

TIGHT LINES



NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

MARCH 1998

MARCH MEETING

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited will meet on *Tuesday, March 17th*, in the Rock House Community Center, Clayton, Georgia. The fellowship hour begins at 6:30 PM and will be followed by a business meeting and program at 7:00 PM. **Jimmy Harris, Unicoi Outfitters**, will bring us up to date on the "Pay to Fish" section of the Chattahoochee River just south of Helen, Georgia. Lots of big fish! Don't miss this one.

FEBRUARY MEETING

At the February meeting, **Kyle Burrell and Henry Williamson**, two anglers you do not want to fish behind, demonstrated lots of effective knots used to tie leader to line, joining leaders, leader to tippet and tippet to fly. They make it look so easy. As Henry says, the place to practice these knots is not on the stream with fish rising. One of the most useful knots was the Duncan loop, illustrated elsewhere in this publication. Thanks again, guys. You are always willing to share your knowledge and we appreciate it.

MEMBERSHIP

We have several new members added to the Chapter roster and we welcome them to our group. Here's hoping you will find your way to a meeting soon and take an active part in our activities:

Jack Bates of Marietta; Maria Davis of Clayton; Donald Early of Wiley; George Custer and Bud Parker, both of Clayton.

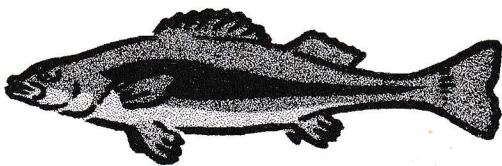
At the February meeting we had quite a few visitors and thank them for their participation and urge them to join the Rabun Chapter:

Marilyn Rogers of Clayton; John Hoppes of Dillard; Judy Mitclaff of Lakemont; Travis Barnes of Tiger; Frank Cooley of Tiger; and Ray Kearns of Clayton.

Also visiting was Steve Takacs, publisher of "Outdoor Sports in the Upstates", who passed out copies of his publication that covers many outdoor activities in Northeast Georgia and the Upstate of South Carolina. With him was Ken Carter, a contributor to the publication.

RABUN RENDEZVOUS T SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE

We still have Large & X Large, Hanes Beefy T's available. The shirts feature a Brook Trout painted by Tom Landreth, chasing a "Yaller Hammer" fly across the front, with "Rabun Rendezvous - Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited". Come on, all you members who couldn't make it to the Rendezvous. **Show your pride in being a member of the Rabun Chapter.** Call or write and we'll send you one or more for \$12/each, plus \$1 for mailing. They look great and the money goes for a good cause - trout! Call Tom Landreth at (706) 746-2295 or Charlie Breithaupt at (706) 746-3379. We have paid off the cost. Every sale now goes into the treasury for improving and protecting our cold water fisheries



"The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: 'What good is it?'"

Aldo Leopold

NEWS FROM THE FOREST

RECONSTRUCTION OF BURRELL'S FORD ROAD PUT ON HOLD

Seems our excitement over the news that a major reconstruction of Burrell's Ford Road would begin soon was premature. This "hold" came from Washington and effects all such projects scheduled for "roadless areas". We have waited 12 years for this road reconstruction that would reduce sediment movement and erosion into the Chattooga River and Reed Creek. This is not a roadless area. It is there. Lots of us have driven it.

Doug Adams has written a letter to Acting Director, Engineering Staff, Gerald Coghlan, urging that this project be released from the hold status

Doug also visited the reconstruction site at the invitation of Dave Jensen. He made comments on specific design elements of the project.

Full text of Doug's two letters will be available at the March meeting.

NEW FOREST SERVICE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Planning Team has developed four themes that address the 16 issues identified from public input:

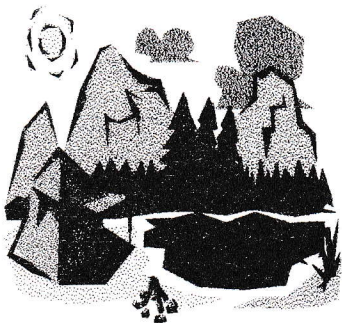
THEME 1 MINIMAL ACTIVITIES Management activities are minimal across the landscape. This alternative will allow minimal processes to occur with little to no human influence. Evidence such as prescribed burning, timber harvest and trails are minimal.

THEME 2 CONTINUE AS IS Continue management of the forests under the current amended 1985 management plan.

THEME 3 RESTORATION The emphasis is on the restoration over the long-term. The time reference used to define restoration may vary, but is usually between the first local European contact and later settlement. Limitations on human activities are commonly imposed to make them compatible with resource objectives.

THEME 4 LOCAL ECONOMICS Returns to local economies is emphasized through sustained outputs of timber products and enhancement of developed recreation. National Forest lands are marketed to enhance fee-based recreation experiences.

FOREST SERVICE USER FEES



The Tallulah Ranger District (Clayton) is asking for your comments regarding recreation user fees at nineteen sites. Ten are parking fees and nine are camping fees. Five of the camping fees are existing and four are proposed. For instance, if you fish the lower sections of Moccasin Creek and park at the Hemlock Falls trailhead, it will cost you \$2. If you are planning to camp on Sarah's Creek, it'll cost you \$3 per night.

