



Tuck Tales

Newsletter of the Tuckaseegee Chapter #373 of Trout Unlimited serving the western North Carolina counties of Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain

A Monthly Newsletter

April, 2011

<p>Rod Raffle The raffle continues for one of Jim Mill's custom graphite rods this month!</p>	<p>April Program The program for the April meeting will be a presentation by Steve Johnson of Duke Energy.</p>	<p>Tuckaseegee River Annual Clean-Up Saturday, April 16th at 8:00 AM.</p>	<p>April Grub Committee Our Grub Committee this month will be headed up by Ted Kubit and Craig Green.</p>	<p>Email addresses needed Your editor requests that everyone please provide updated email addresses so we can make certain our data base is up-to-date and you won't miss notification of newsletter and event emails!</p>	<p>Editor's email address: Send an email to: craigforrest@sleepyhollowstudio.com</p>
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Tuckaseegee Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets the first Tuesday of every month, with the exception of June, July and August, in the Community Room at the rear of the United Community Bank of Highway 107 South in Sylva at 6:30 PM. A meal is provided by the Grub Committee at a cost of \$5 per person. Guest are invited to join us at no charge.



Unprecedented Legislative Action

A bill to block higher water quality standards for approximately 16 miles of trout stream in the Boylston Creek watershed of Transylvania county has passed the General Assembly and awaits Governor Beverly Purdue's signature. The bill was originated by Rep. David Guice, R-Transylvania county. Purdue had not decided whether she would sign or veto the bill at the time of this writing.

The bill was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Jim Davis, R-Macon county who stated, "I thought DENR totally overstepped their boundary."

Local press and other media have identified the fight as a property rights issue. Landowners have sought relief from

the classification due to their concerns regarding the required 25 foot buffer designed to protect the streams from silt and other pollution that might potentially result from development too close to the trout water.

In addition, property owners have voiced their concerns over their perception that such classification will result in trespass by fishermen who will be drawn to the watershed in great numbers.

Environmental groups including Trout Unlimited have supported the classification. DENR determined that the creek supports a large population of naturally reproducing brook and rainbow trout.

According to Trout Unlimited brook trout are the only trout native to much of the eastern United States. Arguably the most beautiful freshwater fish, brook trout survive in only the coldest and cleanest water. In fact brook trout serve as indicators of the health of the watersheds they inhabit. Strong wild brook trout

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populations demonstrate that a stream or river system is healthy and that water quality is excellent.

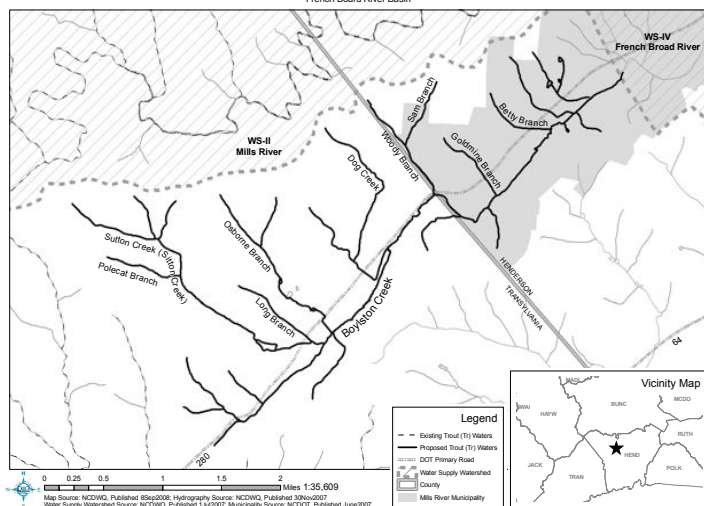
Land use decisions made over the past several hundred years have severely impacted the quality of brook trout streams and rivers -- largely by removing streamside trees and increasing sedimentation and nutrient runoff. While some sections of the East have regained forest cover and are healing from the widespread clearing of the eastern forests, other areas are undergoing rapid change as our population, road network and water needs continue to grow.

“This is an excellent stream that deserves protection. But I think this is bad precedent where it is politics and not based on science.”

D.J. Gerken, SELC

At a recent presentation by GSMNP fisheries biologist the public was told that most remaining high-quality trout habitat is occupied by non-native fish. Park biologist encouraged TU members to work as hard as they can to assist with the protection of brook trout at every opportunity.

Proposed Trout Waters: Boylston Creek
French Broad River Basin



French Broad Riverkeeper Hartwell Carson recently referenced a 30 foot buffer that was implemented by the City of Asheville. “(Overturning the classification) is bad precedent,” Carson said. “It has been a trout stream and should be classified as one.”

