



# TIGHT LINES

March 2000

Newsletter of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## March Meeting Features Fly Tying Demos and Hands on Tying Instruction

**Ken Lambert**, chapter member, and owner of Lambert Sports in Dillard, walked us through several nymph patterns in the February meeting and is coming back in March to do the same with a couple of dry fly favorites...the Adams and Deer Hair Cad-dis.

Members are encouraged to bring their vises and supplies so you can benefit from a hands on experi-

ence. Who knows, maybe **Henry** and **Kyle** will show up and we'll have all the pros demonstrating and instructing!

As usual, the March meeting will be held on the 3rd Tuesday, March 21st, at the Rock House beginning at 7:00 PM. Social hour and lie telling begins about 6:30.

## Chapter Budget and Program Schedule for The Year 2000 Set

Members of the Chapter met at the Dillard House, January 29th, to have breakfast, decide where and how to deplete the treasury and plan programs for the coming year. The budget follows but the program schedule will be found elsewhere in the NL so that you can clip it out and post it on the refrigerator or on the mirror over the lavatory. Here's where the \$\$ are going:

Newsletter \$850  
Helicopter Stocking Fall \$450  
Helicopter Stocking Spring \$450  
Kid's Fishing Days  
    Tallulah River \$300  
    Black Rock \$200  
USFS Summer Interns \$2500

Dukes Creek Foundation \$300  
Rock House Honorarium \$100  
Gift Memberships  
    Libraries \$45  
    State Parks \$45  
    Students \$60  
National TU \$1000

Other Chapters \$100

Thanks to all those attending the meeting at the Dillard House and for your input.



HAVE YOU CHECKED TO SEE WHEN YOUR GEORGIA FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES? HOW ABOUT THE OTHER STATES?

*Editor's Note: Once again, I am receiving copies of other chapter's newsletters and will bring them to our meetings for your perusal*

# Rabun Chapter Schedule of Coming Events

Sat Mar 11	Work Project, West Fork Chattooga, 9:00 AM, Down-
	stream from bridge on Warwoman Road
Sat Mar 18	Hoot On The Hooch, Unicoi State Park
Tue Mar 21	Chapter Meeting - Dry Fly Tying
Fri Apr 7/8	Campout, Meeting, Work Project on Upper Reed Creek followed by fishing in the afternoon.
	<i>(the regular meeting for April will take place at the campout)</i>
Tue May 16	Chapter Meeting - Indian Lake Pavillon on the RGNS Campus. Fly Casting Clinic. <b>Family Night</b>
Fri Jun 9	Streamside Teaching Session Burrell's Ford 6PM
Sat Jun 10	Tallulah River Kids Fishing Day
Tue Jun 20	Regular Meeting - Forest Plan up date by the USFS
Tue Jul 18	Regular Meeting - Pot Luck Supper at Bill Kelly's Mud Creek Picnic Area, featuring "Rock Dancing for Macroinvertebrates", <b>Family Night</b>
Tue Aug 15	Regular Meeting - Outdoor Health, CPR, by Russ Burken, MD and regular guy. Summer Interns
Tue Sep 19	Regular Meeting - "The Flies of Autumn" and the leader set up for using them
Sep 22-24	Work Project & Campout, Chattooga River Watershed. Details later
Tue Oct 17	Regular Meeting. "Guides Night Out"
Tue Nov 21	Regular Meeting. Chattooga River Watershed

## Chapter Participation Encouraged with Incentive Program

An idea has surfaced that might encourage more participation in Chapter activities by members. You will be awarded one point for attending a meeting; 4 pts for a work project; sign up a new member, 2pts; bring a youngster under 16 another point; present a program you get 2pts; attending DNR, USFS and TU Council Meetings gets you another

point. We will undoubtedly come up with other criteria but this should get you started. For each point, you receive a ticket that goes in a big container. At the annual Rendezvous one name is drawn for a really nice prize, say a complete rod & reel set. You are on your honor to keep up with your points. Retroactive to January 2000!



