

# TIGHT LINES



NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN COUNTY CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

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AUGUST 1992

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**AUGUST MEETING:** Tuesday, August 18 at Rabun Co. Library. Social at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:00. Program by Dr. Dave Van Lear of Clemson University (and Chattooga Chapter Pres): Large Woody Debris (LWD) Input into Southern Appalachian Streams, or, in our terms, TREES AND TROUT. Come hear why all the logs in R\_\_\_ Creek have their own name, rank, and serial number. Other reports by Nominating Committee (Nixon & Hogelin), Erosion Committee (Kidd & Nixon), ad hoc West of Hiawasee committees.

**MISSING PERSON ALERT!** One newsletter editor reported missing somewhere west of Hiawasee. Several search and rescue teams have been dispatched over the mountain with necessary survival gear in hand: tents, rods, creels, FLASHLIGHTS (mandatory for Joiseyans), etc. Unconfirmed sightings of delerious artist mumbling about 16 inch brook trout.... We'll keep you posted.

**JULY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:** Dave Cawrse, USFS Highlands District Ranger, detailed land acquisition efforts in the Chattooga headwaters. Over 1000 acres have been bought (Land and Water Conservation Fund - proceeds from offshore oil drilling to be used for land acquisition) since 1991, with plans to buy another 1200 in the area between Devil's Courthouse and Blackrock Mtn. One problem seen by this editor though: the \$4.3 million recommended by Pres Bush and budgeted by USFS to get land has been CUT to only \$1 million by House of Rep's. That won't buy anywhere near what was hoped for.

**ACTION! ACTION!** Seems like there's a chance to make a difference in D.C. If you think that YOUR money should be spent to acquire YOUR land along the Chattooga, write or call senators Fowler (GA), Hollings (SC), and Sanford (NC) and urge them to restore the full appropriation (the money is already there): to that bill. Your contact could mean a \$3 million clout for trout!

**JULY MEETING (con't):** Cawrse brought the whole crew. Wildlife Tech Ronnie Carnes, a Chattooga shocking vet, detailed Highlands district programs on brook trout surveys, LWD stabilization in streams (anchoring logs and roots for trout habitat), building a 1500 ft handicap accessible fishing trail along a trout stream, and spoke of the NC regulations controversy (see enclosed article). Newcomer fish biologists Jeannie Riley and Jennie Williams presented USFS-NC goals: protect and improve habitat, maintain fish diversity, increase fishing opportunities, and develop aquatic education exhibits. Thanks to all four for coming!

**TREASURY:** Hogelin reports a fat July account of \$3649.23

**MEMBERSHIP:** A hearty welcome to new member Perry Thompson of Mountain City.

**RENEWALS:** Thanks to Jeff Durniak, Mike Hogelin, Dave Jensen, Bill "Bugs" Kelly, Joseph Luke, Fritz Vinson, John Watts, and Bill Woodward for another year of tall tales, raffles, cover logs, and Kids Fishing Days.

**NEED TO RENEW:** Bob Blalock, Buck Chastain, Jim Darnell, Fred Doherty, Carl Fredericks, Nell "Rio" Jones, Bill O'Connor, Joe's Sport a Rama, Howard Thompson, James Vandiver, Mort Meadows, and George Wittbold may miss the next exciting edition of this newsletter. Act now!

CONGRATS: to Rabun TUer Charlie Wharton upon being named Georgia's Conservationist of the Year (article enclosed).

ROD BUILDING AT MORT'S PLACE: see enclosed letter. Learn from a master, Mr. Jay Dunlap.

BUCKET STOCKING: Durniak reports some extra brown trout that may need a ride to a new home. Have a bucket and minnow aerator (\$6 Wal Mart) ready and give Adams your phone number for quick contact.

DNR/USFS SMALL STREAM SHOCKING: A fall electrofishing schedule for 12 streams will be circulated at next meeting. Those interested in watching or carrying a bucket, be sure to come.

BIG CREEK POLLUTION: Murky water traced back to dam breaking on small trib on private land. Nice job, TU member David Giles!

KING CREEK FISH MIGRATION STUDY: is underway. Hooper, Nixon, Adams, and Seehorn attended a training session on maintaining the fish trap. More volunteers needed to check trap. We'll discuss next meeting.

#### CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS:

AUGUST: 18 - Meeting at Library (Dave Van Lear).  
1-31 - Chattooga creel boxes (W. Landreth and F. Green)  
TBD - King Creek Study.  
TBD - Bucket stocking with GADNR.  
TBD - Fin clipping Chattooga copter browns at Buford Hatchery.  
24-27 - Chattooga electrofishing. Meet at Stumphouse at 0930 on 24th  
29 - Amicalola Falls stream improvement project (GA Council: Bob Foster 404-840-6440)

SEPT: 15 - monthly meeting at library.  
16-18 - West Fork Chattooga shocking (Monte Seehorn 706-536-0541)  
19 - Work Project, Tallulah R. or Charlies Creek (Jim Kidd)  
26 - Rod building clinic, 1 PM at Mort's Place

OCT: 3 - Campout and work project: shock Tallulah (Jim Kidd)  
20 - Monthly meeting  
1-31 - Chattooga creel boxes (T. Landreth & D Adams)

NOV: 17 - Monthly meeting.

DEC: 5 - Annual USFS/TU/GADNR planning meeting in Dahlonega  
1-31 - Chattooga creel boxes (Hogelin & Kidd)



7/31

Hi Denny,

Here is some more info on Don Dunlop the master rool builder who will be in boat over soon.

Mr. Dunlop is 70 years old and built his first rool at age 10, He likes in Deter, the best blades frequently to ask + crafts show, seminars, fishing tournaments.

Do not know earlier this year at the Mosby Creek A & C festival in middle Ga. and was immediately contacted by his expertise as well as his innovation. Mr. Dunlop's skills include a wide diversity of rool construction;

fly fishing rods of multiple lengths and material (split bamboo, graphite, foam etc.) big bow builder spinning rods as well as salt water spin. He specializes in making his

triple potential APOGEE design, a national tournament winner and incredibly versatile. I checked 3 to 9 wt. systems on one 8 1/2' graphite APOGEE rool and was amazed

at how effective all the line weights were with minimum casting adjustment. I will let him describe the custom

composition of this rool as he is obviously proud of his invention. It's really very simple (10 in E=mc<sup>2</sup>, right?)

Mr. Dunlop will be staying at Happin's Cabin <sup>4th St</sup> <sup>10m</sup> Sept. 25, 26 + 27

We're scheduled the rool building lesson for Sept. 26 - Sat. at 1:00 PM. Hill dock. Bring your own balloons and currency.

The cost per one is \$700, plus money for Mr. Dunlop. He is bringing rool construction examples of several different stages to demonstrate, answer questions and provide tips, advising on material information and sources.

I assume you know most of what all of the folks here who might be interested in taking advantage of this opportunity.

I welcome you and any of your rool making friends, TU. or not. If you have any questions, please call. Guinness, Matt 746-5799



GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION, INC.  
PO. Box 7023 • Atlanta, Georgia 30357  
404-481-9729  
404-481-9729

- TRAINING
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- RECREATION

JUL 15 92

July 11, 1992

Mr. David Cawrse, District Ranger  
Route 1, Box 385  
Highlands, NC 28741

Dear Mr. Cawrse:

I am writing to ask for help in obtaining a copy of the Highlands Quadrangle map modified to show forest service lands. I would want to use the map in a research project.

The Georgia Canoeing Association and other conservation groups are working on a research project to help influence funding to protect the headwaters of the Chattooga. On quad maps we plan to chart current, past and proposed development and how it is impacting the headwaters of our favorite river. We then want to take the project to the elected officials and ask for more funding from the federal government to purchase and protect land in the Chattooga headwaters.

Quadrangle maps that reflect the forest service lands would be very useful in this project. How can I obtain a copy of a modified map? Can they be purchased through your organization?

