

TIGHT LINES



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

DECEMBER 1991

DECEMBER MEETING The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its' monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, December 17th at the library in Clayton. Social hour will begin at 6:30, followed by the meeting at 7:00. A formal program is not planned as we need to reach some final decisions regarding RENDEZVOUS and other matters.

NOVEMBER MEETING 1. Dave Perrin, Nantahala Outdoor Center and the Chattooga Outfitters Association, proposed a Stekoa Creek Study and asked our support. A study committee, chaired by Clem Defino and consisting of Mort, Pat, Kyle and Doug will look into the proposal and report at the December meeting. [See reference material enclosed].

2. Mike says we have about \$2700 in the bank. We still have seven [7] TU tags available. If you haven't gotten yours', get in touch with Mike so we can close this out.

3. Taking the easy way out, the Nominating Committee presented the 1991 slate of Chapter Officers up for reelection for '92. Of course, they all being of soft minds were reelected by acclamation. If you are the least bit curious as to who they are, look elsewhere in this packet.

3. RENDEZVOUS '92 The Rendezvous will be held on February 8, 1991 at Henry's Playhouse on the Dillard House complex in Dillard. It gets underway at 5:00 PM with a social hour, followed by the meal at 6:30; a program at 7:30 and awarding of door prizes and such at 8:15. The cost will be \$15.00/person.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Publicity - Tom Landreth & Pat Hopton

Program - Jeff Durniak

Prizes Procurement - Jim Kidd, Walt Landreth & Mort Meadors

Firewood - Eric Esche

Music - Steve McCall

Facilities - Doug Adams & Jim Nixon

EVERY MEMBER IS ASKED TO TRY TO GET AT LEAST ONE [1] PRIZE FOR EITHER THE BUCKET RAFFLE, DOOR PRIZE OR SILENT AUCTION. (If you need a suggested solicitation letter check out the example enclosed from Jim Kidd.) A SPECIAL REQUEST TO ALL YOU WAY OUT OF TOWNERS - HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER - SEND US SOMETHING!!!

One more point on prizes - the items do not have to be fishing or trout oriented. There will be many lovely ladies at the Rendezvous and they have a great influence on their escort's purse strings.

4. Jeff Durniak, Georgia DNR, and fellow TU'er, gave us an up-date on stocking in the Chattooga and the results of recent electrofishing surveys. Rainbows and Browns continue to be stocked by helicopter this fall [see newspaper article] and the stockings at Big Bend and Pig Pen would seem to support the wisdom of this activity. Brook Trout are not referenced, of course.

5. Clem Defino, Political Reactionary and fellow TU'er, brought us up-to-date on the ongoing pre-planning activities of the USFS as they pertain to the Tray Mountain and Raven Cliffs wilderness areas. In part, those responding to the questionnaire sent out by the USFS favored special regulations [are you out there Henry] and stream barriers to protect Brown Trout. Most respondents did not favor removing the Rainbows, known in some circles as "those damn Californians".

6. We discussed the Chattooga Coalition paper and proposal to the USFS?

7. Kyle Burrell, part time student and USFS Intern and Full time trout fisherman, presented a pictorial review of his activities with the Forest Service this past summer. Kyle has turned out so well we decided to donate another \$600 for a 1992 Summer Intern with the Tallulah District, USFS.

BULLETIN:***IF YOU DON'T THINK THINGS MOVE FAST IN THE RABUN CHAPTER, I'VE JUST LEARNED THAT KEN HENDERSON, USFS, GAINESVILLE, WILL ADDRESS OUR RENDEZVOUS ON FEBRUARY 8TH AND WILL BE PROCEEDED BY STEVE BURCH, EDITOR OF GEORGIA OUTDOOR NEWS. KEN WILL TALK ABOUT OUR PARTNERSHIP AND FISHERIES PROGRAMS. STEVE WILL GIVE A SHORT TALK ON "HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN WADING SHOES AND REPAIR THEM AT STREAMSIDE".

