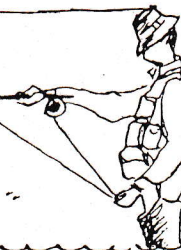


TIGHT LINES



NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER
TROUT UNLIMITED

JANUARY 1987

HAPPY NEW YEAR! THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED IS READY FOR OUR FIRST FULL YEAR OF PROTECTING, ENHANCING AND IMPROVING COLD WATER RESOURCES IN NORTHEAST GEORGIA! YOU WILL AGREE, WE CERTAINLY GOT OFF TO A FAST START FOR A NEW CHAPTER AND THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

JANUARY MEETING NOTICE

THE JANUARY MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE RABUN COUNTY LIBRARY, CLAYTON ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH. SOCIAL TIME WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 AND THE MEETING AT 7:00 P.M.

REESE SCULL, DISTRICT RANGER, U.S.F.S. TALLULAH DISTRICT, WILL PRESENT A PROGRAM ON HOW THE U.S.F.S. LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN WILL BE APPLIED IN THE TALLULAH DISTRICT. AT THE DECEMBER MEETING, JIM KIDD, U.S.F.S. AND FELLOW TU MEMBER, PRESENTED AN OVERALL VIEW OF THE PLAN AND ANSWERED A LOT OF QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP.

SOME OF THE AREAS OF CONCERN ARE:

- .COLD WATER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
- .WATER QUALITY OF STREAMS
- .EROSION CONTROL
- .NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION
- .EXISTING ROAD MAINTENANCE
- .ROAD CLOSURES
- .TRADITIONAL DISPERSED CAMPSITES

AS YOU KNOW, THE TALLULAH DISTRICT IS OUR AREA, SO LET'S REALLY TURN OUT.

DECEMBER MEETING

AS MENTIONED, JIM KIDD OUTLINED THE U.S.F.S. LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FROM AN OVERALL VIEWPOINT.

JEFF DURNIAK, BIOLOGIST FOR GEORGIA FISH AND GAME, LED A LIVELY DISCUSSION ON WHY WE SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT HAVE A CLOSED TROUT SEASON. JEFF ALSO SHOWED A FILM BY FISH AND GAME PROMOTING SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN LICENSE FEES FOR HUNTING AND FISHING. WHILE MUCH OF THE INCREASED REVENUE WOULD GO INTO WMA'S OUTSIDE THIS AREA, IT WAS AGREED IT COULD TAKE SOME PRESSURE OFF NORTH GEORGIA AND WOULD ENHANCE THE SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

THE CHAPTER THEN TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO NOMINATING AREA STREAMS FOR POTENTIAL WORK PROJECTS. USING DATA FROM THE FORMS FILLED IN BY MEMBERS, THE FOLLOWING STREAMS WERE SELECTED:

- 1) UPPER CHATTOGA RIVER
- 2) RED CREEK
- 3) OVERFLOW CREEK
- 4) BIG CREEK
- 5) POPCORN CREEK

IN ADDITION, WE NOMINATED THOMAS CREEK FOR ENHANCEMENT AS A NATIVE BROOK TROUT STREAM.

WE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE U.S.F.S. AND GEORGIA GAME AND FISH CONCENTRATE ON ENHANCING THE EXISTING FISHERIES IN THE TALLULAH RANGER DISTRICT, WITHOUT PROGRAMS OF CONVERSION OF RAINBOW FISHERIES TO NATIVE BROOK TROUT FISHERIES.

WE ALSO DO NOT SUPPORT A PROGRAM OF CUTTING BRUSH AND OVERCOVER ALONG STREAMS.

OUR MEETING CLOSED WITH A VIDEO FILM ON THE U.S.F.S. CHATTOOGA PROJECT.

DON'T FORGET RAFFLE ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY MEETING. OUR TREASURY HAS SWELLED TO OVER SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS - LOTS OF IT FROM RAFFLE BUCKS!

CHATTOOGA RIVER PROJECT

THE BELOW ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE JANUARY '87 ISSUE OF "SOUTH CAROLINA OUT-OF-DOORS".

Chattooga River fisheries study

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) — What do you get when you put 40 Trout Unlimited volunteers, Forest Service personnel from three National Forests and fisheries biologists from two states in the Chattooga River for two days? The answer — lots of information on the biological health and trout population of this beautiful river which forms the boundary between South Carolina and Georgia for 40 miles.

Forest Supervisor Donald Eng said, "The project, which will take about a year to complete, is probably the largest cooperative program in the Southeast conducted to obtain detailed information concerning a river's ability to produce trout. Trout Unlimited pledged over \$3000 and is expected to donate about 2600 man-hours helping obtain state of the art fisheries information." South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department contributed another \$3000 and Georgia Department of Natural Resources provided manpower and equipment valued at \$3000.

