



Trout Tales

Rocky River Chapter

Trout Unlimited

October 2008



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow RRTU Members,

Rocky River Trout Unlimited has started its 27th year and, with the start of a new year, we have a new slate of Officers, four new Board members and two Committee Chairmen, all with new ideas and lots of energy. I want to personally thank all those that served as officer's last year and also all the volunteers that stepped forward when needed. Your hard work and effort is appreciated not only by me, but by the entire chapter. I would also like to give special thanks to Andrew Cole for holding the President's post for almost three years.

Our focus for the next year will be to become more involved in conservation project and the issues that impact coldwater. One of the opportunities at hand is that South Mountain State Park is interested in Rocky River becoming more involved with several projects at the park. We are going to make a concerted effort to communicate with the membership and involve them more in our projects. We have had two work days since August at SMSP where we hardened a bank and closed a short cut trail. Nine of our members helped with these two projects. We have an invitation from SMSP to assist in removing dams built by campers this summer for swimming and also to help that day with a trout stocking. That work day is scheduled for on October 6.

We are also in the process of revamping our website (www.rockyrivertu.org) and want to make it more user friendly and keep it current and informative. Our yahoo groups page is where you will find our most current communication and invitations to assist in projects (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rrtu/>). We have made a commitment to keep in touch with you, the members, this year. We ask that you also keep in touch with us also and give us feedback, opinions and involvement in the Chapter. We have a new logo on the way that will be unveiled next month.

I hope you will find the new Newsletter you are receiving to be beneficial to you. This year we hope to emphasize our commitment to communication with and inclusion of the membership. We look forward to serving you and helping you make RRTU the Chapter you desire it to be. We will seek your involvement and input to assist us in our mission to 'Conserve, Protect and Restore' our coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Please join us soon at a meeting near you.

The Board of Directors and Officers welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas to make your chapter membership both rewarding and enjoyable. Your involvement in chapter business and activities is encouraged and we hope you'll be able to volunteer your talent and a little of your time to help the Chapter continue to be one of the most exciting, hard working and fun chapters in the state. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. (October 15, 2008 at Saltgrass Steakhouse in Pineville @ 6:30)

Jim Mabrey
President RRTU

The annual meeting of the chapter is held each September at which time the membership elects new officers and directors. The election results are as follows:

President **Jim Mabrey**
1st Vice President **Bill Thomas**
2ed Vice President **Justin Souma**
Treasurer **Dave Wilson**
Secretary **Sue Hartsell**

Dave Stakel Director
Steve Craig Director

Joyce Shepard and **Alen Baker** will complete their terms as directors in 2009 while **Erin Purves** and **Terry Hill** will remain on the board until 2010.



As of 9/30, NCTU has received 277 applications for the NCTU License Plate. Before the first plate can be printed, 300 total plates must be sold. There are at least five more that have committed to purchasing a plate. This means we need at least 15 more. Ten dollars of every plate purchase goes to fund our mission at the state council level. Help us by putting a plate on your vehicle. Details at http://nctu.org/tu_plate.html

CHAPTER RETURNS TO SCENE OF THE CRIME

Last month we reported on the work project that the chapter completed at South Mountain State Park. The rangers were very appreciative and asked that the chapter return for some additional work. Ken Shoe, Joe Liebdzinski, Wayne Harden and Jim Mabrey placed about the same amount of rock that had been placed the previous work day and, in addition planted 50 to 60 plants and bushes on the fisherman's trail that the park is trying to obliterate.



Once done at this work site the work crew removed one rock dam from the stream. Rock dams are a significant problem on our streams.

Everyone likes a cool swim during the summer, and in areas that are highly frequented you'll see rock dams start appearing. Building a rock dam makes the water a little deeper and the playing a little more fun, but they also present a big problem for the health of a stream and its inhabitants. While an individual pool may not be large enough to elevate water temperatures, several along a stream can result in enough additional surface area that temperatures can rise. The rock barriers are also an impediment to the movement of the fish. On Delayed Harvest water such as Jacob's Fork that means that the fish can't distribute themselves along the full length of the stream. In wild waters, removing the manmade barriers allows the entire stream to be connected.

YOU HAVE MAIL!

By now you have noticed that the chapter is sending out a newsletter again. As Jim mentioned in his message, the chapter is going to make extra efforts to communicate with you, the membership. To do so, we're going back to the basics, a monthly newsletter. Once we have re-established good communication lines, we'll look at ways to save some money doing it.