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: The Chapter's Board, plus members of Clem's committee, met at the Rabun County Library on Wednesday, December 4, 1991. We decided on our projects for 1992 (none of which included any consideration whatsoever for the future of the only NATIVE trout east of the Mississippi River and is being steadily pushed to the extreme higher elevations of this state and will in all probability disappear from the face of the earth and your grandchildren will have to go to the International Aquarium in New Orleans to even see one, so there):

PROJECTS FOR 1992

April or May	-	Reed Creek
September or October	-	Charlie's Creek
All Year Long	-	King Creek Study
All Year Long	-	Chattooga Creel Study
June	-	3 or 4 Kids Fishing Days
To be Decided	-	Weekday afternoon Shocking of Tallulah
To be Decided	-	Stekoa Creek Study?????
In the Year 3000	-	Find one Brook Trout

We also planned a little more on the Rendezvous; we discussed at length our perceived role in the Stekoa Creek Study (see materials enclosed) and decided we needed more information and that we would not be involved unless we can be assured of the professionalism of such a study; and we went over the proposed alternatives to the management of the Upper Chattahoochee (see enclosed materials). This created some lively discussion but might be best summarized by our usual view: minimize soil disturbing activities that will adversely effect the watershed.

MEMBERSHIP HOLDING STEADY AT 84: Due to our stance on Brook Trout Restoration, there have been no new members to the Chapter. However, in the hopes something can be done, these have renewed: D. Gowder, P. Koch, J. Luke, J. Moore, D. Schmidt, D. Schonmeyer, M. Seeshorn, G. Turner, N. Wethrill, BROOKS Adams, Clem Defino, Walt and Tom Landreth. H. Page, Catherine Ritch, Bob Singleton, John Singleton, Kyle Burrell, Fredrick Hooper and Rodney Kilby need to renew.

THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED meets on December 14, 1991 in Dahlonega. The agenda is enclosed.

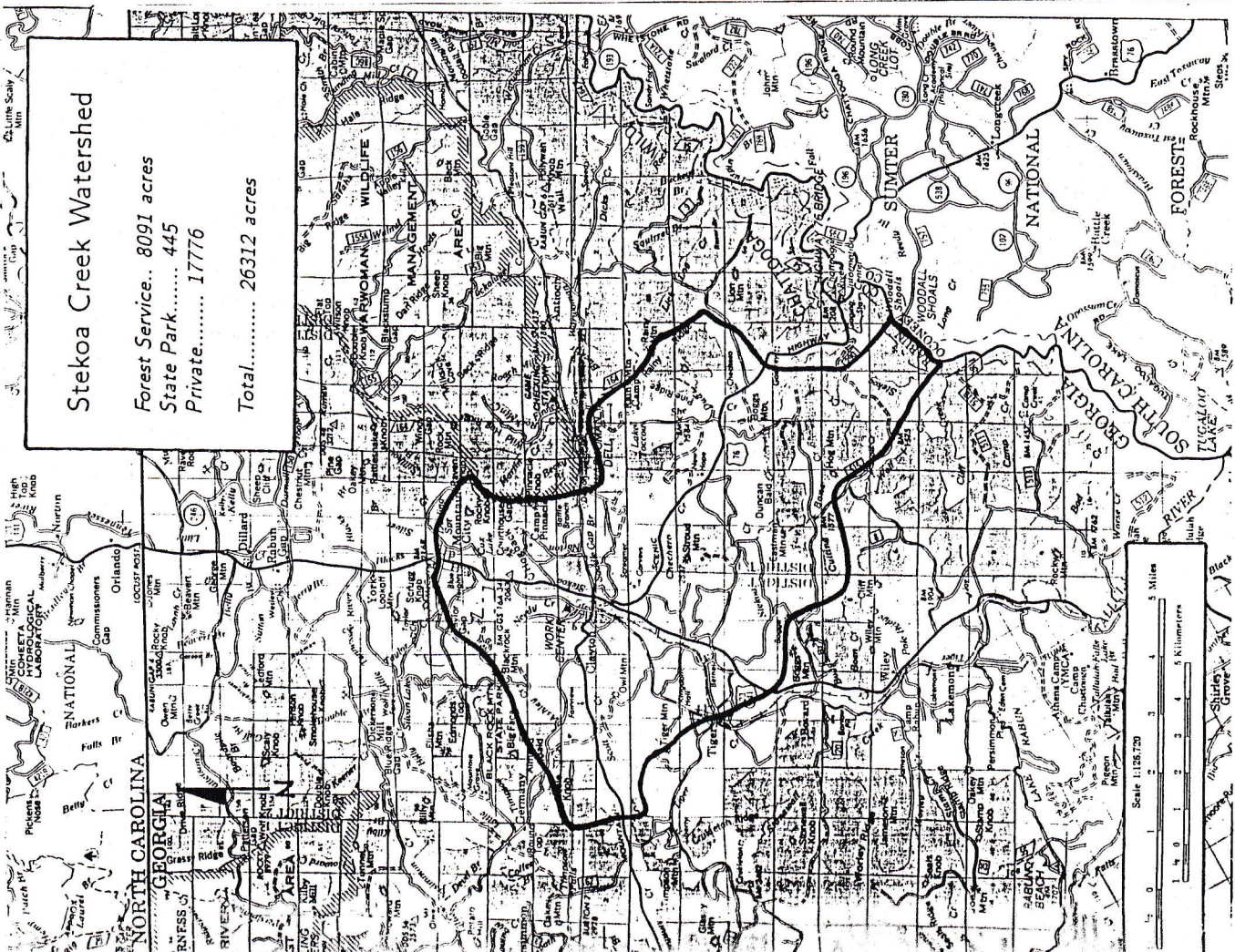
CHATTOOGA COALITION 1992 PLANNING MEETING The coalition will meet in January and we need to discuss a few things at our December meeting: Do we have comments on the present management program? Do we have suggestions or questions re:

50/50 mix of Rainbows/Browns
Less Fish but Bigger
More but Smaller
Location of Stockings
More or Less Truck Stocking
Special Regulations

President Doug Adams, infamous Brook Trout Basher, will attend this all day meeting on a Tuesday. One "consumer" type member of the chapter is needed for their input.

Stekoa Creek Watershed

Forest Service... 8091 acres
 State Park..... 445
 Private..... 1776
 Total..... 26312 acres



Oct. 5, 1991

From: Dave Perrin, Nantahala Outdoor Center and the Chattooga Outfitters Association.

Subject: A challenge cost share proposal between the Forest Service and the Chattooga Outfitters Association to fund a study to identify all sources of water pollution within the Stekoa Creek watershed in Rabun County, Ga.

The Proposal:

To have the Forest Service explore the various options, costs, techniques, and time tables for a study to determine the different point sources of water pollution within the Stekoa Creek watershed. If its determined such a study is feasible and desirable, the Chattooga Outfitters Association and the Forest Service, along with any other interested parties, would jointly fund the project. These funds would come from the Forest Service Challenge Cost Share Program and the Chattooga Outfitters Association Conservation and Community Fund.

The processes for undertaking this study should be based on sound scientific background and result in information that is widely accepted as accurate and reliable. Before it is undertaken, all parties should be in agreement in the study's goals and purposes.

Given the little knowledge we have on the costs of such a project, it is difficult to know at this time how much to spend. The Chattooga Outfitters Association contribution to this effort could be as much as several thousand dollars. Perhaps the question should be, what kind of study will 2-3 thousand dollars fund? One goal of this proposal should be to find a range of costs verses benefits for completion of the study.

Goals and Purposes of this proposal:

- Goals:
1. To identify and inventory all sources of pollution on Stekoa Creek.
 2. To heighten awareness within Rabun County of the pollution in Stekoa Creek and its detrimental effect on the Chattooga river.

Purposes:

1. Lay the groundwork for a co-operative effort to clean up the creek involving the Forest Service, state government, city and county government, business leaders, and local interest groups.
2. If successful, use this effort as a model in establishing and maintaining the water quality standards of other tributary streams within the Chattooga watershed.

United States Forest Service
Department of Agriculture
Charlottesville, VA 22904
404-754-6221

File Designation: 2300
Date: November 25, 1991

Dear Concerned Citizens-Head of the Chatahoochee River:

The U. S. Forest Service, in July of this year, sent you a letter informing you of the six major issues the interdisciplinary team (ID Team) would be dealing with in developing a management plan for this area. I also told you the ID Team would be formulating alternatives, and presenting them to the six persons representing the public and at the same time mailing you a copy of what has been developed for your comments.

The ID Team met with the persons representing the public on November 14th, and presented to them five alternatives; which are included in your packet. These alternatives cover a broad range of management, and are, by no means, the only ones to be considered. The alternatives given are very site specific, and are explained in detail in your packet, but the large map giving the exact locations are on display at the Ranger Station in Clarksville. We were not able to reduce the large maps to a smaller size, but have included a smaller map with the compartment numbers on it to help orientate yourself. The original 18,000 acre project area has now been reduced to about 5,800 acres due to the new proposed Mark Trail Wilderness area, that Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Fowler have introduced in congress. As a result, we are now dealing only with the area inside the black lines where the compartments are numbered.