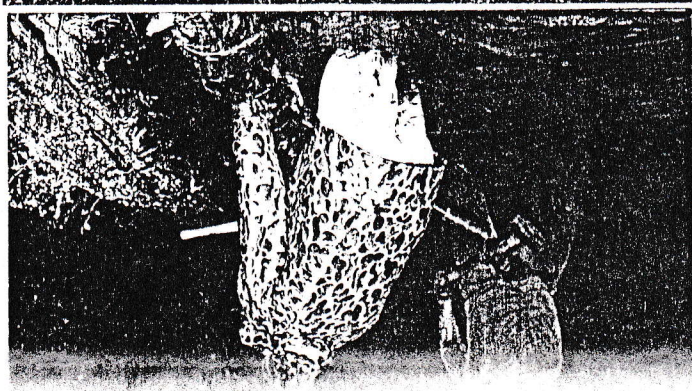
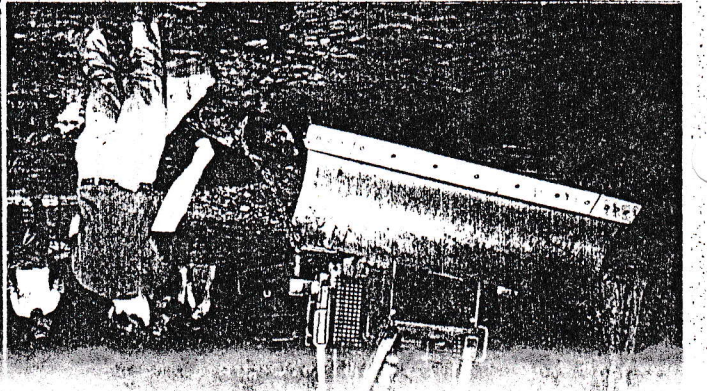
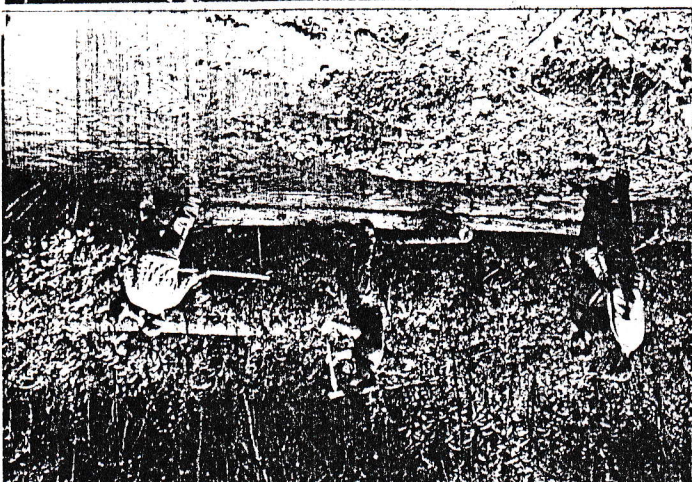
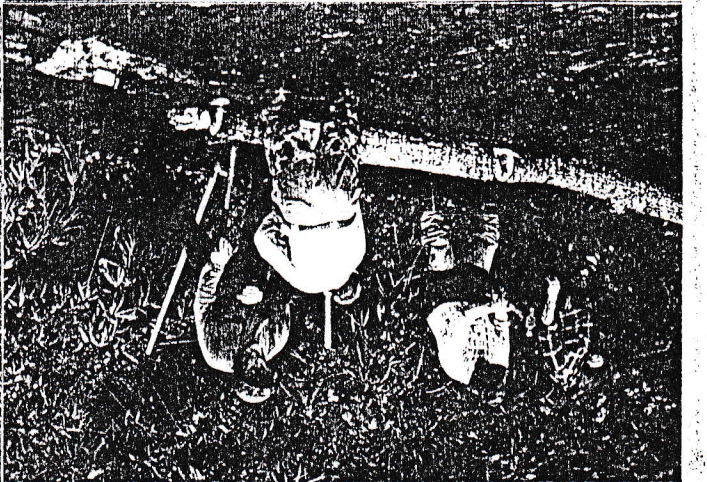
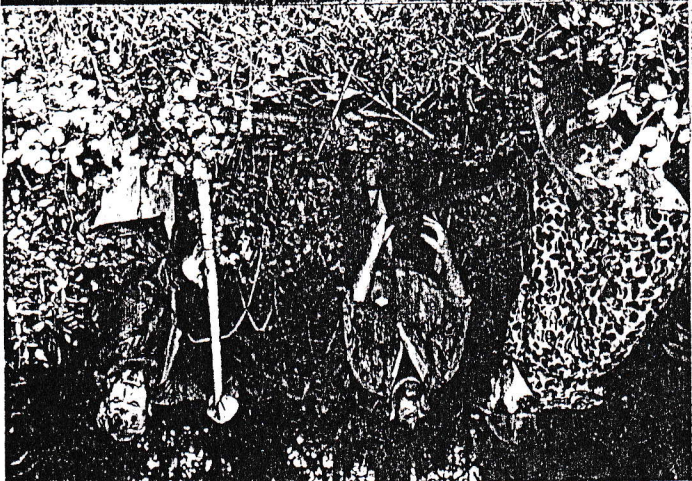
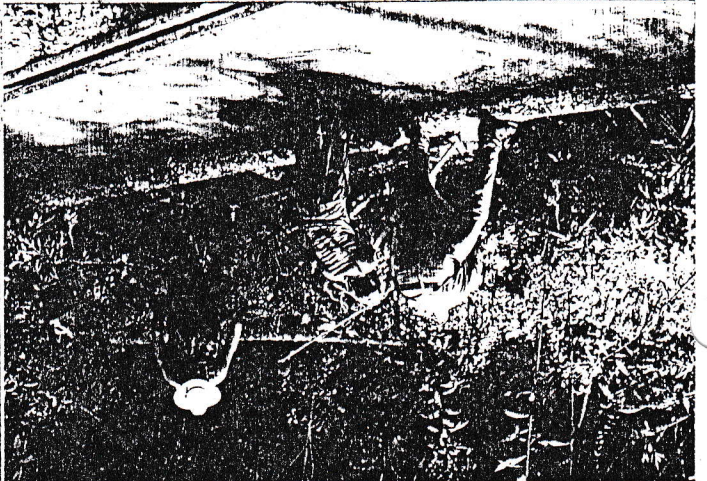
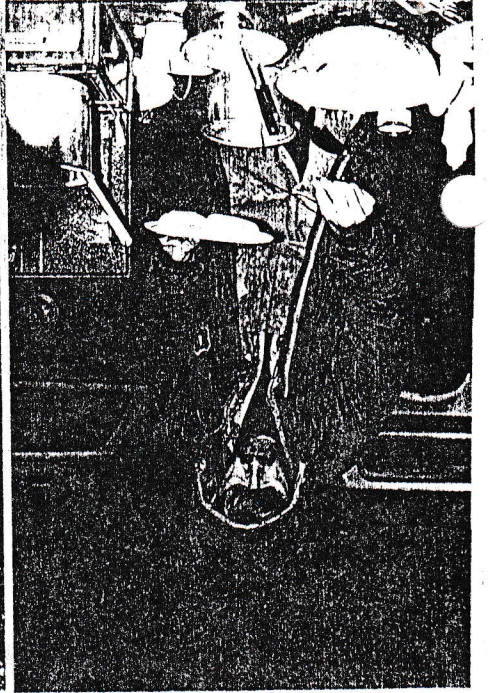
Also, when I was in the Highlands area over July 4 th weekend, I noticed some pollution or discharge into Big Creek. I have enclosed the photographs. Can you tell me what it was and where it was coming from? I notice that Big Creek is classified as a trout stream. Surely, what ever caused the creek to run milky can't be helping the fish.