Keep in mind that most of the dollars collected under this proposal will go right back into that site for improvements and maintenance.

THANK YOU TO RENDEZVOUS CONTRIBUTORS - A PARTIAL LIST - MORE NEXT MONTH

Johnson's Country Cupboard Cafe
The Foxfire Boys
Bobby Bell
Southern Trophy Seekers
Rabun County Bank

Henry Williamson
Bill Thompson
Garland Stewart
The Hollow Log
Unicoi Outfitters

KLEIN MEMORIAL FUND UPDATE

The Fund was established in memory of Rabun TU charter member, Phil Klein of Greensboro, NC. Phil died suddenly of a heart attack last December. He dearly loved fishing the Chattooga River. The Fund will be used to pay for the Rabun Chapter's portion of the helicopter stocking of the Chattooga. To date memorial donations have been received from Don Atkinson and Doug Adams, members of the Rabun Chapter; Dale Schonmeyer and Eedee Adams. If you desire to make a tax deductible donation in memory of Phil, please make your check payable to "Rabun TU", "for Klein Memorial Fund"; send to PO Box 65, Rabun Gap, GA 30568.

GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

If you have access to a network connected computer you can catch up on what's going on by going to www.ganet.gov. In a nutshell, HB1592 and HB1593, both introduced by Ralph Twiggs, will effectively leave Georgia's trout streams unprotected. Both bills passed the house but have hit a small road block in the Senate. Senator Guy Middleton suggested forming a committee that will look into all aspects of these two bills. Of course, who sits on this committee is key to what is recommended. There simply isn't enough space in Tight Lines to cover the content of this legislation. We will have the latest at the March meeting.

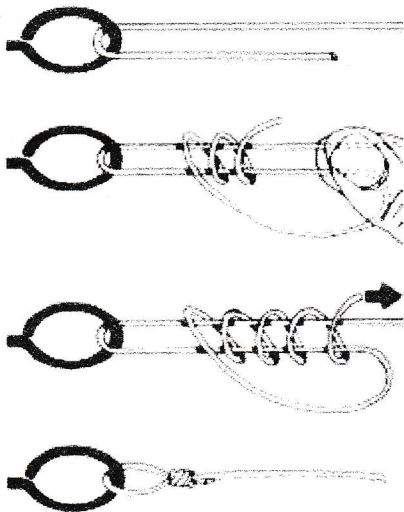
FLY SHOP NEWS

Unicoi Outfitters, now co-owned by Jimmy Harris, plans to move from its present location north of Robertstown to south of Helen. This move puts it closer to the private "pay to fish" area and will be much more visible to the passing fisherman. If you haven't been to this fly shop, you should. They can provide you with just about everything you'll need for fishing in the area. If you are heading over Hiawassee way to fish the tail-race, there is a new fly shop you should visit. **Upper Hi Fly** is located in a new building in Hiawassee, near the Holiday Inn. Watch for the sign out front, then drive up and back to the second floor of the building. Good supply of fly-tying materials and flies. They will also be offering guide service.

OTHER USEFUL KNOTS

Improved Clinch Knot - tippet to fly
Surgeon's Knot - leader to tippet
Perfection Knot - end of leader for loop to loop

Duncan Loop



Note: A New Knot will be illustrated next month

CHAPTER SETS BUDGET AND PLANS FOR COMING YEAR

During a breakfast (Thank you, Russ) meeting at the Dillard House, the year's budget was set, but not in concrete. Planned expenditures are approximately \$4500 for 12 different categories. From TU's Embrace-A-Stream to student education at Smithgall Woods, the pie was carved with a little left for unplanned items.

Planning took a step forward when Jim Kidd volunteered to be in charge of programs. He promptly came up with a list for the rest of the year. In each Tight Lines, the coming programs will be listed. A partial list: June-Tom Massie, N. C. Water Quality Program; July-Georgia Trout Plan Update; October - Acid Deposition in Great Smokey Mountain National Park. Throw in some fishing, camping and work projects - *BUSY YEAR AHEAD.*

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

- March 17th Chapter Meeting - Jimmy Harris of Unicoi Outfitters
"Pay to Fish on the Chattahoochee"
- March 21st "Hoot on the Hooch", Unicoi Lodge, Saturday 5PM
\$20/person, \$35/Couple
- March 22nd "Trout-O-Rama", Smithgall Woods, Sunday 10AM
Fly casting, Fly Tying Classes, Stream Study. Call
for reservations 706 878-3087
- March 26 Meeting with Charles Gauvin, President and CEO of
Trout Unlimited, Atlanta Marriott at Norcross 7PM
- April 21 Chapter Meeting - Dr. David Van Lear, Clemson
University, "Prescribed Burns and Effects on Water
Quality"
- April 24/25 Campout and Work Project at Upper Reed Creek

Don't forget to renew your Georgia Fishing license. How about N. C.?

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