

TIGHT LINES



DEC 1992

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold it's monthly meeting on December 15th in the library in Clayton. As usual, the social hour begins about 6:30, the meeting at 7:00. This will be a very important meeting as we move closer to the Rabun Rendezvous date of January 30th. All members should make a special effort to be there ready to help with the final plans for the Rendezvous.

If you missed the November meeting, you missed a really good program presented by Don Pfitzer. Don's background in entomology, fisheries biologist, movie producer, TV host, outdoor writer and flyfishing was evident as he carried us through the days before the Tellico Dam and to when the Little Tennessee River ran free and clear. If a shoal area covering 165 acres of prime dry fly habitat with trout averaging 18 inches doesn't turn you on then you must have trouble uncasing your rod! Don also covered the area below Buford Dam to Roswell on the Chattahoochee as to what to expect in the way of habitat, hatches and the most successful flies to pack. We are certainly grateful to Don for taking time with the Rabun Chapter and we hope he will find his way north again, real soon. Thanks Don!

If you will recall, much was made of the "snail darter" when the Tellico project was first being considered. The results was not just the loss of an endangered species habitat - another running river was dammed and prime trout, small mouth bass, walleye and muskie habitat was lost. When a species is lost due to the interference of man we had better make darn sure the activity is worth it.

We were also treated to some slides of the Forest Service, DNR and TU at work up on Cooper Creek, shocking the stream.

Seems it was audio visual night as we were also entertained by our friend Henry Williamson and one of the principles of the TV Program, "Georgia Outdoors" in a flyfishing and "southern twanging" contest. I think Henry may have lost the fishing part due to the fact the other guy was a corn dunker, but, for my money, Henry's accent is still a hands down winner! I would like to know however, since when does Henry think of a black backed stocker of any size as a "nice fish"?

BUSINESS was conducted at this meeting:

Jim "Nugget" Nixon reported that about 33 people attended a dinner meeting of the areas developers where sedimentation and erosion control was the subject and no one was killed or crippled. Hopefully, awareness of the problems associated with careless soil disturbing activities will be fresh on the minds of everyone who attended. The Chapter picked up the tab for dinner.

December is the month for the Chapter to check the creel boxes on the Chattooga and the fish traps on King Creek. Mike Hogelin and I will check the survey boxes and Jim Kidd is coordinating the King Creek Project. As you know, checking the creel survey boxes is a snap but the fish traps are another matter. If Jim hasn't contacted you and you can give a little time, call him at the Forest Service office in Clayton.

The Chapter voted to support the Forest Service proposal to the Rabun County Commissioners that the access to the Chattooga through Earl's Ford and Sandy Ford be blocked and turnaround and parking facilities be provided. A letter was written to the county voicing such support.

ITEMS FOR PRIZES AND RAFFLE NEEDED

In the November newsletter we asked for all of you out there to help us out by sending items or cash to the Chapter. To date, we have heard from a very small number of members. Please, this is our sole fund raising activity during the year and we need to make it a success - you can assure that success by giving us a hand with your contribution to the effort. Helicopter stocking in the remote areas of our fisheries, Kids Fishing Day activities, stream structure work, Forest Service intern programs and countless other activities need our support. Send your contribution to: Jim Kidd, Rt 1, Tiger, GA 30576.

DO IT TODAY!

HERE'S WISHING ALL OF YOU FROM ALL OF US IN THE RABUN CHAPTER A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JOINT TU, USFS, GA DNR PLANNING SESSION IN DAHLONEGA

Kyle Burrell, Jeff Durniak and Doug Adams attended the planning session in Dahlonega on December 5th and report the following of primary interest to Rabun Chapter members:

- a) The Rabun Chapter received a Certificate of Appreciation from the U. S. Forest Service.
- b) A work outing on Charlies Creek has been scheduled for April 24th in the spring and on September 18 in the fall.
- c) The Rabun Chapter pledged \$300 for helicopter stocking on the Chattooga.
- d) Waters Creek area was hit by the recent tornado and a clean up workouting has been scheduled for the 16th of January.

The Rabun County Commissioners decided to take the politician's favorite course of action and made no decision, leaving it up to a county wide referendum 2 years from now! Meanwhile citizens can continue washing their cars, breaking down the banks and generally fouling up the river.

