

TIGHT LINES



MAY 1991

RABUN CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE MONTHLY MEETING AT LIBRARY

Hopefully, everyone is aware that we do not meet in May due to extreme social pressure, but will meet on Tuesday evening, June 18, 1991, at the Rabun County Library in Clayton. Social hour begins at 6:30; the meeting at 7:00. Jeff Durniak is in charge of the program, Walt Landreth will conduct the raffle and Eric Esche will bring the refreshments.

DOUBLE BIT CAMP SITE OF APRIL MEETING

To no one's surprise, our April meeting was held in a downpour at the Double Bit Camp on the headwaters of Reed Creek. Twenty six members and guests managed to huddle beneath the tarps as we reviewed several topics and laid plans for the coming weeks. [Check out Coming Events] Thanks to Jim Nixon and friend Lil for some fine food, even though Lil cheated and prepared the cornbread at home.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

| | | <u>Coordinator</u> |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| <u>June 8</u> Saturday | Trout Day Moccasin Creek State Park Meet at 8:00 AM | Kyle Burrell |
| June 9 Sunday | Rabun TU Day at Carter Library in Atlanta | Kyle Burrell |
| June 13 Thursday | Electro-Fishing West Fork - Meet at 9:00 AM West Fork Bridge on Overflow Road | Monte Seehorn |
| June 15 Saturday | Kids Day on the Tallulah River Meet at 8:00 AM Tallulah CG | Jim Nixon |
| June 18 Tuesday | Regular Meeting at Rabun County Library | |
| June 21 Friday- June 22 Saturday- June 23 Sunday | Backpack/Campout/Work/Fish on Lower Reed at the Chattooga | Camp/J. Nixon Work/J. Kidd |
| July 13 Saturday | Electro Fishing the Tallulah River | Jeff Durniak |
| July 16 Tuesday | Regular Meeting at Rabun County Library Program by Chris Martin Ga DNR, Aquatic Education Biologist | |

REVIEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

BUCKET STOCKING OF TALLULAH : On April 23rd, with Glen Littrell pointing out all his favorite fishing holes, the DNR, assisted by Walt Landreth, Fredrick Hooper, Henry Williamson, Mort Bill C. and Doug A., scattered adipose fin clipped trout in the Tallulah. Avoiding the usual stocking points, we hope many of these Browns and Rainbows will

June 22 Saturday at the Chattooga
June 23 Sunday

Work/J. Kidd

July 13 Saturday Electro Fishing the Tallulah River

Jeff Durniak

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BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS SYMPOSIUM: Nine members of the chapter, acting in several different capacities, attended this two day workshop on "Meeting the Public's Outdoor Recreational Needs". In attendance from Rabun TU were Tom Landreth, Jeff Durniak, Dpug Adams, Jim Kidd, David Jensen, David Gomez, Nell Jones, Charlie Wharton, Randy Dilliot plus one newly recruited member, Gary Keller. It was an interesting gathering and a good chance to meet several people we do not ordinarily come in contact with. The concepts presented were interesting; but, to someone who would rather concentrate on the environment and natural habitat, I found it to be somewhat commercially oriented and a little self-serving. This should probably fall under "Editorial".

KELLY LATE FOR WORK PROJECT: Following the rainsoaked meeting, fourteen stayed on for some maintenance work on existing structures and the installation of four new structures in the Reed Creek watershed. I understand Kelly got there in time for the fishing bell, but too late to drive steel.

SMOKIES FISHING TRIP WELL ATTENDED: Twenty pros from the Rabun Chapter met up with ten relative amateurs from the Chattooga River Chapter at the Elkmont CG in the Smokies. Rabun TU dined on trout and hushpuppies while our brothers from across "the River" feasted on caviar and tins of Spam. Of course, obtaining caviar from trout is one thing returning them unharmed is another! Jim Kidd showed everyone where to park and held a brief workshop on proper storage of food in the Park. He received a certificate of appreciation from one of the Rangers. Congratulations Jimmy! Luckily, Pat Hopton was along to straighten things out. Pat and Jim did make all the arrangements and it sounds like a great outing. The Fisheries Biologist in the Park, Jim ?, presented the program on Friday night, May 3rd. (Sorry I do not have Jim's last name and was unable to get it by press time)

SOME GENERAL INFORMATION OF INTEREST

Larry Lockett, who has worked with us on the Chattooga Project, has been named the new District Ranger, USFS, Blairsville.

Clem Defino has received fan mail from the Sierra Club and State Representative Twiggs for his efforts on behalf of the Chapter to get the Georgia Environmental Policy Act passed. Thanks, Clem, for a job well done.

