

# TIGHT LINES



NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER  
TROUT UNLIMITED

August 1988

## AUGUST MEETING

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited will meet at the Rabun County Library on Tuesday, August 16th. Social hour begins at 6:30 PM followed by the meeting at 7:00.

Here's your second chance to learn from Henry Williamson how to tie those trout catching flies that Henry uses on his favorite streams in the area. He has just returned from out West and may even share with you the secrets of catching those "biguns". Bring your vises, bobbins, fluff and fur for a "hands on" fly tying session!

During the social hour you are apt to hear of monster browns and leaping rainbows domiciled west of the Georgia State line, so a shovel might be handy to have on hand.

## JULY MEETING

During our July meeting we covered several subjects of interest to our chapter including:

1. Stream improvement activities on Reed Creek
2. Smithgall-Forest Service Land Swap
3. City of Clayton-Keener Creek

The program was presented by Henry Williamson, professional instructor, guide and friend. Henry made those hard to figure out knots that we use so much seem simple and followed with fly tying. Members present gained so much from his demonstrations that we are prevailing on Henry one more time to come back in August and do it again.

## SOME VERY IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 16th - Monthly Chapter meeting

Sunday, August 21st - Work Outing on Reed Creek This will be our last work outing on the Reed Creek stream improvement project for the year so please come out, one and all, and let's finish in style. We'll meet at the Double Bit Campground (Heddon & Ridley Branch) at 1:00 PM sharp, install as many half logs, for cover, as we can. We'll then go back to camp and have a cookout of hamburgers and all the trimmings. There will be a small fee for the food - the hard work is on the house and we really need your participation!

Friday, September 16th - Chattooga River Project. Again, we need a good turnout to represent the Rabun Chapter in this joint project with other TU members, the Forest Services in South Carolina and Georgia and the state DNR's. As in the past, we'll meet at the Oconee State Park in S.C. early Friday morning to collect and pick all those little critters that reside on the river bottom. This is one of the more viable ways to determine the health of "our river" and monitor the impact of various activities in its' water shed.

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#### ITEMS OF INTEREST

##### 1. Public Hearings on Outstanding Resource Waters in North Carolina

The Environmental Management Commission of N. C., held one of several public hearings in Franklin, N.C., to hear comments from the public regarding the proposal to reclassify portions of several watersheds from their present status to Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW). Included for consideration is the Savannah River Drainage Area and that includes the Chattooga and its' North Carolina tributaries. Of immediate concern to our chapter is Big Creek, from its' source to the NC line.

All but one of the approximately forty citizens present voiced support for reclassification. The majority of them were concerned with Big Creek. Objection to the proposed change came from the developer of Rustic Falls, a development near Highlands, N. C., and was to be expected.

Written comments regarding this proposal will be considered until September 4th. You can put your two cents worth in by writing:

Steve Zoufaly  
 Division of Environmental Management  
 P. O. Box 27687  
 Raleigh, N. C. 27611  
 (919) 733-5083

## 2. Kidd, Seehorn and Wood Exhibit Shocking Behavior in Midwest

Jim Kidd, Monte Seehorn and Jerry Wood (USFS) attended a Habitat workshop in Wisconsin and Minnesota this month. According to Kidd, they observed first hand the results of stream and bank improvement on water severely impacted by livestock and other agricultural practices. In some waters carrying 40-50 lbs per surface acre, under unimproved conditions, the production had been increased to 400 plus lbs per surface acre. Jim or Monte will surely have more to say at the August meeting.

## 3. Rabun County Awaits FAA to Begin Study of Proposed Airport Site

A meeting of Rabun County officials, the U.S. Forest Service and several persons representing environmental groups met on June 23, 1988, to discuss the proposed site of an airport in Rabun County. The need for an airport, the county's reasons for wanting an airport, the economics of such a venture, alternative sites were among the topics covered during the meeting. The county now waits for the FAA approval to begin a study of the site and will keep the Forest Service abreast of developments. The Forest Service has taken no position in this matter as of June 23rd.

## 4. Smithgall gets a Trout Stream

According to a July 31, 1988 article in THE TIMES of Gainesville, Ga., the Dukes Creek land swap with the USFS has been completed by exchanging properties owned by Smithgall in Gilmer, Union, Stephens, Habersham and White counties for the 895.365 acres in the Dukes Creek Area. Evaluation of both tract packages was estimated at \$1.265 million. Whether or not trout waters were in the land swapped for Dukes Creek land was not mentioned.

## 5. Chattooga River Chapter of Trout Unlimited Formed

A new TU Chapter, headquartered in the Clemson/Walhalla area was formed with 16 charter members. Art Shick is president of the new chapter.

## 6. Pere Marquette River Trip Proposed

Charlie Wharton, Rabun Chapter member, is interested in getting some interest in a fishing trip to the salmon waters of the Pere Marquette. This is the site of big salmon during their fall run and where the MCF ritual occurs and was so aptly described by Henry Williamson. If you are ready for a fall fishing trip, get in touch with Charlie.

## 7. Membership

During the July meeting we had several guests who expressed an interest in becoming members. Officially we welcome one new member, David McElroy of Cornelia. We've also had three members renew, Mike Hogelin, Bill and Jean Kelly, and Steve Theis.

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#### 8. Tee Shirts Will Be Made Available

Jim Kidd, member and fashion consultant, has had designed our own tee shirt proclaiming our pride of chapter. Jim needs to know how many and what size to order. The price is about \$10. Jim's number at home is 782-2474, at work, 782-3320.

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