What are the costs of a monthly newsletter? Well, last months newsletter was 2 pages long, went to 687 members and cost a total of \$338. This month's newsletter, which will be 4 pages, is estimated to cost \$400. Most of the cost is postage with \$80 to \$120 going to printing, folding and dropping in a box. It is all done through Click2Mail.com, a service of the USPS.

Once we get back in the habit of a monthly newsletter, we'll ask who would like to receive their copy by email. That offers a small logistics problem since it means maintaining our own database and then comparing that to the monthly roster download from TU. Nothing insurmountable, just need to work out a couple of routines.

More later.

NEWS FROM THE NC WILDLIFE COMMISSION

If you have been keeping up to date with the going on with the NC Wildlife Commission, you know that Fred Harris is retiring from the Commission effective September 30, 2008. Fred has been a key person with the NCWRC since the early 1970's and when I first met him in 1984, he was the Chief of the Division of Inland Fisheries. Not only was Fred responsible for creating Delayed Harvest waters in NC, he also led the way in changing what used to be a very confusing method of classifying streams to what is currently in use now. The classification changes also gave more protection to the wild trout waters found in this state.

In 2005 Fred was promoted to the position of the Assistant Executive Director of the NCWRC and after Dick Hamilton's retirement, Fred filled in as Interim Executive Director.

Fred will be missed but I know that those of us that have had a chance to work with Fred over the years hope we'll now have a chance to fish with him.

After a long search, the commissioners have chosen a new Executive Director, Gordon Myers. The following is the press release issued by the Commission.

Other news from the Commission:

RALEIGH, N.C. (Sept. 16, 2008) – On Oct. 1, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will implement annual delayed-harvest regulations for 20 designated trout waters in 14 counties in western North Carolina.

Under delayed-harvest regulations, no trout can be harvested or possessed from these waters between Oct. 1, 2008 and one half-hour after sunset on June 5, 2009. No natural bait is allowed, and anglers can fish only with single-hook, artificial lures.

Effective July 1, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission defined artificial lure as a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated with any substance that attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.

In October and November, and March, April and May of 2009, the Commission will stock delayed-harvest waters with 237,000 catchable-sized trout.

“Due to the extreme drought of the last two years and the subsequent fish kill at the Armstrong State Fish Hatchery last year, the normal species distribution of 40 percent brook trout, 20 percent brown trout and 40 percent rainbow trout will be altered slightly to enable us to provide the numbers and sizes of fish that our anglers have become accustomed to catching in delayed-harvest waters,” said Kyle Briggs, fish production supervisor for the Commission.

“With the addition of the two new delayed-harvest waters in Mitchell and Wilkes counties, we now have even more places for the angling public to enjoy catch-and-release fishing,” Briggs added. “We continue to encourage anglers to respect the landowners and the land where they fish.”

TELLICO OHV LAWSUIT

Some of you may be familiar with the Upper Tellico OHV Area in the Tusquitee Ranger District of the Nantahala National Forest. It is a well known and highly popular area that is used by those that enjoy Off Highway Vehicles. For several years TU has met with the Forest Service and the OHV enthusiasts to discuss the sediment problems that occur in the watershed because of the OHV use. Finally, in 2007, after not seeing any progress being made, TU and 3 other organizations notified the Forest Service of their intent to suit. The FS took action by implementing a winter closure of the area, permanently closing certain trails and beginning a study to determine what other measures need to be employed.

Those actions by the FS prompted a lawsuit from the OHV communities in May of this year. In response, TU and its partners have filed a motion to intervene which is a request to be included as a defendant to the suit.

The Forest Service will issue its proposed plan for managing the area in October for comments with the final plan issued in December.

NEW MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

Several years ago, in an effort to serve the membership located on the north side of town, the chapter implemented a second meeting every month. While that was a good thing at the time, it also means that there is twice as much “overhead” required each month. Instead of 10 programs a year, someone had to come up with 20. Although the mileage varied for each of us, the officers found themselves spending a lot of time behind the wheel and on the road. Certainly not a good thing in the past month. The officers and board have decided to return to one meeting a month but to move the meeting place around so that all members can be served. This month’s meeting will be at the Pineville location while November’s meeting will be at the Cookhouse in Cornelius and the December meeting is planned for Concord. Then the cycle will repeat itself. Bear with us as we try this new routine and once we’ve had a chance to go through a few cycles we’ll take a look at how it should continue from there.

October Meeting

Program:

Saltgrass Steakhouse
Pineville, NC
Wednesday October 15th
Social Time: 6:30 pm
Meeting: 7:00 pm