## DNR SUBMITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO USFS ON WILDERNESS PLANS FOR THE FOREST

The Rolling Alternative, USFS Land Management Plan, proposes 33,861 acres of additional wilderness in the Chattahoochee National Forest. The Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) has recommended designating 25,000 acres for wilderness and other protected forest prescriptions while maintaining access and wildlife management options in other areas.

David Waller, WRD Director says, "In late January, the Board of Natural Resources passed a resolution directing us to review the Rolling Alternative and develop recommendations for the Forest Service that would provide for wildlife management and recreation access, but that also would meet some of the expectations of wilderness advocates. We have made a good faith effort to find some middle ground in this proposal without sacrificing access for hunters, anglers and campers, and without giving up areas important for wildlife management."

Wilderness is just one of about 30 land classifications or "prescriptions" used by the U. S. Forest Service to determine the type of management activities permitted on a specific section of the forest. Tracts of forest land that are proposed for wilderness designation are permanently set aside and may eventually be officially declared to be wilderness areas by the U. S. Congress. In a wilderness area, natural processes are permitted to occur without human intervention. A hands off, no management strategy is used. All roads in wilderness areas are closed, and access is restricted to non-mechanized methods such as foot travel or horseback. In addition, wildlife management activities, such as maintaining wildlife openings, stocking trout streams, prescribed burning, and timber thinning are not typically allowed. In the 749,550 acre Chattahoochee National Forest, there currently are about 114,600 acres (15%) in wilderness areas and another 33,900 acres (5%) in protected designations such as National Recreational Areas or National Scenic Areas. Other protected areas surround the Appalachian Trail and the Chattooga River.

In developing the recommendations to the USFS, WRD worked to minimize the impact of additional wilderness on state-operated wildlife management areas and trout streams by redrawing boundary lines and selecting less restrictive prescriptions for sections of various state wildlife management areas. Over 10,000 acres were recommended for other protective classifications such as National Recreation Areas or National Scenic Areas. Less restrictive prescriptions were suggested for the remaining acreage. The Kelly Ridge Area near Hiawassee would be placed in a new National Recreation Area. The Mountaintown Creek Tract near Blue Ridge would be classified as proposed wilderness, except that the creek itself and key roads and wildlife openings in the Cohutta Wildlife Management Area would be outside the new wilderness boundary.

WRD has a long history of managing USFS lands in the Chattahoochee NF, dating back to the '30s. Currently, WRD operates 11 wildlife management areas (WMAs) totaling 314,500 acres, and is responsible for the management of 1,350 miles of trout streams that occur on national forest lands. WMAs are used not only by hunters and anglers, but also by campers, birdwatchers, wildlife photographers, and other outdoor users. WRD, along with the USFS, also maintains wildlife openings, conducts controlled burns, stocks trout streams, builds stream improvement structures, maintains access roads and manages the forest in other ways to benefit both game and nongame species and to provide wildlife related recreation.

David Waller says, "We have worked with wilderness advocates, conservation groups, local citizens, state legislators, and others in developing our recommendations.....", and further, "the ultimate decision, of course, lies in the hands of the Forest Service".

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- |         |   |         |
|---------|---|---------|
| Mar 11  | Georgia Council Work Project<br>West Fork of the Chattooga River<br>downstream of the Hwy 28 Bridge                               | 9:00 AM |
| Mar 18  | Hoot on the Hooch<br>Beach House, Unicoi State Park   | 5:00 PM |
| Mar 21  | Chapter Meeting<br>"Tying the Adams Parachute and<br>the Deer Hair Caddis", If you have<br>a vice, now is the time to come forth. | 6:30 PM |
| Apr 7/8 | Campout, Work Project, Follow the Leader Fishing<br>Upper Reed Creek  |         |

*There will not be a regular meeting on the 3rd Tuesday in April*



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