



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

September, 2006

Kid's Fishing Day A Success

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this summer's Kid's Fishing Day a great success! We had a good turn-out and wonderful cooperation with the weather.

TU 50th Anniversary

Trout Unlimited (TU) has selected Traverse City, Michigan as the site for its 2009 annual convention, which will celebrate the group's 50th anniversary.

CWMTF Grant

The town of Sylva has been awarded a \$3.5 M grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund to protect its Fisher Creek watershed.

Rock Quarry Opposed

United Neighbors of Tuckaseegee (UNOT) have secured a resolution from Jackson Co. commissioners asking state officials to not issue a permit for a quarry near the Tuck.

District 9 NCWRC Commissioner

Martin Lewis our District 9 Commissioner will be at the September 5th meeting to meet with our members.

Numbers Game

NCWRC has to weigh a lot of options when it comes to stocking fish.

Below

Numbers Game

How Many To Stock?

How many fish to stock is controlled by several factors. Biologists have an overriding responsibility to refrain from stocking too many fish to the detriment of other parts of the aquatic community. Additionally, fish that are stocked as fingerlings must have enough resources to thrive. Striped bass and walleyes, for example, are stocked when no larger than your thumbnail. They require sufficient room, food, and shelter to grow. If too many fish are stocked, there may not be enough of these resources to go round. Survival of overcrowded fish becomes poor or the fish are thin and slow growing. Each stream or lake has a different capacity to support fish. Like rich ground growing more corn, rich water can support more stocked fish.

In contrast, some of our trout fisheries are managed by putting catchable sized fish (adults) into the stream with the expectation they will be caught

within a short period of time. If the fish only survive a few weeks before being caught, available food resources in the stream don't matter much. Without important biological limits to stocking rates, other factors may control how many fish are stocked. Stocking rates might be dictated by fishing pressure. A stream next to a populated area with lots of anglers might get more fish than a remote location with few anglers. Ultimately, stocking rates might be limited by the amount of fish hatchery space available.



Image © Dave Whitlock

Developing a stocking plan for inland fisheries in North Carolina requires carefully considering the wishes of anglers, understanding fish life histories, anticipating impacts on the environment and associated biological communities, and providing resources to grow fish in a hatchery environment or capture and move wild fish. The rivers and streams of North Carolina are a precious resource deserving of our protection.

Decisions on introducing fish to our waters must be made wisely. There are always consequences from stocking fish or introducing new fish species. Those consequences are often irreversible. Please don't stock fish in any of North Carolina's public waters and discourage others from doing the same. Despite good intentions, to improve fishing in a local lake or river, anglers who take it upon themselves to stock fish may be changing the biological communities in our great river systems forever. Choose not to move fish from place to place when you are angling.

Above excerpt from ncwildlife.org

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