

Tight Lines

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Whoops...I Goofed!! September Meeting On Tuesday, September 9th

The meeting in September will be **important** as there are business topics and the **work project/campout** scheduled for later this month (see below for details). As a chapter we need to make nominations for and elect our **officers for 1998**.

Another item on the agenda is the *Rendezvous* in January; it's never too early to start planning.

Please plan to be at the Rock House in Clayton on **Tuesday the 9th**. Refreshments at 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm.

Good Times and A Worthwhile Project: Lower Reed Creek, Friday, September 26 & Saturday, September 27

You can ask anyone who has ever had the pleasure of attending a Rabun Chapter work project and they will tell you that the work is wet and there is a lot of **fun** to be had around the campfire the night before. There is always a lot of good food, some tall tales, and music to add to the atmosphere! If you have not had the chance to attend one, the project on lower Reed Creek would be a good one to start with. Doug Watson, Forest Service Wildlife Tech plans to trim the road and improve the creek ford to make arriving at the camping area a little easier. Doug also scouted the structures that the chapter installed on the last workday and plans to have us working on the cribs and some other maintenance type items around the structures. This should be a great day so plan to bring your family and join in on the fun.

Directions from Clayton: Warwoman Rd. to Highway 28 and turn right towards Walhalla, SC. Approximately 2 miles down the road (and this is approximately!!!), look for the first gate on the left past Burrells Ford Rd. (FS 646). Go through the gate, it may be closed but should be unlocked!! Open the gate and follow the road back to the wildlife openings; that is where we will be camping. Please close the gate behind you but don't lock it; there are always some **late arrivals!!!**

Chattahoochee Chapter Joins GA, SC, To Oppose Rock Gorge Wilderness Designation

The Chattahoochee Chapter has decided to join the Rabun Chapter, Georgia Council, and South Carolina Council to oppose the Rock Creek Gorge Wilderness designation. The Chattahoochee Chapter changed their stance in regards to the area after a letter from the US Forest Service affirmed that the helicopter stocking program would be eliminated if the area was designated a wilderness area.

Kudos To The *Foxfire Boys*

The word from the TU National Convention is that the *Foxfire Boys* gave the folks in attendance an outstanding concert. As always, the *Boys* gave Rabun County and the Rabun Chapter of TU something to be proud of!!!

BABBITT BOOSTS FUNDING FOR NATIVE FISH TU Is Key Partner in "Bring Back the Natives"

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced in June that he will make \$13 million available for Bring Back the Natives (BBN)-the native fish conservation program that has helped bring several species of native trout back from the brink of extinction.

Since BBN's inception in 1992, TU has been a key partner in the aggressive public lands campaign to restore wild and native fish stocks and steer rare and declining trout and salmon species off and away from the Endangered Species list. Of 143 BBN projects funded in the last six years, 69 have been spearheaded by TU volunteers.

"TUers nationwide have invested countless hours and tens of thousands of dollars in cooperative projects to restore trout and salmon on public lands," said Charles Gauvin, TU's President. Since more than 50 percent of the coldwater fish habitat in the U.S. is on federally administered lands, BBN is critical to protecting our remaining trout and salmon."

Babbitt outlined BBN's expansion on June 24 in remarks before the Outdoor Writers Association of America in Haines City, Florida. He acknowledged BBN's private-public partners, including Trout Unlimited, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and added the Bureau of Reclamation to the partnership. Babbitt also reaffirmed his support for a strong Endangered Species Act (ESA).

"TU is encouraged by the Secretary's strong support for the ESA. BBN wouldn't be the success story it has been without a strong Endangered Species Act catalyst to bring together private landowners and federal agencies to join TU volunteers to work for real, lasting habitat restoration for native trout and salmon," said Gauvin.

On June 24 Babbitt released \$13 million in new grants

for more than 44 projects that will restore aquatic habitat for native species in 14 states. Those projects aim to restore habitat on 283,000 miles of streams and 6.5 million acres of lakes within 462 million acres, or 70 percent of all federal lands.

PETA - The Party of the Future?

