the NCWRC's Trout [http://ncwildlife.org/trout) page in a while, you're missing out on some great stuff. Check it out, and come prepared to pepper him with questions and suggestions after his presentation, because Jake's definitely been known to go with the flow. **About Our Speaker** 

Jacob Rash is Coldwater Research
Coordinator for the NC Wildlife
Resources Commission (NCWRC),
where he assists with the coordination
of applied research and management
of the State's trout resources. He
received his B.S. in Zoology from NC
State University (2000) and M.S. in
Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from
Virginia Teck (2003).

After graduate school, he worked with freshwater mussels as a Research Specialist at Vignisia Tech until he joined the NCWRC. He became an American Fisheries Society Certified Fisheries Professional in 2008. Although he spends his days at work thinking about fish, he enjoys spending his free time trying to find them with monofillament and fly lines.



The April "Rise" is waiting for you.



Greetings, Land O' Sky!

Here's your link to the April edition of "Rise", our chapter's all-original, ad-free newsletter. Z6 pages with everything from chapter news, a simple fly recipe, F3T results and a look at one of our conservation partners - to a slightly off-kilter trip report that may give you the litch to ramble a few states over and wet a line.

Many thanks to our contributors and to you, our readers, for the support and for helping us build a newsletter we can all be proud of. We look forward to seeing you live and in person on April 9 for a presentation from Jake Rash with the NCWRC.

Enjoy your weekend, and get out and enjoy the glorious sunshine in this most beautiful corner of the earth - one we're lucky to call home.

Read Rise Today.

Same readers have told us they prefer to download the magazine and enjoy it offline. We're happy to oblige! Here's a link to download a copy.













### The Sound of Silence

- When you don't reply, you send a message
- I don't care
- You don't matter
- I'm too busy/important to bother with you

Be Courteous. Respond to people. Even if "I don't know" is all you know.



# Newsletter





### It's All News To Me

- How many have chapter newsletters?
- Lots of digital formats to choose from
- Identify standing features / member-contributors
- Partner organizations and local outfitters for content
- Local / regional news of interest not just TU
- Predictable frequencies = primary source
- Consider publication mix (feature, newsletter)

# UNLIMITED

### PDF / Sheet Format





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**Traditional PDF** 

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Monthly

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**Email Distribution** 

- **Original, Diverse Content**
- Strong Layout
- Edited by Chick Woodward

# Mixed - Monthly



### "The Mend" - State Council

- Sheet Format / PDF + Flip
- Monthly
- Email notification w/ links



- Council / Chapter News & Events
- Consistent Layout
- Contributions sought throughout month

### Mixed - Quarterly



### "The Drift" - State Council

- Magazine Format / Flip + PDF
- Quarterly
- Email notification w/ links



- Feature-oriented spread publication
- Consistent layout
- Regular contributors / themes

# Diversity of Opinion

### STREAMS CONSCIÖUSNESS

pointed my finger at the water and raised an sebrow. It was really the only communication needed between two friends who had been fishing together for a long time. To yell SET at the top of my lungs would have been had form on this quiet piece of water (it may be bad form anywhere).

We started biking early this morning. I had all my gear (waders, boots, rod, reel, vest, etc) in a pack on my back. I intended to hike it all in, and change out of my hiking boots, into my fishing gear, when we felt we were far enough in to warrant casting a line. My fishing partner opted to hike the trail in his wading boots, and to wet wade the 42-degree early March water, instead of carrying the heavy load of gear five miles into the backcountry. We were both willing to suffer a little to fish this river at this time of year, though I think his chosen route was a bit more hardcore than my own.

Maybe it was the cold water that made him sluggish; his indicator (bobber) dipped under the water and began estimming upstream, prompting me to point and raise the evel-row. It also could have been that he didn't see it because he was looking at me. We were looked in a conversation that would eventually bring resolution and solution to one of the world's major problems, but for the life of me I can't remember what it was about.

Seeing my indication that his indicator was indicating, he instinctively set the book. A short fight later a solid brown trout of about twelve inches came to hand. He refused to take credit for the catch and called it a gimme, but I was more than a little green. had decided to take the high road and dry fly fish in weather and water that was not conductive, and I'd already given in a little and tied on a dropper. Now he had me contemplating lowering myself to the pragmatte point that I could actually earch a few fish. A



and this time without any signals or indications from

We've been fishing this piece of water together and spart for a long time now. We both knew that the water was too high and cold for a good day of fishing, but we figure out where I was, and backtrack. weren't going to let it stop us from statting a place we both hold in reverence. He has his own demons, and he doesn't talk about them, and I don't ask.

