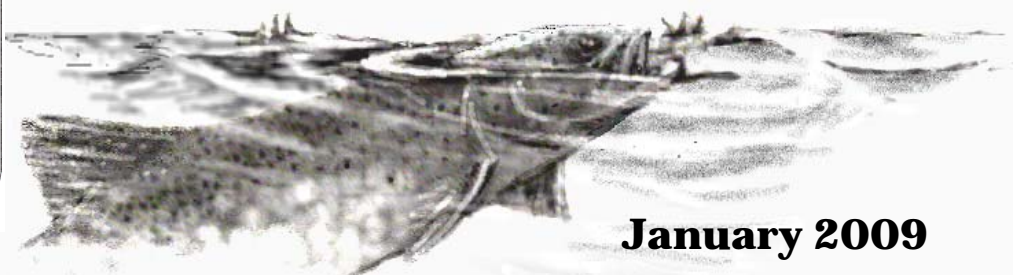


The Korn Dunker



January 2009

Newsletter of the Cohutta Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Lines from the Leader

Well we are all the beginning of a new year. I have decided not to make any new years resolutions this year since very few end up being completed any way. I was reading an article the other day that said that the people that helped others lead a happier life; I think we all could do a better job of this. It is refreshing to see our young people becoming more interested in fly fishing, remember you are a wealth of knowledge for these young people and beginning fly fishers. I am told that what ever you give to others is normally rewarded to you by seven fold. Let's keep them interested in the sport and make a few sacrifices of our own to help them enjoy and learn more about the sport. I think that all of us had someone give us help when we were starting. Without new members and sportsmen or sportswomen our sport will soon give way to the kayakers etc. We simply must do a better job of getting our members involved in promoting the sport.

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Ron Minick

What's Inside

Lines from the Leader	P. 1
Calendar of Events	P. 2
Stream of the Month Reports	P. 2
Atlanta Fly Fishing Show Info	P. 2
Rabun Rendezvous Info	P. 3
Letter from the Editor	P. 3
From the Desk of "Tony"	P. 3
Cohutta Swap Meet	P. 3
Conservation Corner	P. 4
Budget Unfair to Sportsman	P. 5
In a Washed up Economy	P. 6
GWFF Mardi Gras Details	P. 8
GEAN Steering Committee Notes	P. 8
Stuff We Think You Should Know	P. 10
TU National Job Posting	P. 10
Rabun Rendezvous Flyer	P. 12



a member of Earth Share
OF GEORGIA

Web Sites of Interest

www.takemefishing.org
www.myfishmaps.com

Calendar of Events

January 22nd, 2009 Chapter Meeting
The Annual Chapter Swap Meet and Sale
January 24th 2009 Rabun Rendezvous
January 24th, 2009 SOTM Paces Mill DH
January 24th and 25th 2009 Atlanta
Fly Fishing Festival Gwinnett Civic Center
Feb 21st, 2009 GWFF Annual Fund Raiser
Feb 26th, 2009 Chapter Meeting
Speaker Duane Stalnaker
Feb 28th, 2009 SOTM Toccoa DH

Meetings are held at the Delkwood Grill
1 mile east of I75 on Delk Road in Marietta
the fourth Thursday of the month.

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Back the Brookie Program

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Don't forget to visit our Web Site at
www.tucohutta.org

SOTM for January 2009 Chattahoochee DH

The SOTM for January 2009 will be the Chattahoochee DH. We will plan on meeting at the Paces Mill off Highway 41 at 9:30 on Saturday January 24, 2009. This is also the same weekend as the Shallow Water Expo so hopefully we can do some fishing on Saturday and hit the show on Sunday. Lunch will not be provided, instead for those who would like to join us we will be having lunch at one of the local restaurants at some point that afternoon. Please give me a call if you have any questions 678-313-7593. Thanks Brian Shinall
bioeco@comcast.net,

Atlanta Fly Fishing Festival at the Gwinnett Civic Center January 24th & 25th.



