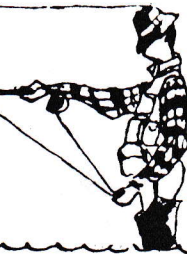


TIGHT LINES



March, 1993

MARCH MEETING AT DILLARD HOUSE

My former chapter, the Rabun Chapter, will have a dinner meeting on **March 16, 1993**, at the **Dillard House** in **Dillard, Georgia**. We are encouraging members to invite guests and to also invite their spouse, helpmate or primary supporter to this meeting. We'll meet at **6:30** and probably sit down to the scrumptious vittles about seven. The cost will be **\$7.90 each**, and that includes tip! (Eat your heart out all you other TU'ers)

We'll have some expert flytying demonstrations and we want to finalize plans for activities this Spring and Summer. There has been some preliminary discussion regarding a trip to Hazel Creek in The Great Smokey Mountain Park. Jim Kidd will have some more information for you at the meeting. At any rate, come on out.

It will be a real help to the wonderful folks at the Dillard House if they know about how many to expect. Give me a call at (706)754-9202; Jim Nixon at 746-5311 (W) 782-3101(H) or Kyle Burrell (H)782-4951.

AT THEIR LAST MEETING THE RABUN CHAPTER decided on several pressing matters:

1. Voted to donate \$1000 to National Trout Unlimited, earmarked for the Bright Waters Trust. There may be some members who would rather see the money used by National to straighten out the membership list, but it had better stay where it is.
2. Through a complicated money laundering scheme, the Chapter donated a copy of "Trout" to the Rabun County Library.
3. Set aside monies to cost share with the U. S. Forest Service in employing local youths in activities that will directly relate to watershed improvement.
4. Decided to participate in a limited capacity in the *Conservation Fair* at the Chicken Coop on Saturday, March 13, 1993. Landreth, ex-member, volunteered to set up the display and remain with it for a few hours. Others are expected to help out. They could use your help. I think the hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
5. While we were busy at the February meeting TU National transferred all Rabun Chapter members residing in White, Habersham and parts of Hall County into the **Foothills Chapter**. It is suspected that this dastardly deed was instigated by **Jim Harris**, President of the Foothills Chapter and local photography model. National has been notified and this snafu should be straightened out by next month.

EX RABUN CHAPTER MEMBER STARTS SPORTSMEN TRAVEL SERVICE

Habersham County, Georgia Mar 1, 1993 - Tom Landreth, ex-member of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Skaggs brothers, Goober, Jethro and Hamilton Skaggs, of Warwoman Road, Rabun County, have formed a travel service for sportsmen. "We'uns is excited", stated Goober when interviewed in Clayton recently. "Our first trip is bout full and thars only ..uh this many openings left", he signed. (Editors Note: five) The first trip planned is down Stekoa Creek from the 441 Bridge upstream to the camp at McDonalds. Comfortable platforms have been erected over the creek in plain view of the highway and that excites Jethro. "In the evnin you can chunk rocks at all the tourists."

The twelve day package, from January 2 to January 13 includes two full days of sightseeing in the Germany Community, six three quarter days, four half days, seven nights before midnight and five after three in the morning of fishing and a few hours set aside for fixing two and a half stills downstream of 441. You will be provided transportation to and from your assigned beat on a **Klondikishaw**, a luxurious wooden platform balanced on a bicycle tire and propelled by professional drivers recruited in Persimmon.

The package costs only \$29.95, but doesn't include anything. Extras include four persons in a blanket or quilt; all the Thunderbird, Mad Dog or Squeezin's, snuff, tobacco, water, food, fees for wardens, judges and other officials, dynamite, worms, corn and bread balls and tips for Goober, Jethro and Hamilton. This totes up to \$6,700.00 per person. CEO Landreth agrees that this is a little steep. "I don't expect many anglers from the immediate area to sign up. This is a first class trip with great appeal to the Atlanta crowd. We wanted to get ours before the new

president does and besides, a significant portion of these proceeds will go directly to me for passing on to charities as I see fit." For reservations and a brochure, call (700) 555-9696. Ask for **Bambi**.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Tues	Mar 9th	Chattooga River Coalition	Stumphouse Ranger Station	K. Burrell
Tues	Mar 16th	Monthly Chapter Meeting Conservation Fair	Dillard House Restaurant Chicken-Coop, Clayton	Call
STREAMWIDE TROUT SEASON OPENS SATURDAY MARCH 27TH				
Fri	Apr 23	Campout	Tate Campground	
Sat	Apr 24	Work Project	Charlie's Creek	J. Kidd
THE RABUN CHAPTER DOES NOT MEET FORMALLY IN MAY IN JUNE A TRIP TO HAZEL CREEK IS BEING PLANNED				
Sat	May 15	Foothills Chapter Banquet	Unicoi State Park Lodge	J. Harris

