

Tight Lines.....



Newsletter of Rabun County Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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Presidents Corner...

I would like to start a new tradition with this first edition of the new "Tight Lines". There will be a small (note I said small) spot for the President to express himself and get a few things off his mind, vent on matters that he believes are important, or generate a few ideas for the general membership to chew on. I suppose it is using the position as a "Bully Pulpit", but if it will help in generating communication, developing concepts, and determining where our monies and energies are directed, then it will be time well spent. It will also give the membership an opportunity to analyze the leadership and see what direction the chapter is heading. This might prompt a little more interest when it comes time to vote for officers. I also want to reserve a space for members to respond and express themselves about the chapter, conservation issues, or just talk about fishing. Please feel free to send comments to the editor for inclusion in upcoming editions of "Tight Lines".

I will soon be asking you to take a more active role in the leadership of the chapter. This will come as a request to serve as Directors. These will be important positions and will have a major impact on the direction of the Chapter in 1994. We will also be setting the agenda for the coming year in terms of speakers, work projects and campouts, etc. Please be thinking of what we want to accomplish in the coming year.

I look forward to serving as President of the Rabun Chapter. I hope to strengthen my relationships with old friends and make a few new ones. I encourage each of you to come to the meetings and be involved in the workings of our chapter. We have a short but proud history in the Georgia Council and I know that heritage will continue in 1994. There will be many opportunities to be involved in conservation work, outdoor fellowship and good fishing. I invite you to join us.

Jim Kidd, President

Editors Notes

I have some large and scary wading shoes to fill. I can only "Ditto" what was said about Tom Landreth at the Rendezvous. The Rabun Chapter is indebted to Tom for lending his editing expertise to "Tight Lines" for the past seven years. I will miss his "soap box" antics and his humor. Even Gary Larson(The Far Side) took a sabbatical and Tom's is long overdue. I hope he spends all that extra time on the river.

This little missile, as Tom refers to it is intended to be the voice of our chapter. I would be delighted to hear from you and with that in mind, the number at work is (706)782-3320 and home is (706)782-7319, the mailing address is PO BOX 438, Clayton Ga 30525.. I hope to hear from a lot of you on a regular basis.

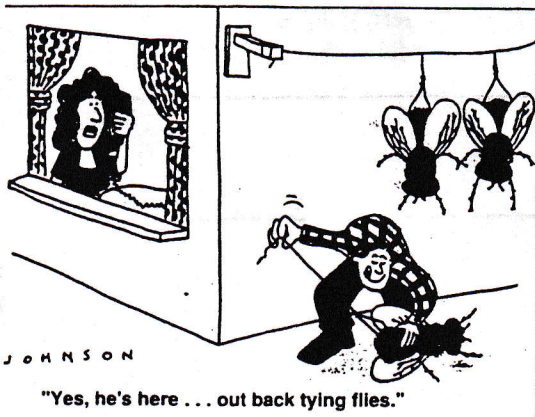


Rendezvous Report

When you combine good food, Leroy Powell, and over 180 people that share in the passion of rivers and fishing, you can expect it to be a great evening. This years "Rendezvous" was just that. We should give ourselves on the back and then thank all the folks that decided to share the evening with us. We also need to thank all the other TU Chapters for their continued support of this event. We couldn't pull this off without everyones contributions. And to that Pesky rabbit, Elmer told me to tell you just wait until next time!

This months program...

Our monthly meeting will be held at the Rabun County library at 6:30pm. Kyle Burrell (aka the vacuum cleaner) Master of the vise and bobbin will start getting us ready for April with one of his flytying demonstrations. We will recap the Rendezvous and take care of all the normal business. Hope to see you there!



Roads in National
Forest a Key Issue
In Watershed
Restoration

The following are excerpts from an article that originally appeared in the Watershed Mgt. Council Newsletter, Fall 1993, by Michael Furniss.

According to the Chinese calendar, we are now in the Year of the Rooster, but for the Pacific Northwest forest watershed managers it is the year of the fish. The problems facing anadromous fish stocks are summarized by the four H's: Hydropower, Hatcheries, Harvest, and

Habitat. Habitat management is where watershed management gets into the picture.

