

TIGHT LINES



NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

OCTOBER 1992

The Chapter's next meeting will be held on October 20, 1992, at the Rabun County Library in Clayton. Social hour begins at 6:30 PM, and the meeting at Seven.

You've read about it in other newsletters and I'm sure it has been reported in national and regional news media, but now you can see for yourself the detailed fishing maps, hear the twice told tales of piscatorial daring due and high jinx and talk with Doug "Chattooga" Adams in person. He will bring us, "Just the Chattooga". If you have wondered where is the "Jay Bird Hole", what's the "Stovepipe" and where is the gauge rock, you don't want to be absent.

We also need to line up teams of two to help with the Fish Trap now installed at King Creek adjacent to the campground at Burrell's Ford CG at the little concrete bridge. While checking on the creel survey boxes this past Saturday, Doug and I decided to find the trap and take a look at it. Design of the box does not allow the leaves coming downstream to get past the trap. This results in blocking the flow through the traps and may be responsible for five dead Browns and one stoneroller. We also do not know when the traps were checked last. The plan was to check it each day. It will take two people so check your calendar and call Walt Landreth (754-3928 and let him know what day or days you can cover between now and the end of the month. We have fumbled the ball on our on goal line on this one.

AT OUR LAST MEETING IN SEPTEMBER we elected Kyle Burrell to the Presidency by acclamation! After being led by two old "game hawks" since our chapter was formed, it will be interesting to have the "Fish Hawk" at the helm. Congratulations Kyle!

I'm sure you all join with me in thanking Doug for his leadership and enthusiasm over the years. I know, he will be lurking in the background and will continue to serve the chapter - we just won't have him to kick around anymore.

NUGGET NIXON EAGERLY ACCEPTED CHAIRMANSHIP OF RENDEZVOUS '93. Of course he wasn't on hand to thank us, but we were sure he would accept. Jim Kidd and Kyle Burrell agreed to coordinate the search for prizes and raffle items. Elsewhere in THIS NEWSLETTER IS A LETTER FROM JEFF DURNIAK THAT I URGE YOU TO READ AND TAKE TO HEART. The Rendezvous is our major fund raiser of the year and if you read your newsletter each month, you know the monies raised are put to good use. We know those of you from out of state are hard pressed to come to Rabun County - BUT, THE POST OFFICE MAKES SEVERAL TRIPS A WEEK - WE CAN USE YOUR HELP!!!

1993 RENDEZVOUS IS ON JANUARY 30, 1993

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ We now have \$3597 in the Treasury according to Mike Hogelin.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3RD

GEORGIA DNR, U. S. FOREST SERVICE & TU SHOCK A LOT

The West Fork, Sarah's Creek and the Tallulah River all have gotten the shock treatment since our last meeting. Since I wasn't there, I have no idea of who ~~was~~^{was} at the first two happenings, but I can say we had a busy time of it on the 3rd of October on the Tallulah. Some really nice Browns and Rainbows were netted, weighed, measured and released. Also evident were sculpin and assorted minnow types. Assisting the DNR and USFS (some wear dual hats you know) were Bobby Bell, Georgia TU Council; Jim Harris & Steve Avery of the Foothills Chapter; and Bill Kelly, June Landreth, Glen Littrell, Walt McBride, Jim Nixon, Jeff Durniak, Alan Hooper, Pat Hopton, Monte Seehorn and myself, all from the Rabun Chapter. Thanks to all who took part!!!

[Jeff informs me that bucket carriers and other interested persons are welcome to join in at the Chattooga on the 20th and 21st and Coopers Creek on the 26th and 27th of October. If you are interested, Give Jeff A Call at the Hatchery]

TIME FOR THE FOLLOWING TO RENEW: Brooks Adams, Bob Blalock, Allen Darling, Jim Darnell, Steve Denman, Fred Doherty, Carl Fredericks, Wayne Haines, Nell Jones, Glen Littrell, Steve Littrell, Steve McCall, William O'Connor, Joe's Sort-A-Rama, Howard Thompson^N, Teddy Vance, Mort Meadors and George Wittbold

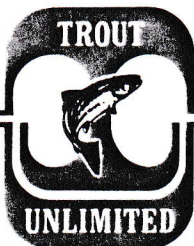


A dead trout is of absolutely no use to anyone unless it is meant to be eaten.

Charles Brooks, The Trout and the Stream, 1975

Now I'm getting old and mellow, like a keg of good whisky; and when someone tells me his particular fishing is the only kind, I'm inclined to set that man down as either a jackass or a very young fisherman.

