

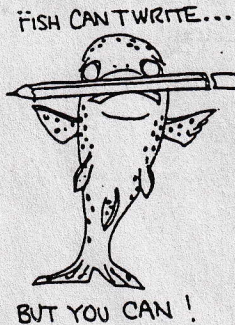
Presidents Corner

Februaries meeting was long but there are a couple of things I feel are worth mentioning again. It is vital that we make the appropriate contacts concerning the monies that are available through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Securing these funds for land acquisition in the Chattooga River basin is the only way we have to protect the headwaters of the river. I hope you will be inclined to write a letter and with that in mind, here are the addresses:

Rep. Nathan Deal
1406 Longworth Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Sam Nunn
303 Dirkson Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Paul Coverdale
204 Russell Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510



Call me if you additional information about the Land & Water Conservation Fund, please give me call. *Jim*

It is a damned poor mind indeed that can't think of at least two ways of spelling any word. *Andrew Jackson*

Spelling has been, and (I am sure) will continue to be my demise. If you find misspelled words or grammatical errors, assume that I really didn't make a mistake - I am exercising my creativity. If it really bothers you, call me and you can take over this little "missile."

Meeting Highlights.....

Thanks to Kyle for his tying demo, he is an incredibly talented young man! I'd like to say the rest of the meeting was as interesting but it wasn't. Nevertheless, we did put many "business" items behind us. A quick recap for those of you who didn't make it:

Motions passed:

Donate a gift basket to the Tailwater Chapter for their banquet.

\$200 donation for the Dockery Lake Project

\$1000 to the Living Waters Trust

\$100 for road seeding in the Mtn. Town Creek area

Other stuff:

The Chapter will participate in the Conservation Fair which will be held at Cousins (formerly the Chicken Coop) on March, 26.

Editor

Annual Meeting of the Chattooga River Coalition

Jim Nixon and Doug Adams represented the Rabun Chapter at the annual meeting of the Chattooga River Coalition which was held at Stumphouse. They were joined by folks from DNR, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Clemson University, US Forest Service, and members from various other TU Chapters.

Below are some **highlights** as taken from the minutes:

> It was brought to the attention of the group that the agenda at the annual meeting was so long that TU'ers have little chance to communicate or be involved. It was suggested that a separate meeting take place on April 21 at 9:00am.

(continued on back)

> Jeff recommended helistocking the West Fork in 1994.

> Marsha Raus reported on the creel data:
Collected 635 cards in 93
Catch rate was greatest during March
77% of the rainbow caught were released
81% of brown were released

> Regulations will be changed again July 1, 1994 on the NC portion of the Chattooga. The section above Bullpen Bridge will remain artificial single hook lure only, 7" minimum, 4 fish creel limit. Bait fishing with a 7" minimum size, and a 4 fish creel limit will be allowed below Bullpen.

> Field and Stream contacted the GA Game and Fish about publicizing fish and game projects being accomplished in the state. It was recommended that the Chattooga be used as an example of work by the agencies and TU. There was some negative feeling about the potential impacts due to the publicity. After some discussion, the consensus was that the publicity would be desirable.

Fishing Publications Available

The National TU office has limited quantities of two publications that detail fishing opportunities on National Forest lands and National Wildlife Refuges. The publications are entitled *Fishing Your National Forest* and *Your Guide To Fishing on the National Wildlife Refuge System*, published by the US Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service respectively. TU'ers can obtain one copy of each by contacting: TU Customer Services Center, 14101 Parke Lon Ct., Suite U, Chantilly, VA 22021-1645 ATTN: Carol Ruckle.

TU Membership Reaches A New High

As of December 1993, TU membership soared to 68,094 members. Below is the breakdown as compared to neighbors:

Georgia - 1,415	Florida 529
N. Carolina - 2,062	S. Carolina- 548
Tennessee - 1,044	

Fly Fishing...Poetry In Motion

This poem was read at the Rendezvous in January. I am not sure who "Chub" is but he gets credit for it.
Ed.

Life's Treasures

There are moments in life that are pleasure
And there are moments in life that are fun
But the best are those that we treasure
When we finally realize what we've won.

Like marriage, children and profession
Which are shared with a wonderful wife,
Or when the kids reach their own graduation
And each leaves to start his own life.

When the challenge of job is accepted
And the results are hard won and of worth,
We can ease back on the throttle of living
And seek out our own place on this earth.

A few of us share the same treasure
Returning to a place we have known
Protected by mountains and forests
In a gorge over which trees have grown.

There a river runs clear as the crystal
With waterfalls chased by the sun
And the pools are marked only by ripples
Left by the trout's roll for the dun.

It's quiet in this world that we enter
And there's music when water flows fast
And the whisper of line that is running
Through the guides of a rod when it's cast.

With spirits as free as the river
And with friends that share the same feeling
Fly fishing is one of those treasures
Which makes life really worth living.

by "CHUB"

A FLATLANDER ADOPTED
by the RABUNITES

March Madness.....

If I were you, I'd mark my calendar for March 15th. David Van Lear from the Chattooga Chapter will present "Fishing In Yellowstone." Hope you can join us, I understand this is an excellent program

Pat originally wrote this for the Upper Chattahoochee Chapter newsletter of which his father was a member. I only had the chance to meet Mr. Hopton twice; and remember both times very well. He impressed me as a fine man who loved his family and the outdoors. I wish that I could have known him better. I am sure I missed something special. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Editor

This is a brief biography of my father, Frank R. Hopton. There is no way that I can express how great a figure he was in my life in just these few words. It is my hope that with this attempt, I can convey just some of the ways he touched both my life and those around him.

