



Tuck Tales

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

A Monthly Newsletter

October, 2007

Work Day

A Clean-Up day will be announced at the October 2nd meeting.



Bring a Friend!

Don't forget to bring a guest to the October 2nd 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!

October Program

Past-President Milt Wofford and his crew of rod slingers will regale us with tales of their fishing trip out west last month.

We're counting on Milt to not stretch the truth too much. Yeah, and you can buy an Orvis Bamboo rod for \$100!

ORV Use and Water Quality



See Squeak Smith's recent article.

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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.

Delayed Harvest Opens

October 1st marks the beginning of the Fall Delayed Harvest regulations on certain waters.

Drought conditions may affect stocking this year.

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

TU In Turmoil?

Above is the title of an article by Jeff Hull in the current issue of *Fly Rod & Reel* magazine that tells of a "trauma rippling through Trout Unlimited's 152,000-member family." It has raised the hackles of Bruce Farling, executive director of Montana Trout Unlimited, one of TU's highest-profile state councils. He is concerned about stream access and TU's refusal to take part in access disputes. Farling has been quoted elsewhere as saying; "How do you motivate the volunteer members of TU to donate their time and money at increased levels if at the end of the day the restored fisheries are off limits?"

In March of this year, Bob Teufel, acting chairman of TU's National Board made a proposal to prohibit all TU chapters and state councils from participating in any stream-access rights disputes. According to Hull Montana has experienced "an influx of wealthy landowners seeking to bar access to waterways in the Rocky Mountain West and elsewhere."

Charles Gauvin, TU's president and CEO for the past 16 years has consistently argued against TU's participation in access disputes. According to Gauvin it takes away revenue that should be used for TU's mission statement, the protection of coldwater resources.

Gauvin wrote in an April 4th email to FR&R magazine, "I find it preposterous that some in TU are now claiming that involvement in access disputes is contemplated by the organization's mission. I am also outraged that anyone would have the chutzpah to suggest that somehow TU's conservation mission is being sold out to wealthy landowners."

TU's National Leadership Council has called Teufel's proposal "fatally flawed" and "poor governance." Greg Dietl, president of of Wisconsin's Kiap-TU-Wish chapter, was quoted as saying; "If this [proposal] passed, my gut feeling is that we'd have a whole lot of folks in our chapter who would say, 'I'm not paying my dues, I'm getting out.'" Dietl has also stated; "While it's our mission to preserve ... coldwater resources, if I can't fish because more and more access is being privatized, then to hell with it."

TU's 2007 annual meeting in Boise, Idaho ended September 24th. The following is from the IdahoStatesman.com website dated 9/24/2007:

Access not part of TU's primary mission

Gauvin defended TU's reluctance to get involved in stream access, which is a divisive issue, especially in states like Montana where private landowners can block access to prime trout streams.

Access is not part of TU's primary mission of habitat protection restoration, and in some cases could detract from it, he said.

"I've never been afraid to take risks where litigation or advocacy is concerned when it's something that's clearly within the mission," Gauvin said. "(Access) is not something that's clearly within the mission. It's very important to the membership, however, and the membership should get involved. Whether Trout Unlimited is the correct vehicle to get involved in (access issues) is a different matter."

EDITOR'S CAST

The story on the front page of this month's Tuck Tales should bring back recent memories to many of us in the Tuckaseegee Chapter. We too have had a little turmoil in our chapter regarding stream access and privatization attempts.

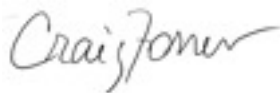
In late 2002 - early 2003 we had an individual move into our area who attempted to privatize a section of our own Tuckaseegee River. A program was presented to our chapter by this person which attempted to persuade us to support his efforts.

At that time I wrote an editorial in this news letter against this proposal and offered my thoughts on why it was wrong. The Jackson County Commissioners listened to a crowd of some 200+ constituents at a commissioner's meeting around that time and decided the proposal would not receive their support either.

My thoughts regarding stream access have not changed since that time. If anything, I feel stronger than ever that it should be a concern of all of us to work as hard as we can to support stream access and oppose privatization of our coldwater resources whenever possible.

We are under the control of the National Board of TU in regard to taking action as a chapter. I personally feel that TU's National Board is making a mistake by preventing us from supporting stream access as a chapter. As an individual member of TU I intend to write letters and voice my opinion editorially in this newsletter in support of access and opposition to privatization. (Anyone in the chapter who wishes to silence my editorials is welcome to assume the duties of editor immediately BTW. So far I've had no takers on this offer.)