Okay, get ready for the coolest thing we do all year, The Atlanta Fly Fishing Festival! We have so much fun these two days seeing everyone, playing with new toys, attending and presenting seminars to help us all become better fly anglers. If there is any way possible, you need to set aside at least one of the two days to be at the show. Here's the info:

Atlanta Fly Fishing Festival
January 24th & 25th
Gwinnett Civic & Cultural Center
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sunday
Admission: \$10.00 (Children under 13 FREE)

For all the details, go to: www.castlow.com



Rabun Rendezvous in Dillard, Ga. On Saturday, January 24th

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited proudly presents A Celebration of Rivers, Streams, Trout, and Trout Fishing.

Please Join Us for the 22nd Annual Rabun Rendezvous

"The Rendezvous was unlike anything before or since, a gathering of uninhibited men down from the mountains. The event attracted perhaps a hundred mountain men, their Indian wives, and assorted visiting tribesmen. Amusements included gambling, drinking, storytelling - continuing day and night."

Quote from The Mountain Men by George Laycock

When: Saturday, January 24, 2008

Where: The Dillard House Conference Center, located behind the Dillard House in Dillard, Georgia.

Who: The more the better. Everyone interested in protecting our cold-water resources, including their families, friends, and all who love clean cold streams, trout, and trout fishing.

Social: About 5 o'clock PM folks will start gathering to "pick the pig" and enjoy the rocking chairs on the porch of the Conference Center. There will be snack trays of cheeses, crackers, and fruits. Soft drinks and ice will be available. If you want something stronger, better bring it yourself. There will be a fire inside to warm your buns.

See Flyer at the end of the Newsletter for more Details

Letter from the Editor

Happy 2009 to everyone, I hope that this year is prosperous for all. I would like to thank everyone for a great Smoker and a fantastic Shrimp Boil. I would like also to thank all of those who contributed to the raffle at the Shrimp Boil.

Well another year is upon us, the weather has been absolutely fabulous for fishing, I for one am enjoying this immensely and getting in plenty of fishing and fellowship with my fellow fisherman.

Here is looking forward to another great year!!

Thom Underwood

From the Desk of Tony Rackie

Hello and Happy New Years to all. Thursday January 22nd is our first chapter meeting of the month. If you know of anyone interested in cold-water conservation and trout fishing (even those who fish "the dark side") please bring them along to the meeting to introduce them to the chapter and TU.

Also, as a reminder, Saturday January 24th is the Rabun Rendezvous at the Dillard House in Clayton Georgia. <http://www.rabuntu.com/>

it's a great time and proceeds from it benefit us that fish the Chattooga River since the Rendezvous is their chapter's annual fund raiser. They allocate some of the funds to help helicopter stock the river. (Which we all go try to catch during our April Stream of the Month trip to the Chattooga 🐟)

For those going to the Rendezvous we do plan to have an "after event" party back at one of the cabins. I'll provide details at the chapter meeting and at the Rendezvous since we are not exactly sure what cabin we will be using for the party.

See you soon... Tony

t_rack59@yahoo.com

TU Swap Meeting

Our next TU meeting is a swap meet, where we bring spare equipment and either trade or sell. I had a thought that a lot of us also have flies that we need as flies that we have an over supply of. Please bring you excess flies to the next meeting and trade with other members that have flies that you may need.

If you will send me a list of what you are going to bring to the meeting to sell or trade, I will make a list and distribute it a couple of days before the next meeting.

Have a good week.

Ron

ronminick@msn.com

Conservation Corner

It's hard to know where to begin this message. There is a lot going on in the watery world.

- A little reliable birdie told me that the Burton Hatchery is back on the chopping block. I can't find documentation to back that up, but I think it is a question to ask Mr. Holcomb at the Rendezvous.
- A new species of fish has been discovered in the Flint River. It is called the Halloween Darter because it has orange colored fins. It is less than five inches long and lives among the shoals in the river. Why we should care, you might ask. The Flint is a unique river with



some great fishing that is under scrutiny for the development of a reservoir. If a reservoir goes in, the fish go away. Shoal Bass fishing is one of the best in the middle Georgia region. They are great fighters and live in the fast running waters around the shoals. Other popular fish species include the gar, catfish and redbreast. Protecting these and other fish species is important. The building of reservoirs for water reserves is not going to solve our problems concerning water supply. Conserving the water we use through modifying our water use practices and limiting the population influx in water-stressed areas is, in my opinion, a better way to go. Our water supply is a finite resource and should be treated as such. Limiting population growth will not limit income resources, but will ensure that the amount of water in our rivers and existing lakes will be enough to support both the human population and the animal and plant populations without

needing to wipe out habitats for our native species. Let's keep our wild fish in the streams they call home.