A lawsuit might result if this bill is signed due to the fact that it may violate the Clean Water Act which states that trout streams must be protected. Environmental groups are awaiting results before making a decision on such action.

D.J. Gerken, attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center in Asheville said, “Legislative action generally increases protection for streams across the state but not the reverse. To my knowledge, this is unprecedented.”

Julie Mayfield, executive director of WNC Alliance stated, “It’s our position that North Carolina is not allowed to undo a classification of trout water under the Clean Water Act.”

Property owner Joe Tomaszewski voiced his concerns to the Asheville Citizen-Times in a recent article by stating, “It pretty much eliminated our ability to use the property. The intent (of the re-classification) was good, but it was so widespread. It just affects so much land.”

What happens at this point is up to Governor Purdue and possibly the courts. One thing is for certain. Trout water in western North Carolina will be greatly impacted if this bill becomes law and is then upheld in court. Trout Unlimited’s mission is to preserve and protect our coldwater resources. TU will continue in its mission and looks forward to the support of each and every one of its over 4,000 members statewide.

(Your editor wishes to acknowledge articles from the Asheville Citizen-Times and BlueRidgeNow.com which were referenced in writing this story.)

Tuck Tales

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P.O. Box 3196

Cullowhee, NC 28723

E-mail:

craigforrest@sleepyhollowstudio.com

The Tuckaseegee Chapter has a web presence at:

<http://www.orgsites.com/nc/tctu/>

FROM TU'S ACTION CENTER:

[Ask Your Legislator to Support Protection of NC's Rivers and Streams](#)

The Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) is an essential program for protecting North Carolina's most pristine rivers and streams. Today, many in the North Carolina legislature are threatening to 'zero out' the Fund for two years. This would be a tragic setback during a time when purchasing land for conservation and public use is actually affordable. Please ask your legislators to continue our investment in North Carolina's valuable outdoor resources.



BALSAM LAKE WILL NOT RECEIVE TROUT STOCKINGS THIS SEASON

RALEIGH, N.C. (March 28, 2011) – The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will not stock Balsam Lake in Jackson County with trout this season. The lake was drained by the U.S. Forest Service earlier this year to repair the dam.

Commission biologists will resume stocking the lake starting March 2012.

Until stockings resume in Balsam Lake, anglers can visit other hatchery-supported trout waters in Jackson County, including Tanasee Lake and Wolf Lake.

Anglers who want to fish other hatchery-supported waters in all 26 western North Carolina counties can download and print color-coded trout maps from the Commission's website at <http://www.ncwildlife.org/>. The North Carolina Trout Fishing Maps book can be purchased from the N.C. Wild Store for \$12.

Annual Tuck Clean-Up

The Annual Tuckasee River Clean-Up will occur on Saturday, April 16. Chapter members will meet at the pull-off just below the old Jack-The-Dipper Ice Cream location at 8:00 AM.

Trash bags will be provided by the chapter/DOT. Please remember to bring a good, sturdy pair of gloves. Those willing to help clean just along the river will probably want to bring waders or at least wading boots.

WCU has again agreed to handle cleaning up the island using their rafts and canoes.

Yard Sale

This year's Jackson County Arts Council Yard Sale at WCU's Ramsey Athletic center will be held on April 9th from 8 AM to 1 PM. Tuck TU will again have a booth at the sale.

Please bring your auction items to the April meeting so we will have everything ready to go. We would especially appreciate fishing related items.

Also, don't forget to bring the proceeds from the sale of your auction tickets to Treasurer Craig Green!

Chapter Contact Information

Dickie Woodard - President 586-3283
e-mail: dwoodard@wcproperties.com

_____ Open _____ - V. Pres.
e-mail:

Dick Sellers - Past President 586-2887
e-mail: dick.sellers@frontier.com

Craig Green - Treasurer 452-0818
e-mail: cngreen@bellsouth.net

Richard Echelman - Secretary 586-2735
e-mail: richardalan1@frontier.com

Ernie Sipler - Director 293-7039
e-mail: EMsipler@frontier.com

Delos Monteith - Director 586-8527
e-mail: delos@southwesterncc.edu

Willie Cope - Webmaster 586-4787
e-mail: Smonthefly@aol.com

Craig Forrest - Newsletter Editor 293-9425
e-mail: craigforrest@sleepyhollowstudio.com

Tuckasee Chapter of Trout Unlimited



P. O. Box 3196
Cullowhee, N.C. 28723