



TIGHT LINES

DECEMBER 2000

NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

ANNUAL RABUN CHAPTER CHRISTMAS DINNER SET FOR DECEMBER MEETING

The Chapter's Annual Christmas Dinner at the Dillard House is set for December 19th, 6:00 PM. Over 30 reservations have already been received as of Friday, November 24th, so if your name is not in the pot, call Doug Adams 746-2158 or Tom Landreth 746-2295.

Business will be held to a bare minimum so



that we can just enjoy each other's company and stuff ourselves on the great food supplied by the Dillard House staff. So, if you haven't already, pick up that phone and make your reservation...you'll be glad you did

If you are so inclined, bring your own special liquid refreshment.

CHAPTER OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2001

All the chad has been swept under the rug, dimpled ballots thrown out, lawyers banned and the results tabulated and certified. There will be no appeals considered and all candidates are hereby railroaded into their respective positions and responsibilities.

The results:

President: Charlie Breithaupt

V. President: Frank Tolbert

Treasurer: Lewis Reeves III

Appointed or Volunteered for Directors:

Forest Service Liason: Doug Adams

Events: Bill Kelly

Membership: Travis Barnes

Programs: Terry Seehorn

Secretary: Russell Burken

Newsletter: Tom Landreth

Hospitality: Walt Landreth

The Chapter is indebted to those members who have accepted the responsibility of guiding us through the coming year; and a big THANK YOU to Terry and his officers and Board Members for the job done in the past year. Let's all pitch in and make 2001 the best year yet!

MAKE A SPECIAL NOTE.....

Our regular meeting place is in limbo. Our December meeting will, of course, be at the Dillard House on the 19th. We will have a special meeting on Thursday, January 4th, 6:30 PM, at **Regions Bank in Dillard**, to finalize Rendezvous plans. In February, on the regular meeting night of the 20th, we will meet at the **Interpretive Center, Tallulah Falls State Park** (If you are traveling South on US441 the entrance to the Park is on your left well before you get to the bridge over the Tallulah River. In case you have trouble with directions, if you are traveling North it will be on your right after you cross the bridge!!!)



HELICOPTER STOCKING COMPLETED

On November 21st, the Forest Service, the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division and TU volunteers, successfully stocked approximately 21,000 Rainbow Trout at predetermined locations on the Chattooga River between the Hwy 28 bridge and Burrell's Ford Bridge.

This follows an earlier stocking by the USFS and the South Carolina fisheries folks, of Brown Trout and some **Brook Trout**.

Unfortunately, most of the trout that were clipped the week prior to the helicopter stocking, died from causes not

quite determined. The water coming in from Moccasin Creek was certainly stained and may have contained so much tannic acid that the small fish couldn't take it. It could have been water temperature or other factors. The adipose fins were clipped in the usual manner by volunteers who had done this many, many times before. At any rate, the fish didn't survive and the trout that were dropped earlier this week were not clipped.

Rabun Chapter Schedule of Coming Events

Tue Dec 19	Christmas Dinner at the Dillard Rock House. 6:00 PM Most definitely Family Night
Ths Jan 04	Special Meeting to Finalize Rendezvous Plans at Regions Bank in Dillard
Sat Jan 06	Rabun Rendezvous at the Dillard House
Ths Feb 20	Chapter Meeting, Interpretive Center Tallulah Falls State Park

JIMMY JACOBS FEATURED SPEAKER

Jimmy Jacobs will be the after dinner speaker at the Rabun Rendezvous 2001. Jimmy is an accomplished after dinner speaker, storyteller, outdoorsman and writer. He is a life long resident of Georgia and the award winning author of four fishing guide books and a story book of

folklore and tall tales. If there is anything Rabun folks like better than tall tales, it's telling them.

This will be Jimmy Jacobs second appearance at the Rabun Rendezvous. You are sure to enjoy him and he just might have a book or two to autograph for you.



not man apart

It's a philosophical question that lies at the heart of modern conservation: Is modern man a part of nature or apart from it? There seem to be two poles of opinion, both intense, both a little confused.

On one side is a faction of the environmental left. Many of these folks argue that the human species is just another animal, a product of the same evolutionary forces that have produced every other life form on the planet. This seems to lead to the conclusion that people are part of the natural order, but a surprising number of environmentalists reach exactly the opposite conviction. Dismayed by the damage that has been done in the name of civilization, they argue that we should withdraw entirely from contact with the natural world and leave as much land as possible to its own business without any interference from us. The human species was born as a part of nature, this line of reasoning goes, but we have drawn away from it. These days, we exist as an artificial influence utterly outside the natural order. In short, Man was a part of nature but is now apart from it.

Then there is the other side. Adherents of this view make a sharp distinction between people and animals, tracing the difference back to Genesis. Man was created separately from all other living things, their argument goes and given dominion over the earth. So we're apart from nature and have been since the Beginning.

And yet, in the last few years I've heard another argument from the folks on this side of the debate. They've picked up on the "kinship-with-nature" rhetoric offered by environmentalists and turned it around. "If we're a part of nature," they ask, "why can't we use natural resources? Everything else in nature does." This argument is typically offered to justify an unsustainable exploitation of some natural resource, but it's often spoken with considerable sincerity. The quick version of this position seems to be: We were

set apart from the natural world at creation, but it's okay for us to consume as many resources as we like because every other living thing in the world does the same. In short: Man is apart from nature but a part of it.

With starting points this muddled, it's little wonder our discourse on environmental issues is so confused.

There are ways to resolve the contradiction. If humans stand as far from other creatures as a literal interpretation of Genesis would have us believe, then we need to define the kind of "dominion" we have been given over the rest of the earth. Most theologians would argue that the word implies far more care and

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land" —

Aldo Leopold

gentleness than we have historically invested. If humans arose from several billion years of evolution, then we are truly kin to the rest of the world, and we owe our kin all the attention and deference

that comes with ties of blood. Either way, we have a moral commitment.

And setting aside morality, we have an obvious practical stake in the condition of the planet. We consume resources whether we want to or not—we're flesh and blood, not angels. Like all other residents of this place, we will subsist only as long as we have some minimal amount of food, water, shelter, and space. We will be comfortable and happy only as long as we have a surplus of all these staples.

Both sides in the great debate are right — and both sides are wrong. This is one case in which an ecological view clarifies matters. We can't avoid using the land and meddling it its affairs. And if we abuse the land, we will suffer for it. It's really pretty straightforward — man is part of nature and nature is an inextricable part of all men. — **Chris Madson**

The above editorial appeared in the November 2000 issue of Wyoming Wildlife, published by Wyoming Fish and Game Department. Chris Madson is the Editor