- The issue with the use of the delayed harvest sections of the Nanny and the Chattooga by the canoe and kayak enthusiasts is going to continue as spring comes around. We need to stand strong and be willing to let our voices be heard so that the Flyfishers will continue to have a few undisturbed areas to enjoy. I'll send you updates as I get them.
- The Toccoa is another area that is under attack by a variety of groups.



It is one of the best trout fishing areas in the State. Let's keep it that way.

That's all for today! Remember to pick it up and pack it out!

Diane

2008 Shrimp Boil Bravo Zulu

Great job everyone! Ron/Renee' handled the raffle professionally and moved it along. Diane and ladies, wonderful food. Cindy, Donna, Diane, & Shirley for the usual good job on table decorations. Ken Dye set up a pretty financial table. Sue helping Diane with the raffle tables smartly. Larry for doing the " Dream Vacation" table as sick as he was. Bob Anderson for filling in for Larry during the bucket raffle give away. I hope we get something in the newsletter to tell those that missed this event what get together they missed.

A bravo-Zulu to the BOD.

Sonny

Budget Unfair to Sportsmen

By [Jimmy Jacobs](#)

For the Journal-Constitution

Thursday, December 18, 2008

It's no secret that times are tough all around these days. Gov. Sonny Perdue has told department heads to give him three budget proposals for next year, reflecting cuts of 6, 8 and 10 percent. That mandate applies to the Department of Natural Resources. One of those budgets is expected to end up in front of the General Assembly next month.

Of course, we all want to do our part for fiscal responsibility, but for Georgia hunters and fishermen, it may feel more like dealing with a pickpocket.

Over the last decade, when the state was building up surpluses that eventually reached \$1.6 billion, the DNR's budget was cut on a regular basis.

Now, in bad times, even more is being asked. But there are a few details that the politicians prefer not to dwell upon.

According to the Georgia Wildlife Federation, two-thirds of DNR wildlife and fisheries programs are funded directly by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and boat permits. Only one-third comes from the general treasury. Fairness would dictate that the budget cuts only apply to treasury funds.

But there's more. Back in 1987, sportsmen supported the issuance of \$30 million in state bonds to purchase 60,000 acres of public lands. The cost of hunting and fishing licenses was increased to provide \$4.5 million per year to pay interest and principal on those bonds. The bonds were retired in 2007. So what's happened to those sportsmen's millions since then? The money goes into the general treasury, while wildlife and fisheries get little in return.

Last June, Georgia ended some hunting and fishing license reciprocal agreements with Florida. That change promises to bring in an estimated \$500,000 annually from increased fees on nonresident hunters and anglers.

A new hunting and fishing license sales system goes into effect in January, with that function handled by a private firm. Sportsmen will pay an extra \$3 or so per license to that company as a service charge.

At the same time, the state will save \$300,000 by eliminating the staff that used to run the program. Also, the government will save about \$800,000 in commissions it had been paying to

sporting goods outlets that formerly sold the licenses around the state.

The bottom line is that hunters and anglers will be providing roughly \$6.1 million more to the state budget next year than they did during the good times.

In return, the DNR budget again will be cut. That translates into the possible loss of as many as one of every eight conservation officers that enforce the hunting and fishing laws, as well as eliminating jobs for up to 26 wildlife or fisheries technicians.

Additionally, wildlife management areas on federal land could be closed.

Conspicuously absent from these budget cuts are any funds from Perdue's Go Fish Georgia initiative. That \$19 million program is building 18 mega-sized boat ramps around the state, as well as the Go Fish Georgia Center at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry.

On Tuesday, the governor announced that the mega-ramp at Laurel Park on Lake Lanier will be the site of the FLW Outdoors Forrest Wood Cup bass tournament in 2010, with a purse of \$2.5 million. This event could have a \$20 million economic impact on the area. Similarly, the Go Fish Georgia Center is expected to have a \$6.3 million annual impact on Middle Georgia.

The numbers sound great for the economy and tourism, but how do they benefit the average angler? Those dollars won't likely end up in fish and wildlife programs.