By James Payne Reprinted from *The Leader*, Coosa Valley Chapter TU

It is the year 2169. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) has become the dominant political party, and hold all the seats in Congress and even the Presidency. The Human Genome Project has long since yielded its results. The genetic code has been broken and every human behavior and trait can be correlated to a specific gene. Behaviors and traits that are deemed undesirable by the ruling elite are genetically engineered out of the species. The specific gene for the desire to fish has been identified. Since this is a archaic predatory behavior that inflicts pain and psychological damage on fellow organisms, this behavior has been genetically altered out of the human species.

The advent of cloning and virtual reality sensory stimulation have made the male of the species unnecessary. Remnant population of old males can still be found in their natural habitats along trout streams or in front of large screen T.V.'s. They are kept as reminders of the bad old days. Groups of school girls are brought into these "male preserves" to view these archaic behaviors from a safe distance.

And... then I suddenly sit up in my bed, soaked with sweat, thanking God it's only a nightmare. I have a sudden desire to pull out my flyrod and plunge into a trout stream. But, out of the corner of my eye, I see my wife sleeping peacefully. I feel safe for now and drift back to sleep.

Tight Lines and enjoy it while the politically correct allow it.

Fish Out of Water

By Steve Quinn

Reprinted from *In-Fisherman*, May 1997

After catching a fish, anglers often hold it out of water to remove hooks, then admire and photograph it before releasing it. As a rule, fish should be kept out of after no more than two minutes, because their delicate secondary gill lamellae, where oxygen exchange occurs, collapse in air, suffocating the fish and possibly causing brain damage, disease, and death. A recent study(1) shows that for species like rainbow trout, time out of water should be even shorter.

Dr. Ralph Ferguson and Bruce Tufts connected rainbows to devices that took small samples of blood without unduly restraining the fish, in order to measure chemical substances in the blood that indicate physiological levels of stress. The researchers chased trout around a cylindrical tank for 10 minutes to simulate the stress of being caught.

Fish in one group were allowed to rest in water, while those in another group were held in a damp cloth for 30 seconds before being returned to the water. Those in a third group were held in a damp cloth for 60 seconds before being returned. Blood samples measuring stress levels were taken immediately after release and again 30, 60, and 240 minutes later. Fish were observed for 12 hours to check mortality.

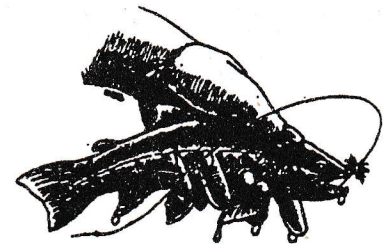
All the trout showed a drop in blood pH and an increase in blood lactate, indicating stress. Fish held out of water suffered a more severe reaction and needed a longer time to recover. They also showed a sharp reduction in blood oxygen levels, due to their inability to breathe.

In the 12-hour survival test, all control fish that were not chased survived. Of the chased trout, 88 percent survived. Survival dropped to 62 percent for fish held out of water for 30 seconds, 28 percent for fish held for one minute.

In a related study, also with rainbow trout, researchers(2) compared the relationship between body size and physiological response to exhaustive exercise. After being chased for five minutes, larger trout showed greater physiological imbalance than small trout. Levels of muscle lactate, a substance used to quantify stress, were twice as high in large trout. Large trout also used a greater proportion of their energy reserves during exercise.

Results showed that larger fish take longer than small fish to recover from being caught and handled. This effect is compounded by a longer struggle when larger fish are hooked.

To ensure successful releases, time out of water must be minimized—seconds for trout, probably slightly longer for bass, pike, and walleyes, and still longer for catfish. And fighting time also should be kept to a minimum. Long battles on light line aren't "sporting" if a released fish dies.



1. Ferguson, R.A., and B.L.Tufts.1992. Physiological effects of brief exposure in exhaustively exercised rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*): implications for "catch and release" fisheries. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.*49(6):1157-1162

2. Ferguson, R.A., J.D.Kieffer, and B.L.Tufts. 1993. The effects of body size on the acid-base and metabolite status in the white muscle of rainbow trout before and after exhaustive exercise. *J. Exp. Biol.* 180:195-207.

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 9th: 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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