Gordon MacQuarrie, If You Fish the St. Croix, Field & Stream, January, 1938



DOUG ADAMS - PRESIDENT

[706] 746-2158

TOM LANDRETH - NEWSLETTER EDITOR [706] 754-9202

Communit

→
 "Nowhere do we have as many people working with us as we do right here," said Andy Dolloff of the Forest Service Research and Fishery Science. Among the 24 workers on Sept. 17 were 10 people working off their community service for the federal government, like the man on the left, Randy Presnell, center, and Kyle Burrell, both of the U.S. Forest Service office in Clayton, took turns wearing the small engine and shocking the fish.



Shocking events track trout

Project helps determine movement of trout

By Kate Henry

Fish in King's Creek and other tributaries of the wild and scenic Chattooga were shocked, literally, as teams of scientists and forest rangers gathered all the fish in each numbered pool and riffle in an effort to track the movement of the trout.

Using copper-tipped bamboo poles connected to a gas motor which they wore on their back, Kyle Burrell and Randy Presnell, both of the Clayton's Tallulah District office of the U.S. Forest Service, took turns wearing the thick rubber gloves and stunning fish to ease the trauma of handling and tagging them.

The team was working on about half a mile of King's Creek at Burrell's Ford campground in South Carolina Friday, Sept. 18, when they were given the assistance of a work crew of federal offenders who were working off the community service portion of their sentence or probation.

Several community service workers followed "shockers" Burrell and Presnell upstream, netting the stunned fish and placing them in tagged buckets. Others carried the buckets back and forth between the crew recording the type, weight and size of each fish and the pools and riffles where the fish were found.

In 1990 and '91, 1,000 rainbow trout were planted in the tributaries of the west fork of the Chattooga. A fourth of those had eye tags and the remainder had been branded at the fisheries where they were raised. By June, they were all gone.

The U.S. Forest Service and state

"It looks like the fish are coming into the stream in the fall and staying until the following spring or summer."

Monte Sechorn

Division of Fish and Game are trying to determine which species of fish move, when, and how long they stay gone.

Monte Sechorn, regional fishery biologist with the Forest Service, said that with the tags being inserted above every trout's eye, they are able to identify individual fish much like identifying people by their social security number. This identification system will help in determining the movement of the trout, which is the goal of this study.

"It looks like the fish are coming into the stream in the fall and staying until the following spring or summer," Sechorn said.

Traps have been set in King's Creek at Burrell's Ford camp ground and members of "Trout Unlimited" tally the fish every day as they move up or down stream, then release them on the other side of the traps.

Sechorn said that each pool and riffle along the stream is assigned a number and is typed as far as habitat. Field workers document

the amount of cover, depth of water, width of stream, type of vegetation on the banks and the substrata of the streambed.

Then a snorkeling team goes through and counts the fish, recording that number beside the number of the pool or riffle.

The latest phase of this project took place Sept. 10 - 18, when Andy Dolloff, with Forest Service Research and Fishery Science, and his team came through to shock the fish, weigh and measure each one, insert a tag above each rainbow trout's eye with a syringe, and identify each fish by the pool or riffle in which they were captured.

According to Dolloff, who is a professor at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., the streams off the west fork of the Chattooga form the southern end of the trout range for the Appalachian Mountains. Below here, it is too warm for trout.

In addition to watching actual movement of the fish, which is monitored three times a year, a water monitor has been set up on King's Creek to record water levels and the pH balance of the stream.

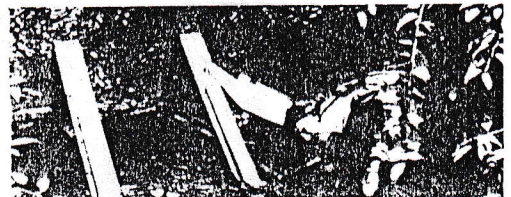
Although wading in a stream and being paid to catch fish, even if one has to throw them back, may seem like a dream job, Sechorn and his assistant for the day, Marsha Raus,

pointed out that processing the data collected in the field is a different matter.

"Collecting data is the fun part," Raus said. Sechorn finished the thought: "It's analyzing it back in the office in Atlanta that's hard."



Brian Evans from Blacksburg, Va., tags a fish before returning it to the water.



Although the fish trap looks firmly in place, Marsha Raus and Monte Sechorn (not pictured) discussed moving it to a more secure location.

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

For 124 Years the South's Standard Newspaper

JAY SMITH
Publisher

DENNIS BERRY
President

JOHN W. WALTER JR.
Managing Editor

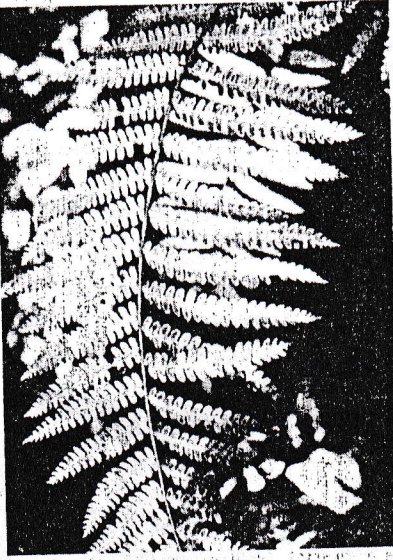
RON MARTIN
Editor

CYNTHIA TUCKER
Editorial Page Editor

JAMES M. COX, Chairman 1950-57 — JAMES M. COX JR., Chairman 1957-74

Community news

THE CLAYTON TRIBUNE



Bronzing fern along the river.