Eventually there will be 18 giant new boat ramps around Georgia that are designed for use by professional-level bass tournaments, such as the FLW event. But do weekend fishermen need such large facilities? More smaller ramps on more lakes and expanded parking lots at existing ones would be of more use to average anglers.

According to David Waller, the reasoning behind what to cut and what to keep remains a mystery. Waller formerly was director of the DNR's Wildlife Resources Division and now does volunteer work with the Georgia Wildlife Federation's Camo Coalition, a grass-roots lobbying network.

"Nobody knows what is going on or how the decisions are being made," he said. "When a business makes cuts, they usually look at the income vs. the outgo from an operation.

Apparently the governor's office is not interested in that."

Calls to the governor's staff did not illicit a response regarding the budget cuts, but DNR

communications director Beth Brown provided a statement.

"We certainly understand how sportsmen feel and have heard these concerns from them," she said. "But all departments have to follow the rules and make cuts. We feel we get more from the budget than we put in, unlike some states that have to depend on just their license sales."

It appears that come January, in spite of funneling new money into the state treasury, Georgia's hunters and anglers are going to see less opportunities for their sports and less management of the resources on which those depend.

Jimmy Jacobs, editor of Georgia Sportsman magazine, can be contacted at jimmy.jacobs@imoutdoors.com.

BY THE NUMBERS

13: Maximum proposed number of WMAs to be closed.

20: Maximum proposed number of Conservation Rangers to be eliminated.

340,000: Number of trout stocked from Lake Burton Fish Hatchery.

\$400,000: Annual budget of Lake Burton Fish Hatchery.

\$43 million: Minimum economic impact of Lake Burton Fish Hatchery in northeast Georgia counties.

In Washed-Up Economy, Governor Defends Plan for Anglers' Paradise

By ALEX ROTH and PAULO PRADA
Wall Street Journal Article
Monday January 9th, 2009

ATLANTA -- There were snickers across the state when Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue announced a major plank of his economic development strategy: a \$19 million project to make the state the most popular fishing destination in the country.

Rolling eyes turned to open criticism when the state issued bonds between 2007 and 2008 to fund the plan. The economy was souring, a drought was dropping lake levels to historic lows, and the governor was preparing to slash billions from other programs to cover a gaping budget shortfall. A November editorial in the Rome News-Tribune, a northwest Georgia daily, compared Mr. Perdue's decision to proceed with his "Go Fish" agenda amid the economic downturn to Marie Antoinette and the suggestion attributed to her that hungry French peasants eat cake.

Georgia Goes Fishing Despite Hurdles

[View Slideshow](#)



Despite mounting criticism, economic and budget woes and parched lakes, Georgia's governor is proceeding with a \$19 million dollar plan aimed at making the state the most popular fishing destination in the country. The plan, the newspaper said, "betrays a level of stupidity, and general insensitivity."

Unswayed, the administration recently began construction on a \$14 million "Go Fish Georgia Center," featuring a fish hatchery, visitor's center, and public fishing ponds about 12 miles from Mr. Perdue's hometown of Bonaire. The 15,000-square-foot building will feature interactive exhibits, including fishing simulators where visitors in a fake boat can struggle against computer-controlled fish. Outside, a wooden path will lead visitors through simulated Georgia topography -- from mountains to piedmont to swampland -- as trout, bass and bream swim in aquariums and pools along the way.

Georgia officials claim fishing already generates \$1 billion dollar a year and nearly 17,000 jobs in Georgia. They note that the world record for the biggest largemouth bass ever caught -- 22 pounds, 4 ounces -- was set in 1932 on a Georgia lake. Still, the state has never become a major center of fishing. The two biggest pro fishing tournaments, the FLW Outdoors Forrest Wood Cup and ESPN's Bassmaster Classic, had long snubbed Georgia.

Mr. Perdue says the Go Fish initiative will change all that. Making Georgia a "fisherman's paradise" is at the top of the political agenda for his last term. In addition to \$5 million in state funds to erect new ramps and docks -- designed for the biggest and most advanced fishing boats on 18 lakes -- the governor has secured matching funds from local officials, too. On Dec. 16, Gov. Perdue convened a triumphant news conference: the Forrest Wood Cup had finally chosen Georgia's Lake Lanier

as the site for the 2010 competition. The governor said the tournament, featuring 156 professional and amateur fisherman competing over four days to catch the largest aggregate weight of fish, will generate a \$30 million economic impact. Much of that will come from the tens of thousands of spectators expected to attend as well as valuable television exposure. In an interview, Mr. Perdue said professional fishing could take off like Nascar has over the past two decades -- referring to the professional racing circuit that exploded from southern rural roots into an industry that draws hundreds of thousands of spectators.