CHAPTER MEMBERS ATTEND BROOK TROUT SYMPOSIUM IN CHATTANOOGA:

The new **Tennessee Aquarium** was the site of the **Brook Trout Symposium**, a workshop on the genetics and management of Brook Trout in the Southern Appalachians. **Jeff Durniak**, Rabun member and representing the Georgia DNR was one of the presenters. The first portion of the agenda should most probably been left for presentation to "professionals only". I consider myself of average intelligence but didn't have the foggiest idea of what they were saying. Just when I had decided they were saying that there is definitely a genetic difference between the southern Appalachian Brook Trout and those of northern hatchery origin, I then gathered they aren't positive about that.

The second half of the agenda was a Q & A format where we, the audience asked the presenters question and most of the answers was in English. We in the Rabun Chapter can be very proud of Jeff. His slides were professional answers were clear and to the point. He also was able to clarify the answers of others. His hair was combed, fingernails clean and he was wearing a coat and TIE. Congratulations Jeff, you clean up real good. Attending from the Rabun Chapter were Edee & Doug Adams, Monte Seehorn, Jeff, June and myself.

Oh yes, there will be a special meeting of the Rabun Chapter to lay our plans for an expedition into the Greenville Watershed over in South Carolina. This will have to be done in the dead of night and led by the most devious member of the Chapter. Luckily, Kelly is available for the job. Volunteers are needed, preferably those without wives or children. This is serious business and will require careful planning.

The Tennessee Aquarium is worth the trip. Naturally, the section devoted to the higher elevations of a river system was more interesting to most of us. To watch the trout as they interact with the current is fascinating. If you can get there when it opens, or wait until mid-afternoon, you might avoid the crowds.

LEGISLATION AT THE STATE CAPITOL

There were quite a few pieces of legislation introduced to this year's General Assembly that should be of interest to members. It appears now that the only one of Twigg's bills that will be enacted upon is the one that allows a property owner to kill a bear that is destroying property. And that can be done only after certain precautions as outlined by Game & Fish are put in place. It is doubtful that the other bills will come to the floor for a vote and will therefore die in committee. That includes HB 46, the legislation resulting from the conflict in Rabun County between DNR enforcement and the probate court.

(I had written my representative, Bill Dover, several times, voicing by objection to HB46 and several other bills introduced by Ralph Twiggs. Dover replied each time and while we didn't totally agree, he was responsive to my requests. He even had the Director of Game & Fish, David Waller, call me and fill me in on where the bills stood and thanked me for my input. David also told me that Dover was considered a friend of wildlife legislation. I include this little note just to say we should all make our views known to those people who work for us, our elected official They do listen!)

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The other day as I walked down the trail alongside the Chattooga, I met an angler wearing a tweed fishing cap, Streamside vest, Simms waders and carrying a Winston rod equipped with a Hardy reel. He, of course, was not carrying a creel. I asked him how things had gone and he said, "Pretty good, I "high poled" one down by the "pulpit", "de-capped" a couple down at "hawg wallow" and hung a "good'un" in the "nugget pool". As he ambled along the trail towards "Shirley Shoals", I stepped down to the edge of the river. I looked downstream into the fading light and wiped the tear from my cheek.

I remember my first trip to the Chattooga. The feeling of excitement welled within me even as I lay bound and blindfolded on the floorboard of Cahill's truck. Nugget's foot rested firmly on the back of my neck as we careened around each bend of Burrell's Ford Road. After backing in a the "turnpike", Cahill and Nugget secured a rope around my neck and led me down the slippery trail. We arrived at the old campground above the gauge rock, where Nugget removed the blindfold. I followed the two of them silently to the river and waded across the swift current. I had taken an oath of silence. I was in awe. I was on the Chattooga.

As the months and years went by, I learned of the legends, the sacred spots along the stream, how each got it's name, the trout lore - all etched in my mind, but never written down. I was even allowed to carry my heroes' gear on these wonderful angling adventures. Eventually, I even met "Kelly", the **really** old man of the river. All these things are forever etched in my memory.

Now, there are maps with each land and watermark labled, Buckhead dandies speak like good ole mountain folk and books spotlighting and detailing the Chattooga are available at your local bookstore. The good old days are gone and the signs of our times are plain to see.

Tight Lines!

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