



# TIGHT LINES

December 1999

Newsletter of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## Christmas Dinner Meeting at the Dillard House

Our December meeting will take place in the Rock House on the Dillard House complex, Tuesday, December 21, 1999, beginning at 6PM. The cost will be \$15 per person.

The Dillard House staff will be serving up their typical holiday meal and that is your assurance you will not leave hungry!

Business will be kept to an absolute minimum. Fellowship is the theme for the night!



It will be a great big help if you will let us know if you are coming and how many will be in your party. Give me a call at 746-2295 or Doug Adams at 746-2158 and let us know. As you know if you have been to the Rock House on the Dillard Complex, seating is not totally unlimited and the staff needs to know how many to expect. As usual, if you wish a libation, you must bring your own.

## Planning Continues on Your Forests

While the new U. S. Forest Service's planning process covers many areas, the two concerns that have emerged as critical to maintaining a viable trout fishery in the Chattooga River are those of wilderness and white water boating.

The two day workshops in Clemson and Gainesville have given the public a chance for their input. The boating interests and the preservationist viewpoints have been expressed and while in a minority most of the time, the fishermen have made their presence known.

Enclosed in this newsletter are two letters that only need to be

signed and mailed to the addressees. If you agree with the positions stated in the letters, please follow up by mailing them. If they are not exactly as you would phrase them, use them as a guideline and write your own. But it is very important to get your views known as soon as possible.

In today's Atlanta Constitution, (November 30th), on the editorial page, there is reference to a public hearing in Atlanta regarding the Forest Service's land management plan and the need for public input. While the writer does not specifically mention "wilderness", she urges readers

to speak up against logging and roadbuilding and underscores the need for preservation of our natural resources.

Sounds good but what she is probably advocating is hands-off, lock it up and throw away the key management of the resource. So, make your views known...even if they differ from those in the enclosed letters.

For the next few weeks the Rabun Chapter will be concentrating on the Rabun Rendezvous. After the first of the year we will try to condense all of the comments and directions of these meetings to bring you up-to-date.

**REMEMBER THE RABUN RENDEZVOUS JAN 22ND**



## MEMBER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

After finishing up the maintenance work on the structures in Popcorn Creek, a few of us just sat around and chewed over a few ideas on how to get more member participation.

Frank Tolbert, who drives all the way from Atlanta to some meetings and participates in just about every work project, came up with this idea and those of us who were there think it is a good one.

Suppose that for every chapter

meeting you attend; every guest you bring or sign up as a member; for every work project you anticipate in; committee you serve on or office you hold in the chapter, you receive points. At the end of the year, preferably at the Rendezvous, the member who has accumulated the most points wins a really nice award in the form of a fly rod, or a reel or the like.

All of the details need to be ironed out, and, yes, we know

that those of you who live way out of state are at a real disadvantage.

So, give this some thought and let's discuss it at an upcoming meeting and get it started. We really need greater participation from a greater number of members.



## WHY DO YOU FISH FOR TROUT

Why is it that whenever you mention that you went fishing or you meet a friend on the bank of the stream, the first question is, more often than not, "How many did you catch?"

It is rare to have them say, or you ask of them, "Did you have a good time?"

I have never really kept score and when asked, believe me, my answer to how many is a guesstimate at best. I remember the big one that I didn't net much easier.

I do remember the water; the play of the reflections on it's surface; the discovery of a Browns

holding place and stuff like that.

Someone other than me said that he couldn't decide if it was the trout or being where trout live that made him take up the long rod and head for his favorite stream. I understand this but I wonder....*if the Chattooga contained no trout*, would it be as beautiful?



## PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2000

Shortly after the Rendezvous, we will have our annual planning meeting. We decide on how to spend our money and just as importantly, try to schedule programs for the coming year.

Your input is really needed if the chapter is to present programs each month that will hold your attention and add to your knowledge of trout, trout fishing and conservation issues

that effect our cold water fisheries.

How about casting instructions?

