

Tight Lines

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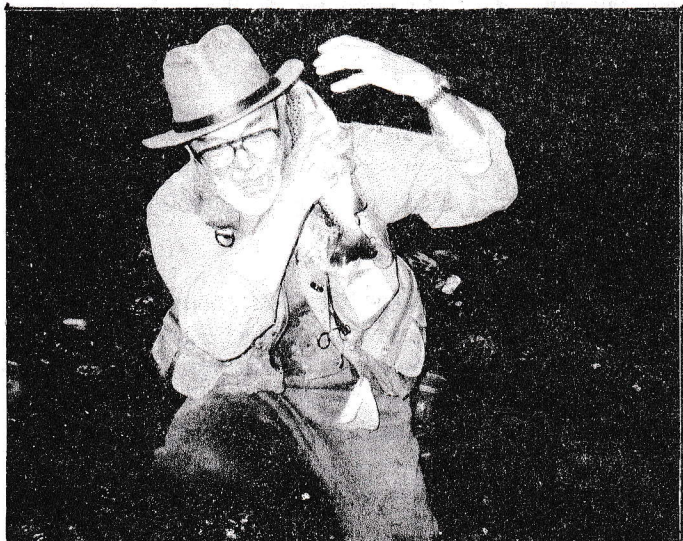
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No Monthly Meeting In August!!!

The chapter will not have a meeting this month since most of the chapter has gone west of Hiawasee. The meeting in September will be important since we have several important topics to discuss. There's a **work project** coming up in **September**, the chapter needs to make nominations for **officers**, and we need to begin some basic planning for the *Rendezvous* in January.

Please make a note on your calendar for **September 26 & 27**. Our fall project will take place on lower Reed Creek and will include an overnight campout.



Tightlines Quiz

1. Is this man burping the fish?
2. Fondling this fish?
3. Listening to this fish whisper secrets into his ear.
4. Or is this really a Bell Atlantic cell phone disguised as a brown trout?

An Open Letter to Members of TU from Dan Wilson, Walhalla State Fish Hatchery

"... I wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank the members of Trout Unlimited for their efforts on behalf of the hatchery. The overall response of the community at large during this difficult time period was particularly gratifying. Because of the help of the individuals and groups like Trout Unlimited, the future of the hatchery has been made secure. All trout anglers in the state are the beneficiaries, whether they fish with corn or with a carefully crafted hand-tied fly. Many thanks to T.U. - especially the members of the Chattooga River Chapter!

I would also like to report to you that the first 16 months under DNR operation have been nothing but positive. Val Nash, Ross Self, and Mac Watson are individuals in the Columbia Office that have put a great deal of time and hard work into making this transition successful. This was an added responsibility for them, on top of their existing duties. They have all done a commendable job - we could not ask for better support. All doubts and reservations about how the transfer would work are now gone. I have complete and total confidence in the future of the hatchery.

On a more personal note, I regret that I have not been able to attend your monthly meeting because of the competing commitments. The CRC is a great group and I encourage you to remain active in your various programs. The handicap-accessible fishing pier that was built here with your help is a wonderful facility. It has benefited many. I look forward to working with CRC again on future projects."

River Care 2000 Program


Jeff Durniak did an excellent job of presenting the nuts and bolts of River Care 2000 at last month's meeting. For those that were not able to attend, here is a short synopsis of the program. As Jeff pointed out, this can and will be a vital tool for Trout Unlimited in the coming years.

The River Care 2000 program was initially funded in 1995 by the State legislature and the initial amount was \$5 million dollars. As Jeff diplomatically pointed out, this is a fairly small amount when spread over the state of Georgia. The program is currently being administered by the Department of Natural Resources with guidance from four citizens' advisory groups. River Care 2000 has three basic objectives: assessing important river resources throughout the state, identifying more effective management tools for river corridors, and recommending land acquisition criteria for the program.

The Department of Natural Resources has set up teams to address the objectives listed above. The River Assessment Team (Bobby Bell, TU, was one of the members of this team) was set up to guide the evaluation of river resources and challenges and to recommend river segments which should be managed more effectively by public or private owners. The Management Tools Team was established to evaluate ways of managing river corridors and to recommend improved management methods. The Acquisition Criteria Team will establish specific purposes for state, local and private conservation acquisition and to identify desirable kinds of lands to protect.