"Some have laughed at Go Fish, some even in the media have laughed at this program," Mr. Perdue said during the December news conference. "This is the first example of Georgia having the last laugh." Television broadcasts of the tournament also will provide a boost to tourism, he said. "The exposure," the governor noted, "is incalculable."

Jerry McCollum, president and chief executive of the Georgia Wildlife Federation, said landing the Forrest Wood Cup vindicates the Go Fish proponents. "It doesn't look much like a joke now, does it?" he said.

The governor -- who fondly recalls a childhood in which his grandfather took him fishing with a cane pole along the banks of Big Indian Creek in Middle Georgia -- said critics must not be fishermen. "They haven't seen a kid's eyes light up when he catches his first fish."

Others aren't so nostalgic. Last month, the Georgia Department of Veterans Services was forced by budget problems to close a housing unit for 81 sick or disabled veterans in the town of Milledgeville. "It's a shame that our veterans are being displaced so we can catch some fish," said Fae Casper, a retired Army sergeant who heads the Georgia chapter of the American Legion. "Revenue is important, but taking care of the people that allow us to be free is, to me, more important."



Largemouth bass

The state Department of Education, like other state agencies, is examining how it will reduce at least 6% of its \$8.2 billion budget for the rest of the fiscal year, which ends in June.

"It really makes you question the state's priorities," said Phyllis Edwards, superintendent

of the City Schools of Decatur, a seven-school system just east of Atlanta. Because of cuts that by 2010 could take as much as \$2 million from a current budget of \$37 million, the school may have to terminate a Spanish program for elementary students and the five teachers who staff it.

It's also unclear just how much fishing tournaments can boost the Georgia economy. The American Sportfishing Association concedes that most of the annual economic impact on the state comes from purchases of normal boats and other everyday fishing that doesn't require the big new ramps under construction.

Some fishermen worry that falling water levels are exposing sunken terrain and obstructions that may make the state's lakes too dangerous for visiting anglers. "There's a lot of things you could hit if you don't know where you're going," said Bill Vanderford, who runs the oldest freshwater fishing-guide service in the state and is an inductee of the national Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame.

Mr. Perdue, a veterinarian by training, is impatient with all the criticism of Go Fish. The funds were allocated before the current crisis began and the proceeds of the bonds already sold can't legally be redirected to other purposes, he said. The construction activity also will generate jobs.

Mr. Perdue acknowledges that Georgia lakes are best known these days for dry, cracked moonscape banks, where water has receded in some cases by hundreds of feet as a result of the drought. As governor, Mr. Perdue has aggressively pushed for less water to be released for use in other states. In 2007, he also hosted a group of public and religious leaders to pray for rain on the marble steps of the state capitol, in Atlanta.

Still, Lake Lanier, site of the planned big tournament, remains more than 17 feet lower than normal, and Georgia is locked in a bitter court fight with the states of Florida and Alabama over how much water can be drawn from the lake for public consumption.

The governor says even if the lakes stay low, that will make it easier to get to the fish. "Would you rather catch a big fish in your bathtub," Mr. Perdue recently asked reporters at a news conference, "or your swimming pool?"

GEORGIA
Women
FLYFISHERS



Ask you to
SAVE THE DATE
for their

Annual Fundraiser

**MARDI GRAS
NIGHT**

*Flyfishing Auctions, Raffles and Fun
Beer Tours and Tastings, Wine and Food*

Saturday, February 21, 2009

*Tickets:
\$20.00 in advance
\$25.00 at door*

Sweetwater Brewery
195 Ottley Dr NE
Atlanta, GA 30324

**2009 1st Quarter GEAN Steering m
Meeting Notes
January 6, 2009**

1. Attendance

Altamaha Riverkeeper, Deborah Sheppard
Center for a Sustainable Coast, David Kyler
Georgia Conservancy, Will Berson
Georgia Conservation Voters, Samantha
Gibson, Jill Johnson, Chris Osborne
Georgia Forest Watch, Wayne Jenkins
Georgia Canoeing Association, Dan MacIntyre
Georgia River Network, April Ingle
Georgia Trout Unlimited, Charlie Breithaupt,
Kevin McGrath
Mothers & Others for Clean Air, Rebecca Watts
Hull
Neill Herring
Ogeechee-Canoochee Riverkeeper, Chandra
Brown
Savannah Riverkeeper, Frank Carl
Soque River Watershed Association, Duncan
Hughes
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Mary Carr
Satilla Riverkeeper, Gordon Rogers
Sierra Club, Seandra Rawls
Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Sally
Betha