Thank you for your help. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,  
*Carol Mercer*  
Carol S. Mercer  
Environmental Chair GCA

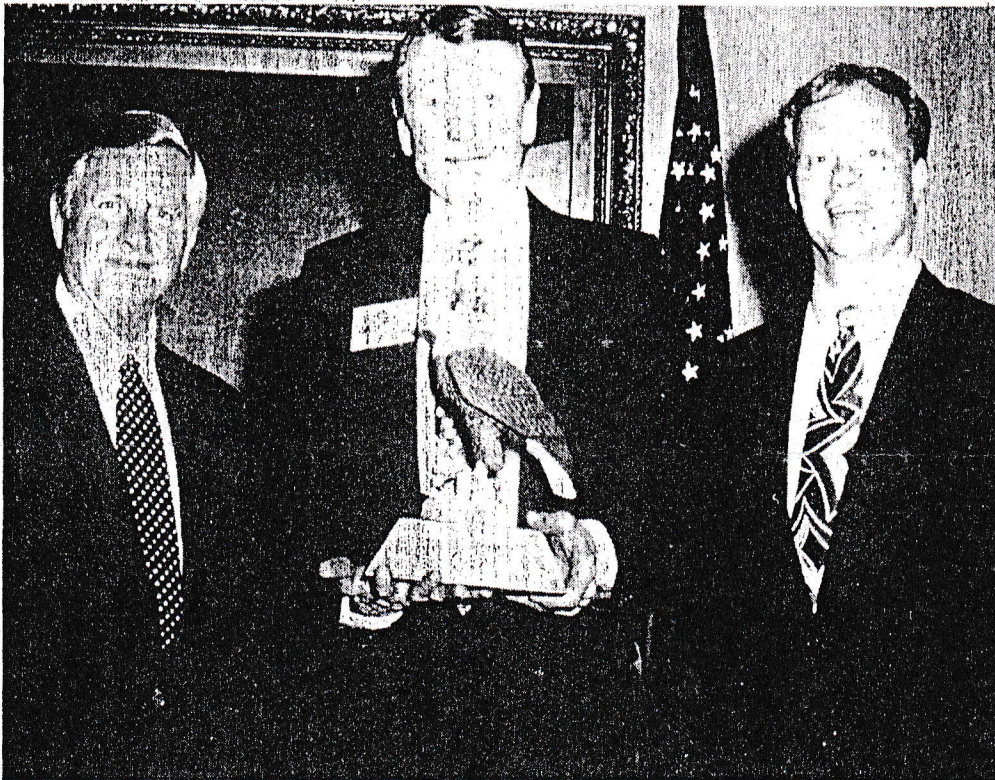
cc: Mr. James Silavent, GCA President





RABUN TU WORK OUTING - SARAH'S CREEK FALL 1991





Dr. Charles H. Wharton, center, stands with the governor, Zell Miller, left, and Paul Broun of the Georgia Wildlife Federation. Gov. and Mrs. Miller were hosts of the Annual Georgia Conservation Achievement Awards at the Governor's mansion this year.

## Dr. Wharton is chosen Conservationist of Year

Dr. Charles H. Wharton of Rabun County has been named Conservationist of the Year by the Georgia Wildlife Federation, sponsors of the prestigious Georgia Conservation Achievement Awards.

Since 1963 the awards have recognized outstanding contributions by Georgia individuals and organizations.

Wharton has been making worthy contributions to the conservation and protection of the ecological components of Georgia for more than 50 years. As professor of biology at Georgia State University for more than 30 years, he trained many of our state's best biologists and naturalists. As a scientist on the cutting edge of his field, he also has identified and illuminated natural resource problems far in advance of their recognition by politicians or the

general public," a representative of the Georgia Wildlife Federation said.

"He advocated the protection of our wetlands, river corridors, and river swamps long before the growth and development in Georgia which now allows us to see the finite nature of our water resources and the threat of water shortages. He has been a leader in the citizen pressure for the creation of such renowned institutions as the Georgia Natural Areas Council, the Georgia Heritage Trust Commission, and the Georgia Natural Heritage Inventory, all of which have contributed immeasurably to the protection of Georgia's unique land features. He currently serves as a member of Governor Miller's Preservation 2000 Advisory Council which shows equal promise for positive action."

Wharton wrote the most definitive work ever published describing Georgia's land characteristics.

The book, entitled "The Natural Environments of Georgia," has become the ultimate reference for defining the natural components of the Georgia landscape, the wildlife federation said.

He provided detailed and definitive descriptions of the form and functions of the Southern river swamp long before the floodplains and corridors became the subject of the protective legislation they now have. He remains our nation's most knowledgeable authority on the Southern river swamp.

"Dr. Wharton is the foremost field biologist in our state and has dedicated his life to the study and protection of Georgia's natural habitats," said Jerry McCollum, executive vice president of the Georgia Wildlife Federation. "His entire career has been a tribute to the conservation of the natural resources of our state, and we are very proud of him."

Wharton continues an active work association as professor emeritus at the University of Georgia Institute of Ecology.

Answers to

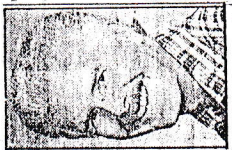
NCT offers



# OUTDOORS

## More Macon bait-fishing streams to be advised

**F**RANKLIN - The North Carolina Wildlife Commission's inland fisheries chief will recommend opening six additional trout streams to bait fishing in Macon County in an effort to appease fishers who bitterly oppose reclassification of trout streams in their county.



In a memo to Charles Fullwood, executive director of the Wildlife Commission, Fred Harris recommends adding the six streams and delaying full implementation of a proposed reclassification program.

Harris made his decision after presiding over a hearing Monday night here at which the majority of the approximately 300 people spoke against making changes in the classification of mountain trout streams.

Basically the proposed reclassification would limit bait fishing to streams that are stocked with hatchery-raised trout. Any stream on game lands not posted as "hatchery supported" waters would automatically fall into the wild trout category and fishing would be limited to artificial lures and flies.