There are several enclosures (as usual) you may be interested in:

- 1) Stream structures, 2) Fish Populations, 3) Fish Length on Charlies and Nootootla Creeks.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Thanks to Mike Blakely, Bob Blalock and Bill Bunch who have renewed.

Welcome to new members Gary Bruce, Bobby Brown and Sharon Wilson.

These members need to renew their memberships: Buck Chastain, Allen Darling, Jim Darnell, Steve Denman, Fred Doherty, Carl Fredericks, Wayne Haines, Wayne Hubbard, Nell Jones, Glen Littrell, Steve Littrell, Steve McCall, William O'Connor, Joe's Sport A Rama, Howard Thompson, Teddy Vance, James Vandiver, Mort Meadors and George Wittbold.



November 18, 1992

Mr. Johnny Raney, Chairman
 Rabun County Commissioners
 Rabun County Courthouse
 Clayton, GA 30525

Dear Mr. Raney:

Trout Unlimited is an international conservation group whose goals are the improvement, enhancement and protection of our cold water resources.

In this spirit, the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited supports the U. S. Forest Service proposal to construct a turnaround and parking for vehicles at both Earl's Ford and Sandy Ford accesses to the Chattooga River. This action would greatly reduce, if not eliminate vehicular damage to the river banks, the river bed and other associated resource damage.

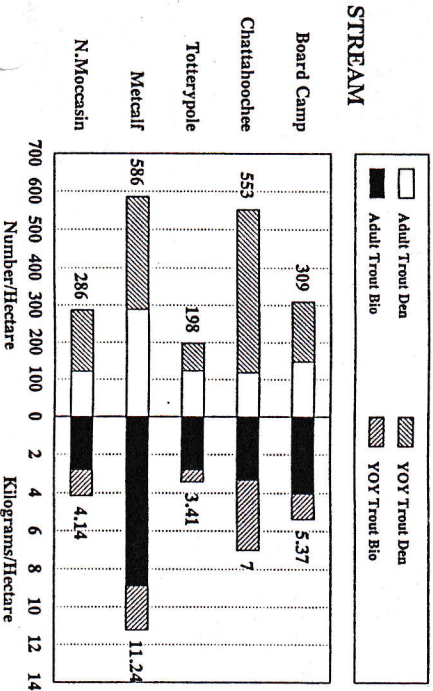
On behalf of the ninety plus members of the Rabun Chapter of TU, I urge the Rabun County Commissioners to support the proposal.

Sincerely,

Tom Landreth
 Tom Landreth
 Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 P. O. Box 65
 Rabun Gap, GA 30568

copy: Dave Jensen, Tallulah Ranger District, U.S.F.S.

1991 POPULATIONS Brook Trout Dominated Streams



1991 FISH POPULATIONS Brown Trout Dominated Streams Nontrout data excluded

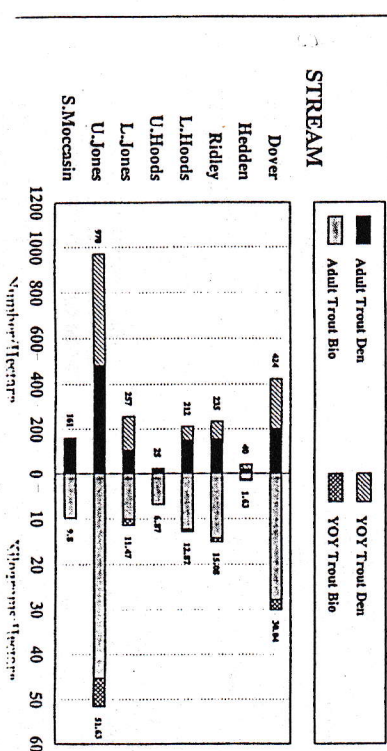


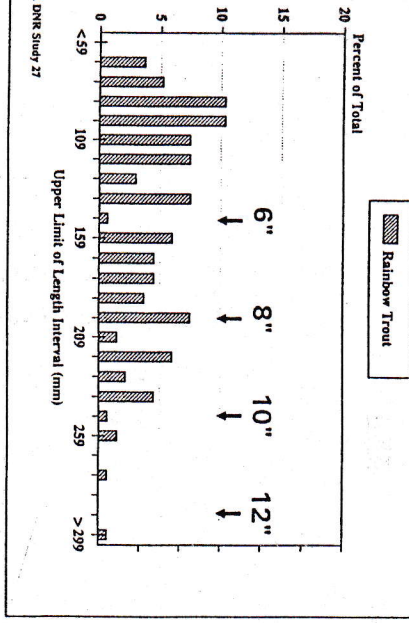
Table 1. Stream improvement structures in the Chatahoochee National Forest.

