

TIGHT LINES



NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER
TROUT UNLIMITED

September 1988

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Rabun Chapter of TU will hold its' September meeting on Friday, the 16th at Double bit Camp, Ridley and Heddon Creek. Members and guest are encouraged to come, campout and hit the river Saturday morning. The meeting will begin about 8 PM, following the "bug collectin' and pickin'" at Oconee State Park (More to follow). Adoption of a slate of officers for 1989 is the main business at hand. Please call Doug Adams if you plan to attend so we'll know how many fish to fry. (746-2158 home 746-5310 work) Spam will be served to those who practice a strict code of catch and release.

AUGUST MEETING

Our August meeting was highlighted by the fly tying demonstration by Henry Williamson. Henry's instructions are so clear and concise, one can hardly fail to tie a trout catching fly with a little practice. Thanks Henry!

Besides all the business items covered, we had the opportunity to meet and welcome to the area, David Jensen, U.S.F.S., District Ranger Tallulah District. David was last stationed in the Black Hills and before that in Colorado. He is married and has one child. He can also install habitat structures. We're glad to have you David.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 16 9:00 AM Bug Collecting & Picking, Oconee State Park on Hwy 107 north of Mountain Rest, S.C.. This is the fourth of six scheduled data gathering sessions on the Chattooga and we need a really good turnout of chapter members so we can finish early and get in some fishing before the meeting. BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH!!
- September 16 8:00 PM Rabun Chapter Meeting, Cookout and Campout
- September 17 7:11 AM to Sunset Fishing (If you are with Kelly, disregard times)
- September 22 Shocking with the DNR, Big Bend area
- September 23 Shocking with the DNR, Pig Pen area

CHATTOOGA RIVER SHOCKING VS YELLOWSTONE

Jeff Durniak, Georgia DNR and as yet still unmarried member of the chapter, is concerned that many of our fellow members who also put in time with the JSFS, will be out West steaming freshwater clams. Jeff has to shock at Big Bend on Thursday the 22nd and in the Pig Pen area on Friday the 23rd. He needs help and will appreciate any who can get away to get in touch with him at 754-5782 or at the hatchery on Lake Burton.

REED CREEK PROJECT CONTINUES

On Sunday, August 21st, eleven members met at Reed Creek to install several cover logs and to repair another structure. We all got wet from the waist up and some from the waist down. The structures installed to date are working and the creek in the project area looks good. Early that morning, yours truly researched the area from above the falls through the structure area to Double Bit. The results were encouraging with three nice size Browns, lots of Young-of-the Year and several inbetween. The YOTY will appreciate it if you will crimp the barbs. After a good afternoon, neither Glen nor Alan working up a sweat, we retired to the camp for hamburgers (honest, Henry), and all the fixin's. Thanks to David Jensen, Doug A., Brooks A., Jim K., Alan H., Glen L., Neal W., "Yank", "Nugget" and Jeff D.

TIMPSON CREEK GETS AN UPLIFT

At the August meeting, Tom Nixon alerted us to a potential problem of mud and silt on Timpson Creek. Jim Nixon located the source - a county project replacing two wooden bridges in the Germany Community. The contractor had failed to use erosion control devices. Nixon and Jim Kidd accompanied the County Commission Chairman to the site where a plan of action was agreed upon. On the following Saturday morning nine members converged on the area, raking, seeding, fertilizing and mulching the disturbed areas. A temporary ford was also blocked off and silt fence installed. Equipment was furnished by the USFS, seed and fertilizer by Rabun County and hay was purchased from Alan Hooper by the Chapter.

Thanks to Jim Nixon, project organizer and trouble maker errr...I mean shooter, and to all the volunteers: Jim K., "Yank", Tom S., Doug A., Alan H., Tom N., Tony Littrell and Shaun Bucharon. A job well done and just in time for the Labor Day rains.

SHOCK(ING NEWS FROM BULL PEN

On August 22nd, Monte Seehorn and Jeff Durniak assisted the NCWC in a shocking sampling of 130 meters near Bull Pen on the Chattooga. Three passes with five backpacks were made with good results. About 75% were YOTY, all Browns. Also included were chubs, shiners, dace etc., but no sculpins! N. C. has not stocked the Chattooga Basin in over four years.

RABUN CHAPTER SUPPORTS RECLASSIFICATION

The Chapter has written to the N. C. Department of Environmental Management voicing our support of the proposed reclassification of the entire Chattooga River Basin to Outstanding Resource Waters. At this time, there are four waste water treatment plant permits for discharging into the Chattooga Basin, pending outcome of this proposal.

THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD.....

A travel article in the September 4, 1988, ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION, touts the road between Basalt and the Ruedi Reservoir, Colorado, as one of the best "leaf Peeping Roads" in the state. They also mention that the Holy Grail of Fly Fishing runs alongside it - the Frying Pan!

.....AND WORSE YET!

Some twenty plus members of the Chapter know of an area west of Hiwassee that is so beautiful and special it defies description. Cutthroats and Brookies in the high country, football shaped Browns and Rainbows in the vallies below, wildflowered alpine meadows fringed with aspen and clear running streams full of pocket water, riffles and runs to challenge the best of us - the Holy Cross Wilderness Area. Now picture this - running through the area six foot diameter diversion pipelines and dams choking

off the Spring runoff to pipe water over to Aurora and Colorado Springs to water the lawns and wash the cars.

The Chapter will consider supporting the Holy Cross Defense Fund with a contribution to help to fight the rape of another wilderness area. If you wish to help personally, contact Holy Cross Defense Fund, 1130 Alpine, Boulder, CO 80302m 303/447-1361.

TWO MORE MEMBERS

Welcome to new members Warren Kiernan of Sky Valley and to Neal Wright, who lives in the woods somewhere. Glad to have you both aboard.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN--OR WOMEN!

Eric Esche, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, ably assisted by Arnold Deitz and Doug Adams are to come up with a slate of Chapter officers for 1989 and will appreciate your suggestions as to who you would like to give directions. Contact anyone on the committee...soon!

ANOTHER BEST STREAM IN THE WEST

Pat (Whose He) Hopton, promises to all who attend the September meeting and stays for the campout, that he will divulge to one and all complete details on the latest "best trout stream in the West". (I just want to see if he's still alive).

RECOGNITION OF A CLASS ACT

The Fish America Foundation has awarded the chapter a \$3680 grant for habitat work and erosion control materials for the Reed Creek Watershed Project. Jim Kidd heads up this project and has had able assistance from many Chapter members on the stream. This project has been judged the 12th best in the Nation and the only award in Georgia. Not bad for a 3 year old, relatively small but definitely not obscure chapter. Congratulations to all of us!!!

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

As we prepare to gear up for a new year and to move on to more challenges, I just want to say how much hard work and unadulterated good times I've enjoyed with this Chapter. Most of us just want to go fishing! But, to do that we recognize the work needed to do such a simple thing. Pressures on our cold water resources continue from just about every quarter and in every area. With limited resources and unlimited zeal, we have made a difference. And we will surely continue to. And I want to thank Doug Adams for his leadership and, during his weaker moments, for showing me where, how and when to catch trout!

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