

# TIGHT LINES



NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

September 1999

## SMITH AND POPCORN CREEK WORK PROJECTS FILL SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

The Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited will participate with the Georgia DNR on a work project on Smith Creek in Unicoi State Park, Saturday, September 11th. Plan to meet at 8:30 AM in the fishermen's parking lot below the maintenance barn. Entrance to the parking area is located just east of the lodge. Turn on the paved road that leads to the tennis courts, through the maintenance area to the parking lot.

You should bring a lunch and something to drink as the park staff may not be furnishing food at this outing.

For those of you who have not yet been to Smith Creek, this will be an excellent time to scout it out before the Delayed Harvest season opens in November.

On Saturday, September 25th, the Chapter will work with the U. S. Forest Service

on structure maintenance work on Popcorn Creek. Some of you may have helped install several structures up there a few years ago.

To those new to the area, you can meet at the Popcorn Lookoff on Hwy 76 about 9:00 AM. Or, you can drive directly to the site. The lookoff is located about .6 miles west of the intersection of GaHwy 197 and US76. To drive to the site continue past the Popcorn Lookoff for about 1.9 miles on US 76. Look for a Forest Service sign on your right. Just beyond the sign is **FS163** to the right. Follow this road to Popcorn Creek.

Doug Watson, USFS, doesn't think the job will take us much past noon or 1:00 PM.

This is a small brook trout stream.



## JOHN MARTIN & DOC BURKEN BRING US RUSSIA AND ALASKA TROUT & SALMON FISHING

The Chapter's August meeting was filled with visions of exotic lands and huge trout and salmon.

John Martin led off with a video of his and fellow chapter member, Arthur Clavin's recent trip to Russia. By helicopter and rubber raft they joined in a scientific expedition's quest for Rainbow

and Char. There were some pretty impressive fish caught and John reported they averaged 24 inches!

They encountered bugs and more bugs; lots of rain; lots of trout and they obviously had a great time. Thanks, John for sharing this adventure with us. Doc, Sam and Danny just re-

turned from Kodiak Island, fishing for king and silver salmon; chars and dolly vardens. They also spent a lot of time dodging and sharing pools with the island's infamous grizzlies. Doc had some real good footage of these behemoths as well as the finny residents of Saltery. Bring this film again. Thanks Doc.



## ROADS FROM RABUN COUNTY LEADING WEST ARE BECOMING MORE RUTTED

There should be no shortage of tall tales of the West during the next few months. With the hot weather and low water here at home, many of our members have fled west in search of better fishing.

Some destinations are not known but others have already been shared with those who remained at home. Your editor's ten year old grandson caught his share of brook trout in Colorado. Some well known beaver ponds were the ideal

setting for a first timer, both to the area and with a fly rod.

Other members headquartered further north and from their reports, they found the fishing great.

June and I will be headed back at the end of the month for both fishing and sightseeing. We hope to hook up with Gene and Charlie for a little fishing while we are there. October is not far off and maybe we all will not have to drive so far to pursue our favorite quarry!

## FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR WEST FORK TRACT

According to Representative Nathan Deal's office, the funds necessary to purchase a tract of land on the West Fork of the Chattooga have been restored to the federal budget for Fiscal Year 2000. At least two members of the chapter contacted Deal's office expressing concern over this issue and could certainly have helped in replacing this item in the proposed budget. Your phone calls, letters and even E-mail on issues do help. You can reach Nathan Deal through his web page [www.house.gov/deal](http://www.house.gov/deal).

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Washington, DC 20515-1009

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"In the world of fishing there are magic phrases... Among them are: "remote trout lake," "fish up to 13 lbs," "the place guides fish on their days off," There's power in words like that.

*John Glerach*



# WILDERNESS DESIGNATION IS NOT NECESSARY TO SAVE CHATTOOGA FOR RECREATIONAL RESOURCE

Chapter members probably get weary of hearing about the proposal to *designate as "Wilderness", the area from just above Highway 28 to below Burrell's Ford Bridge*. So okay.

At last month's meeting the membership was encouraged to write their representatives and stress that there are alternatives to the wilderness proposal that would allow a continuation of the current fishery management practices. Very simply put, Wilderness would not allow the helicopter stocking that has so enhanced the fishing experience on the Chattooga for the last several years.

So, a quick review so that, hopefully, you will take pen in hand and write.

Other options:

1. The area could be designated **"Scenic Area"** by the Congress.
2. Congress could also designate the areas out-

side the Wild & Scenic corridor as Wilderness but not the corridor itself.

3. Or designate areas on both sides of the Wild & Scenic corridor as **"Old Growth Area for Recreation"**.

4. Do nothing. Anyone visiting the Rock Gorge will soon appreciate that it is "wilderness" already.

The first three options will allow fisheries management and will protect the area from logging and additional roads.

Letters do make a difference. On page two, Nathan Deal's address appears. South Carolina's representative for the area in question is:

Hon. Lindsay O. Graham  
House of Representatives  
1429 Longworth House Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20515

## RABUN CHAPTER SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

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

## THINK RABUN RENDEZVOUS