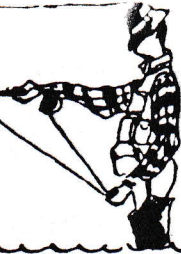


TIGHT LINES



April, 1993

APRIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON THE BANKS OF THE TALLULAH RIVER

The April meeting of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited will take place on Friday evening, April 23rd, at the Tate Branch Campground on the Tallulah River. The meeting will start when it is too dark (or cold) to fish. This will be best of meetings - short on business and long on high tales and fish stories. So, make plans now to come on up to the Tallulah, fish and campout so you'll be ready for the.....

...WORK PROJECT ON CHARLIE'S CREEK, SATURDAY, APRIL 24TH

The much planned and canceled structure building project is set for Saturday, April 24th. We will gather about 9:00 AM at the Tate Branch Campground. (This is sorta conjectural, since I haven't heard from anyone in Rabun County since the March meeting.)*

This is the usual routine and I imagine it will come off this way. We'll need as many bodies as we can muster up. The water will be cold, so wear waders. Hopefully, we'll be through in time to survey surrounding streams as well as the Tallulah. *Trout Season is Open!!!!*

DILLARD HOUSE SITE OF MARCH MEETING

We had about 24 at the March meeting, held at the Dillard House. After one of those meager meals the DH serves up, we made our way into another area of the restaurant where we held a short business meeting and then watched President Kyle Burrell do his stuff at the flytying vise.

BUSINESS:

CHATTOOGA COALITION REPORT: Kyle gave us a report on the Chattooga Coalition convened at Stumphouse on March 9th:

1. Creel Survey is considered a success and will be continued. Some discussion on whether or not to display either the Forest Service emblem or Trout Unlimited's logo on the forms as both bodies have taken on some flack due to the special regulations in N. C.

2. Regulations on the N. C. section of the river have changed. North Carolina now designates the Chattooga north of the state line as "wild trout" waters. There is a 7" minimum size, a four (4) fish creel limit, artificial single hook lures only and a 12 month season.

(Special regulations for the Georgia/South Carolina portion of the Chattooga also came up but apparently was beaten back. Again, the biologist feel special regulations would have little effect on fish populations. It will be interesting to follow the North Carolina action.)

3. Stocking practices will continue as in the past with catchables being stocked at Long Ford, Nicholson Fields, Burrell's Ford and Highway 28 in the fall. Helicopter stocking of 5-6 inch Rainbows and Browns between Burrell's Ford and Highway 28 will continue in the fall.

There were other topics of discussion and a summary of the meeting will be available at the April Meeting/Campout.

CAMPOUT IN JUNE PLANNED Again, we discussed the possibility of a trip up to **Fontana Lake**, just south of the Great Smokey Mountain Park during the month of June. The weekend of **June 5 - 6** was decided on and **Jim Kidd** will coordinate arrangements. **Jim Nixon** agreed to take charge of food supplies. There are two USFS campgrounds on the southern side of the lake, **Tsali** and **Cable Cove**. We'll finalize plans as to which one to make our headquarters in and let you know in the next newsletter.

The area offers a wide variety of fishing. **Hazel, Forney and Eagle Creeks** are just across the lake but will require a boat to access them. A quick glance at a **Nantahala Forest** map will give you an idea of the number of streams nearby.. **Deep Creek, Slickrock Creek, Buffalo and Snowbird Creeks** are just a few.

HIGHLITES FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1992

A quick scan of the annual audit of our financial doings is interesting. We received a \$108 rebate from National - we donated \$1000 to the **Living Bright Waters Trust**; we helped purchase a thermograph for the USFS; contributed \$600 for a USFS summer intern; participated in three **Kids Fishing Days**; helped fund helicopter time for stocking; donated seed money to help get the **Foothills Chapter** off to a sound start; and hosted a dinner meeting for the area homebuilders to educate them regarding erosion and sedimentation control. There were other expenses and income but the above recaps our activities fairly well.

BROOK TROUT, WILD TROUT, PELLET PIGS

☐☐ Atlanta Journal/Constitution Feb 28, 1993 - In an article by **Bill Schultz AP**, **Monte Seehorn** is quoted as saying that in addition to habitat damage due to massive logging years ago, the overzealous angler and **Rainbow Trout** can share the responsibility for the reduction in **Brook Trout** populations in **Southern Appalachia**. When the **Rainbow** was first introduced into the area, the practice was to stock a watershed and not attempt to keep these aliens below natural barriers such as waterfalls. Monte also points out that the logging roads continue to dump sediment and silt into our trout streams.

☐☐ And, speaking of siltation, **Bob Justus**, columnist and member of the **Foothills Chapter**, in a column "We Must Protect Waters", points out the negligence of the **DOT** while they are at work expanding a bridge over the **Soque River**. The area Bob writes about is just plain awful - raw, exposed earth and overfilled catch basins, all bleeding into the **Soque River**. Have you ever noticed that shortly after the **DOT's** hand is called on one of these matters, fresh silt fences sprout up all over the project - none of which has any silt in it.

