

TIGHT LINES



NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

JUNE 1998

JUNE MEETING

Tom Massie, State of North Carolina, is scheduled to explain his states approach to water quality and how it might fit in with the Georgia Heritage program. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, June 16th, at the Rock House in Clayton, Georgia

APRIL MEETING

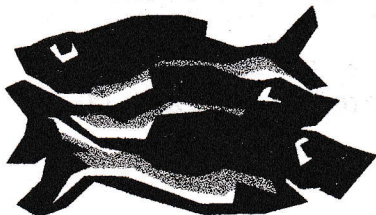
As usual, Dave Van Lear, presented us with an excellent program on prescribed burns and their effect on the watersheds. Slides supported by Dave's knowledge left us with lots of food for thought. Summarizing, burns in the forest can be extremely beneficial if carried out with careful planning and supervision. Depending on the intensity and the length of time the fire is in an area, severity is quite varied. The goal should be to not burn through the forest floor duff to bare ground but get rid some of the underbrush to promote new growth.

Dave also pointed out some popular myths that seem to hang on inspite of historical and scientific evidence to the contrary. One such belief is that at one time the Eastern North American continent was covered with giant trees so dense a squirrel could travel from Charleston to Memphis and never touch the ground. Hand in hand with that story is that the Indian tribes were few and far between. Some historians now believe there were more Indians in North America than there were Europeans in Europe. And one of their favorite means of assuring suffecient fish and game, agricultural ground and space was to burn the woods surrounding their villages.

Burning under the right conditions benefits our fisheries in several ways. The ash created from the burn leaches into the streams and reduces to some degree, the alkalinity. It also reduces the rhododendrun and laurel that chokes out more desireable growth on the stream banks. These two shrubs furnish very little food for the insects that live in out streams. To condense Dr. Van Lear's presentation into a few paragraphs is very difficult. If you were not there, you missed an excellent program. Thank you Dave.

SMITH CREEK TO BE COSIDERED FOR DELAYED HARVEST

Lee Keefer, Department of Natural Resources, Lake Burton Hatchery, advises that a hearing on the feasibility of managing Smith Creek as a "delayed harvest" stream, will be held at Unicoi State Park on Monday, June 15th, beginning at 7 o'clock PM. Smith Creek, to those of you not familiar with this stream, flows through the park, forming the lake and continuing below the dam to the Chattahoochee in Helen. Your editor just learned of this meeting and even though this is short notice, members of the chapter are urged to attend if possible. I will not be there and will appreciate those attending advising me of the results so that we can fill in the membership.



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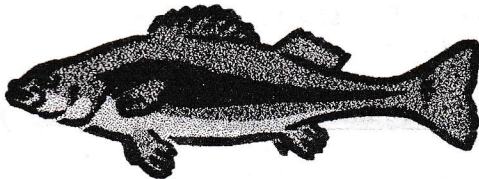
COUNTY SOIL AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

The Office of County Marshall, over the signature of Roy Lovell, Rabun County Marshal/Soil Erosion Officer, has mailed letters to lending institutions asking their cooperation in advising their clients to be considerate of their neighbors and take all measures possible to reduce soil erosion. This is certainly a positive step. Enforcement is the second.

BLACK ROCK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

The Chapter has received a letter from Anthony Lampros, Superintendent of Black Rock Mountain State Park, thanking us for our continued support of the Junior Fishing Rodeo program. They had 183 children participate this year and after adding in the adults (who do not fish), Anthony says they hosted about 300 people. From what I saw and read in the *Clayton Tribune*, it was a huge success.

FLY SHOP NEWS



Not fly shop news per se, but several shops have asked if they could place an ad in "Tight Lines". Some chapters do this to reduce the expense of a newsletter. Most "ads" I have seen are simply the firm's business card reproduced in the body of the letter. Let's discuss this at the June meeting.

