



Tuck Tales

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

A Monthly Newsletter

January, 2008

Work Day

Our next project will be Sparkle Day in the park. The date will be announced soon.



Bring a Friend!

Don't forget to bring a guest to the January 1st meeting. The chapter will pay for your guest's meal.

TCTU is trying to increase membership this year so make an effort to bring a potential new member to the meeting!

January Program

Matt Kulp, fisheries biologist with GSMNP will present our program.

Matt will talk about the effects the drought is having on fish in the park and also bring us up-to-date on current fisheries projects in the park.

NCTU Rivercourse Summer camp



June 22-27, 2008 at Lake Logan Center near Canton.

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Help TCTU Save \$

Email your editor at craigforrest@sleepyhollowstudio.com and ask to be put on the chapter's email notification list. You'll not receive the printed newsletter and be directed to the chapter's website to download a full-color pdf file of Tuck Tales.

NCWRC Public Hearings

The Hearing in Sylva will take place at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, January 16th in the auditorium of South Western Community College.

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

Climate Change

December 5, 2007

New Report Looks at Impact of Climate Change on Trout and Salmon

Report Analyzes Warming Climate's Effect on Fish and Rivers

Washington, D.C. – Though climate change will have a dramatic effect on trout and salmon populations, a new report says that much can be done now to prevent widespread fish declines in rivers and streams around the country.

Trout Unlimited's new report, Healing Troubled Waters, highlights how global warming will affect our nation's trout and salmon populations and the waters in which they live. Based on research by Trout Unlimited scientists, the report also provides recommendations for what can be done to help fish and rivers withstand these changes.

The report summarizes recent scientific studies that show that trout and salmon populations are likely to decline by 50% or more in regions around the country that will be most effected by global warming. According to new studies by the U.S. Forest Service, some trout species like the bull trout, found in high-mountain areas of the West, could see as much as a 90% population loss. Many trout species already listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act will become increasingly vulnerable to extinction. In addition, it has been shown that 20% to 40% of the Pacific Northwest's salmon populations may disappear as a result of climate change.

"Climate change is not some uncertain future problem, it is happening right now and we see evidence in terms of reduced snowpack and earlier spring runoff," said Jack Williams, Trout Unlimited's senior scientist and one of the report's authors.

"Salmon and trout are among our most vulnerable species and their protection in the face of a rapidly changing climate demands strong actions," he continued.

In the Appalachians, scientists estimate that up to 90% of the wild brook trout there could be lost due to climate change.

Though the statistics paint a somewhat grim future scenario for coldwater fish, the report provides a framework for what can be done to help rivers and fish build resistance and resilience to the effects of climate change. By protecting high quality habitats and healthy fish populations, scientists hope that fish will be able to endure warmer water temperatures and additional stress as a result of a warming climate. The report points out that these investments are crucial now, before widespread changes occur.

With Congress prepared to address climate change, the opportunity exists for making this a legislative priority.

"We are pleased to see that a number of members of Congress have recognized the need to fund and implement strategies such as these to combat climate change impacts on fish and wildlife resources and have introduced bills that would provide such funding," said Steve Moyer, TU's Vice President of Government Affairs.

EDITOR'S CAST

Well, Christmas is over now. Hope all had a merry one and that you received that new rod, reel, line, cape or whatever it was you had asked Santa for.

As for me I asked for some rain to help out our drought situation here. Looks like Santa might be coming through as we have had some nice little rains over the holidays and more look to possibly be on the way. We sure can use the rain. It will go a long way toward helping the fishing situation, that's for sure.

Be sure to read the article about Climate Change in this issue of the newsletter. Climate Change has a lot to do with the drought conditions we are now facing. The more we can educate ourselves about the effect we are having on our environment the sooner we might be able to reverse some of the factors contributing to this problem.

Have you tried to figure out your Carbon Footprint? How much energy do you use in a day? Are you changing light bulbs and turning off lights and energy consuming appliances when possible? Have you considered a more fuel-efficient vehicle or looked at the energy ratings when buying new appliances?

It may not sound like much, but it is cumulative. We can all be aware of the effect we are having as individuals and make an effort to do something in a practical way.

To make a bigger impact, educate yourself about political candidate's views on Global Warming and vote accordingly. Our leaders will have to make some important decisions in the near future regarding how to come up with solutions to the problem.