We now would like your help in selecting a preferred alternative, by reviewing these five alternatives in the context of the six major issues you have identified, that is:

- 1) Reduce user conflict,
- 2) Maintain and improve environmental quality,
- 3) Recreation opportunities with appropriate facilities,
- 4) Timber management,
- 5) Improve information/communication with forest users,
- 6) Wildlife/fisheries management.

You may select one of these five alternatives, add or delete from them, or make new ones. Please let us have your comments by January 6, 1992. The planning team will finalize the alternatives and

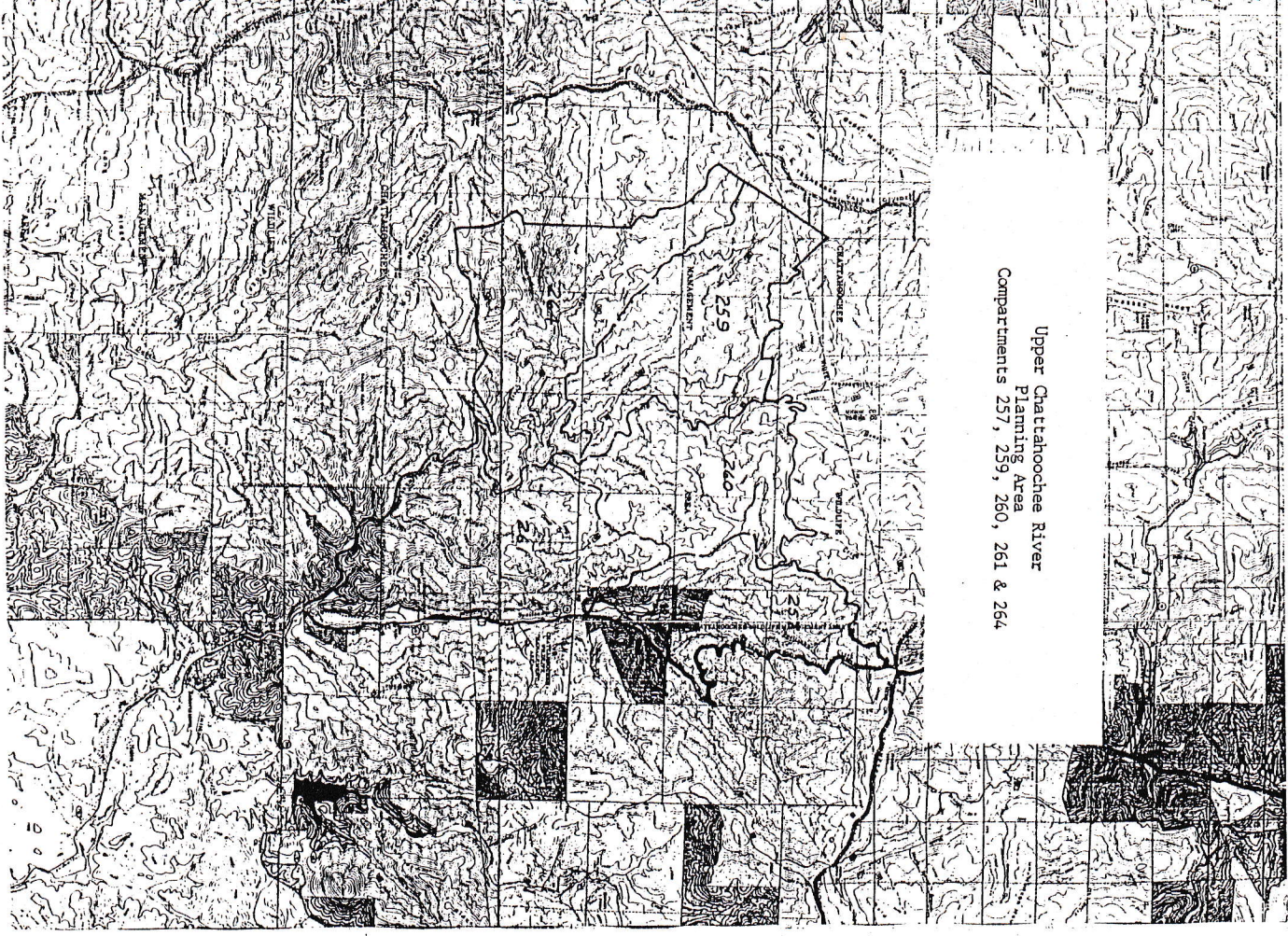
recommend one that best satisfies resolving the major issues. The complete project proposal, with the ID Team's recommended alternative, will then be forwarded to the Forest Supervisor for his review and approval. You will then be notified of his decision and appropriate review and appeal opportunities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to write or call me at any time. The Forest Service number is 404-754-6221.