He's a stoic fella with a steely stare, and eyes that are hard to read. He probably doesn't know it, but I, and other fishing buddles, used to refer to him as the "ice man." Gold blooded, unemotional, a phlegmatic rock. Though I'll admit that I've noticed a soft spot growing in him in recent years. Progeny will do that to a man, progeny and a good trout stream. This river and the

fish that evim in it are a solace for him and me. A place to get away from the trivial cares in life and a place to confront the not so trivial flaws in ourselves. I still remember the first time I fished it. I had picked it off a map. It was a blue line with a hig drainage, and away from roads and major tratls. I made the hike in and rigged up a brand new rod for its maiden trip.

The first cast landed in a tree across the river. In a sudden fit of frustration I yanked the line to break off the tippet instead of just wading over to get it loose (I used to do a lot of that kind of thing back then). The shock from the line snapping somehow propelled the tip section of the four-piece rod away, and it landed in the swift river never to be seen again.

After the dumbfoundment of what had just happened wore off, the reality that I had to hike out to get another rod set in. I climbed out of the river, found the trail and headed back toward the car (a multiple mile hike). In my frustration and youthful anger I marched down the trail cursing the fishing gods, and the insignificant stresses of life that seemed like such a hig deal at the time. When I finished my rant I looked up and realized I had no idea where I was. I had missed a turn somewhere and now had to pull out the map,

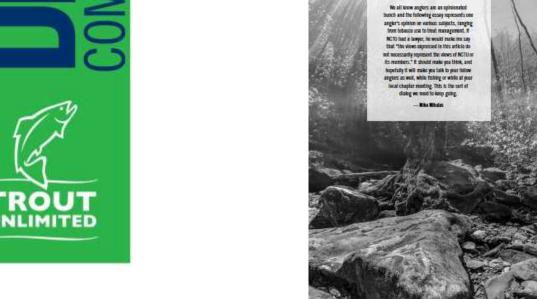
A large clap of thunder broke the stlence of the forest. I did eventually find my way. Hiking out in a lighting storm. I returned soaked to home, to a homosed can (mine was broken down at the time) and with a three niece rod that should have been four. It was a long

Since that day I've spent many more good ones on this water, this being one of them. Since that day I've hiked into this valley with my wife, in a state of deep mourning over an immeasurable loss, to sit next to the











# **Institutional Memory**

- Newsletters are time capsules
- Emails are read and discarded
- Create & maintain an accessible archive
- Document your chapter's everyday life
- Mention your volunteers by name every chance you get



# Website



# TROUT

### Your Website







### Websites Matter

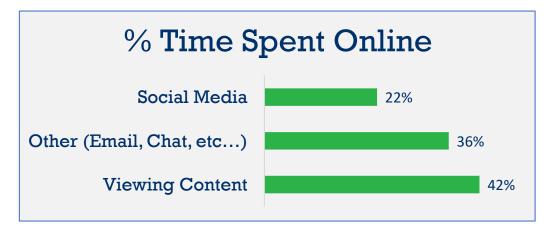
- Hub in your information wheel
- Curated experience— no competition for attention
- Completely adaptable to your brand and style
- Host blogs, calendars, news and archives
- Easy to start / one-page website layouts

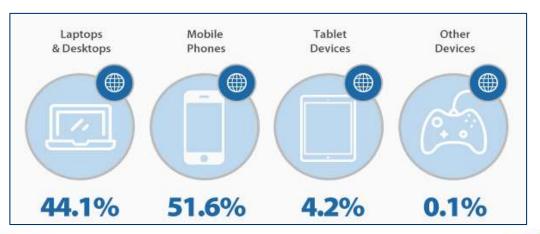


# Statistically Speaking

The average internet user...