The Chattooga: A Wild and Scenic River.

Chattooga River needs protection

Under the North Georgia Grapevine

By Marie B. Mellinger
"Mine is the voice of the wailing
wind,
My sigh is the softness of bron-
zing fern,
I live in each golden poplar leaf,
Where fiery colors of autumn
burn
Forever I live in a granite crag.

Or dance in a brief-lived mayfly
hour,
My thunder and lightning can
threaten the stars
My touch can caress a fragile
flower,
I live in each trembling fungus
face
That springs new born from the
forest soil,
I rage like a demon in waters
white
Or softly whisper a prayer to
God.

The river is our own Chattooga,
border between us and neighbor-
ing states. Right now there is a
concerted effort to protect the
Chattooga River watershed. A
three-state task force composed of

environmentalists and concerned
citizens from Georgia, South
Carolina, and North Carolina are
working on this project. Meetings
are being held with rangers from
the Chattoogoches, the Sumter
and the Nantahala National
Forests.
The group also will continue to
work with and help private land
owners with holdings within the
river watershed.
Special efforts will be made to
protect rare and endangered plant
and animal species, special scenic
spots, and unusual ecosystems.

This project is important.
Everyone should help. We have a
national treasure in our midst and
it needs to be protected.

Forest Service ducks change

The U.S. Forest Service, long criticized for mismanaging the national forests under its stewardship, has responded in the past year by promising new directions and new sensitivity to ecological concerns.

Yet that rhetoric of change has yet to be translated into change itself. The agency is producing as much wood as possible, as cheaply as possible, from the national forests. Part of the difficulty can be traced to USFS leadership, most of whom were trained by colleges in which forestry was taught not as an environmental science, but as farming. The crop to be harvested was trees.

Those USFS staffers then took jobs in an agency that generates 84 percent of its revenue from selling trees, and another 12 percent from oil, gas and mineral production. The people who thrived in the agency and were promoted, were those who met harvest quotas. Congress shares equally in the blame. Politicians who see trees as jobs, and jobs as votes, have traditionally pressured the Forest Service to cut forests at a rate that may preserve without significant environmental damage.

Taken together, those and other forces have created an internal bureaucratic culture within the Forest Service that has proved extremely difficult to alter.
In just last summer, the Forest Service produced a document called "Management Strategies for the Southern Region."
The report promises "a changing emphasis and a fresh look" at the region's national forests, and does lay out some promising steps toward ecosystem management, the philosophy that calls for preserving forests as healthy ecosystems, rather than converting them to tree farms.
But oddly, a document ostensibly meant to lay out a change of philosophy instead be-

comes a defensive argument for retaining the old ways. For instance, it calls for training programs to "ensure that all Forest Service employees understand that the mission of the Forest Service includes the production, harvest and extraction of commodities." There are no training programs for instilling the new philosophy of ecosystem management.

The report stresses the economic value of timber harvesting to nearby communities, noting that in fiscal 1991, "more than 13,000 jobs, \$300 million of local community income and \$44 million of federal income tax were generated by the sale of timber from Southern National Forests." But nowhere is mentioned the economic impact of non-timber uses for national forests, such as hiking, hunting, bird-watching or fishing. The document states that clear-cutting "is scientifically sound for many situations." But the argument against clear-cutting is placed in the mouths of others: "However, many people think clear-cutting disturbs the landscape too much and detracts from other multiple-use values."

Not surprisingly, the reluctance to change betrays in that document is reflected in policy as well. More than a year ago, a coalition of environmental groups asked the Forest Service to test its new ecosystem-management approach in the beautiful watershed of the Chattooga River, which runs through three national forests and the states of Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.
The Chattooga was named a National Wild and Scenic River in 1974 and offers a wonderful opportunity for the Forest Service to demonstrate both the ability and commitment to implement its new philosophy.
Instead, the Forest Service is employing the age-old bureaucratic trick of saying no by refusing to say yes. That's not good enough. It's time to change, and the Chattooga is the place to start.