Sincerely,

Tom Hawks

TOM HAWKS
District Ranger



Metro & State

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1992



Forest Watch co-founder Bruce Here as he describes trees 6 feet across.

INSIDE Olympic Watch Obituaries

Cumming mayor got break on taxes

County assessors reduced valuations on 11 of his properties after meeting

By Dennis McCaffrey
STAFF WRITER

During an unpublished meeting in February, Cumming Mayor Terry Cumming and five tax assessors cut his property appraisals by more than \$30,000, according to tax records.

After the meeting, appraisals were lowered on 11 of Mayor Cumming's properties in the city of Cumming, which has 40,000 people and most by at least 20 percent, tax records show.

The reductions meant that Mayor Cumming's tax bill was cut from \$11,273 to \$8,080 — more than 28 percent, Mayor Cumming and board members also ordered the city manager to deny the city council any more information about the meeting.

“They [the board members] were just my boss and I was just doing what they told me to do,”

“I turned to one of the assessors and said, ‘I don’t know if it’s right or not, but I don’t know if it’s right or not.’”

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Rabun Chapter
P.O. Box 65
Rabun Gap, Ga. 30568
21 November 1991

Rabun Chapter Officers & Directors - 1992

Doug Adams P.O. Box 65 Rabun Gap, Ga. 30568	President 404-746-2158 (H)	404-746-5311 (W)
Jim Nixon Rt. 2 Box 2310 Clayton, Ga. 30525	Vice President Membership & Social Activities 404-782-3101 (H)	404-746-5311 (W)
Tom Landreth Rt. 2 Box 2355 Clarksville, Ga. 30523	Newsletter Editor 404-754-9202 (H) & (W)	
Mike Hoglin Rt. 1 Box 311 Rabun Gap, Ga. 30568	Treasurer 404-746-2681 (H)	404-782-4245 (W)
Directors:		
Pat Hopton	Publicity/Public Relations	
Jeff Durniak	Meeting Programs	
Eric Esche	Refreshments	
Walt Landreth	Raffles	
Steve McCall	Raffles	
Clem Defino	Regulatory Affairs	
Jim Kidd	USFS Projects Coordinator	
Alan Hooper	Private/Non USFS Projects Coordinator	
Jerry Burrell	Private/Non USFS Projects Coordinator	

Gentlemen:

I am writing to you on behalf of the 91 trout enthusiasts that make up our chapter membership. In our home county, over 60% of the land is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and the State DNR classifies every stream as "trout waters". Our mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the trout fisheries here in Northeast Georgia. Some of our activities this year have included:

- Providing financial support & volunteers for 4 separate Kids Fishing Day Events.
- Cost Sharing with the USFS a Summer Intern College Senior to work in Fisheries Habitat Improvement.
- Volunteers to construct Stream Habitat Improvement Structures on 2 streams.
- Volunteers to Pack Fingertling Trout into remote areas on 3 streams for GADNR.
- Cost Sharing with the USFS for helicopter rental to stock subadult trout into the Wild & Scenic Chattooga River.
- Participated in 3 separate public awareness/education events.
- Providing financial support & volunteers to assist the USFS's year long fisherman creel survey on 17 miles of the Chattooga River.

On February 8th, we will host the 5th Rabun Rendezvous. This is our annual banquet, fund raiser, and celebration of the joys of trout fishing. Trout enthusiasts from 3 states and as far as 150 miles away make the annual trek to participate in this event.

Would it be possible for you to donate one or more items for the raffles or auction. All proceeds will be used to fund our 1992 activities.

Thank you for your support of our mission.