On August 24, 1927, Francis Rowland Hopton was born in Nashville, TN. At a very young age, his family moved to Atlanta, GA, where he spent the rest of his life. Frank attended high school at the Georgia Military Academy in Atlanta. He enlisted in the Navy in 1945 and served in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

After returning home from the war, he went to school to study pharmacy, but before completing school went to work for a Mr. Seabolt in the plastering business. In 1957 he started his own plastering business, Frank R. Hopton, Inc. This business eventually went on to include fabricating items from sheet metal, such as gutters, downspout, flashing, etc., and roofing. The business has employed as many as 15 men.

In 1947 my daddy married Miss Virginia Aiola, the granddaughter of Italian emigrants. They were to have six children: Carol Ann, Francis Michael, Timothy Joseph, Patrick Anthony, Daniel Thomas, and Rose Mary.

During the 1950's and 1960's, Daddy was very active in the Boy Scouts of America. He served as Scout Leader for many years in Troop 76, which had its base in Oakland City Park.

In 1971 the family moved from Atlanta to Roswell. In 1973, his business moved from Atlanta to Norcross. In 1983, after all the children had left home, Mom and Dad moved to Alpharetta.

Daddy was an active member of the Atlanta Subcontractors Association, Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, Literary Action, Atlanta Better Business Bureau, and, of course, Trout Unlimited.

Daddy joined Trout Unlimited around 1974. He had always been a trout fisherman. I can never remember him fishing for any other species of fish, save for an occasional deep-sea fishing trip. Daddy was an "old-time" trout fisherman; he used a fly rod but would attach a piece of straight monofilament leader about 3' long with a split shot and #12 hook, and fish crickets downstream. I can still picture in my mind scenes of him doing this, and let me tell you, he was deadly on fish! It wasn't until later, when he was in his 50's, he started to fly fish. He would get very frustrated because he had a hard time seeing his fly on the water, but he would stick with it. Sometimes, when he couldn't stand it anymore, and would revert to his old ways and tie a cricket on. Boy, would I rib him about this!

I took two trips to Colorado and Wyoming with Daddy. We fished the Frying Pan River, the North Platte River, and several small creeks in the area. We had always talked about going to Arkansas and fishing the White River, but we never did. The time I spent fishing with Daddy will always be very special to me; even as I write this a lump rises in my throat.

Trout fishing was Daddy's main form of outdoor recreation, although he did love to go to dove shoots. I never heard him express an interest in big-game hunts or any other form of hunting or fishing. Daddy did have an extensive gun collection, which he kept for investment purposes.

A couple of years ago, Daddy had a heart attack. He had always been a smoker. This, coupled with the heart attack, proved to be more than his body could take. In March of 1993, he could no longer handle the mental and physical anguish of a broken body and he passed away.

Every single day I mourn the loss of my father. Daily I pray that God will hold him in His hands until one day I may see him again. Sometimes when I am on a trout stream, I can still smell the cigarette smoke and see him sitting on a rock, looking upstream with his rod in his hand. I miss him terribly, but I will always cherish the memories I have of him.

March

**5th - 9:30 Dillard House,
Southeast Regional Meeting
and Siltation Symposium**

**17th - Tailwater Chapter
Annual Banquet**

**26th - Conservation Fair at
Cousins**

April

**9th - TU Workday on
Reed Creek**

**This includes an
overnight campout!**

May

**14th - Kids Fishing
Rodeo at Nancytown
Lake**

June

**4th - TU Workday on
Popcorn Creek**

**11th - Kids Fishing
Rodeo at the Tallulah
River**

The Tailwater Banquet will be held on March 17th at 6:30pm at the Kiwanis Club in Cumming. The club is on Pilgram Mill Road. A couple of folks at the last meeting expressed an interest in going. If you are interested in carpooling, Jim and I are planning on leaving from the Forest Service Office around 4:15-4:30. Call us if you need a ride. 782-3320.



Never mind me, which fly are they rising to?!

Fly of the Month

Wabbit Nymph

Hook: Long shank nymph hook. Like Mustad's style #9671 or 9672.

Tail: Wood Duck or Mallard Flank.

Rib: Gold Tinsel, optional.

Sizes: 14, 12, 10

Wing Case: Turkey tail or wing.

Weight: Lead wire.

Body Material: Cotton tail Rabbit Fur.

Thread: Any color, gray is good.

This is what I like to call a "southern" Hare's Ear. It's tied exactly like a regular Hare's Ear but instead of an English Hare's fur (there's not many of those in Georgia), I use our local variety of bunny. Find someone who rabbit hunts and have them save you a skin. Be sure to wash it thoroughly as rabbits tend to carry parasites. One skin will make a zillion nymphs and the grayish fur can also be used as a substitute for muskrat fur on Adams and Thunderheads.

Important: Tie these nymphs outside if you can. When dubbing the fur on your thread it tends to go flying every direction. Do not tie these in your kitchen! (especially if your married!!!)

P.S. A pink version is in the works. But I guess I'll have to wait until next years rendezvous. I think I'll call it the "Energizer Nymph".

Eat More Grits,
Ely A. Burrell

