

1997 Hoot On The Hooch

Don't forget our neighbors in the *Foothills Chapter* are having their annual fundraiser on March 15th. The chapter is sponsoring the "Unicoi Trout Fishing Day" as a prelude to the annual *Hoot On The Hooch*. The activities will include basic fly fishing, fly tying, rod building, and a casting clinic. There will be vendors displaying their wares along with booths sponsored by DNR and the US Forest Service.

Unicoi State Park is the site for all activities which will begin at 9am with *Trout Fishing 101*. Activities are planned throughout the day and the social hour for the banquet begins at 5:00pm. It's BYOB and the buffet dinner starts at 6:30pm and is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple (reduced rate for children).

Chapter Officers

Dr. Russ Burken - **President**
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Sorry.....

My apologies to anyone who went to Henry's Playhouse last month. There was a minor communication faux pas between me and the prez. *Ed.*

Tom Landreth Presents 'Match The Hatch'

What's buggin' you when the trout won't take your fly? At our next monthly meeting, Tom Landreth will talk about matching that elusive hatch. Tom will include a discussion of the various aquatic insects and how to pick a fly to tantalize those picky appetites.

The meeting will be held at the **Rock House** (on the corner opposite from Reeves Hardware in Clayton). The social begins at 6:30pm and the meeting starts at 7pm.

Entertainment Bargain.....

The Rabun Chapter has started a lending library that includes the following video tapes:

Tying Practical Trout Flies (2hrs) by Bob Lay and Al Beatty

Paul Jorgensen on Fly Tying My Favorite Flies (Vol. I)

Paul Jorgensen on Fly Tying My Favorite Flies (Vol. II)

How To Tie Dry Flies Orvis

Tying Western Trout Flies by Jack Dennis

Tying Western Dry Flies with Mike Lawson & Jack Dennis

Tying Bass Flies with Jimmy Nix & Jack Dennis

Tying With Rainy's Float Team for ants, beetles hoppers, etc.

I Was Born to Fish Lee Wolff on the Beaverkill

Introduction to Fly Fishing L.L. Bean

The Orvis Fly Fishing School

Save a Worm - Tie A Fly: The Movie Orvis

Hooked on Fly Tying; The Life Cycle of the Mayfly

Tying and Fishing Attractors Gary LaFontain

Tying and Fishing Caddis Flies Gary LaFontain

The River's Return Trout and Salmon Foundation

Legends of the Au Sable Trout Unlimited

Chattooga River Trout Study US Forest Service

Come to a Chapter Meeting; check out a tape, bring it back the next meeting and check out another!

Thanks to Henry Williamson for his donation of most of these tapes.

Doug Adams - Librarian

Change In The March Fishing Outing Location

The Foothills Chapter Banquet is on March 15th instead of the previous published date of March 22nd when the Rabun Chapter had planned to fish the Hooch and go to the banquet.

The fishing outing will be on the 22nd, but we will go to the Talluah River instead. Details at the March 18th meeting - be there.

There was a tremendous amount of discussion at the last meeting about the proposed 'wilderness' designation for the Rocky Gorge Section of the Chattooga River. The following was written by Art Shick who is the present Chairman of the SC Council of Trout Unlimited. The following synopsis includes the reasons why this designation is opposed by the Chattooga River Coalition of which the Rabun Chapter is a member (the Rabun Chapter was represented at this meeting). This group is not to be confused with the *Chattooga River Watershed Coalition* which is another group that has their own agenda. I thought this issuance answered some of the questions raised at our last meeting. *Ed.*

The following issues concern our **Chattooga River**, thus it is imperative that we let our voices be heard. There are proposals for the **CHANGE** of designation on the **Rocky Gorge section of the Chattooga River**. The proposals call for the designation of "wilderness" to the Rocky Gorge area and the **opening up of the Bullpen, Burrell's Ford bridge to Highway 28 to whitewater canoeists and kayakers.**

All representatives at the Chattooga River Coalition (The Coalition is made up of representatives of the following organizations: US Forest Service from GA, SC, and NC, SC DNR, GA DNR, NC WRC and Trout Unlimited from SC, GA and NC.) meeting of January 17, 1997 approved the issuance of the following reasons for the opposition of the "Wilderness" proposals.

