



Tuck Tales

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

A Monthly Newsletter

May, 2010

This Month's Meeting

This Month's meeting will be the annual GSMNP Sparkle Day. We'll meet at 8:00 AM Sat., May 8th at Collins Creek Picnic area.

May Covered Dish

Tuckaseige Chapter will provide Hamburgers, Buns and sodas - please bring a suitable covered-dish item to Collins Creek.

5th Annual Yard Sale

Dick Sellers and Milt Woffard want to thank everyone who helped to make this year's Yard Sale a success!

No Summer Meetings

As is our custom, Tuck Chapter will not meet during the summer months. See you all again next September!

Email addresses needed

Your editor is still requesting 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!

Editor's email address:

Send an email to:

craigforrest@sleepyhollowstudio.com



Tuckaseige 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.

Sportsmen Commend Introduction of House Clean Water Bill



New legislation would restore Clean Water Act protections, conserve fish and wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing opportunities

WASHINGTON – The nation's leading sportsmen-conservation groups today commended the introduction of legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives that would restore critical Clean Water Act protections for streams, lakes, wetlands and other important

waters. The America's Commitment to Clean Water Act would help sustain the healthy habitat, robust fish and wildlife populations and range of economic benefits that rely on America's waterways and wetlands and would reverse recent Supreme Court decisions that jeopardize the nation's water resources.

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, the Izaak Walton League of America, the National Wildlife Federation and Trout Unlimited have been vocal proponents of legislation that reinstates safeguards previously in place via the Clean Water Act. The bill introduced by Rep. Jim Oberstar of Minnesota responds to these groups' calls for congressional action that strengthens conservation measures for water and wetland ecosystems essential to American hunting and fishing traditions.

"America's waterways and wetlands form the cornerstone of our fish and wildlife populations and our continued ability to enjoy the outdoors," said Tom Franklin, TRCP director of policy and government relations "and so the nation's sportsmen speak together in commending Congressman Oberstar's leadership in introducing the America's Commitment to Clean Water Act – and urging his House colleagues to exercise similar sound judgment in supporting this crucial legislation's speedy passage into law this spring."

The bill represents a new approach to addressing threats posed by the Supreme Court's *SWANCC* and *Rapanos* decisions by including

- provisions that reinforce that the bill's purpose simply is to restore Clean Water Act protections to waters

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26th Annual Tuck Clean Up

Chapter member Jerry Dewese stops to chat with a fisherman as his daughter moves downstream with an inner tube loaded with trash.

Larry Tucker and Craig Green hard at work ...



The 26th Annual Tuckaseegee River Clean Up was held Saturday April 17th. This year's clean up coincided with TU's National Stream Clean-Up Day which was also held nationwide on April 17th. Volunteers around the country joined together to clean local streams and rivers.

"This is a tangible way for us to give back to the places where we all fish and recreate," said Bryan Moore, Vice President of Volunteer Operations and Watersheds. "As TU volunteers join together to clean up America's rivers and streams today, this national effort is a testament to the volunteers who carry out Trout Unlimited's dedication to coldwater conservation."

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- protected prior to the SWANCC decision;
- a more specific definition of "waters of the United States" that closely follows the definition the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers have used for decades;
- new exemptions for prior converted cropland and certain waste treatment systems;
- specific references to Congress's constitutional authority to conserve and restore the nation's waters.
- The legislation also deletes the term "navigable" from the Clean Water Act to clarify that congressional intent was to protect U.S. waters from pollution rather than to sustain navigation

"America's Commitment to Clean Water Act is a new bill that would ensure the Clean Water Act protects streams, lakes, wetlands and other waters," said Scott Kovarovics, conservation director with the Izaak Walton League. "It's a balanced, common-sense solution that the House should quickly approve."

The threats to America's water resources caused by the Supreme Court decisions radiate across the landscape:

- Safe drinking water:** The EPA estimates that more than 117 million Americans receive drinking water from public water systems supplied by streams most at risk of losing Clean Water Act protection.
- Fish and wildlife habitat:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that America's Prairie Pothole Region produces 50 percent of the nation's duck breeding population. These and other wetlands are

at risk because they are seasonal and may not support boating or otherwise be "navigable."

- Economic growth:** Fishing, waterfowl hunting, boating and other outdoor activities depend on clean water and wetlands and are fundamental components of the U.S. economy. In 2006, 1.3 million waterfowl hunters generated \$2.3 billion in economic activity; in 2007, recreational boating generated \$100 billion.

"Congressman Oberstar's important legislation underscores the threats facing clean water and habitat," said Steve Moyer, Trout Unlimited vice president of government affairs, "yet it also presents a clear path forward for enabling our leaders to right the deficiencies of current law."

Tuck Tales

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