KLEIN MEMORIAL FUND UPDATE

The Klein Memorial Fund continues to grow. The fund received a donation from chapter member Steve Raeber; and, at its annual meeting recently, the Klondike Corporation made a contribution in Phil's name.

To those of you who are recent members, Phil Klein was a founding and Lifetime member of Trout Unlimited and a Charter Member of the Rabun Chapter. The fund was established in Phil's name and monies received will be used to continue the stocking program on the Chattooga River, a stream Phil loved and fished often.

If you wish to make a tax deductible donation in memory of Phil, please make your check payable to "Rabun TU", "for Klein Memorial Fund", and send it to PO Box 65, Rabun Gap, GA 30568.

(Editors Note: I believe the fund received a couple of other donations but I can't find my notes. When Doug returns he will straighten me out and I'll bring you up to date in July)

FLY CONVERSION

You are fishing a remote stream and suddenly you realize you didn't stick that fly box of spinners in your vest and that's what the trout are feeding on! Your beautifully tied Adams just isn't the ticket. Well, suck it up, clip the bottom and top hackles, leaving just the side portions of the hackle. Not only will the fly sit down in the film, the two wisps of hackle just may fool that old trout into thinking it is a spent mayfly, and smack it.

Cut all the hackle and wing off a dry fly and you have a nymph. Just don't put floatant on it and it will sink soon enough. Cut the horizontally wrapped hackle from a parachute style fly, perhaps shorten the wing slightly and you have a servicable emerger.

A Wooly Booger, Wooly Worm or C. K. converts nicely into a stonefly nymph by removing the palmered hackle.

Now this isn't suggesting indiscriminately mutilating your flies. Just pointing out the possibilities when the spares are back in the truck two miles away and the trout are getting with it on something else.

VOLUNTEERISM - THANK YOU BUD PARKER

Bud Parker, one of our newer members, volunteered to coordinate Chapter campouts and fishing outings. And while on the subject of volunteering, election of officers for next year will be coming up in early fall. If you are tired of the same old faces steering the chapter, there is a remedy - volunteer. Having put out this newsletter from day one till a few years ago when Sharon volunteered to take it over; and then inheriting it back when Sharon left, I can assure you if someone out there would like to take it over next year, you will have my enthusiastic support.

CAMPOUT & WORK PROJECT APRIL 24-25 UPPER REED CREEK

The best laid plans of mice and men....Some of us planned to camp out at the work project site Wednesday night. It rained. We thought about Thursday night. It rained and hailed. On Friday, Jim Nixon and others from Persimmon moved in at the Double Bit camp and were joined by others in the chapter. Saturday was beautiful and more members showed up for the work project. We repositioned five cover logs and repaired one of the restrictor cribs. Some even got in some fishing Friday and Saturday with varying success. The river was still high but dropping and as this newsletter is being written (April 27th) the forecast for the rest of the week is for more rain.

Thanks to all the chapter members who turned out, Jim's friends and a bunch of youngsters who had a great time and to Doug Watson and Mitzi Perdew, USFS. Let's hope the weather cooperates in September for the next official work project and campout.

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

Craig Realty	Tom Landreth	Burton Gallery	Blue Ridge Rods
Eggers Tackle Sply	Joseph Unterwagner	Hill Insurance	Sports Afield
Sharon Wilson	Dustin Mentzer	Charlie Breithaupt	Hans Mentzer
Maria Davis	Allison Adams	Gary Hauk	Walt Landreth
Smithgall Woods	Island Press	Cohutta TU Chap	Schrade Knife Co

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

- June 15th Delayed Harvest Discussion . Georgia DNR - Unicoi State Park Lodge
7 PM Discussion will center on managing Smith Creek on a Delayed Harvest Basis
- June 16th Chapter Meeting - Tom Massie - North Carolina Water Quality Program
- July 21st Lee Keefer, Georgia DNR will update us on the State's Trout Plan

Plan on the work project/campout in September.

Rabun Chapter on the Internet: "WWW.tu.org", then click on chapter news; our chapter number is 522



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