1. The **"Wild River" classification is more than adequate to protect the river** and to provide a true wilderness experience for the occasional visitor.

2. The proposed "Wilderness" designation will be like a magnet, attracting large numbers of visitors. This results in over use and destroys the wilderness experience. The Ellicott Rock Scenic area, when designated a "Wilderness" in 1975, soon became the most visited "Wilderness" (visitors per acre per year) in the entire USDA Forest Service nationwide.

3. The proposed "Wilderness" designation will result in funding requirements for additional trails, trail heads, parking lots, signage, maps, management plans, etc. These are unnecessary expenditures in the present climate of fiscal constraints.

4. The studies, samplings and surveys conducted by the Coalition during the past decade have proven that the trout fishery in the river below Big Bend Falls has little of no natural reproduction and is completely dependent on stocking. The proposed "Wilderness" designation precludes the stocking of fish (as it did in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness). This area of the Chattooga River has received annual stocking of trout for over 50 years. Prior to the "Wild River" designation, the river immediately above and below the Rock Gorge received heavy stocking of adult and fingerling trout by trucks. With the "Wild River" designation, the roads were closed inside the corridor and light spring stocking of adult trout were made using helicopters. However, the dropsites were well upstream and downstream of the gorge. The trout fishery in the Rock Gorge was very poor during this period. For the past ten (10) years, the intense fall helicopter stocking of "put and grow" sub-adult trout has restored and maintained an excellent wilderness trout fishing experience in the Chattooga River between Reed Creek and Burrell's Ford. The Trout are provided by SC DNR and GA DNR. The cost of the helicopter is paid 25% by SC USFS, 25% by GA USFS and 50% by Trout Unlimited.

5. The proposed "Wilderness" area includes most of Reed Creek (GA), where numerous instream habitat improvement structures have been installed and more are scheduled to be installed by the Coalition in September '97. Reed Creek receives no stocking and supports a wild fishery of brown trout and brook trout. The proposed area also includes Pigpen Branch (SC) which needs fish habitat improvement structures. Pigpen also supports a wild fishery of brown trout and brook trout without stocking. The proposed "Wilderness" designation precludes fish habitat improvement work.

The Chattooga River Coalition is opposed to this proposal. The "Wild and Scenic River" corridor is approximately one-third (1/3) of the proposed area and is already well protected.

Speaking for the SC TU Council, I encourage you to write the Forest Supervisors in both Georgia and South Carolina. This is very important, PLEASE take the time to write.

Art Shick, Chairman
SC Council, TU

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March 15, Saturday, Hoot on the Hooch, Foothills Chapter Banquet, Unicoi State Park, 6:30pm.

March 18, Tuesday. Chapter meeting at the Rock House in Clayton, social at 6:30, meeting at 7pm.

March 22, Saturday, Fishing Outing on the Tallulah River. Details at 18th meeting.

March 26, Wed. Chattahoochee Chapter Banquet, Atlanta.

April 15th, Tuesday. Regular monthly meeting at the Rock House in Clayton. Russ Burken will be discussing first aid. Social at 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm.

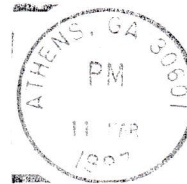
April 25 and 26, Friday and Saturday. Rabun Chapter workday on Moccasin Creek. Make your plans, this is one of those famous "overnighters".

May 16th and 17th, Friday & Saturday. Campout on the Nantahala River in North Carolina.

No formal monthly meeting! Business, if there is any, will be discussed at the campout.

April 12 - Dales Creek Fishing

Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Two camping trips that involve good times and great fishing are coming up in the next two months.

Mark your calendar now!

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