

Tight Lines

December, 1997

Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Holiday Dinner Meeting at the Rock House on the Dillard Complex, Tuesday, December 16, 1997

The Chapter will have it's annual dinner meeting, Tuesday night, December 16th, at the **Rock House** on the Dillard House complex. We'll meet at **6:30 PM** for refreshments with dinner at 7:00. Dinner will be the **Dillard House Holiday menu** and the cost is **\$14.95**, all inclusive. Please call **Tom Landreth, 746-2295** if you and yours plan to attend. Come on out, enjoy a great meal and fellowship on December 16th. If you wish, bring your own wine or alcoholic beverage.



OFFENSIVE VS DEFENSIVE EROSION CONTROL

At our November meeting, Mark Criswell, Erosion Control Specialist, Synthetic Industries and Dave Dunning of Shaw Industries, presented alternatives to the usual way of treating roadways and roadsides in handling soil and sediment run-off.

Mark showed some dramatic slides of various materials that had been used to prevent erosion from ever starting after roads, irrigation ditches, etc., had been cut and other soil disturbing activities had taken place. The synthetic matting allowed freshly sewn grasses to grow up through the mat while holding the soil firmly in place. The results were impressive. He could also make a pretty good case for the economic advantages over riprap and other stone and gravel applications. Mark also indicated an willingness to work with us on a project here in Rabun County by furnishing materials for a model project.

Dennings company uses carpeting that has been chopped up and shredded to mix with the soil in building a roadbed that would greatly reduce erosion on our unpaved roads. Good program that you had to be there to appreciate. Too bad the turnout was so lousy.

RUSS BURKEN WITH FLYROD IN HAND HEADED NORTH TO ALASKA

As usual, following one of this trips to some distant, exotic location in quest for trout and salmon, Russ Burken brought back some nice slides giving us a small taste of what it might be like to take huge fish in Alaska on a fly rod. Some of us may never get to take such trips but it is fun to contemplate. Russ showed some mighty impressive fish, both trout and salmon. Thanks, Russ, for sharing the experience.

HOW TO GET 24,000 BROWN TROUT SUB-ADULT TROUT FROM THE LAKE BURTON HATCHERY TO THE CHATTOOGA RIVER

There are probably not too many people who fish the Chattooga, spinfishermen, corn dunkers, stick bait experts or flyfishermen, who fully appreciate the effort it takes to assure continued good fishing.

It begins with raising the eggs to fry and then to fingerlings, subadults, or in some cases to fully mature trout. Our own DNR Hatchery at Lake Burton work through many steps and for many hours to bring these Brown Trout to one of these stages.

Trout Unlimited, especially the Rabun Chapter, becomes involved each year when the fish are ready to be clipped for identification purposes. This year, with the help of Terry Seehorn and his Rabun Gap Nacoochee School class, several Rabun Chapter members, and the staff at the DNR Burton Hatchery, approximately 24,000 sub adult Brown Trout, (and at least one Rainbow) had their adipose fin clipped to get ready for their trip to the Chattooga River.

Thanks to all who turned out on a beautiful day and lent a hand in assuring good fishing this Spring. These fish were really healthy looking and some were certainly well on their way to adulthood.

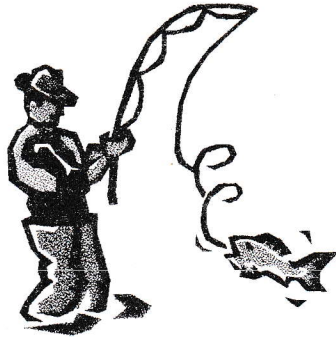
The next phase of this stocking took place on November 19th at Russells fields on the Chattooga River. The helicopter under contract to the Forest Service, USFS personnel, the hatchery truck and DNR folks, Gene Roberts, Doug Adams and Tom Landreth of the Rabun Chapter of TU gathered in a writer and photographer the bucket attached and pre-short trip to the river to fill back again where DNR per-barrells that were then bucket. Again the 'copter headed upstream to one of Michael, the chopper pilot release the trout. He tries to shallower faster moving water. There are several reasons for doing it this way. They disperse more quickly; they are less likely to be snapped up by the larger Browns and they



aren't quite as vulnerable to predators such as fishermen. The chopper made quite a few trips; starting up near Burrell's Ford and working back downstream, finishing near the mouth of Reed Creek.

South Carolina stocked Rainbows in the river a week or so prior to our effort. So, this Spring, you should run into these fellows again. The survivors should have gained a few inches by that time.

In fact, your temporary editor and a friend fished the river a week or so after the stocking and in addition to some last year hold overs and a few really wild trout, we caught a lot of the newly stocked fish. They looked very good and appeared to have survived their ride and jump very well. Thanks again to Lee Keefer and his crew at Burton Hatchery, the Forest Service folks and to Michael who flew that chopper just like he knew how.



Membership News and News of Members

Welcome to new member **Martin Laxson** of Dahlonega. Hope you can make it to one of our meetings soon so we can meet you Martin.

Kenny Cook, G. Gowder and Russell Johnson have re-upped their membership. Thanks fellows.

According to the records sent down from TU National the following have recently been suspended and we hope will renew their membership:

Paul Fisher of Tallulah Falls
Andrew Boyce of Greenville, SC
Aubrey & Jennifer Adams of Marietta

Mark Henry of Midland, GA
Barbara Brown of Marietta
Lonnie English of Clayton

Many of you remember how much trouble **Frank Tolbert** had driving a pick up type vehicle into the upper reaches of Popcorn Creek during a work project. Shortly afterward he got himself a real fishing car - a jeep, fire engine red. Having proven the jeeps tractability on Forest Service roads, Frank recently decided to test the vehicles crashability. Frank now knows you can't butt heads with trucks and is recovering from a pretty rough encounter. We all wish you well, Frank. The trout of North Georgia hope you are in no hurry and your wife can't wait!

Charlie Breithaupt's wife **Vickie** kicked one of the family dogs and had to have arthroscopic surgery on her knee. Well, at least it wasn't Charlie she kicked. Fast recovery, Vickie!

Dates to Remember.....Again!

December 16th

Family Dinner Meeting at the
Rock House in Dillard

January 20th

*Meeting at Rock House, Clayton

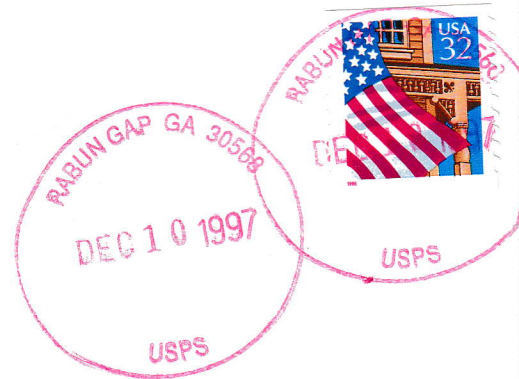
January 24th

Rendezvous '98

** This is our countdown to Rendezvous meeting. Please try to make this one and help us get organized. We need every member to pitch in.*



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