

TIGHT LINES



NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

August 1998

FAMILY CAMPOUT PLANNED FOR OCTOBER

Many of you have suggested that the Chapter have another family event and in response to that idea we have reserved a site at the Appletree Campground in the Nantahala National Forest for the weekend of October 16th, 17th and 18th. Bud Parker will coordinate this outing. We will need to discuss the details tentatively, each family or group will be responsible for their own breakfast and lunch. Dinner will be a joint affair. This could also serve as the ideal background for knot tying, fly selection, stream reading and ginning trout fishing person. So, plan to be at the August meeting and speak up with your ideas.



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WORK PROJECT/CAMPOUT SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER

The work project at the mouth of Reed Creek will take place on September 26, 1998. Cover logs and other habitat improvement structures are on the schedule. This will also be a good time for a campout on Friday the 25th and maybe even the 26th. We'll cover more of the details at the August meeting when, hopefully, Dave Deavers, USFS, will be on hand to fill in the details. To get to the project site just head on down Hwy 28, pass the turnoff to Burrells Ford. As you go down the hill towards the bridge over the Chattooga, look for a FS road on your left (It is normally closed and gated). Turn there and continue to the end of the road at the large open fields on your right. Unless you are the first one in there, you'll see us. All of this presumes the Forest Service will have the gate open.

SHOCKING THE CHATTOOGA

One look off the Burrell's Ford Bridge told me that we were not going to conduct the shocking on this day, Tuesday, July 21st. Meanwhile members of the Rabun and other chapters of Trout Unlimited, South Carolina and Georgia Wildlife & Fisheries personnel, Chattahoochee and Oconee

The water below was as dingy as weak coffee and running high. It had rained upstream the previous night in quantities estimated from 1-3 inches.

After some serious consultations, the decision was made to wait it out until after lunch and see if the water had cleared and receded. At 12:30 it was decided that conditions had improved enough to go ahead with the shocking.

A site was selected several hundred yards upstream from the bridge. Three passes were made through a hundred meter section, collecting all fish and other aquatic life shocked to the surface.



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(Continued on page 3)

PETA GOES AFTER THE NATIONAL PARKS

"The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have taken up a new cause-they're trying to end fishing in national parks. They have scientific proof, they say, that a hooked fish suffers unspeakably, and true to their organization's mission, they are demanding an end this *torture for sport*." Chris Madson, *Wyoming Wildlife*

Perhaps we fishermen provide some of the fodder for this bunch of extremist. Releasing trout safely isn't difficult. First of all, using barbless or debarbed flies and hooks makes it much easier to slip the hook from the fish's mouth and in the cases where it has taken the hook deep, it's a necessity. Also, play the fish as quickly as you can and bring him to net before he is totally exhausted. Often you do not even have to lift the fish from the water - just run your hand down the leader and tippet and slip the hook out. If you must pick the fish up, using a net is a big help, providing a less slippery grip and allowing you to keep the trout in the water before lifting him up. When releasing the larger trout, cradle him in your hands, supporting him from beneath. Gently rock him side to side to get the water circulating through the gills. Usually, he'll take off when he's ready.

If you are going to keep a fish, it might be more humane to kill it prior to dropping it in the creel. That flapping you hear minutes later is not a dance of joy but the last gasps for "breath" - not a pleasant way to die.



REPLACING FELTS ON WADING BOOTS

You can do this yourself, or let a knowledgeable shoe repair shop handle it for you. If you go the do-it-yourself route, I suggest you use contact cement and apply the felts under pressure with clamps or in a vise.

The real advantage to having a pro do this, is they will both glue and stitch the felts on. This results in a longer lasting sole. One such shoe shop is the "Country Cobbler" in downtown Cornelia. The owner is a fly fisherman and is active in the Foothills Chapter of TU. I think there is another such shop in Franklin, but I have no name

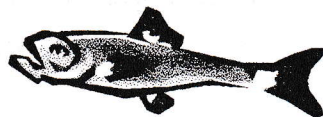
to pass on.

New felts give you a more secure feeling when wading and before you know it, fall will be here and the water will begin to cool off. Taking a spill in the summer can be refreshing; in the fall or winter, it can definitely cool off your fishing and in some cases be downright dangerous. Just look up Hypothermia!

TROUT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Thanks to **Lee Keefer**, Fisheries Biologist, Georgia DNR, for meeting with us in July and outlining the state's plan for a new Trout Management Plan. While they plan to gather information from trout fishermen through a telephone survey, Lee welcomes comments via mail. Some thoughts from his presentation: Should we stock private trout waters?

Should we reduce stocking schedules in the hot months and increase in the Fall? Should we increase stocking in the most popular fishing areas? Do you want more, but smaller trout stocked? Larger but fewer? These are just a few of the questions that will be asked on the survey. So, if you should receive a phone call right at supper time and someone wants your input, be patient - the survey is important to YOU as a trout fisherpersion.



(Continued from page 1)

I've heard many, many fishermen who had just fished through this and other sections of the upper river exclaim that there just were no fish there. The results of the shocking clearly showed otherwise. Lots of sculpin, sucker types and small, medium and large Browns were weighed, measured and released.

Thanks to those members of and helped. Now, what is done

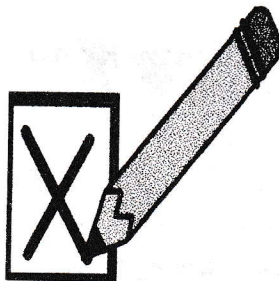
the Rabun Chapter who stuck it out with us with the data?



IT'S NOT TOO EARLY....

to start thinking about chapter officers for the coming year. In addition to the usual President, Vice President, Treasurer point someone to ride herd over coordinator (hopefully Bud Parker activities coordinator and a gov- Adams is now doing this by ties).

So, be thinking about this. jobs?



and Newsletter Editor, we need to ap- membership, a campout/workshop co- will continue in this capacity), a youth ernmental affairs coordinator (Doug keeping us informed on USFS activi-

Would you like to take on one of these

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members **Chris Barrett** of Dahlonega; and, **Bruce Mitchell** of Marietta. I hope both of you can attend an upcoming meeting or other activity so we can put a face with the name.

Teddy Bennett's name popped up on the roster as a new member. Well, he really isn't. Teddy was a long time member of the Rabun Chapter and somehow got transferred, electronically, to the Foothills Chapter. It's good to have Teddy back. He has supported the Rendezvous with his donations for many years.

Notice that **Jim Kidd** and **Bill Vaughn** have been suspended in the last month and need to reup with TU National.

Joan Crawford of Pine Mountain Valley and **Ralph Miller** of Dahlonega are in their sixth month of suspension and need to renew.



Each month the chapter receives updated roster information from TU National. Suspension sounds like such a harsh word but it simply means the person has let his or her membership expire, accidentally or intentionally. We pass this on to you, not to embarrass you, but as a reminder that we need both your membership and participation in the Rabun Chapter of TU.

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

August 18th Monthly Chapter Meeting, The Rock House in Clayton, Georgia; 6:30 Social, 7:00 Meeting

September 15th Monthly Chapter Meeting, The Rock House in Clayton, Monte Seehorn, "Chattooga River Plan Update and Future"

September 25th & 26th Work Project and Campout, Reed Creek

October 16th & 17th Family Campout at Appletree CG

January 23rd, 1999 The Rabun Rendezvous

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



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