The 13 members of the Wildlife Resources Commission meet Wednesday in Raleigh to act on the proposal.

Richard Hamilton, assistant director

of the Wildlife Commission, said the commissioners have several options: vote for full implementation, vote for amended implementation, exclude Macon County entirely from reclassification or again omit District 9 from reclassification.

District 9 was excluded from reclassification when the program was initially proposed in 1990.

Dr. W.H. McCall, of Asheville, commissioner for District 9, said he did not feel that Macon County should be excluded from the reclassification system. "It was voted in, and I feel we should go ahead with it. It's a good program, and it's working well in the other districts."

McCall said he doesn't feel that a county or a special group should receive special treatment.

"When I vote," he said, "I have to go with my convictions and vote for the good of the resource."

The Wildlife Commission approved the stream reclassification system two years ago for Districts 7 and 8, but omitted District 9 because of opposition that mainly was centered in Macon County. In 1991, after a public hearing in Marshall, at which the proposal was widely supported, the commission voted to include District 9 in the reclassification program.

The new program was scheduled to go into effect on July 1, along with other new wildlife regulations, but was delayed because several corrections in stream designations were not properly posted.

A second public hearing then was

scheduled in Macon County "because that's where all the opposition is," Harris said.

The hearing Monday in Franklin was a rerun of the 1990 public hearing. Of the almost 300 people at the meeting, 147 spoke against the proposal, and only 20 spoke for it. Several people who spoke for the proposal were booed.

Hamilton said the commission has received "a lot of letters" and a couple of petitions. The largest petition contained 500 signatures favoring the proposal. Another petition had 89 signatures objecting to the proposal.

Additionally, he said, the commission received a resolution against the proposal from the Macon County Board of Commissioners. Hamilton said the commission also had received a letter from Bjorn Dahl, supervisor of National Forests in North Carolina. The letter said the Forest Service supports the proposal "regardless of how the hearing in Franklin goes."

Rep. Marty Kimsey, of Macon County, who spoke against the proposal at Monday's hearing, said he "was tired of environmental enthusiasts telling us we can't use public lands. It's the entire public's land, not just Trout Unlimited's."

Kimsey said he had discussed the issue with Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner and "he said that if he's elected governor, wildlife regulations will be changed."

Several speakers expressed contempt for conservation groups and outsiders in

general. At the beginning of the hearing, Wildlife Commission personnel handed out an agenda to which was attached a list of hatchery supported streams in each county, the number of miles stocked in 1991, and the number of miles stocked in 1992.

Two lakes and eight streams were included in the listing for Macon County, including three streams (Tessentee Creek, Big Creek and a portion of the Nantahala River) that were added after protests from Macon County fishers, a total of 66 miles of stream and 23 acres of lake water.

One speaker expressed his scorn for the listed streams: "Don't call them trout streams," he said, "they're cow pasture streams."

Harris admitted that the streams were not the best quality trout streams, especially the Cullasaga River and Ellijay Creek, which have no natural reproduction and depend entirely on stocking.

The six streams that Harris proposes opening to bait fishing - Overflow Creek, Whiteoak Creek, Jarrett Creek, Winespring Creek, Coweeta Creek and Dryman Fork - would add 34 miles of good quality trout water, most of it on national forest land. These streams contain both wild and stocked trout, and some native brook trout in the headwaters area.

One of the objections to reclassification centered on access to wild trout.

"If regulations go in effect that say I can't catch and eat a wild trout, all I can say is you'd better hire more game wardens."

Another speaker called the stockers "black beauties that aren't worth eating."

While many of the speakers expressed contempt for Trout Unlimited, the Sierra Club and other conservation-oriented groups, some prefaced their remarks by saying that they fly fished and bait fished.

"I like to fly fish, and I like to bait fish," said Lee Holland, "and I want to have the option of catching trout both ways."

Other speakers said the proposal discriminates against young and elderly fishers.

One man called the commission stocking program "a joke."

If you're going to stock fish, he said, stock fingerling trout in the streams.

Hamilton said that although the issue has generated a lot of hard feelings, "we (the Wildlife Commission) haven't given up on it." Wildlife biologists and others concerned about the conservation of trout, especially native fish like the brook trout, contend that bait fishing is not compatible with good stream management procedures.

On Wednesday, the 13 Wildlife Resources Commission will have to decide whether to vote for the good of the resource or to vote the people's wishes.