Very truly yours,

Jim Kidd
Co-Chairman
Rabun Rendezvous Committee

Please send donated items to:
Jim Kidd
c/o USFS District Office
Clayton, Ga. 30525

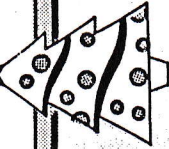
Steve Cabe
honored

Page A-7



Tree lighting
coming Dec. 6

Page C-6



Thanksgiving
loads the table

Page C-1

The Clayton Tribune

Volume 94 Number 47 Thursday, November 21, 1991

The Clayton Tribune, Clayton, Georgia

50¢ each

Page 1

FROM STEKOA TO CHATTOOGA

Creek's bacterial levels fairly high at times

By Tom TenBroeck & Beth A. Holcombe

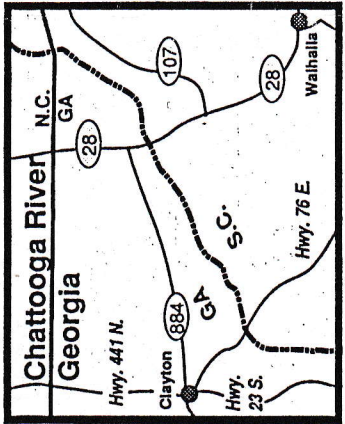
Jeff DeClue does not deny that water flowing into the Chattooga River from Stekoa Creek is heavily polluted — and has been for a number of years.

"It's no secret that Stekoa Creek is over the limit that the state has placed on it," said DeClue, superintendent of water and wastewater treatment in Clayton.

He made the comment in response to allegations made by Forest Watch, a South Carolina-based environmental protection group that wants testing done on two sites it believes are possible contributors to high bacterial levels in the Chattooga River.

One site it wants tested is a stream near a Highlands, N.C., landfill. The other is Stekoa Creek, into which the city of Clayton discharges its treated sewage.

Greg Brogen, assistant Forest Service ranger in the Andrews/Pickens district, said he has read



Legend: Chattooga River

reports that the bacterial levels in Stekoa at the Hwy. 76 bridge have "spiked up" occasionally.

DeClue said the state allows up to 200 fecal

coliform (bacteria) per 100 milliliters of water during the summer. That is considered water safe enough for swimming. The standard is allowed to climb as high as 4,000 per 100ml during the winter months, he said.

DeClue said his department has taken readings as high as 32,000 per 100ml of water — upstream of Clayton's wastewater plant.

In fact, he said, the readings taken downstream from the wastewater plant have a lower level of bacteria.

DeClue said Clayton's wastewater plant on the average discharges water with a zero fecal coliform reading — thus diluting the bacterial levels. The Clayton plant discharges about 250,000 gallons a day into the Stekoa.

"It's actually helping to clear it up," DeClue said of the wastewater treatment plant's discharging into Stekoa Creek. "You can actually see a difference (in the water upstream from the plant and the water downstream)."

DeClue said a study done recently found 2,700 parts fecal coliform per 100ml of water — upstream of the wastewater plant. Downstream of the plant the count had lowered to 1,800 parts.

David Camps, environmental program director with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, said he does know that bacterial levels on Stekoa have been fairly high at times. On the Chattooga, however, Camps said that of 10 samples taken in 1990, only one reading had been above acceptable levels.

"Any warm-blooded animal can have an impact on the fecal coliform level," Camps said.

Camps said that animal feces washing into the river will increase the bacterial levels. "But I do not feel these waters are in violation of state standards,"

• Stekoa, turn to page A-2

Chattooga River outfitters offer to help fund study of creek

By Phil Hudgins

A group of Chattooga River outfitters has offered to help fund a study to identify sources of water pollution within the Stekoa Creek watershed in Rabun County.

Dave Perrin, a spokesman for the Chattooga Outfitters Association, presented the proposal to the Tallulah District of the U.S. Forest Service, whose headquarters are in Clayton.

The association, he said, is willing to furnish up to \$2,500 for a study, which "should be based on

sound, scientific background and result in information that is widely accepted as accurate and reliable." Perrin said he hoped the Forest Service would share costs of the study and possibly provide biologists and other experts to conduct tests.

"We're not in a position to tell the people of Rabun County what to do," he said. "We want to work with others in the community and try to find a common ground."