The relationship between watershed processes and habitat for anadromous fishes is dauntingly complex. Yet discerning the most common cause of habitat damage is not; it's the roads. We've known this for a long time-scientific opinion is unanimous here. Yet most of our fish habitat restoration efforts have been focused on the manipulation of habitat elements in-channel, the results of which have often been disappointing.



Why are we avoiding the real problem? Simple I think; in-stream structures for fish are popular and showy, even heroic, while road restoration is unglamorous and unpopular in a country built around the automobile. We build many thousands of miles of roads. We certainly do not need, nor can we afford to maintain them all. Those we do need and can afford should be configured to be watershed- and fish-friendly. Those we don't should be decommissioned or obliterated. We'll need to build teams of scientist, fish biologist and engineers to get on with the job, and be persuasive about the needs and stewardship responsibilities that come with having built roads. Tough job, maybe, but far from impossible. We can secure the habitats needed to recover our fish stocks. Can we get on with it?



Riffles....

> **Fisharama:** Trout Unlimited was well represented at this years Fisharama which was held at the Atlanta Expo Center. Rabuns' Kyle Burrell was joined by Garland Stewart and Bobby Bell. They kept the crowd fascinated by flytying and discussing the associated animal parts i.e., peacock feathers, muskrat fur, and elk hair. Rabunites will be pleased to know that Kyle did answer questions appropriately; when flatlanders inquired about where to fish, Kyle responded by saying the Chattooga was a lifeless sewage pit and not to waste time fishing there!

> **Chattooga Coalition Mtg.** was held at Stumphouse and several members of the Rabun Chapter attended. There were discussions concerning the potential for a brown trout study, Embrace a Stream Project, and the creel boxes and cards. Jeff Durniak presented the reults of his population analysis and Dr. Van Lear discussed sedimentation. I'll try to get some of Jeff's graphs and other information in some of the upcoming editions.

> **Southeast Region of TU/Siltation Symposium** will be held at the Dillard House (Henry's Playhouse) on March the 5th. It begins at 9:30 am and speakers include Charles Gavin, National President Trout Unlimited, Bud Freeman from the UGA Institute of Ecology, and Lloy' Swift from the Cowetta Hydrologic Lab. There will also be a video presentation entitled "Stream of Conscious". If you want a detailed agenda, I will have them available at the Chapter meeting on Tuesday.

Calendar...

Tuesday/February 15th/6:30pm
Saturday/March 5th/9:30am
Thursday/March 15th
Saturday/April 9th
Saturday/May 14th
Saturday/June 4th

Rabun Chapter Monthly Meeting
TU Southeast Regional Meeting
Tailwater Chapter Banquet
Rabun Chapter Workday
USFS-Fishing Rodeo
USFS-Fishing Rodeo

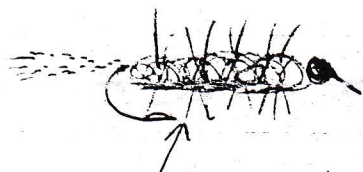
Rabun County Library
Dillard House/Dillard, GA
Cumming Kiwanis Club
Reed Creek
Nancytown Lake
Tallahulah River

Fly of the Month - March

C.K. Nymph or the Anytime-Anywhere (as it's known by flatlanders)

Hook: Mustad #9672 Weighted with lead or copperwire
Thread: Black
Tail: Wood Duck Flank → Sizes 12 through 8 are my favorites
Body: Black Yarn
Hackle: Grizzly, palmered and clipped

This is one of the easiest flies to make. Basically it's a Woolly Worm with a haircut. It is my favorite early season searching nymph. Cast is upstream and let it wash back down past you and then give it a few short strips as your line straightens out below you. i.e. fish it like you would live bait, bouncing it on the bottom with a tight line and feeling for a strike. Brown body with brown hackle is a good color combo too.



Trim hackle to same length of hook gap

For what it's worth, it's also a killer on Lake Burton Bluegills!

Vac Burrell