Stream	Year Built	Number	Cooperators
Mountaintown Crk.	1987	4	GA DNR
"	1988	34	Trout Unlimited
"	1989	24	"
"	1990	14	"
"	1991	11	"
"	1992	7	"
Emercy Creek	1989&92	8	"
East Armuchee	1991	38	None
Long Creek	1986	10	Trout Unlimited
Sea Creek	1987	20	"
Rock Creek	1992	14	None
Little Rock Creek	1990	18	Trout Unlimited
"	1991	18	"
"	1992	6	"
Cooper Creek	1988	10	None
Polecat Creek	1983&90	30	None
Nontoolah Creek	1989	15	Trout Unlimited
Mulky Creek	1989	18	None
Jones Creek	1984-91	118	Trout Unlimited
Waters Creek	1987-90	30	DNR, Trout Unlimited
Coopers Creek	1987-91	45	Trout Unlimited
Cane Creek	1979&81	72	"
Nimblewill Creek	1986	26	Trout Unlimited
Montgomery	1983	6	None
Bryant (Lower)	1990	19	None
Pretty Branch	1983&92	21	None
Swallows Creek	1987-91	38	Trout Unlimited
Coosa Creek	1990-92	34	Trout Unlimited, Boy Scouts
High Shoals	1992	10	None
Bear Den Creek	1990	26	Trout Unlimited
Sarah's Creek	1990-92	67	Trout Unlimited
Reed Creek	1986-91	57	Trout Unlimited
Hedden Creek	1986-92	24	Trout Unlimited
S.Fork Moccasin	1989-90	91	None
Hickory Bottoms	1992	2	None
Dukes Creek	1985	4	Boy Scouts
Nancytown Creek	1986-90	7	Boy Scouts
Chastain Branch	1980	5	Boy Scouts
Smith Creek	1989-92	11	Trout Unlimited
Total		1012	

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1991 TROUT LENGTH-FREQUENCY

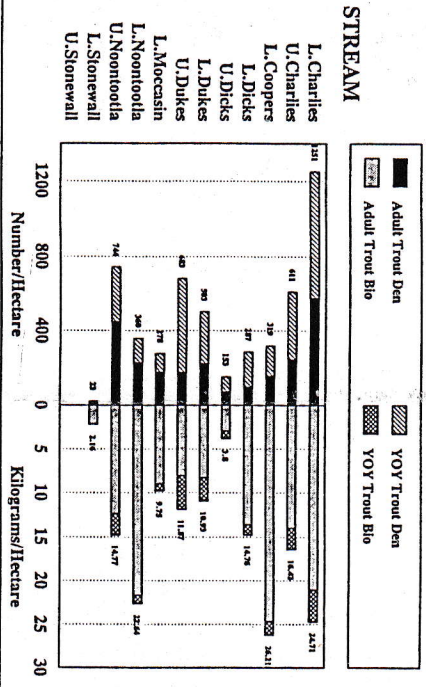
NOONTOOTLA CREEK



1991 FISH POPULATIONS

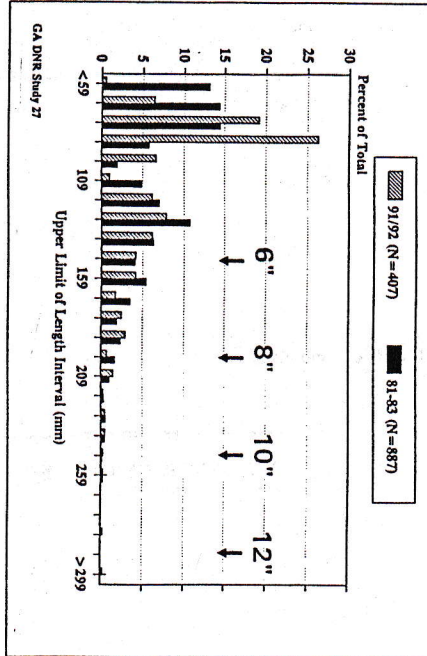
Rainbow Trout Dominated Streams

Nontrout data excluded



RAINBOW TROUT LENGTH-FREQUENCY

CHARLES CREEK



TU GRASSROOTS ACTIVIST NETWORK NEEDS YOU!!