Not in attendance:

Coosa River Basin Initiative

2. Update on GEAN alerts and network for 2008

There are currently 15 organizations that belong to GEAN. Georgia Trout Unlimited is now a member organization. Georgia Canoeing Association and Soque River Watershed Association are in the process of becoming organizations, and will officially be member organizations once they have 50 members signed up in the system.

There are currently approximately 6,000 unique email addresses in the GEAN system. In 2008, the system added about 1,600 new members and lost about 110 members due to unsubscribes. This number does not include Trout Unlimited members who are currently being added to the system.

The system wide average response rate was 7.4% for the year, as compared to 2007's response rate of 11.3%. However, the average

response rate for alerts where members took action by contacting elected officials (10.3%) is comparable to the 2007 rate. There were a large number of alerts this year where members took action by sending GEAN an email when pledging to vote or responded only if they were willing to attend an event in person; these alerts had a lower response rate on average (about 4%) that seems to have brought down the overall average for the year.

The most successful alerts of 2008 were:
Stop ATV drivers from Harming Private Property and Ruining our Streams and Rivers
Protect Jekyll Island Beaches from Development and Renew Coastal Zone Protection
Keep the Chattooga Wild & Scenic

April Ingle requested at the Q4 2008 meeting to find out what is considered an “opened” GEAN alert within the Databank’s system in order to evaluate whether we are getting accurate open rate data. The open rates could be slightly overstated, as an open is counted when hidden images are retrieved by the recipient’s email program. So, if the images are enabled in the reading pane, it would count as open, whereas the auto preview view wouldn’t count as an open since the images aren’t enabled. This is how it is industry-wide, so our open rates are not overstated compared to those of other organizations. And opens are not counted on how many times a message is opened but by how many members open the message. So if someone opens the message once in the preview pane and once in the full pane, it won’t count twice.

2. Review 1st Quarter Priorities (Legislative Priorities) and Discussion of other Q1 alerts

Q1 Priorities:

[Accept No Rollbacks](#) including extending moratorium on aquifer storage and recovery, Targets: Legislators

[Fund Public Transit Choices](#), Targets: Legislators

Water efficiency and conservation, Targets: Legislators

[Make Our Highways Safe and More Scenic](#), Targets: Legislators

[Create a Climate Action Plan](#), Targets: Legislators

Other Potential Q1 Alerts

Metro District Comments, Target: MNGWPD public comment email address or MNGWPD members, Author: UCR

WCIP – possible; To be discussed further to determine target and details and avoid confusion.

Construction Work in Progress (CWIP) legislation, Target: legislators

Stimulus Package to include green infrastructure, Target: state legislators as well as possible alert targeting Congress.

Coastal Marshland Protection Committee rulemaking, Target: Coastal Marshland Protection Committee members

Kevin McGrath suggested updating members on the progress and results of alerts through email updates. It is also possible to post updates on the protectgeorgia.net website.

3. Increasing GEAN Membership: new group recruitment

April Ingle sent out an email request in December encouraging the following groups to become GEAN member groups:

Athens Grow Green Coalition,
Broad River Watershed Association
Chattooga Conservancy
Coosawattee Watershed Alliance
Flint Riverkeeper
Friends of Barber Creek
Glynn Environmental Coalition
GreenLaw
High Falls Towaliga Watershed Alliance
Lake Oconee Water Watch
Mountain Park Watershed Preservation Society
New Echota Rivers Alliance
Upper Oconee Watershed Network
West Atlanta Watershed Alliance

We have not yet heard back from any of these groups that they would like to become member groups. April will send out a follow up email, and additional follow up may be necessary.

4. Scheduling Q2 2009 Meeting

The meeting for the second quarter of 2009 was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 1st, at 9:00 a.m. This date will be adjusted if needed due to the legislative session.