- Visits 2,646 web pages
- On 89 different sites
- In 57 sessions ... per month







# My Favorite Things

### **Core Services**

- Wordpress to manage content
- DIVI (Elegant Themes) as a parent theme

### Plug-Ins

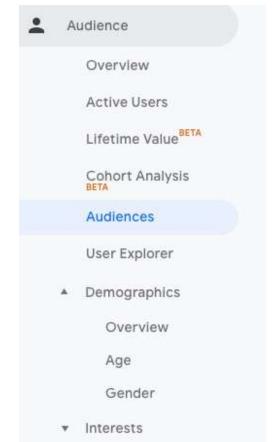
- WPForms (forms development & management)
- WP Calendar (calendar management)
- SNAP (\$50/year) share site updates on social media
- Ultimate Membership Pro (\$49) restrict AND "drip" content
- Google Analytics

# Google Analytics





Page 3	Pageviews 4	Unique Pageviews	Avg. Time on Page	Entrances ?	Bounce Rate (?)
	292 % of Total: 100.00% (292)	257 % of Total: 100.00% (257)	00:03:30 Avg for View: 00:03:30 (0.00%)	192 % of Total: 100.00% (192)	75.52% Avg for View: 75.52% (0.00%)
1. /streamflow/	<b>79</b> (27.05%)	56 (21.79%)	00:09:56	42 (21.88%)	78.57%
2. /	42 (14.38%)	41 (15.95%)	00:00:32	40 (20.83%)	47.50%
3. /chapter/	20 (6.85%)	20 (7.78%)	00:00:33	13 (6.77%)	61.54%
4. /fishing/	<b>15</b> (5.14%)	13 (5.06%)	00:00:23	9 (4.69%)	88.89%





# Social Media

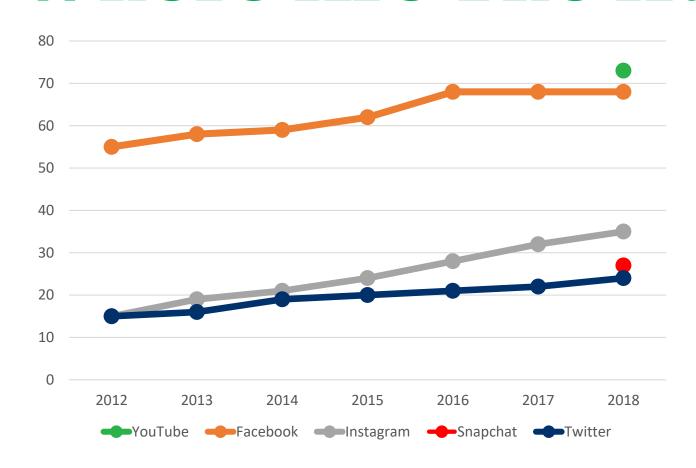




### Social Media

- Don't be an habitual channel-changer
- Focus on quality, not quantity, of posts and relationships
- Identify chapter members to help out / surrogate team
- Nothing you say or post is ever "temporary"
- Don't be afraid to ban knuckleheads
- Never argue or air grievances

### Where Are The Adults?



### 2018 Social Media Use By U.S. Adults

- YouTube 73%
- Facebook 68%
- **Instagram 35**%
- Snapchat 27%
- **Twitter 24**%

\* pre-2018 survey data not available for YouTube & Snapchat.

Source: Pew Research



# We're Not That Hip

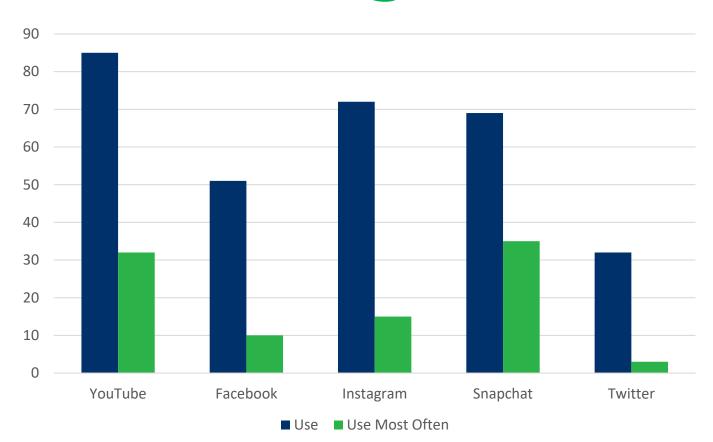
"As a 16 year-old, I see Instagram and Snapchat as the most popular social media used within my age range and those are the only two platforms I use.

**Instagram** is used as a more formal way to convey larger life updates and experience, kinda the **Facebook** of the youth.

Oh yeah, Facebook is for the oldies; we don't want to be on the same social platform as our parents, I think.