☐☐ The **Tallulah Ranger District** is encouraging comment on their plans to alter the area formed by the West Fork, Warwoman Road and Overflow Road. Anyone who has stopped in the this spot recently knows that it has been abused from overuse. This is a recent acquisition by the **Forest Service** and they now want to close a part of the road, create a small access road, improve the campsites and get people off the river bank. If you are interested in making a comment, contact the **Tallulah Ranger District office**. There will be a copy of this plan at the April meeting.

☐☐ Before taking off to the out-of-way fishing spots in the **National Forest**, you might want to check with the **Tallulah Ranger District** to make sure the roads are clear. There are still a lot of trees down and one just might be blocking you passage. I understand that there is

quite a bit of timber down on the roads around Overflow, Billingsley and Holcomb. Could the law suit be hindering the Forest Service in clearing this up?

□□ Perhaps you have read of the renewed interest in a East-West, four lane highway linking I-75 to the South Carolina line near Toccoa. If what I've seen up on the Soque, Panther Creek and Little Panther Creek is any indication of the care the DOT takes when crossing watersheds, North Georgia fisheries are in for a tough time when construction starts. TU Chapters across the state must be alert to this matter and keep a watchful eye on any soil disturbing activity. The fact that it is estimated to cost \$325 million is incidental.

CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

April 17 and 18th Blue Ridge Trout Fishing Seminar, Oconee State Park

Fri	Apr 23	Monthly Meeting & Campout	Tate Branch Campground	Tallulah River	K. Burrell
Sat	Apr 24	Work Project	Charlie's Creek		J. Kidd

There will be no Chapter Meeting in May

Sat	May 15	Foothills Chapter Banquet*	Unicoi State Park		J. Harris
Ths	May 20	Chattahoochee Chapter Banquet *	Sheraton Century Center Hotel, Atlanta		J. Mann
Fri	Jun 4	Chapter Outing	Nantahala National Forest	USFS Campground	J. Kidd
Sat	Jun 5	Chapter Outing	Nantahala National Forest	USFS Campground	J. Kidd
Sat	Jul 10	Tallulah River Stream Sampling			

Footnote: When the Rabun Rendezvous rolls around each year we beg, plead and urge the other TU Chapters to help with donations and attendance. If you need a phone number to pledge your support or make a reservation at one of the upcoming banquets, let me know. They need our participation, just as we need theirs'. Yeah, I know they're misguided and schedule important events during the height of trout season, but what do you expect from flatlanders? But they're nice people!

MEMBERSHIP National TU still has our membership roles all screwed up. Most of us down here in Habersham, Stephens and some in Hall counties are now members of the Tailwater or Foothills Chapter.

Some of our members know that Pat Hopton's father, Frank, passed away last month. Frank was not a member of the Rabun Chapter but certainly supported our efforts with his participation in the Rendezvous many times. I especially appreciated Frank's interest in my art and I will miss his encouragement. Pat, Frank is just fishing around the bend - you'll catch up a little later.

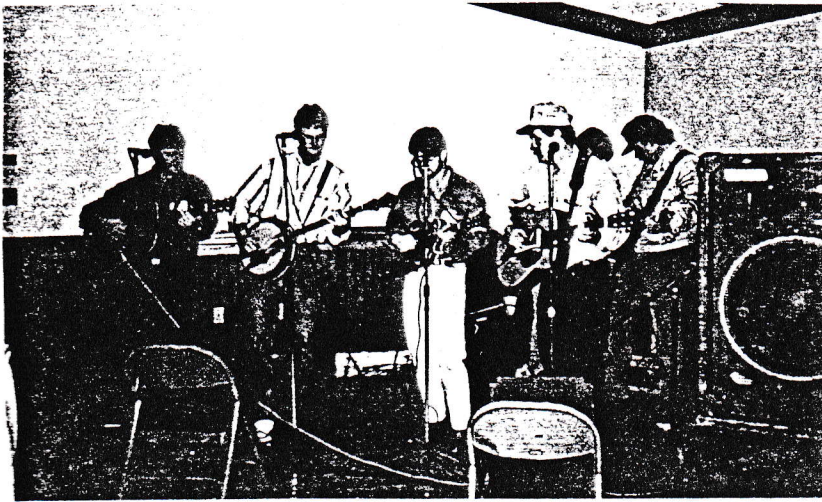
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SEE YOU ON THE 23RD AT THE TATE BRANCH CAMPGROUND - BE THERE!!!!!!!!!!

ROGUES GALLERY OF PHOTOS

THE EASTER BUNNY
CAME EARLY



THE ONLY PROFESSIONALS PRESENT



MCCARLEY'S CATCH

SHE SAID WE AIN'T
GOT NO CUTH - WHAT
THE HELL IS CUTH?



John McCarley of the Tuckasegee community in Jackson County caught this 30-inch brown trout recently