



TIGHT LINES

JULY 2001

NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

BACK TO SARAH'S CREEK

The Chapter will hold it's next meeting on Friday night, July 20th, in Apple Valley on Sarah's Creek. Hopefully, we'll have some campers. On Saturday, the 21st, we will join in with the Georgia Council of TU and the USFS, building two log dams and refurbishing a couple of others.

Doug Watson, USFS, reports that he and a few students were up there recently and refurbished & maintained approximately 28 structures! Wow! If this keeps up, Sarah's should have a new look by fall, everyone will go home and the fishing will be great in October. (No, Bill, not after October)

RUN AND GUN WITH MONTE

The Old F has put out a request for volunteers to join him, other USFS types and the state agencies in the annual Summer sampling of the Chattooga River, on Tuesday, July 31st. Everyone will meet at Burrell's Ford Bridge at 0900 before hiking up to the Ellicott Rock area and taking a quantitative sampling. On Wednesday, August 1st, a less intense sampling will be taken below Burrell's Ford.

To the uninitiated, you may either bring

waders or plan to stay back from the electronic probes when they are discharging. You might get a little tingle.

The more help, the quicker the trout are weighed and measured and returned to the river with little stress.

This is also a good opportunity for one to learn a little more about the river and what lies beneath the surface...there are more trout than you think...they just aren't stupid like those down at the bridge.

FOLLOW THE LEADER FISHING OUTING

The rain scared off would be anglers, **except for one**, for the "follow the leader" outing. I headed down Warwoman but it was coming down so hard I chickened out and returned to home base. We might consider for future outings...Fridays are not the best time as the river is really crowded and late June is not the optimum time of year.

WE NEED A NEW MEETING PLACE.....

if we continue to meet on a regular and timely basis. In June, the Rock House booked "paying customers" on our usual night of Tuesday the 19th and we were told at City Hall that paying customers will always take precedent over others wanting to use the Rock House. If you have any ideas, pass them on to Charlie or better yet, bring your ideas to the meeting on Sarah's Creek.

BOATING ON THE CHATTOOGA RIVER ABOVE THE HIGHWAY 28 BRIDGE

by Doug Adams

In the early 1770's, after the movie Deliverance came out, there was a surge of boating activity on the Chattooga all the way from NC to the lake. This resulted in numerous conflicts (fights, gun play, damaged boats, etc.) between anglers and boaters. In order to decrease the number of anglers, the USFS requested that GA and SC end trout-fishery management between Highways 76 and 28. Anglers can still fish the entire river, but there is no trout stocking below Highway 28. In 1974, boating was banned above Highway 28. During high water flows, experienced boaters still run this section from Bullpen in NC to Highway 28. If caught, they are subject to fines.

Backcountry anglers may walk in an hour or more to seek a sense of remoteness. They generally space themselves so as not to infringe on another angler's solitude experiences. This is not unlike boaters spacing themselves for the same reason, so they can transport their envelope of solitude with them. The difference is when a boater passes by an angler, the boater does not feel infringed upon and it does not disrupt the boater's rhythm. From the an-

gler's perspective, however, the boater has not only invaded his envelope of solitude but he has completely disrupted his rhythm. And since boaters often space themselves, the angler may experience this invasion every few minutes, resulting in frustration and conflict.

The USFS is finalizing a new "Chattooga River Management Plan". As it stands now, the USFS does not intend to lift the ban on boating in the new plan. In order to show an "open" attitude, the USFS may put in

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the plan that they will "study" the possibility of lifting the boating ban sometime in the future. The American Whitewater Association see Trout Unlimited as the major obstacle to having the ban lifted. **The**

USFS needs to hear our support of their intentions to maintain the existing boating ban above Highway 28.

What do you think? Please send your comments to Mike Crane, District Ranger, SC USFS at:

mcrane@fs.fed.us

or write him at:

USFS Andrew Pickens Ranger District, 112 Andrew Pickens Circle, Mountain Rest, SC 29664. Phone: (864)638-9568

NOW HEAR THIS.....

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| Fri Jul 20 | Monthly Meeting on Friday nite the 20th; Work Project on Saturday the 21st Sarah's Creek |
| Tue July 31 | Electronic Sampling the Chattooga at Ellicot Rock Meet at Burrells Ford Bridge 0900 |
| Tue Aug 21 | Monthly Meeting, Kelly's Waterfall Picnic Ground Everybody bring covered dish |
| Tue Sep 18 | Monthly Meeting, Rock House, Clayton, "Doc" Burken's Annual First Aid Update |
| Sat Sep 22 | Work Project, Sarah's Creek |

*PLEASE CALL ME IF ANY DATES OR EVENTS ARE INCORRECT:
Tom Landreth 706-746-2295*

MAKE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES COUNT

Many TU Chapters have "chapter dues" to supplement the funds necessary to fund their newsletter and other chapter activities. The Rabun Chapter has never seen the need for this, depending instead, on monies raised at the annual Rabun Rendezvous and in past years, raffles at the monthly meeting. So that we may continue this policy, make sure that when you renew your national membership, you send your renewal form and check to our treasurer, **Lewis Reeves, at PO Box 1222, Clayton, GA 30525**. National returns \$5.00 of your national dues to the Chapter. It helps!