**Snapchat** is used for daily conversations with friends, mostly a messenger app with the ability to share a more casual-than-Instagram post, picture or video for only 24 hours." -- **Zoë Mihalas (Board Member, Pisgah TU)** 

# Zoë Is Right On



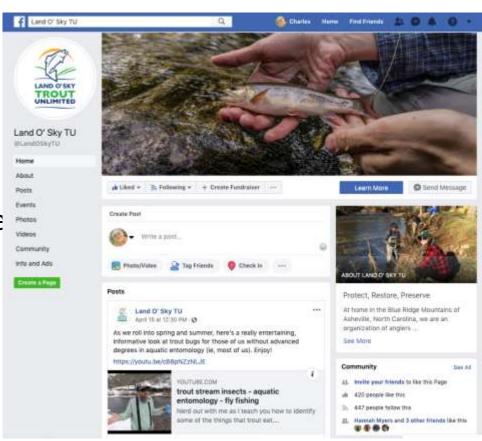
### 2018 Social Media Use By U.S. Teens

- **YouTube 85**%
- Facebook 51%
- **Instagram 72%**
- **Snapchat 69%**
- **Twitter 32%**



### Facebook

- Multiple page managers
- Page-follow and visit specific
- Link to your website when possible
- Many-ness / much-ness syndrome
- Reply promptly to Ims
- Review post analytics

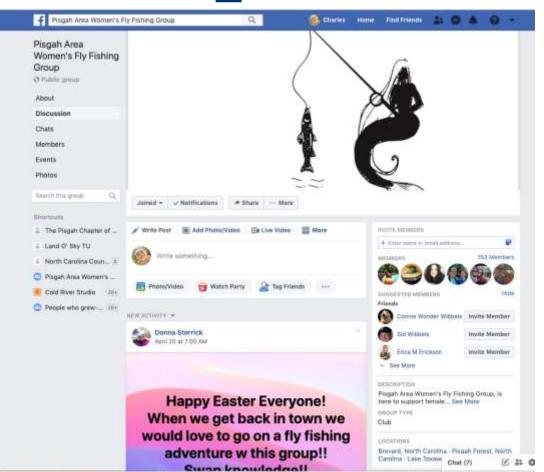


About 9% of posts are original One in 5.6 posts is an ad



# Facebook - Groups

- Curated communities
- It's okay to be exclusive
- Invitation / approval to join
- Granular privilege options
- Facebook Live for streaming





## "Blah, Blah, Blah..."

The extent of a reply from a chapter-leader millennial when I spent more than 240 characters trying to explain a council policy.

Rude, dismissive and you want to knock the **&\*^!** out of him plus suggest he do something anatomically challenging if not impossible.

But we can learn from it: Generational preferences matter.



# Instagram

- Excellent short-story telling tool
- Use **#hashtags** to associate content
- Use @tags to refer to users or places
- Ask members to become surrogates
- Not multi-user
- Not an image archive
- Mobile-only (tablet or phone app)
- Link in profile only







dirtydebbs Quality time with @jlgill0767 #shiningrockwilderness #flyfishingisfun #iguesshecanfish #hydrateordie #notasoulinsight more

meezabug Look at that

bluewalladventures Nice!

1 DAY AGO





### Twitter

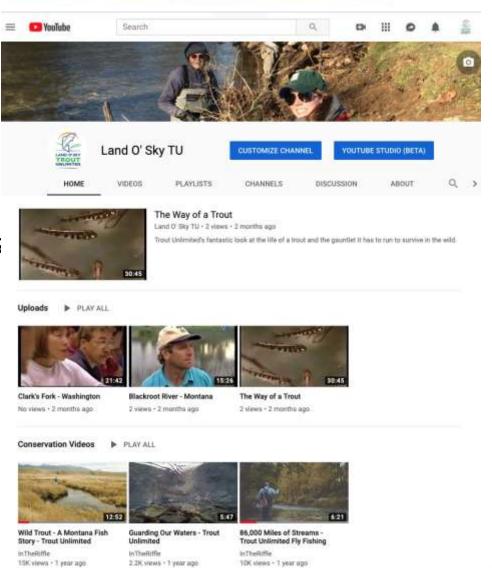
- A few years ago, most people had no idea what Twitter was "good for"
- Then came President Trump and the Kardashians
- Introduces more noise into already-noisy lives
- Character limit is problematic
- An answer in search of a problem
- Difficult to assess real value to TU chapters & councils

So, I'm not a fan and don't use it. Your own mileage may, of course, vary.



