



# TIGHT LINES

Newsletter of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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July 1993

## Rabun Chapter Meets on July 20th at the Rabun County Library

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold it's monthly meeting at the library in Clayton, Georgia on **Tuesday evening, July 20, 1993**. Social hour begins at 6:30 PM and the meeting at 7:00 PM.

## George Smith of the Trust For Public Lands Addresses Chapter in June

The Foothills and the Rabun Chapters, in a joint meeting at the pavillion at Terrora Visitor's Center in Tallulah Falls, heard George Smith of the Trust For Public Lands discuss the ins and outs of acquiring land for the public with the monies available from the **Land and Water Conservation Act**. The TPL has mediated the purchase of over 600,000 acres for various public agencies. Through offshore gas and oil leases, the federal government takes in some 900 million dollars per year. These dollars were to be used for the acquisition of land for the benefit of the public; but, as with most programs devised by Congress, it doesn't work quite like that. Of the \$900 million taken in, about one third is used for the purpose to which it was dedicated. The rest is "borrowed" by the General Fund and is long gone.

There is now available in the upper watershed of the Chattooga, 300 acres to the west of Ellicott Rock Wilderness area in N. C.; 400 acres in S. C. and 230 acres in Georgia. These lands are in danger of being sold and developed. It is estimated that 6.5 million dollars would purchase these lands and would come out of the Land & Water Conservation funds and not directly from taxes. I have already written to Representative Nathan Deal requesting his support in authorizing this expenditure. No answer as of this date, but I expect a reply.

## Legislative Matters of Interest to TUers

House Rule 350: The Wetlands Reform Act of 1993, would improve dramatically the Federal wetlands regulatory program while balancing the needs of farmers, developers and others subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. If rivers and streams are the arteries of this country, our wetlands are it's kidneys. Wetlands aren't just on the coast. Wetlands effect your fishery right here in the mountains of Northeast Georgia. The Chapter needs to discuss this piece of legislation at the July meeting and decide on the action we as a body should take.

## National Resource Board of TU

In a series of regional meetings TU National has compiled issues that are of concern to local chapters across the country. In a memo to the National Resource Board, they have listed those of most importance by region. I'll not go into each region and each issue, just the matters brought up by representatives of the Southeastern Region:



Siltation/Road Erosion. Some of the causes sited are poorly managed timber harvest, associated road construction, overgrazing, urban development and poor agricultural practices.

State and Federal controls on sediment pollution generally have been weak and ineffective.

Public and Youth Education. Lack of understanding of TU issues by the general public. We should expand the public relations/education and youth education programs of TU, including increased use of partnerships with other like-minded organizations.

Wild Salmonid Genetics. Acid rain, polluted run-off overgrazing, hydropower dams and genetic damage from hatchery-stocked fish have all done their share putting wild trout and salmon at risk.

Tailwater Management. Need to provide adequate year-round coldwater habitat for trout.

Key concerns of other areas include:

1. Dams, fish passage, instream flow (New England & Upper Midwest)
2. Instream Flows, US Forest Service Bypass Flows (New England & Northern Rockies)
3. CVP Implementation (Southwest)
4. Acid Mine Pollution (Mid Atlantic)
5. Clean Water Act Reauthorization/Polluted Runoff (Mid Atlantic, Great Lakes)
6. Integrated Watershed Management (Great Lakes)
7. Golf Courses (Northeast)
8. 1872 Mining Law Reform (Southern Rockies)
9. Livestock Grazing/Riparian Management/Water Quality on Federal Lands (Northwest, Southern Rockies, Northern Rockies)

## Travers Poem

I fish because I love to;  
because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful,  
and hate the environs where crowds of people are found, which are  
invariably ugly;  
because of all the television commercials, cocktail parties and assorted social  
posturing I thus escape;  
because in a world where most men seem to spend their lives doing things they hate,  
my fishing is at once an endless source of delight and an act of small rebellion;  
because trout do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed or impressed  
by power, but respond only to quietude and humility and endless patience;  
because I suspect that men are going along this way for the last time, and I for one  
don't want to waste the trip; because, mercifully, there are  
no telephones on trout waters;  
because only in the woods can I find solitude without loneliness;  
because bourbon out of an old tin cup always tastes better out there;  
because maybe one day I will catch a mermaid;  
and finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important,  
but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally  
unimportant—and not nearly so much fun.



## They Are Coming Out of the Woodwork

It's been a long time since I've taken up my Marlin 30-30 and gone into the woods after a deer. I've never shot a turkey. Quail, I've taken my share but not in a long while. My personal philosophy is to not keep Brown Trout down here in it's southernmost limits - hatchery Rainbows, I keep a few now and then. None of this is done out of a sense of guilt or with some noble purpose in mind.

In *Fisheries*, Vol. 18, No. 4, an article "Rescue Fishes By Omitting Them From Your Diet", by Carlos M. Fetterolf, Jr. forwarns of the possibilities to come if we aren't careful. Animal rights activists are deadly serious in their attack on hunters, and, yes, fishermen. Some of the groups are even against "catch & release" as it is cruel to torment the fish for a time and then release it after we have had our sport. Entertainment should not be the goal of fishing, some of these groups contend

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) urges on their 1993 calendar, "Rescue fishes by omitting them from your diet. Make others aware of the massive suffering caused by fishing industries and sport fishing.

The Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights is opposed to trophy hunting or fishing. Fish should be killed as painlessly as possible rather than being allowed to asphyxiate.

A law in Germany forbids releasing fish. Apparently, fishing for food is okay, fishing for sport isn't.