TU still needs more TU members to sign up as participants in TU's fledgling Grassroots Activist Network. Members of the Activist Network receive ACTION ALERTS from TU national on legislative and regulatory issues that affect our coldwater fisheries. The ACTION ALERT summarizes the issue at hand, provides points to make in your letter, and provides information on who and where to send your letter. The Activist Network will start sometime in January. We currently have about 90 TU members signed up. Don't delay sign up today! Send your name, address (with nine digit zip code if possible), and phone number to: TU GRASSROOTS ACTIVIST NETWORK, 800 Follin Lane, SE, Suite 250, Vienna, VA 22180-4959.

TU COOPERATES WITH FEDS TO "BRING BACK THE NATIVES"

After years of struggling to develop a watershed approach to federal fisheries conservation programs, a new beginning to basin-wide management is being developed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under their "Bring Back The Natives" initiative.

"Bring Back The Natives" emphasizes habitat restoration coupled with sound land management practices as a prerequisite to conservation of native aquatic species. While some projects target recovery of threatened and endangered species, others involve enhancement of fish populations that can provide immediate fishing opportunities.

Ancient Forest Protection - A TU-supported bill for protecting critical salmonid watersheds and spotted owl habitat in the Pacific Northwest was introduced and reported out of a Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee before negotiations on the bill stalled.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

YOU TALK, CONGRESS LISTENS.

PART II
Last month we reported on several legislative victories which will help restore and protect coldwater fisheries around the country. A number of these have been signed into Public Law. TU's national office staff and grassroots volunteers conducted a vigorous year-long campaign to secure passage of the following five bills:

PASSED - Omnibus Reclamation Bill

An important provision of the Omnibus Reclamation Bill (P.L. 102-575) is Central Valley Project Improvement legislation that will reallocate substantial new water to Sacramento River fisheries, including the threatened Sacramento River winter run Chinook. The Grand Canyon Protection Act passed as part of the Omnibus Bill, provides protection for Colorado River fishery and cultural resources.

PASSED - Driftnet Control - The U.S.

International Driftnet Fishery Conservation Act (P.L. 102-582) will provide more effective provisions for enforcing the 1991 United Nations ban on high seas driftnets, including provisions for sanctioning imports of fish products and fishing equipment from nations violating the ban.

PASSED - Elwha River Dam Removal Study - The Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act (P.L. 102-495) directs the Secretary of the Interior to study options for restoring the salmonid fisheries in this key Olympic Peninsula (Washington) River, including removal of dams.

PASSED - Wetlands Delineation Study - The Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill (P.L. 102-389) contained a key provision for funding a study of controversial wetlands delineation manual issues by the National Academy of Sciences. Results of this study should help the new Clinton Administration improve protection of wetlands.

PASSED - Fish Passage Improvements - The Energy Bill (P.L. 102-486) contained several provisions that benefit trout and salmon, including a biologically sound definition of upstream-downstream fish passage at hydropower facilities.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests
508 Oak Street, NW
Gainesville, GA 30501
(404) 536-0541

ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL STREAM
PROJECTS NOT INVOLVING
IN-STREAM STRUCTURES

Reply To: 2610

Date: November 6, 1992

Mr. Bobby Bell
108 1/2 Sycamore
Rome, GA 30161

Dear Bobby:

Yesterday we met with Garland Steward and Alex Watson to conduct some pre-annual meeting planning for the 1992 coop work projects. As you know the meeting this year will be on December 5th at 9:00 AM, at the Lumpkin County Library in Dahlonega. I really think the space is a little bit small, but due to the location of Highway 400, it is probably better than here in Gainesville.