### YouTube

- Build & share playlists to start
- Shoot your own video library
- Regular series / monthly features
- Shoot several, release over time
- Always respect copyrights



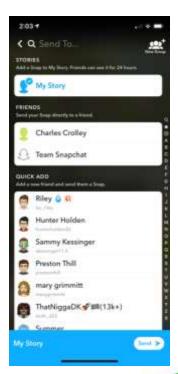


## Snapchat

- Snapchat adoption rate in 12 to 24 year-olds: 93%
- Snapchat users send an average of 34 snaps a day
- 53% of Snapchat users are < 34 years old
- 59% of Snapchat users are female
- 77% of college students use Snapchat

A clearly desirable demographic



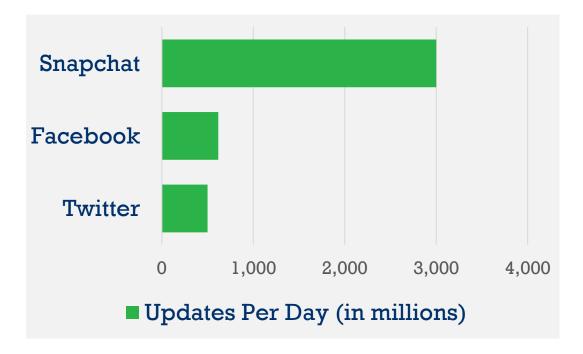




### **Snapchat for Geezers**

We've arrived at the "ask the audience for help" portion of the program.

- Use @tags to build audience?
- Publicize live events?
- Create a buzz?
- Here's what you're missing...?



Have you developed an effective Snapchat strategy?



# Other Tools





### Print - Postcards

- 3,600 people don't hear from NCTU regularly
- Of 5,000 members ~2,250 haven't heard from NCTU in years
- Send everyone a postcard once a year
- About \$75 for 500 printed
- \$275 for 500 outsourced
- Find a sponsor to foot the bill

printplace.com<br/>TU event printing





### **Print - Brochures**

- Design & print your own brochure
- Make it dual-purpose
- 200=\$350, 2,000=\$548
- Coordinate printing to save money

printplace.com



north carolinatu.org



### **Press Your Issues**

- Print (newspapers, periodicals), Broadcast (radio, television)
- News people look for local interest stories

### Writing a Good Press Release

- Write in the third person (don't use we, us, you)
- Find an online AP Style Guide for press releases
- Pick up <u>a sample press release</u> to use as a templ
- Include contact information
- Local newspapers love pictures of local people



Tetaphone Email: Charles Crolley (Plagah TU) 8285951212

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Plagah Chapter of Trout Unlimited Receives Conservation Grant Grant to improve Cantrell Creek access qualifies chapter for additional finding

BREVARD, NC -- Plaget Trout Unimited (Plaget TU) has received a grant of \$8,000 through the Trout Unimited Embrace A Stream grant program for its Cantrell Creek Troil Project.

Pegah TU applied for the grant is cooperation with fluoromitie county's Land O' Sky Chapter of Trout Underlied, which is partnering with Pisipah TU to share the belance of the cost of the propert and the waterhay later required.

Cantrell Creek is an important feeder atream into the South Mills River, one of the area's most notable and oppular with trust streams. Restoring Cantrell Creek will reduce sedimentation and inservor limit habitati in the South Mills River.

Volunteers will use grant and donation proceeds to relocate an existing trail so visitors can enjoy the seas without having to wait and time directly in the streamfeet. The relocation of the trail will prevent significent amounts of anosion, habitat loss and sedement lose in the ones and downstream. It will be built to sustainable buil standards, ensuring that the natural acceptant will not suffer from the many who come to estiga to relate all beauty.

"With this grant and the generously of our corresponding, we will be able to engage volunteers from across the region to work on a shower and trial system we all know and towe as residents, thiers, triess and angless," said Sara Jerome, Plagati Chapter President. "We decopy apprecise the financial and volunteer commitments of our friends at the Land O' Sley Chapter, which helped make the project possible."

Embrace A Stream is a matching grant program administered by Treat Unlimited that provides funds to local chapters and councils for <u>coldwater</u> Steheniss conservation. Since its inception in 1075, the grant program has funded more than 1,000 fidebusial projects for a total of 84.4 sellion in direct cash grants. Local chapters and councils confributed an additional \$13 million in zech and in-kind services to EAS funded projects, for a total investment of more than \$17

Cantrell Creek was the only proposal selected for funding from the hundreds submitted by Trou Unlimited chapters across the southeast part of the United States.

