

TIGHT LINES



February 1993

Heeeeere's Burley!

Dear TU members:

I wanted to write a few words to let everyone know that as of the first of February, I will undertake the responsibilities of President of the Rabun Chapter. I was only eighteen years old at the time the chapter was formed back in 1986. I remember a bunch of Rabunites gathered around a campfire on a favorite stream, discussing whether or not Trout Unlimited was something Rabun County needed. While we sat devouring a feast of fried trout, we all agreed that TU's primary goal of "protecting the coldwater resource" was something that we could all respect. So, we went from there.

And what have we done in the past seven years?

- Drastic improvement in the Chattooga River fishery.
- Erosion control projects that have helped to protect numerous Rabun County streams.
- Habitat improvement projects have helped restore populations of trout in some of our favorite small streams.
- Through our contributions to National TU programs, our monies have helped benefit everything from Maine Brook Trout to Oregon Salmon.
- Lastly, and I believe most importantly, think of all the people we've helped educate about environmental impacts we humans can cause to our streams.

Remember the kids at the fishing rodeos? The county commissioners we've influenced to maintain roads. The developers who we've helped to understand how their activities impact the environment. All the Georgia DNR and U. S. Forest Service people we've cooperated with to better manage our streams. All the people we've helped to convince to limit their kill instead of killing their limit. The list could go on.

What's ahead for the Rabun Chapter? At the December meeting we discussed the fact that we need to get out of the library room more this year and have more our meetings streamside. So look forward to work project/chapter meetings and/or fishing/chapter meetings in the Tallulah and Chattooga areas this season.

I am going to make an effort to personally invite some of you folks who we rarely get to see at our meetings. So be prepared to turn the TV off a few Friday nights this spring, throw the felt soled boots in the back of the car and come join us. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Best regards,

Kyle
Kyle H. Burrell

February Meeting

Our next chapter meeting will take place on **Tuesday evening, February 16th** at the Rabun County Library in Clayton. Social hour begins at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:00. We will review the Rabun Rendezvous, discuss programs to be considered for the coming year and perhaps have a fly-tying demonstration. Please give some serious thought to what kinds of programs you would like to see the chapter have at our monthly meetings. How about outings? Another Smokies trip or to Arkansas and the White River? Do you prefer hands-on instruction in fly-tying or rod building? **Come on - make some suggestions!**

Rabun Rendezvous

Another outstanding effort resulted in another outstanding Rendezvous! At this time I do not have any reports on receipts but having sat at the door with Pat Hopton and June Landreth, taking in the ticket money, advising our friends bearing gifts where to take them, pointing out where they can buy raffle tickets and explaining why we had run out of space in the Playhouse, I can assure the chapter that we had a huge crowd.

Our good friends in the other chapters, members of our own chapter and many friends saw to it that we had some terrific prizes and raffle items. The Dillard House management and staff provided a most hospitable atmosphere and wonderful mountain vittles that everyone enjoyed. All of the Rabun Chapter members who pitched in and made it a success - Thanks to you all!

One glitch that we will need to address: the reservation system broke down and several parties showed up who had called in but we were full and they had to go up to the Dillard House for the meal. With only one exception, everyone took this in stride and seemed to understand that they weren't dealing with Ticketmaster! At any rate, I apologize to the young lady from the Kanooka Chapter and hope she and her guests will return next year.

A special thanks to David Waller, Director of Game and Fish, for coming up and addressing our gathering on "The Power of the Constituancy". It was a difficult task, following the Big Pink Bunny, but he did a good job and seemed to enjoy himself.

The Power of the Politician

Ralph Twiggs, State Representative, has introduced legislation, House Bill 46, which would require that a Game & Fish law enforcement officer to issue a summons only to a probate court. While this may not seem very important at first glance, think about it. Heretofore, if a probate judge was known to wink and pat the hand of the offender, the law officer had the discretion to assign the case to a higher court. House Bill 46 would end that option. *There are those across the state who feel that the laws that govern the taking of our game and fish were not intended for them. When these laws are broken intentionally and brought to court, the courts should fulfill their function and levy fines and or punishment that would serve as a deterrent to future conduct.* The bill has been referred to the Public Safety Committee. Guess who chairs the Public Safety Committee? Ralph Twiggs. Of course, it's a coincidence.

U. S. Forest Service Focuses on the Upper Chattooga Watershed

U. S. Forest Service Regional Forester Jack Alcock announced that a \$450,000 ecosystem management initiative focusing on 122,000 acres of National Forest land in the Upper Chattooga River watershed in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

According to Alcock, *"We will be working with the public to identify long term goals for the National Forest lands along the Upper Chattooga. We intend to apply the latest ecosystem management concepts in order to maintain the rich biodiversity of the Chattooga watershed."*

The Forest Service will hire a full time project leader to assure a coordinated approach to resource management on the three National Forests surrounding the Upper Chattooga - Chattahoochee, Sumter, and Nantahala.

The Upper Chattooga initiative is the largest demonstration project funded this year in the southern Appalachians. The Upper Chattooga basin has a number of unique features. The river basin spans portions of Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina and contains a wide variety of wildlife habitat types. The Chattooga River, and a corridor about one-fourth mile wide on each side of the river is classified as a Wild

and Scenic River, and draws hundreds of thousands of recreationists each year. Over two thirds of the 180,000 acre Chattooga watershed is in national forest ownership.

"We will be taking a close look at the water quality of the Upper Chattooga," said Alcock. "We will also develop detailed maps of the different ecosystems in the area. Researchers will help us conduct a more complete survey of the plant and animal species that occur in the Upper Chattooga Basin. We will use the latest in satellite imagery and aerial photographs to assist in this ecosystem classification effort.

"Our ultimate goal is to develop a fully integrated approach to managing all National Forest land in the Upper Chattooga River basin", said Alcock. Thanks to the hard work of many of our cooperators over the years, the Chattooga River watershed has largely recovered from the timber cutting and burning that occurred in the late 1800s and early 1900s prior to the establishment of National Forests in the area. Now we want to maintain the health and productivity of this complex forest ecosystem.

"To that end, we will be encouraging a continuing dialogue among a wide variety of people interested in the Chattooga River", said Alcock. "We look forward to working with groups such as State agencies, **Trout Unlimited**, the Chattooga River Coalition, County Commissioners, the Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Cooperative, Chattooga River Outfitters and Guides, and many others in this effort. This project will serve as an example of applying ecosystem management principles to other large watersheds on National Forests in the south."

Calendar of Coming Events

Tues	Feb 16th	Monthly Chapter Meeting	Library in Clayton
Sat	Feb 27th	Brown Trout Symposium	Tennessee Aquarium, Chattanooga
Tues	Mar 9th	Chattooga River Coalition	Stumphouse Ranger Station
Tues	Mar 16th	Monthly Chapter Meeting	Library in Clayton

STREAMWIDE TROUT SEASON OPENS END OF MARCH IN GEORGIA

Sat	Apr 24th	Work Project	Charlie's Creek
Sat	Sep 18th	Work Project	Charlie's Creek

Combination Campout & Monthly Meetings are being considered for the two work projects. They would take place on the Friday before the Work Project.

A River Runs Through It If you haven't yet seen this movie, find out where it's playing and go see it. While some of us would prefer that it be a "fly fishing" film, there is plenty of stream action and absolutely gorgeous scenery. The story is really about two brothers coming to manhood in Montana in the early thirties. You might even want to read the book first.

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Georgia Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program

You can help state efforts to acquire lands to preserve and restore habitat for our non-game species. By simply checking line 26 on your state income tax form you can help give wildlife a chance. Think about it this year.