Here are the projects that we discussed yesterday:

1. Maintenance of structures at Jones Creek;
2. Possible ford repair on Coopers Creek;
3. Canoe stocking of brown trout in Etowah River;
4. Coosa Creek structures;
5. Fishing rodeo assistance June 12 at Lake Winfield Scott, Dockery Lake, Rock Creek, and Lake Conasauga;
6. Little Rock Creek structures;
7. Sample lower Rock Creek;
8. Funding assistance for helicopter stocking of Chattooga and Toccoa Rivers;
9. Mountaintown Creek structures;
10. Charlies Creek structures;
11. Lower Reed Creek structures.

ex was also interested in sediment control and stabilization on overflow, Clear, Low Gap, Holcolm, Ammons, Sarah's, and Soapstone Creeks.

We discussed possible TU volunteers at Waters Creek, and a possible feeder project on Smith Creek.

Here is a proposed agenda for December 5th:

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 0900 Call to Order-Special presentation
0915 Dept of Natural Resources presentation
0945 Jim Wentworth: Summary data of sampling results in project areas.
1015 Marsha Raus-Proposal for 1993 cooperative projects.
1045 Group Discussion of proposal
1100 Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited Meeting

Please feel free to modify this agenda as you see fit. We're looking forward to another great year of working together for the benefit of the coldwater resources of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Sincerely,

BEN A. SANDERS
Fisheries, Wildlife, and Range
Staff Officer

WATERSHED CONSERVANCY
INITIATES PILOT PROJECTS

TU's *Watershed Conservancy Program* is underway and targets land acquisitions involving trout and salmon resources. Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and others routinely engage in such programs, but none of these

Correction of Silt Problems-

1. Overflow* and Clear Creeks
2. Dicks Creek (Lake Burton WMA)
3. Sara's Creek (below the falls and above Warwoman Rd)
4. Low Gap Creek*
5. upper part of Holcombe* and Ammons Creeks
6. Charlie's Creek (lower part)*

All of the above need to be examined by the U.S.F.S. to see what if anything would be appropriate for a TU/USFS project. The asterisk denotes some attention to the problem has already begun or is planned by USFS or other agencies.

Streamside Clean up and/or Re-planting Cover-

1. Low Gap Creek*
2. Jasus Creek
3. Soapstone Creek
4. Sara's Creek* (camping areas may need periodic work)
5. Wildcat Creek (bridges and camping areas may need periodic work)
6. Corbin Creek (camping area)

The asterisk denotes some attention to the problems have already begun or are planned by USFS. Part of the solution to some of the problems may be restricting both camping and stream access to certain points.

All of the above are offered for consideration as 1993 or future projects. If there are additional streams that need attention by TU or the USFS or jointly by both please bring these to December meeting.

NATIONAL FISHING WEEK 1993

Start your planning now for National Fishing Week 1993! National Fishing Week in 1993 runs from June 7-13. TU chapters and councils will receive information kits from the National Fishing Week Steering Committee sometime in January. If you need additional information or do not receive an information kit by the end of January 1993, contact Brandon Miner, Coordinator, National Fishing Week at (703) 532-7730. Remember, National Fishing Week is a vehicle for chapters to utilize to help TU grow!

PROGRESS MADE - Congress failed to pass several key bills, but TU and other fish conservationists made substantial progress:

Endangered Species Act - A TU supported bill, the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1992, introduced by Reps. Studds and Dingell, gathered an impressive 107 cosponsors.

Wetlands - A strong wetlands bill TU helped to draft, the Wetlands Reform Act of 1992, introduced by Rep. Don Edwards, gathered 82 cosponsors.

FINAL REPORT

State: Georgia Project Number: F-25

Project Title: Northern Region Fisheries Investigations

Study XVI Title: Trout Stream Assessment Program for Private Lands in Georgia

Period Covered: 1 July 1990 - 30 June 1992

Study Objectives: To determine the feasibility of an assessment program for maintaining or increasing public trout fishing opportunities. To develop and implement guidelines for establishment of public access to trout streams on private land in Georgia.

