



# 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

November, 2009

For our November meeting program chapter members Ted Kubit and Craig Green are going to show a video of their trip to Montana and the Yellowstone River last summer. Dr. David McGuire will head up the Grub Committee. There will be two \$20 gift certificates from the Waynesville Fly Shop given away at the meeting.

## North Carolina State Council joins appeal with WNC Alliance

The North Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited along with the Western North Carolina Alliance are appealing a state water quality permit issued to allow the construction of The Cliffs at High Carolina's golf course. The Cliffs is an upscale residential development of a little less than 3,000 acres located on a ridge between Swannanoa and Fairview. The golf course has been designed by Tiger Woods.

"We think that quite a few of the impacts to trout streams are avoidable", said D.J. Gerken, attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center who is representing TU and the Alliance. Julie Mayfield, executive director of WNC Alliance stated that the appeal "is not designed to, nor do I think it will, bring things to a screeching halt."

The main problem involves putting hundreds of feet of the headwaters of trout streams underground. "Burying a trout stream makes it no longer a trout stream," Gerken said. "It's a repeated practice about which we have substantial concerns."

It is hoped that a settlement can be worked out to the satisfaction of all of the parties involved without having to resort to litigation. The developer stated confidence that the concerns of the environmental groups can be resolved.

According to an article about culverts by Susan Q. Stranahan in the Fall issue of Trout magazine, "Culverts can act as barriers to (fish) movement in a variety of ways. They can sit or "perch" above stream level, requiring fish to jump large heights; they can speed up water velocity making it impossible for fish to swim against the current; they can be too shallow for passage, or too turbulent, and they can provide no resting areas where fish can re-

cover from exhaustion in their upstream passage."

Gerken pointed out that streams accumulate fewer nutrients and less-dissolved oxygen when piped underground.

Most of the above information was drawn from an article in the *Asheville Citizen-Times* newspaper written by Mark Barrett on October 28th.

**The November meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, November 3rd at 6:30 PM in the meeting room at the rear of the United Community Bank on highway 107 south in Sylva.**

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