In his letter to the Forest Service, Perrin said, "The recently passed Georgia Mountains Protection

Act appears to provide the necessary legislation to clean up the stream.... Perhaps the resulting process could also be used as a model for dealing with the increased impacts on the Chattooga watershed from ongoing development of this area."

Perrin has been seeking support from representatives of environmental organizations and agencies in Rabun County. Here's what they are saying:

• Dave Jensen, district ranger of the Forest Service: "There is a real need to take a close look at the Stekoa Creek drainage in its entirety, as it is having

a definite detrimental impact on the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River and its water quality. I want to emphasize...the positive impact and tremendous potential that this project may have."

Jensen sent Perrin's proposal to the forest supervisor of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, the regional office that includes the Tallulah Dis-

• Outfitters, turn to page A-2

Stekoa, started on page A-1

Camps said of the Chattooga. The reading, Camps said, had been taken upstream from where the Stekoa Creek feeds into the Chattooga.

Just where is this high concentration of bacteria coming from? DeClue suggests from the north — Mountain City, specifically.

"Mountain City has had a problem with their septic tanks for quite a while. That's why they've been trying to get a sewer grant — to try to clear the creek up," he said.

Sandra Taylor, an environmental technician at the Rabun County Health Department, says that Mountain City very well could be the culprit.

"Mountain City has had problems for some time," Taylor said. "They've had leaking sewerage pipes, older systems not installed properly, a high water table, they're located on the continental divide, and their soil configuration consists of a lot of rock." The other site, a landfill near Highlands, N.C., is about nine miles upstream from the Chattooga.

Outfitters, started on page A-1

trict. "I would encourage you to enlist the support of State and Private resources in the Regional office to assist us in coordinating and planning this effort," Jensen's letter to the regional office said. No decision on the proposal has been announced.

• Doug Adams, president of the local chapter of Trout Unlimited: "Our mission is to protect, preserve and enhance cold-water resources, and that (study) definitely fits our mission. But we want to make sure it will be a professional type of study. Otherwise, we don't want to be involved."

Perrin spoke Tuesday night to members of Trout Unlimited. Following his talk, the members appointed a committee, headed by Bill Dehno of Habersham County, to look into the proposal and report to the chapter at its next meeting, scheduled Dec. 17.

"Depending on what the needs are, Adams said, the chapter could provide manpower and/or money for the project. "We'll wait and see what the com-

Many schools have poor ventilation

PM Editorial Services:

Poor ventilation = Poor indoor air quality. This equation is proving to be true in many schools around the country, according to a recent study by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

majority of the nation's schools." The EPA also found that the schools' air quality problems were caused by measures designed to conserve energy.

North

The North of Transpor N.C. Highwa Georgia line for resurfaci provisions, a

Also, Macon County landfill supervisor Horace Ledford said he believes the discoloration in the stream is probably from naturally occurring iron. "I've seen seepage like this in the mountains. Some wells in the mountains are so high in iron content that you can't even drink the water," he said.

"We're just asking for more good, credible, scientific evidence here," said Bruce Hare, a member of Forest Watch. "There may not be a problem, but we need better baseline data to determine the condition of the river now."

mittee recommends," he said.

• Audrey Cornelius, president of Friends of the Mountains: "I think this is something that needs to be handled. I'm not sure exactly what the (Perrin) sees as our role, but I'll be glad to present it to our board.... We probably will assist them in some way."

Also being contacted about the proposal are representatives of Georgia Forest Watch, an independent organization concerned about the environment, and officials of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

The Chattooga Outfitters Association is made up of three companies that outfit rafters on the Chattooga River. They are Nantahala Outdoor Center, Whitewater Inc., and Southeastern Expeditions.

The companies this year began donating 25 cents from each rafter to a fund to be used for environmental causes, said Perrin of Nantahala Outdoor Center. Money for the study would come from that fund.

ed, as well as the active striping. hwy hasn't been est 10 years.



Crew prepares to lower trout from helicopter into the Chattooga River.

Forest Service, trout group help stock the Chattooga

The Tallulah Ranger District, the Rabun chapter of Trout Unlimited and several other agencies once again are participating in the Chattooga River Project, which stocks the river with trout.

Other agencies participating in the long-term cost-share project are U.S. Forest Service ranger districts in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, state wildlife organizations in the three states, and various chapters of Trout Unlimited.