September 24, 1992

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Rabun TU Members

FROM: Jeff Durniak (Rt 2 #26 Rolling Meadow, Mt Airy, GA 30563)

SUBJECT: 1993 Rabun Rendezvous - Fundraising

As many of you know, our annual banquet has provided most of the funds needed to pursue our chapter activities. The Rendezvous last year at Dillard House was an outstanding success, as we "stole" over \$4,000 from wealthy flatlanders for conservation work here in the mountains. Last year's proceeds were used to contribute to the TU national Living Brightwater Trust (\$1000), cost-share a U.S. Forest Service fisheries intern, cost-share Chattooga River helicopter trout stocking, help pay for the Chattooga creel cards, fund the startup of the new Habersham chapter, contribute to Kids Fishing Events, pay postage for Tom's outstanding newsletter, and many more items. Although our chapter numbers about 100 strong, a core group of 20-30 folks has traditionally carried the weight during our activities. Many of us may live too far away to be as involved as an Adams, Landreth, Littrell, or Burrell.

Well, now is our chance to be contributing members of Rabun TU. WE NEED DONATIONS FOR THE BANQUET RAFFLE AND AUCTION. If every member, from Michigan to Florida, kicked in a five or ten dollar check to purchase raffle items, we could probably beat last year's profits. Make your check payable to "Rabun Trout Unlimited" and send it to Prizes Chairman Jim Kidd (Route 1, Tiger, GA 30576) or me. Better yet, maybe some of you would like to donate an item. To make the process easy, I have listed on the following pages some affordable rendezvous prizes, where they can be found, and their catalog numbers and costs. Feel free to pick items other than those listed if you desire. Place your catalog order and simply have it shipped to Jim or me. I promise that we won't first try out the stuff before the Rendezvous and will also hand over all checks to Treasurer Mike Hogelin for accounting before raffle item purchases. I encourage you where possible to choose some of the local vendors listed, since it has been a Rabun TU trademark to keep our work and most of our money near home. Because of that "grassroots" trend, we have built a fine reputation and strong support in the local community.

This will be the one and only appeal for bucks by the chapter. Think about it. Better yet, do something. If you can't come and join in the work and fun, then donate! At least as a tribute to Tom for his newsletter efforts, toss a check in an envelope to defray our mailing costs. We need your donations by NOVEMBER 30 so we can properly plan the auction and raffle. As always, contributors will be listed in the newsletter. Please show that you are indeed an integral part of what one reporter coined, the "Rabun Anglers of Honor." Thanks.



DONATION IDEAS FOR THE RABUN RENDEZVOUS

JW

DONATION IDEAS FOR THE RABUN RENDEZVOUS

[Jeff, in addition to writing the enclosed letter, compiled a list of ideas gleaned from catalogs and other sources. He included the price and cat.no. of each item. Surely, you can be interested enough to look these things up and determine what you can donate. Prices range from \$6.95 to \$39.95.]

1. From the Orvis Company (800) 548-9548) You might select a gift certificate, reel cushion, knot tying tool, a book like Reading Trout Streams, Orvis Fly Fishing Guide or Orvis Fly Pattern Index, a creel/tackle box, or Wheatley Fly Box.
2. From Cabella's (800) 237-4444) another gift certificate, nippers, reel pouch, 3 in 1 nipping tool, fly tying vise, neoprene fishing gloves, wader bag, gear bag, wading staff, fly tying tool kit, leatherman tool, Articroel, shortie fishing vest or a cool breeze fishing vest.
3. Hook and Hackle (800) 552-8342 has a good selection of fly tying and rod building supplies as well as the following books: Flick's Stream-Side Guide; Fly Tiers Manual; Angler's Guide to Aquatic Insects or Tying and Fishing Terrestrials
4. A one year subscription to Georgia outdoor news (800) 438-4663
5. Call Gander Mountain at (800) 558-9410 and order an Eagle Claw Fly Rod; a Medalist Fly Reel; a Plano Rod Case or a Gerber LST Knife.
6. L. L. Bean can ship you a Ladies Earthworks T-Shirt; a Ladies Jersey T-Shirt; a Ladies Roll Sleeve T-Shirt; a campus duffle or a Boat and Tote Bag.

If you want to keep your dollars local try these suggestions:

7. Call the Dillard House (706) 746-5348 and order a great Dillard House ham or a dinner for two certificate.
8. The Stockton House (706) 782-6175; the Stonebrook Inn (706) 782-6789; John & Earl's (706) 746-5321 are all excellent restaurants and offer dinner for two gift certificates.
9. Consider Gift certificates from Reeves Hardware & Sporting Goods (706) 782-4253; Tiger Mountain Cutlery (706) 782-3718 or one of this areas best known specialty shops, Gourdcraft Originals (706) 865-4048

THIS IS JUST A LIST OF SUGGESTIONS. HELP US MAKE IT A PILE OF PRIZES AND RAFFLE ITEMS BY GETTING YOUR DONATION TO US BY NOVEMBER 30TH SO WE CAN PLAN THE BEST YET RABUN RENDEZVOUS. THANKS A LOT.