Rod building?

Fly tying?

Stocking the fly vest?

Have a fly shop come in and show the latest equipment and gadgets?

We haven't been too successful in getting members out for

a camping/fishing trip. Why? Have we not picked the right date, the right site...any ideas on how we can do better?

In general, do we concentrate too much on conservation issues and not hands on & how too programs? Is the balance about right?

It's your chapter guys & gals; your input is essential to keep this thing alive and well.



## Rendezvous Plans Finalized

Okay, so we couldn't get Jimmy Carter. But, we did get an excellent speaker and an experienced flyfisherman and outdoor person....**Don Pfitzer!**

Some of you may remember Don speaking to our chapter at one of the monthly meetings about the Little Tennessee River and the loss of the shoals when a dam was built on that waterway some years ago.

Well, we thank Don and welcome him back to Rabun County!

The Dillard House has set aside 20 rooms at the motel at a special price for those identifying themselves as attending the Rendezvous.

Price for the evening is \$20, same as last

year. What a bargain! A great dinner, the Foxfire Boys playing around the fireplace, pigpickin' on the lawn, spending lots of money on behalf of our cold water resources, namely trout. What more could you ask.

Oh, just in case you don't know, the Rendezvous is on Saturday, January 22nd at the Dillard House in Dillard, GA. We will get started somewhere in the vicinity of 5PM, when the pig is done.

Remind all that should they need refreshments of a more substantial kind, they must bring their own. Set ups will be on hand.

## Officers Re Elected for the Year 2000

As reported in last month's issue of **Tight Lines**, our officers and directors for the past year will continue in their roles for the year 2000. After a motion from the floor by Doug Adams, all officers and directors were elected by acclamation.

### Officers:

- ♦ President Terry Seehorn
- ♦ Vice President Charlie Breithaupt
- ♦ Secretary Russ Burken
- ♦ Treasurer Lewis Reeves

### Directors:

- ♦ Work Projects Frank Tolbert
- ♦ Bill Kelly
- ♦ Campouts Gene Roberts
- ♦ Bud Parker
- ♦ Newsletter Tom Landreth
- ♦ USFS liason Doug Adams
- ♦ Membership Travis Barnes
- ♦ Hospitality Walt Landreth
- ♦ Programs Charlie Breithaupt

## Soil Runoff in Rabun County

Not too surprising that rural Rabun County ranks in the top ten Georgia counties when it comes to granting variances from the regulations that are supposed to protect our rivers and streams.

Sitting on the committee that was formed to study the problem and report to the Georgia State Assembly are **Locke Glenn** of Dillard and **Bobby Welch** of Clayton. Yes, the same Bobby Welch that is a developer and Rabun County Commissioner. Mr. Glenn is also involved in development.

The committee has adjourned for the time

being, not able to come to any agreement on the stream buffer regulations.

You may also recall that last year, the DNR removed several streams from the official "trout stream" list...that way the buffer is reduced to as little as 25' instead of the 100' required on "trout streams".

Of course, if you are building in Rabun County, you just apply for a variance and it is likely that you will be granted one.

Thanks to the **Clayton Tribune** for bringing the problem to the attention of citizens of Rabun County.



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

|               |                                     |                       |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Dec 07</b> | <b>Clayton Input Mtg</b>            | <b>6:00 - 8:00 PM</b> |
| Dec 09        | Clarkesville Input Mtg              | 6:00 - 8:00 PM        |
| <br>Dec 21    | <br><b>Christmas Dinner Meeting</b> | <br>6:00 PM           |
|               | <b>Dillard Rock House</b>           |                       |
| <br>Jan 18    | <br>Chapter Meeting                 | <br>6:30 PM           |
| <br>Jan 22    | <br><b>Rabun Rendezvous</b>         | <br>5:30 PM           |

**GEORGIA TECH - 51      UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA - 48**

THE ISSUE WAS NEVER IN DOUBT



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**Merry Christmas and Tight Lines in the year 2000**

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