

TIGHT LINES



NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

February 1999

TROUT IN NORTH GEORGIA WIN AT RENDEZVOUS BASH

The weather could have been better; but, despite the wet conditions, supporters of cold water fisheries turned out for the Rabun Rendezvous in great numbers. And, once past the delicious roasted pig, they spent money on the bucket raffles and the silent auction items, listened to the great music as rendered by the **Foxfire Boys plus one**, and enjoyed the fellowship with folks of like minds.

From a financial standpoint it was a big success and will give the Rabun Chapter sufficient funds

to take on all the projects we have in mind in '99. A dollar by dollar accounting of how the chapter plans to spend the money is included elsewhere in *Tight Lines*.

In this and coming issues the chapter will try to thank all those companies, chapters and individuals without whom we would be up the proverbial creek without a paddle. A big collective **THANK YOU** for the moment.

And thanks too go out to the Chapter members who turned

out and helped with setting up for the evening, selling raffle tickets, handling the money at the door and all the many other little jobs necessary for the Rabun Rendezvous to come off successfully.

Mark Huddy's presentation was both informative and entertaining. Statistical material is often boring, but with visuals sprinkled with graphs, data and large trout, Mark held the crowds attention throughout his presentation. Thanks again Mark for coming all the way from Washington to help make our event success.

CHATTOOGA RIVER COALITION MEETS

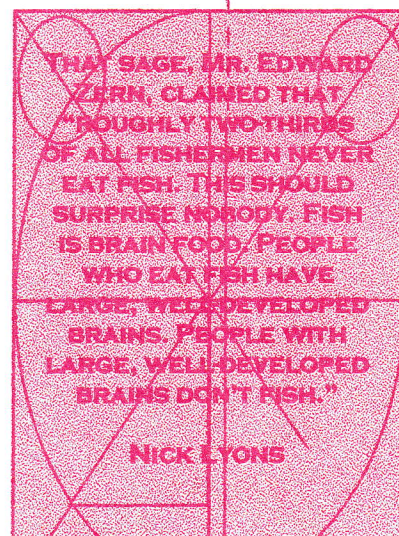
The Chattooga River Coalition met at the U. S. Forest Service on Tuesday, January 19th. Among the topics discussed were delayed harvest, habitat improvement, special regulations and size of the trout now stocked in the Chattooga.

South Carolina will be holding one or two public meetings to see how making the section of the river below the Hwy 28 bridge a "delayed harvest" area would go over with the fishing public. Depending on these meetings, recommendations will go to their

legislature for approval. Georgia is in agreement with making this area delayed harvest.

It was agreed by all in attendance that habitat improvement in the main river is not practical; but, continuing efforts should be made on the many tributaries on both sides of the river.

Both South Carolina and Georgia fisheries agreed to stock more catchable trout in coming seasons. As many as 2500 9" rainbows and 2000 9" browns will be included in the stocking programs.



RABUN CHAPTER SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

FEB 15	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING	JIMMY HARRIS
MAR 13	WORK PROJECT ON CORBIN CREEK	
MAR 16	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING	
MAR 20	HOOT ON THE HOOCH - FOOTHILLS CHAPTER - UNICOI STATE PARK	
MAR 24	CHATTAHOOCHEE CHAPTER BANQUET - ATLANTA	
APR 03	GEORGIA COUNCIL MEETS AT THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM - FOOTHILLS	
APR 10	WORK PROJECT ON THE NOONTOTLA	
APR 20	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING	
APR 24	WORK PROJECT AT SMITH CREEK-UNICOI STATE PARK	
APR 30	DAVIDSON RIVER CAMPOUT-PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST	
MAY 01	"	
MAY 08	KIDS FISHING DAY - NANCYTOWN	
MAY 18	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING WITH FAMILY - INDIAN LAKE-RGNS	
MAY 15	WORK PROJECT - UPPER CHARLEY CREEK	
JUN 05	KIDS FISHING DAY - UNICOI STATE PARK	
JUN 12	KIDS FISHING DAY - TALLULAH RIVER	
JUN 15	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING WITH FAMILY - KELLYS PICNID GRND	
JUL 17	WORK PROJECT ON CHASTAIN BRANCH	
JUL 20	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING	
AUG 16	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING	
SEP 11	WORK PROJECT ON SMITH CREEK - UNICOI SP	
SEP 20	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING	
SEP 25	WORK PROJECT ON POPCORN CREEK	
OCT 19	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING	
NOV 15	MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING	
DEC 21	ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING - DILLARD HOUSE	

As promised, here are the dates for TU functions in the area. Those in bold type are events where the Rabun Chapter has committed to host or participate. Please note the chapter meetings in May and June. Members are invited to bring their family for some fun and fellowship. Details on each of these dates will be in Tight Lines. We just didn't want your year to look empty

REPORT ON FISHERIES FROM NORTH CAROLINA

The January issue of *Wildlife in North Carolina*, the Biennial Report issue, contained some interesting data regarding that state's fisheries program. In 1998 they stocked a total of 592,111 catchable trout and 66,555 fingerling trout in their cold water streams. Broken down by species, over 244 thousand Brook; 114 thousand Browns and 233 plus thousand Rainbows of catchable size were stocked. In the fingerling size, they break down as follows: 4000 Brook Trout; 40 thousand Browns and 22.5 thousand Rainbows.

Some of the catchable trout weighed more than 7 pounds! Also covered in the report was an

evaluation of the their Delayed Harvest program. "Interest in these waters has continued to climb, and fishing pressure has increased dramatically since this program was initiated in 1992. The program emphasizes higher than average catch rates and recycling of trout through multiple captures. Creel surveys conducted on four streams found anglers out on all but the worst weather days. Although catch rates appear to have declined somewhat over the years, anglers continue to be pleased with their fishing experiences."

An evaluation was completed of an experimental trout regulation allowing the use of natural

bait in streams classified as *wild trout waters*. Apparently, sampling on most of the streams did not show any drastic changes in the number or sizes of trout present. Creel surveys showed that about 50% of the fishermen were using natural bait. In addition, there was no appreciable change in either fishing pressure nor number of trout harvested on the streams surveyed.

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KLEIN MEMORIAL FUND CONTINUES TO GROW WITH RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to the Klein Memorial Fund have been received from chapter members Kyle Burrell and Bill Kelly. This fund established to remember Phil Klein now has sufficient funds to pay for the chapter's share of the helicopter stocking to the year 2003! Thank you to all who have contributed to make this a real tribute to someone who loved the Chattooga as many of his fishing buddies did. Keep a tight line, Phil.

Chapter Allocates Funds For Coming Year

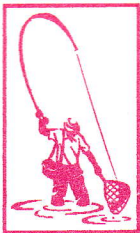
THE BELOW LISTED FUNDS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE CHAPTERS 1999 TREASURY

Newsletter	\$850	Dukes Creek Foundation	300
Fall Helicopter Stocking	400	Foothills Chapter Outdoor Classroom	1000
Spring Helicopter Stocking	400	Banquet items	100
Kids Fishing Day - Black Rock SP	200	Rock House Maintenance Fund	100
Kids Fishing Day - Tallulah River	150	Total	\$9145
Kids Fishing Day - Moccasin Creek SP	100		
Soil & Erosion Control USFS	500		
Summer Interns USFS (2 individuals)	2500		
Trout Unlimited - National	2000		
Georgia Council Trout Unlimited	500		
Library Memberships	45		

No, we didn't make this much on the Rabun Rendezvous, but we had a pretty healthy balance prior. We left enough in to cover any unexpected projects or special requests. For a full treasurer's report, come to the next chapter meeting.

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