The groups converged on the Chattooga to conduct two major studies. The first inventories small organisms forming the base of the food chain, while the second study determines number and species of fish.

Biologists refer to small aquatic insects as macroinvertebrates. Teams gathered samples at 24 locations distributed over the length of the river. This was done by placing a metal frame, holding a 4-foot bag-shaped net, on the gravel river bottom. Organisms were brushed from rocks and the current washed them downstream into the net. Volunteers and professionals worked together sorting through the debris hunting for organisms that were often smaller than the head of a pin.

William English, a graduate student at Clemson University, will analyze the samples and determine kinds and number of organisms from each sample location. This often requires use of a microscope, due to their small size.

Next, groups set up block nets above and below two 100-meter sec-

tions of the Chattooga. These nets prevent fish from moving in or out of sections selected for electro-shocking sampling. Battery driven shockers, generating 500-800 volts, temporarily stun nearby fish so they can be dipped with nets. Each sample section yielded 20-35 trout, primarily native brown trout, measuring from 3-19 inches long. In addition, several species consisting of suckers, chubs,

shiners, sculpins, minnows and daces were found. Crews weighed, measured and recorded the data on each fish.

"Fishermen were surprised and biologists pleased at the apparent good health of the Chattooga River," Supervisor Eng reported. While many of the volunteers had fished the area, few realized just how many brown trout were present. Apparently many

fish are wise to fishermen and refuse to take the bait unless a fisherman is very skilled.

The Chattooga became the south's first Wild and Scenic river in 1974 by an act of Congress. Since that time, the Forest Service has sought to maintain the river to provide challenging outdoor recreation experiences in an area offering great scenic beauty.

ASK FIRST!!

to Hunt & Fish on Private Land



NEW from SCWF! Order your Ask First!! bumper sticker by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Ask First SCWF, P. O. Box 4186, Columbia, SC 29240.

ENCLOSED ARE TWO POEMS BY A FRIEND OF DOUG ADAMS' DAUGHTER. IT SHOULD BE SELF-EXPLANATORY. THEY ARE TERRIFIC! SEE HOW EASY IT IS TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO TIGHT LINES!

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7 January 1987

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For the 1985 holiday season, I tactfully sent my Jewish friend a card wishing her "Happy Holidays", rather than "Merry Christmas". By sheer coincidence, the card was in a stack of some used by my father, and happened to be one of those printed up by Trout Unlimited. My friend, observing this fact, turned her wit machine up to full force and responded with a brilliant little poem about trout.

Allison Adams

The Trout Song

When You're feeling down and out,
Go on out and save a trout.
Trout are nice - they're our friends,
They know how to Synchronize swim.
Trout are funky - trout are fun,
So take time out and get to know one.
Trout are hip and know how to groove,
Take one to a disco and watch him or her move.
Trout are bright - they live in schools,
Trout dig Mat* - they ain't no fools.
Trout are pretty - trout are charming,
They're so witty it's disarming.
Trout are great, so fun to be with,
They aren't just your ordinary fish.
Trout are glittery - trout are glamorous.
(Although they aren't good bet if you're feeling amorous.)
Trout aren't wimps - they're worldly wise,
So if you're feeling hungry, eat french fries.
Trout are groovy - they're wild beatniks,
So if you're feeling hungry, AVOID FISHSTICKS.
Save the trout in the country or city,
I hope you're enjoyed this idiotic ditty.

C - 1985 by Hot to Trout Music.
Lyrics written by Virginia Moise Rosenberg

*"Mat" Bianco is a really hip and groovy jazz/Latin group.



Not satisfied with only one poem, my delighted father greedily insisted on my sending yet another TU card to my friend for the 1986 holidays, in hopes that she would respond with perhaps another trout epic. Dad's appetite for a soulful song of the salmo and salvelinus was swiftly satisfied, and the following tender ballad is what she sent.

Allison Adams

Trout Poem for 1986

Well, I was standing about
And I just happened to spy
This real cool, jivin' trout
Not much older than a fry.
Yesstree, this was a true trout,
Not some stilly little char,
And the way it kinds swam about
Was hip and some bizarre.
Now, I watched this cool, hip, jivin' trout
For quite a little while.
And the way it jammed could leave no doubt
That this dog-goned fish had style.
Well, this trout called up his relatives
And they swam in my direction
Then they coolly said "hey, man, what gives?
Come dig our trout perfection!"
I could not resist this invitation,
So I jumped into that stream
And awoke with the wild realization
That it had all just been a dream.
Now I scour these United States
In search of those hip fish.
And to discover the nature of these trouts' fates
Is now my only wish...

Virginia Moise Rosenberg