The long-term objective of the study is to enhance and manage the river as a fishing resource, providing the best cold-water

fishing opportunity possible. Due to problems with the hatching of young trout in the river, the agencies place approximately 50,000 sub-adult trout in the river each year. It is hoped these fish will develop over the winter and provide fishing opportunities during the following summer.

The Tallulah Ranger District provides its fire helicopter as transportation to spread the fish over a 10-mile section of the river. Georgia and South Carolina state agencies provide 25,000 brown trout and 25,000 rainbow trout.

Trout Unlimited provides funding to pay for the helicopter time necessary to stock the river.

The Rabun chapter of Trout Unlimited donated \$400 to the project.



Hardware logo with 'ACE' in large letters and 'Hardware' written vertically.

Hardware & BAKGAINS logo with 'YS' in large letters.

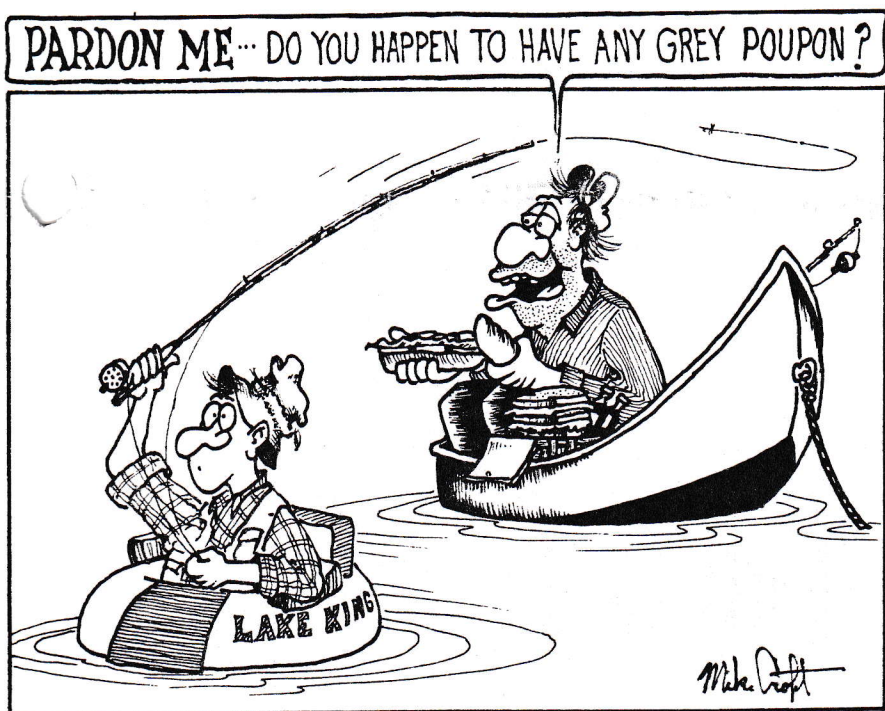
A BELATED AND OVERDUE THANKS TO ERIC ESCHE WHO MAKES SURE WE HAVE REFRESHMENTS AT ALL THE MEETINGS. WE JUST WALK IN AND THERE THEY ARE ON THE TABLE. THANK YOU, ERIC!!!

GENERAL INTEREST STORY

We have been missing seeing Pete Malik. Haven't seen him since the July meeting. We were afraid he might have transferred to another chapter or something. Well, it seems Pete hurt his back while back-packing in search of one viable Brook Trout stream. He had surgery in early September and was laid up in bed for five or six weeks and only returned to work a few weeks ago. Malik was spotted taking "cold water therapy" in THE RIVER last Sunday, December 8th. He had walked down from Burrell's Ford parking lot to above Big Bend Falls, in his chest high waders, and fished the Lower Steps. With the water 2" over the gauge rock, this is quite an accomplishment - plus, he caught a beautiful native [sic] Brown on a Wooly Booger. We believe Pete has made a wonderful recovery! See you at the next meeting, Pete!

Submitted by Doug Adams

na-tive 1. inborn or innate rather than acquired



*Staff of forgot:
Georgia Council
begins at 9:00 AM in
Sahlenaga -
Chattanooga Coalition is tentative
for January 28th at the Steam-
House Ranger Station.*

Doug Adams - President
P. O. Box 65
Rabun Gap, GA 30568



Tom Landreth - Editor
RT 2 Box 2355
Clarkesville, GA 30523