I do not feel it would be right to not continue to pay dues however. TU is too important to us all and must continue its good work.



Craig Forrest, Editor

Intensive ORV Use and Water Quality

From the Asheville Citizen

By Michael "Squeak" Smith

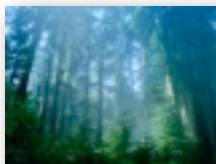
I read with great dismay the comments of a U.S. Forest Service representative in a recent article about off-road vehicle (ORV) use in the Tellico River area (Sept. 6, "Upper Tellico runoff sparks controversy"). Contrary to what USFS Ranger Bill Champion is quoted as



saying, we do know how much sediment in the river is too much. State and federal standards are crystal clear on the issue. Unfortunately, the Forest Service has been ignoring those standards. Water quality samples have revealed excessively higher levels of sediment in Tellico tributaries than allowed under any state or federal standard for the past eight years.

Champion also said that a long-term plan to evaluate ORV use and impacts in the area, and a discussion of priorities with all the stakeholders, is "just getting started." Again, the Forest Service is ignoring years of collaborative study and efforts, in which Trout Unlimited and many other participants have worked with the agency to resolve the conflict between intensive ORV use and water quality.

Unfortunately, our collaborative studies seem to be overlooked, and coincidentally, the measurable deterioration in water quality has occurred during the same eight years of collaboration. The Forest Service has been more talk than walk, while the



resource has suffered. Hence, the need to take legal action to remind the agency that in the eyes of the law, water quality and the protection of our resources comes first.

Lastly, I was disappointed that the reporter did not contact anyone from the conservation groups who are taking this legal action. If he had, he would have learned that:

- 1) The roughly 38 miles of designated ORV trails he cites are more than twice the density legally allowed under the Forest Service's management plan;
- 2) The estimation that "2,400 vehicles per month use the Tellico area" comes from the USFS, and is not an "environmentalists' assertion;" and
- 3) While ORV users clearly contribute to the local economy, other factors to consider are the potential loss of tourism revenue from anglers, the potential cost to downstream communities who face higher cleanup costs before using the river as a source of drinking water, and finally the potential loss of significant Southern Appalachian brook trout populations.



Michael "Squeak" Smith is member of the board of trustees for Trout Unlimited.

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.



Delayed Harvest Waters Open

Season Starts on October 1st

Catch and Release

Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters Open on Oct. 1

RALEIGH, N.C. (Sept. 18, 2007) – On Oct. 1, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will implement annual delayed-harvest regulations for 18 designated trout waters in 14 counties of western North Carolina.

Under delayed-harvest regulations, no fish can be harvested or possessed from these waters between Oct. 1, 2007 and one half-hour after sunset on June 6, 2008. No natural bait is allowed, and anglers can fish only with single-hook, artificial lures.

At 6 a.m. on June 7, 2008, delayed-harvest waters open to fishing under hatchery-supported regulations, which means no bait restrictions, no minimum length limit and a seven-trout-per-day creel limit. Hatchery-supported regulations remain in force until Oct. 1 each year.

Delayed-harvest waters, posted with black-and-white signs, create high-quality fishing opportunities where anglers can fish densely

stocked trout streams on a catch-and-release basis fall through spring.

Despite the continuing drought conditions across much of the state and the fish losses that have occurred at the Commission's Armstrong hatchery, agency personnel plan to stock delayed-harvest waters with 213,000 catchable-sized trout — 85,195 brook trout, 42,610 brown trout and 85,195 rainbow trout.

Commission personnel will continue to monitor water levels and temperatures prior to the delayed-harvest stockings but do not anticipate that any delays in those stockings will be needed. In the event the drought conditions worsen, the Commission may temporarily reduce stocking numbers in the delayed-harvest waters until conditions improve.

"While we experienced fish losses at the Armstrong hatchery, at this time, we expect to conduct all the planned stockings for the upcoming fall delayed-harvest season and for the 2008 stocking season

with no reduction of numbers stocked," said Kyle Briggs, fish production coordinator with the Wildlife Resources Commission. "We continue to encourage anglers to enjoy catch-and-release fishing and to respect the landowners and the land where they fish."

Local Delayed Harvest Waters listed below:

Haywood County - West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake Logan)

Jackson County - Tuckasegee River (N.C. 107 bridge at Love Field to the Dillsboro dam)

Macon County - Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)

For more information on delayed-harvest regulations, weekly stocking updates or a set of trout maps designating fishing regulations in effect on specific streams, visit: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/>

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