River Care 2000 will also attempt to identify other sources of funding such as federal, local and from private foundations for selected projects. If you want more information about the River Care 2000 Program you can contact:

Mr. Harvey G. Young
River Care 2000 Coordinator
Department of Natural Resources
Suite 1252-E
205 Butler St., SE
Atlanta, GA 30334
Phone: 404-657-9746



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests

1755 Cleveland Hwy.
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-536-0541

File Code: 7700

Date: April 15, 1997

Mr. Doug Adams
P.O. Box 65
Rabun Gap, GA 30568

Dear Doug:

As we stated in our January 17, 1997 letter we have put Burrell's Ford road into our Capital Investment Program for reconstruction. Based on the funding received in our FY-97 budget, it is unlikely that any road reconstruction work will take place in FY-97.

Recent discussions with our RO budget specialists reinforced our perception that no year-end funds are likely. Additionally, preliminary information indicates that FY-98 funds may be worse than FY-97.

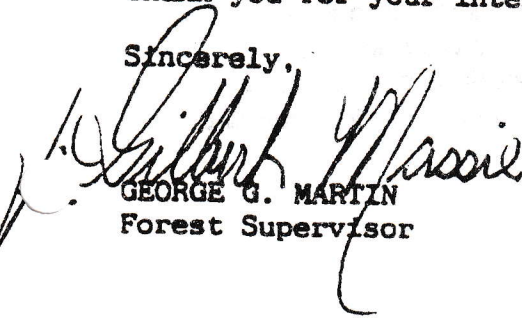
We are pursuing some opportunities for partnering in a demonstration project and have suggested Burrell's Ford as our candidate. If this were to go forward, we would look for others to join us as partners. The project would likely involve one well defined section of Burrell's Ford road. Priority would be given to the Cary's Gap section.

We need to see how this potential partnership develops and what section of this road will be involved. Once we can define where the work will be done, we will commit time and resources to a reconstruction survey.

Given today's continually declining roads related budget, it is likely that fewer and fewer roads will be reconstructed in coming years. Roads that today provide access to the National Forest may become unusable in the near future.

Thank you for your interest in the management of National Forest lands.

Sincerely,



GEORGE G. MARTIN
Forest Supervisor

**GEORGIA COUNCIL**

Bob Beck, Council Chairman
3836 Foxwood Road
Duluth, Georgia 30136

June 9, 1997

Mr. George Martin
Supervisor, Chattahoochee - Oconee National Forest
USDA Forest Service
1755 Cleveland Highway
Gainesville, Georgia 30501

Re: Chattahoochee - Oconee National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan

Dear Mr. Martin:

The Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited was co-signer of the Forest Watch letter concerning the Georgia's Mountain Treasures - The Unprotected Wildlands of the Chattahoochee National Forest; dated December 1, 1996. There were recommendations in this letter that we did not endorse. I gave my reluctant approval due to a time constraint and because of the phrase "recommend further study". With my signature it has been construed and published that the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited endorsed all of the recommendations. The ten active Georgia Chapters of Trout Unlimited met on April 5, 1997. Upon further discussion we reached a consensus that this letter must be sent to set the record straight:

The Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited does not endorse all the recommendations in the Georgia's Mountain Treasures.

Of special interest to the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited, is the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River, one of the Southern Appalachian premier trout streams, which forms the border between the Chattahoochee and Sumter National Forest. We join the South Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited and the Chattooga River Coalition in their opposition to the proposed Rock Gorge Wilderness Area. We recommend that this area be classified as Management Area 4 in Georgia and as Management Area 7 in South Carolina.

During the upcoming comment period on the Forest Plan Revision issues, the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited will identify the primary issues concerning us, draft a response to these issues, and where appropriate identify specific measures to be written into the plan. Our position will be consistent with our mission to conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. As we enter the 21st century, we look forward to another decade of continued partnership with the US Forest Service.

Sincerely,

Bob Beck

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Tuesday, September 16: Meeting at the Rock House; refreshments at 6:30pm, meeting at 7:00pm.

Friday - Saturday, September 26-27: fall work project on lower Reed Creek. Details at the meeting on the 16th.

Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited



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