Jeff Durniak, accompanied by Jim Kidd, presented the program at the Chattooga TU meeting on May 1st. Don't know what the topic was but the first question from the audience was, "Do you dip the fish in the egg mixture before or after the corn meal?"

On the road again, Clem Defino attended the Upper Chattahoochee Planning Meeting in Gainesville on April 6th. Clem will represent the Chapter as planning continues (Lord, I hope he wore the new jeans!)

Fisherman are using the Chattooga Survey Forms at a high rate and some good data is being collected. Don't forget to fill one in when you're out there!

Jim Kidd is getting the Big Mac Project plan together.

Kidd is also still working on costs for the Hicks Cemetery Road work.

Hope all of you saw the color layout on the front page of one of the sections of the Atlanta Journal Constitution last Sunday. There was our own, Henry Williamson, in a pink tutu, Orvis rod in one hand and a volume of Tennyson's poems in the other, wading amongst his flyfishing pupils. Henry, a true Renaissance Man, will appear this fall in the Atlanta Ballets new production, "Rainbow Lake".

Meanwhile, one of our members is perfecting the latest in fishing conservation techniques. Much further advanced than the theories of slot limits, no-kill, and flies only, this member is practicing, "Trout Petting". While still in the rough phase, it goes something like this: Without creel or even a rod, armed with only a flashlight, you wait till after dark. Ideally, during high water. Step gingerly from rock to rock until you reach the deepest, swiftest section of the stream. Carefully allow your downstream foot to slide off, achieving sort of split position and quickly assume a prone attitude, forward or backwards. As the current takes you downstream, turn on your flashlight and probe beneath each sizable boulder as you go by. After locating the fish, ease your free hand beneath his body and stroke his stomach. They love it and survive to be petted again and again. For more information on this fascinating new technique, contact Doug Adams.

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES: Welcome to the Rabun Chapter of TU: Peter Malik of Gainesville; Hugh Seabolt of Gainesville; Robert Bennett of Clarksville; Carl Fredericks of Hiawassee (where everything is West of) and to Mort Meadors of Rabun Gap.

These folks have been smart and renewed their membership at the old rate: Steve Denman, F. B. Doherty, Jeff Durniak, Pat Hopton, Nell Jones, Charles Wharton, Allan Ramsay, Blane Tarnecki and Steve Theis.

These members need to renew before the new and higher rates take effect: Randy Dilliot, Lonnie English, Hiawassee Realty, David Sherman, Gregg Singer.

NOW, ABOUT THOSE NEW RATES: Effective October 1st, National dues increase from \$20 to \$25 per year for a regular membership. Send in your renewal before that deadline and you can extend your membership one year, at the old rate, regardless of your expiration date. (Georgia Grads: That's \$5 savings; yes, you count the big toe also)

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SOME MORE INFORMATION OF A GENERAL NATURE

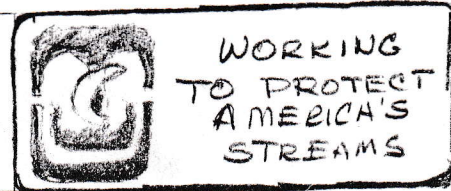
Doug Adams and Jeff Durniak are still in the planning stage for the project on Betty Creek.

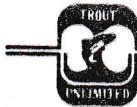
The USFS has requested input from Rabun TU on the development of Wilderness Plans for Tray Mountain and Raven Cliffs, both in White County. Clem will head a committee to investigate and bring a recommendation before the membership.

The Chapter decided to table a decision on our position regarding the Jenkins Wilderness Proposal until our next meeting or until more information is available.

Rabun TU sent a letter to the Coors Brewing Company supporting a request for a grant by the USFS for Burrell's Ford Road erosion control work

The Georgia Council will make available soon, the front auto tags at a nominal cost of \$10. They will look something like this:





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chatt-Oconee NFs

Date: April 30, 1991

Reply To: 2620

Subject: West Fork Sampling
To: Chattooga Coalition

We've encountered some problems with the May 28 sample date. Let's plan to reschedule to June 13 and 14, with 15th available in an emergency. Andy will travel Monday (10th) and sample Kings Cr. on the 11th and 12th (mark and recapture). He will need help from Kelly, Perry, and one other, or Randy's crew those two days. The West Fk. sampling will be depletion, and we'll need everyone we can get. Plan to meet at the same location (Overflow bridge) around 0900 on the 13th. Bring everything known to man that will take a fish!

Cheers!

