



Tightlines

Rabun Chapter • Issue July 1994

Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited
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Presidents Message

It is that time again! Most folks are wondering what it is like west of Hiwassee. First report in (from *John Martin*) is that the fishing is great, but the water is low because of the extremely dry conditions this summer in the west. Rumor has it that he did terrible things to Brown Trout in the Plate with his personal secret weapon. Ask him what that is. I will be heading that way on July 22. Hope to see yall there. Everyone take lots of pictures and videos. Also, don't forget our meeting on the 19th. See you there- or out there.

Jim



"Mountains and Wild Trout" is Theme of 1994 National TU Convention

Just a reminder in case anyone is interested. The 1994 TU National Convention and Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 21-25 in Bozeman, Montana.

Registration forms for the convention can be obtained by calling 1-800-805-4607. Forms will also be available in the Summer 1994 issue of *Trout* magazine.

Coors Brewing Company Invites Consumers to Help Preserve America's Water

Coors Brewing Company is asking consumers to help clean up America's waters via an interactive in store promotion involving the Coors Pure Water 2000 symbol on the packaging of Coors products. If you tip a Coors every now and again, clip out the symbol and send it in. Coors will donate 25 cents to a local water preservation or restoration project for every symbol collected.

Fly Fishing For Kids

Unicoi State Park is sponsoring a one day class just for children ages 10 yrs. to 16 yrs. The instructor for this workshop will be Don Pfitzer. I had a chance to talk with Don at the Rendezvous. As an outdoor writer and environmental educator, I am sure Don will be an excellent instructor for children. The workshop will take place at the Trading Post, which is located in the campground, on July 21 from 9:00am until 4:00pm. The cost for this class will be \$20 and those wishing to attend must preregister.

The children will have an opportunity to participate in hands-on activities and classroom lectures. Don will cover stream ecology, equipment use, tactics, stream reading, fly tying and casting.

Participants will need to bring their own fly rod and their lunch! For more information and registration forms, call Bob Slack, Unicoi State Park, (706)878-2201, extension. 282.

Ecosystem Mgt./Stekoa Creek

As part of the Chattooga River Ecosystem Mangament Project, Rabun TU's Kyle Burrell will be heading up a field crew this summer that will conduct a biological survey of Stekoa Creek. Using a process known as Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) the biological health of the creek will be determined. This study will help identify sources of pollution or stress within the watershed. This form of evaluation can help managers prioritize and implement plans for correction or improvement of these problems, ultimately furthering protection for the Chattooga River. A survey of this type was conducted last year and the stream was found to be in fair to poor condition. This will probably be an annual event, so lets all hope that in the years to come the stream will be evaluated as good to excellent. Anyone interested in the project give Kyle a call at 782-3320.

Submitted by Kyle Burrell



I'm afraid that's not quite right, Mr. Purvis.

Updates and Meeting Notes

Stekoa Creek: The status of Stekoa Creek was a topic at the last meeting. The Stekoa Creek Steering Committee has decided to write the grant to request EPA 319 dollars. The chapter agreed to support the project with labor if it is

funded.

Rock Gorge Area:

At June's meeting the chapter decided that it would be in the best interest of the cold water resources to keep the Rock Gorge area from being designated as wilderness. Chapter members can help by writing your Congressional leaders and the Forest Supervisor's that are linked to this area. It is membership consensus that designating the area as a wilderness will highlight the area as a destination. If you wish to write, here are the addresses:

George Martin, Forest Supervisor
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest
508 Oak St., NW
Gainesville, GA 30501

Randle Phillips, Forest Supervisor
National Forest in NC
PO Box 2750
Asheville, NC 28802

David Wilson, Forest Supervisor
Sumter National Forest
4923 Broad River Rd.
Columbia, SC 29212

***Forest Service Soil and Water
Project on Billingsley Creek***

A soil and water project on Billingsley Creek Rd. is being undertaken to eliminate some of erosion. Dips and water bars are being installed to correct some of the drainage problems. The road will be temporarily closed to allow seeding on the road and shoulders to become established.

Next Month's Meeting

**Our next meeting will be at the Rabun
County Library at 7:00pm., July
19th.**

Kyle's Fly of the Month

It's July again and people are thinking about heading west to escape the humidity, rain, and gnats of our beautiful home state. Therefore this months fly has to be the mightiest gnat of all, the deadly Griffith's Gnat. Don't cross the state line without a dozen of these little guys. If you do, you'll be wondering why your vacation

photos are scenes of sunsets and wildflowers instead of brown and rainbow trout. When you find yourself in the midst of a western "rise" where it seems every fish in the river is feeding on something but you can't figure out on what; it's time for the gnat. It looks like nothing but resembles everything. When a fish looks at it I don't think he knows exactly what it is, but since it's the right size he figures he'll eat it anyway. (Can a fish figure? Humm...)

Use stiff hackles and one strand of peacock. They're delicate little flies but since their so easy to make you can tie a dozen in about twenty minutes. So there's no reason not to stuff your boxes.

In the rivers, fish it dead drift directly over rising fish. Takes are very subtle so it takes a steady hand not to set the hook to hard or to fast. On lakes, you may want to give it a few twitches to attract a cruisers attention.

Hook: Mustad #94840 dry fly hook
Sizes 16, 18, 20 especially 16
Body: One strand peacock herl.
Hackle: Good quality grizzly hackle
Thread: Black

Look out WY, here we come!

Ryle Burrell

P.S. If you haven't ordered flies yet you are too late. I'm busy from now until.....



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