The founder of PETA states that even if animal research resulted in a cure for AIDS, his organization would be against it.

Animal rights activist are picketing aquariums, declaring that the marine mammals and fishes suffer from stress, boredom and confinement.

And it's big bucks business. The 28 largest groups that oppose animal research had over \$68 million in their '89 budgets.

Mr Fetterolf suggests that we sportsmen should keep our heads out of the sand, get our houses in order, **educate, educate, educate**, get on the offensive and *look back over our shoulder ever so often*. Personally speaking, I've always wondered why some of my friends who big game hunt, insist on draping the dead animal, tongue hanging lifeless from it's mouth over the hood or out the tailgate. And there are times at Double Bit Camp, when it sounds as though we are asking each Company and platoon for a body count. I think from now on when asked "How Many Did You Catch? - the answer is "Plenty! And I had a great time doing it!"

(Thanks to Doug Adams for bringing this article to the attention of *Tight Lines*)

## News From The DNR

### Volunteers Anyone?

The DNR has initiated a Volunteer Program. Jeff will be glad to provide you with both a "volunteer waiver release" and "volunteer application. I will also have these forms at our next meeting. If you just can't wait, drop a note to Jeff Durniak, Rt1 Box 1638, Clarkesville GA 30523.

### Chattooga River Creel Survey

The results of the Creel Survey are very interesting. In '91, 575 cards were turned in. In '92, 868 were turned in. Over 4700 trout were claimed in '91, over 6000 in '92. Rainbows accounted for 3856 of those in '92 as compared to 2868 the year before. Browns were up from 1837 in '91 to 2193 in '92. Not much change in how one fished, about 42% bait, 34% artificials and 44% used flies. The most interesting statistic was that in '92 only 36 Rainbows and 30 Browns were kept! And Burrell's Ford Bridge is being replaced by the Brooklyn Bridge in '94.



## ParkPass

The Georgia PARKPASS has been a big success. In 1992, this program raised more than 1.3 million dollars, 100% of which has been used for renovations and improvements at state parks and historic sites throughout Georgia. Most of you probably know that the pass is now design so that you can move it from one vehicle to another.

Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will hold it's 47th Annual Conference on October 10 - 13, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta. The Georgia Wildlife Resources Division will host the conference which will focus on the impact of human growth and development on wildlife resources. As the weeks go by, Jeff Durniak will no doubt fill us in on the details, but if you just can't wait, call Bill Fletcher in Gainesville, 404/535-5700 for registration information.

## News From The U. S. Forest Service

### Salvage Timber Sale

Roughly 250 - 350 MBF of white and yellow pine and some hardwood, all of which was blown down, damaged or sheared off, will be harvested in Rabun and Towns Counties. These areas are in Management areas 4, 11 and 16. Another sale of salvage timber will undergo sale in compartments 9 and 10, Emory Branch. Memos relating to both of these sales will be available at the July meeting.

### Rising to a Greater Future

During the year preceding the U. S. Forest Service's initiating the "Rise to the Future" fisheries program, Congress appropriated \$12.4 million for fish habitat management on the 191 million acres of national forest and grasslands. That was in 1987 and six years later the budget for this program has grown to in excess of \$46 million and a similar amount has been appropriated for next year. Strong support from professional societies, conservation groups and sport fishing industry leaders has helped in the success of this program.

In a combined effort, The Sport Fishing Institute and the Forest Service asked agency personnel their perspective on issues related to fiscal responsibility and program accomplishments. A synopsis of the results follows:

1. Ensuring that appropriations for the Forest Service fisheries program are expended on activities that *benefit fish habitat conditions or user opportunities.*
2. *Revising forest plans to incorporate measurable objectives for fish habitat conditions and user opportunities.*
3. Increasing fisheries staffing, especially at the ranger district level.
4. Establishing, tracking and reporting on meaningful measures of program success.
5. Increasing emphasis on resource coordination, habitat inventory, maintenance, monitoring, aquatic education and marketing of program opportunities and accomplishments.
6. Broadening the focus of the program to take a more holistic "systems" approach to management of aquatic communities, emphasizing maintenance of biological diversity while capturing enormous opportunities to meet demands for inland warmwater and coldwater recreational fishing.

(The entire article from *Fisheries* will be available at the July meeting if you are interested. Again, thanks to Doug for bringing this to the attention of *Tight Lines*)



I shall now confess to you that none of those three trout had to be beheaded, or folded double, to fit their casket. What was big was not the trout, but the chance. What was full was not my creel, but my memory.

*Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, 1949*

## West of Hiawasse and East of the Chattooga

It won't be long before trucks, vans and semi's start their engines and point WEST. I've heard various rumors of groups with plans to catch the one that got away last year and new places they are going to test out on this trip. Hope to run across you out there!

If you would like to go the other direction - Gerry Thornton, a TU friend, has just returned from a fishing trip to Ireland and is quite excited about the fishing opportunities over there. Don't dismiss the idea before thinking it over. Rough cost estimates for four people (say two couples) staying in a cottage and daily fishing fees (that's right folks, we got it good and you know it) should run about \$1000 for a week. Now, of course you have to get there and the last time I looked, a four wheel drive is of no help. Anyway, Gerry promises to come up to our meeting in July and fill you in on the details. The best fishing for Trout is in September with the spring being the time for Steelhead and Salmon. Unfortunately, there are lots of shops and villages to explore for the non-fishing spouse.

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I will give any trout all the breaks in the world so long as I am practically certain he won't get away.

*Edmund Ware Smith, The One-Eyed Poacher of Privilege, 1941*