"We're thrited to oupport these chapters in their efforts to improve such an important local stream system," said Russ Meyer, chair of the Embrace A Stream grants committee. "This

# Many Happy Returns

Mihalas Recognized By Trout Unlimited For Service





Pictured from left to right are Franklin Tate (TU), Zoë Mihalas and Judy Sittler while at the awards ceremony, (Courtesy photos)

October 15, 2018

Brevard resident Zoé Mihaias was recognized at the 2018 National Meeting of Trout Unlimited (TU), receiving the organization's prestigious National Award for Distinguished Service in Youth Education.

The award recognizes the fundamental importance of creating a new generation of conservationists in a manner that sustains TU's conservation legacy, and honors individuals who demonstrate exemplary leadership, and a deep passion for inspiring young people to become thoughtful, responsible stewards of North America's coldwater fisheries.





Zoo Miliatas, who cought a brown tour shorty other this photo association, or an accomplished by floher and a continuated communicational. Photo by Pacifical Processing.

Brevard recident 256 Mihalas is only 16, but shar's already made her dreams of conservables and community outness is stable. Mihalas puts a tot of effect into leasting therein, tambs, classifiers, and argone sha meets about the importance of being an "eco warns". Saving the environment is high on the field of provides, and she plane to continue to speak and act on behalf of the cause for the rest of her life.

You're a member of Trout Unlimited's Pisgah Chapter. Tell Bold Life about the organization.

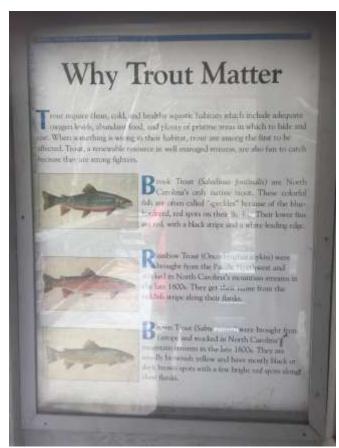
Essentially, it's a community that works logether to connect, restore, and marrian fisheries, i've been a member for 10 years now. My entire harsly fly fixters. My dad 3 like Mihates, the state



One Press Release • Three Regional Stories



# From kiosk to post







NC Wildlife Resources Commission March 29 at 12:30 PM - (3

Developed in partnership with the North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited, this hatch chart provides information to help anglers match aguatic insect hatches in western North Carolina. For additional information, please visit: https://bit.ly/2FK8irZ





66 Comments, 429 Shares.



# Google's G-Suite

- Basic internet services
- Video conferencing capabilities
- Unlimited cloud storage
- Up to 10,000 personal user accounts
- Generous "AdWords" advertising grants every month

And it's FREE for Non-Profits!



# Always say "Thank You"



# ATLONG LAST, THE END!\*

"I missed 100% of the shots I never took." - Wayne Gretzky



## Summary

- Have a plan and speak with intent
- Not everybody looks or thinks like "us"
- Love and respect your chapter members
- Make your brand mean something awesome
- Take good care of yourself, value your time and energies

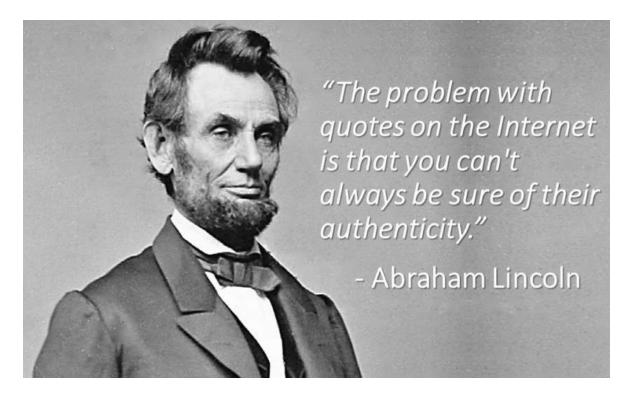


### Take It From Here

- 1. Start from where you are today
- 2. Come up with a manageable 1-year plan
- 3. Move the needle forward
- 4. Track your progress
- 5. Re-evaluate in a year
- 6. Wash, rinse, repeat

Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

### Thank You!



For links & downloads, visit: <a href="https://northcarolinatu.org/se">https://northcarolinatu.org/se</a>



And now, for your questions...and hopefully an answer or two.





Charles Crolley — North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Yates — Trout Unlimited