Stuff We Think You Would Like To Know

We're always on the lookout for places we can learn more about our sport and all the branches of the great tree of flyfishing. Here are some places you can go or information you can use:

As many of you know, the Burton Hatchery was "removed" from the hit list of DNR's suggested cuts in funding. Word came down around Thanksgiving that DNR Commissioner Noel Holcomb had taken the hatchery off the list he was required to submit to the Governor's office. Rumors are now cropping up that even though it's off the list, when the budget reaches the General Assembly it could again be one of the programs to receive the big axe. An interesting phenomenon seems to be occurring around this whole process. Almost every legislator we are aware of who has been asked about their position on the hatchery has stated that they were not even aware of the proposal nor the controversy over closing it. That shocked us since it was the most talked about issue of late 2008, even taking over discussions of the drought. It just goes to show that our small world of trout fishing doesn't even show up on the radar of the folks who ultimately determine whether or not we even continue to have trout to fish for. We do know one thing; the squeaky wheel gets the grease so we're asking you to not get complacent and keep squeaking. Burton Hatchery is too important to Georgia trout fishing and is too much of a revenue generator for north Georgia to let it fall by the wayside. With the Legislature back in session, we, along with members of Trout Unlimited and other concerned private citizens, plan to attend a meeting already scheduled with influential members of the House of Representatives in the coming week. Let's hope we can shed enough light on this issue to put it to rest.

In other government related news, the Sumter National Forest recently sent out a press release stating that their goal of making a final decision on boating on the backcountry sections of the Chattooga River was not going to happen by December 31st as they had planned. According to the release, they hope to have a decision in place some time in January, 2009.

The internet has become such a treasure trove

of information on flyfishing that almost every week we receive a link to something new. This month we want to recommend you go to [Orvis TV](#) to see some great instructional videos and some that are just plain entertaining. Many of them are done by our friends John Wilson in Arkansas ([flyfishingarkansas.com](#)) and Dave Hise in North Carolina ([castersflyshop.com](#)) and http://www.weather.com/activities/recreation/outdoors/fishing/fishingarticle.html?from=fishing_forecast. Check it out.

TROUT UNLIMITED'S EASTERN LAND PROTECTION PROJECT SOUTHEAST PROJECT COORDINATOR

Job Announcement

Trout Unlimited (TU) is North America's leading coldwater fisheries conservation organization, dedicated to the conservation, protection and restoration of trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. The organization has more than 140,000 members in 400 chapters across North America. TU's vision is that, by the next generation, trout and salmon will be restored throughout their native range. To accomplish this vision, TU works to protect intact habitat, restore degraded habitat, and reconnect the two through restoration of instream flows and removal of barriers. Finally, TU seeks to sustain its achievements through outreach and youth education.

TU recently launched an Eastern Land Protection Project focused on partnerships with the land trust community to protect and restore land critical for eastern brook trout and other coldwater fisheries. The Southeastern Land Protection Coordinator is a new staff position that will work in southern Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia with a variety of partners, including TU's state councils and chapters, land trusts, state and federal agencies, landowners, local watershed groups, and other non-profit organizations.

Job Description

The Southeast Land Protection Coordinator must be entrepreneurial, organized, and a problem-solver. The principle duties of the coordinator will be to:

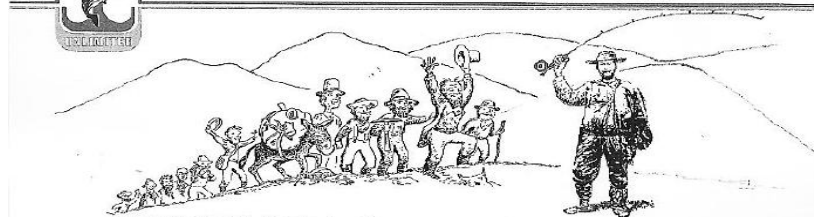
- Engage TU members and other sportsmen and sportswomen as advocates for land protection projects.
- Introduce TU's GIS-based spatial analysis tool, the Conservation Success Index, to the land trust community in order to help inform land protection priorities.
- Identify overlapping priorities with land trusts and collaborate on land protection projects that are a high priority for brook trout and other coldwater fisheries.
- With TU chapters and councils, engage in partnerships with land trusts and other land management entities to restore eastern brook trout and other coldwater fisheries habitat on protected lands.
- With TU chapters and councils, work with the land trust community to increase federal and state funding sources for land acquisition and conservation easements.
- Work with TU development staff on fundraising, including identifying potential funding sources, drafting grant proposals, and developing relationships with funders.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree required, Master's degree a plus.
- Professional experience in natural resource management, land protection, and land trust operations required.
- Superior interpersonal skills and ability to work constructively with a wide range of partners.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills. Previous experience with media, outreach, or education helpful.
- Good organizational and problem solving abilities.
- Ability to work independently and take initiative to coordinate numerous partners.
- Willingness to travel within the region as necessary.
- Working knowledge of GIS and Microsoft Office programs strongly preferred.
- Passion for protecting and restoring trout streams and their watersheds.