I'll try and keep everyone up-to-date on what TU is doing to work toward solutions regarding how Climate Change is affecting our coldwater fisheries. Have a Happy New Year all!



Craig Forrester, Editor

Rivercourse 2008

"The Future of Coldwater Conservation Lies In Our Youth"

The North Carolina State Council of Trout Unlimited is proud to sponsor the sixth annual



N.C.T.U. Rivercourse: Coldwater Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. Our program is designed to teach the ethics of coldwater conservation to our youth. The 2008 camp is scheduled for the week of June 22-27, 2008 at



Lake Logan Center near Canton. The area features the pristine habitat and rich history of the West Fork of the Pigeon River and the mountainous region of Haywood County, North Carolina.

Submit an online application for Rivercourse 2008 or read the Adobe pdf version (373 KB's) and mail it via the U.S. Postal Service.

Through the use of both traditional and natural classrooms, the campers will receive instruction by volunteer experts in specialties such as geology, entomology, herpetology, stream restoration techniques, wetlands ecology, and environmental policy. In addition, fly-fishing and fly tying instruction will reinforce traditional values of patience, technique, attention to detail and a general love of the outdoors.

Our program features an all day field trip to the nearby Davidson River. Classes on riparian buffers, fish dissection, and trout raising are taught by US Forest Service and North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission personnel. Campers will participate in the planting of native

species that will become a part of the riparian buffer along the river.

Swimming is an optional activity being offered. At least one certified lifeguard will be on duty during swimming.

Campers are lodged in cottages with double occupancy rooms and private bathrooms. Adult chaperones are lodged with the campers. All meals are included and served at a modern dining hall.

TU chapters and members throughout the state contribute flies, tools, materials, and sponsorships to help make the camp a success. The camp staff is comprised of TU volunteers, including a camp doctor, that are committed to ensuring that the campers have an enjoyable, safe, and rewarding experience.

By impressing upon our youth of today the importance of these natural habitats to the well being of all living creatures, they will be better prepared to make a positive contribution to the future.

Sixteen boys and girls ranging from 13-15 years of age will be selected to attend camp. The cost of camp is \$495.00 for the all-inclusive week. Tuition is not due until candidates have been notified of selection.

Tuck Tales

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Tuck Tales

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The Tuckaseegee Chapter has a web presence at:

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

Tuck Tales is available on the website as a full color, downloadable pdf file, current month as well as archives.

NCWRC *Public Hearings*



Partial Listing of Proposed Changes in Fishing Regulations for 2008–2009

(Editor's Note: These changes are the ones that affect our service area.)

The following changes in the statewide fishing regulations are proposed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and are offered for your comments, opinions and suggestions.

Game Fish

Trout

F1. Define artificial lure and natural bait for Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Justification: This proposal defines an artificial lure as one that neither contains, nor has had applied, any substance that attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell. Natural bait is defined as any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or part of, or prepared substance designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell. Artificial lures having one single hook are required while fishing on Wild, Catch-and-Release/Artificial Lure Only, and Delayed-Harvest Trout waters. Natural bait may be used

while fishing on Hatchery-Supported and Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout waters.

F2. Change the time that trout fishing may begin on Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters on the first Saturday in April from 6:00 to 7:00 a.m.

Justification: This proposal will change the opening time to adjust to the recent change in Daylight Savings Time.

F3. Allow only youths under 16 years old to fish from 6:00 a.m. to 11:59 a.m. on the first Saturday in June on Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters, when these waters convert to Hatchery-Supported rules.

Justification: This proposal will promote trout fishing for young anglers, while allowing all anglers to fish these waters beginning at 12:00 p.m.

F8. West Fork Tuckaseegee (Jackson County)—Reclassify from Hatchery-Supported to Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout waters.

F9. Shoal Creek (Jackson County)—Reclassify from Hatchery-Supported to Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout waters.

F10. Buff Creek (Jackson County)—Reclassify from Hatchery-Supported to Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout waters.

F11. Big Creek (Macon County)—Reclassify from Hatchery-Supported to Wild Trout waters.

Justification: Proposals F8 – F11 will eliminate stocking of these streams, which contain reproducing wild trout populations.

F15. Pigeon River (Haywood County)—Identify the lower boundary of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters as the upstream (northbound) bridge.

F16. Nantahala River (Macon County)—Identify the lower boundary of Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters as the "Nantahala hydropower discharge canal."

Justification: Proposals F15 and F16 will clarify boundary line locations.

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