The Old F--t

Rabun Chapter
P.O. Box 65
Rabun Gap, Ga. 30568
7 May 1991

Coors Pure Water 2000
Department G
Coors Brewing Company
NH 320
Golden, Colorado 80401

Attn: Todd Appleman

Subject: Reed Creek Project
Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia

Reference: Letter from David Jensen, USFS, to you dated
15 April 1991

Dear Mr. Appleman:

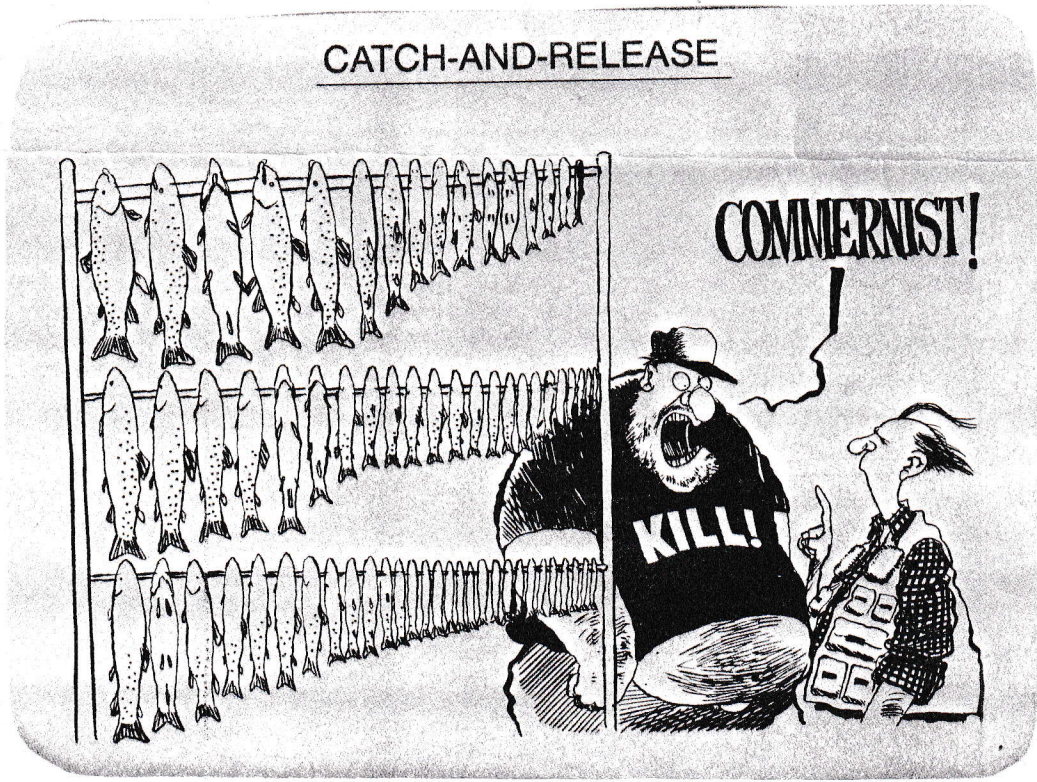
On behalf of the 85 members of the Rabun Chapter, I am reconfirming our commitment to the protection and enhancement of the Reed Creek watershed and fishery.

We are a rural chapter and not financially wealthy, but we are rich in volunteer enthusiasm and the spirit of cooperation. During the last weekend of April, 26 volunteers met and camped on Reed Creek. We performed annual maintenance on the existing stream habitat structures and installed 5 additional structures, all under the supervision of U.S.F.S. fisheries technicians.

We request your financial assistance as a partner in the final phase of this project.

Very truly yours,
Doug Adams
Doug Adams
President - Rabun Chapter

CATCH-AND-RELEASE





LATE BREAKING NEWS:

The word from Walt Landreth is that the Kid's Fishing Rodeo at Nancytown Lake in the Russell WMA was a huge success. Over 100 young people from toddlers to teens tried their fishing skills in the heavily stocked waters. One Rainbow measured 14 7/8 in. and several youngsters hefted stringers of fish as long as the angler was tall. Thanks to Chapter members Allan Ramsay, Clem Defino, Jim Harris, Jeff Durniak and Frankie Green for answering Walt's call for help. Jeff and Frankie probably had no choice in the matter as they were acting in a dual capacity. Friends of the Chapter, Sandy and Doug Watson USFS were on hand dispensing drinks. Oh yes, Edie and Doug Adams were on hand to film the event and assist in the activities. Thanks to all for contributing to the success and to Walt for coordinating members efforts.

Doug Adams - President
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Rabun Gap, GA 30568

Tom Landreth - Editor
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