Application Process

Send cover letter, resume, and 1-2 page writing sample by February 15, 2009 to the following address or email. Nathaniel Gillespie, Eastern Land Protection Project Director, Trout Unlimited, 1300 North 17th Street, Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22209, ngillespie@tu.org.



The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited proudly presents
A Celebration Of Rivers, Streams, Trout, and Trout Fishing

Please Join Us for the 22nd Annual

Rabun Rendezvous

"The Rendezvous was unlike anything before or since, a gathering of uninhibited men down from the mountains. The event attracted perhaps a hundred mountain men, their indian wives, and assorted visiting tribesmen. Amusements included gambling, drinking, storytelling – continuing day and night." Quote from The Mountain Men by George Laycock

When: Saturday, January 24, 2009

Where: The "NEW" Dillard House Conference Center (doubled in size), located behind the Dillard House in Dillard, Georgia.



Who: The more the better. Everyone interested in protecting our cold-water resources, including their families, friends, and all who love clean cold streams, trout, and trout fishing.

Social: About 5 o'clock PM folks will start gathering to "pick the pig" and enjoy the rocking chairs on the porch of the Conference Center. There will be snack trays of cheeses, crackers, veggies with dips, and fruits. Soft drinks and ice will be available. If you want something stronger, better bring it yourself. There will be a fire inside to warm your buns.

The Foxfire Boys (as seen in the Chattooga River episode of TUTV's "On The Rise") will again generously provide their 'down home' style of bluegrass picking and singing for your musical entertainment.

Don't forget to ask about The Foxfire Boys CDs (now 4 of them), which will be available.

The large screen TV will be showing the Rabunites trout fishing some of their favorite 'secret spots'. This will be the ideal time to be looking over the raffle and silent auction items. **We welcome donations of raffle and auction items at the door, fellow TU'ers.**

There will be a special auction for a framed 'pen & ink' Tom Landreth original: "Brook Trout" (never before offered)!

Dinner: Fish, chicken, and pork with all the side dishes and desserts that have made the Dillard House so famous, will be served about 6:30. It is a serve yourself buffet, so you will not leave hungry.

Program presenter will be Noel Holcomb, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Cost: \$30 for adults and \$25 for youth of 15 and under. Cash or personal checks are fine (this is the first year we will also be able to accept VISA & MasterCard credit cards). We don't do advanced tickets or reservation; just pay at the door.

Lodging: The Dillard House has set special rates for rooms starting at \$49 (plus tax) for those that call and **tell them you're attending the Trout Unlimited Rabun Rendezvous**. Call: 706-746-5348 or Toll Free 1-800-541-0671

You must say you are there with Trout Unlimited to get the special rate.

The 2008 Rabun Rendezvous funds provided for the following: Sponsorship of student interns working in NE GA fisheries with the GA WRD and the USFS; Sponsored two youngsters attending the GA Trout Camp; Financial support of the GA DNR Smithgall Woods Conservation Education Program; Lab fees for the Stekoa Creek Monitoring Project; Kid's Fishing Events at Black Rock Mountain State Park (GA DNR) & Tallulah River (USFS); National TU's "First Cast", "Embrace-A-Stream", & "Back-the-Brookie" Programs; Trout Magazine subscriptions to all school & public libraries and 3 state parks in Rabun County; and Challenge Cost Share Helicopter stockings in the backcountry of Chattooga's North Fork (fall) and West Fork (spring).