ABSTRACT

In order to meet present and future demand for trout angling in Georgia, the feasibility of a trout stream assessment program for providing angler access to private lands was investigated. Characteristics of existing angler access programs in other states were assessed via a telephone survey. Survey results were used to develop a stream prioritization system and action plan for improving angler access to trout streams on private land. An option menu of land gifts, fee simple purchases, and perpetual stream corridor assessments, a commitment toward maintenance of acquired properties, and suggested improvements to the existing catchable trout stocking program were recommended to improve trout angler access. A limited trout stream acquisition program in fiscal balance with other programs to improve small lake and warmwater stream angling opportunities, appeared to be an attainable goal for the Georgia Game and Fish Division.

12/01/92 15:27 FAX 404 237 3015 P.B.-ATLANTA

Garland Stewart
4453 Abingdon Drive
Stone Mountain, Ga. 30083

Home 294-0471
Work 364-2665
Fax 237-3015



To: Chapter Presidents
Subject: 1993 Stream Projects

At the December 5th meeting, we will be planning the projects that have been requested by USFS personnel. Also listed are projects suggested by Trout Unlimited members.

- Jones Creek Maintenance of Existing Structures
- Coopers Creek Maintenance of Existing Structures
- Coosa Creek One work day (structures)
- Rock Creek Sampling above Toccoa River
- Little Rock Creek Habitat Improvement for Brook Trout
- Mountaintown Creek 6 Structures & Maintenance
- Charlie's Creek 2 Day Weekend
- Smith Creek 2 work days above sediment area close to Tallulah River
- Lower Reed Creek @ Chatooga River 2 Work Days
- Kid's Fishing Day - June 12 - Lake Winfield Scott Dockery Lake
- Kid's Fishing Derby - Sometime in July - Broad River Lake Canasuga

P.S. THE TOPNOSES OF NOV. 22, 1992 HIT THE WATER'S CREEK AREA VERY HEAVY. MANY TREES ARE DOWN, BLOCKING THE ROAD AND THE STREAM. AN EARLY WORK DAY WILL BE NEEDED SO THAT THE FEEDING TRUCK CAN GET IN. THIS WILL NEED TO BE IN EARLY JANUARY.



THE RABUN RENDEZVOUS
A CELEBRATION OF THE JOYS OF TROUT

"The rendezvous was unlike anything before or since, a gathering of uninhibited men down from the mountains. The event attracted perhaps a hundred mountain men, their Indian wives, and assorted visiting tribesmen. Amusements included gambling, drinking, storytelling - continuing day and night." Quote from The Mountain Men by George Laycock.

Once again, the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited will host this annual gathering and want you to join with us in the celebration.

WHEN: Saturday evening, January 30, 1993, starting at 5:00

WHERE: Henry's Playhouse, located in the Dillard House Complex in Dillard, Georgia. Well signed - you can't miss it!

WHO: Everyone who has a sincere interest in protecting our cold water resources - including TU folks, USFS people, DNR types their families and friends.

SOCIAL: 5:00 - 6:30 - For your musical entertainment, we'll have the genuine Foxfire Boys who will be 'pickin' an a'singing; we will have a bucket raffle and a silent auction; and snacks, cola & beer. We'll show some exciting trout fishing videos and we'll have a cozy fireplace to backup to while storytelling.

DINNER: The Dillard House is widely known for their country vittles and they will start laying it in front of you at 6:30. You will enjoy the food!

PROGRAM: At 7:30, David Waller, Director of the Georgia Game & Fish Division, will talk to us on a topic that will be of interest to all trouters.

COST: When talking quality, talking price is vulgar, but you will want to know that it will be \$15.00 American, per person.

And John Dillard has said a big welcome to Rabun TU guests with a special rate of \$32 per night, single or double occupancy at the Dillard House Motel (404-746-5348) or the Dillard Best Western (404-746-5321), your choice. (Call for reservations & just show this invitation when you check-in).

AND WE ARE BRAZEN ENOUGH TO ASK ALL OUR TU CHAPTERS TO SEND SOME REALLY NICE STUFF OR BETTER YET, BRING IT WHEN YOU COME. YOU WILL BE GIVEN CREDIT IF IT'S GOOD AND WE WILL APOLOGIZE TO THE CROWD IF IT ISN'T.

Reservations are not absolutely necessary but will help in our planning if you will call:

Doug Adams
746-5311 (W)
746-2158 (H)

Jim Nixon
746-5311 (W)
782-3101 (H)

Tom Landreth
754-9202

