



Trout Tales

Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited

February 2009



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow RRTU Members,

First, let me say Thank You to all the members of RRTU that helped with the chapter's booth at the Fly Fishing and Wing Shooting Show. For those that did not make the show, our Chapter displayed pictures of our projects, programs and outings. On display were several pictures of our Trout In the Classroom program, College Scholarship program and South Mountain State Park Nature Days program. There were also pictures of some of the projects, like the bank hardening at South Mountain State Park and the Wilson Creek Clean Up project. We also displayed a couple pictures from last spring's Appletree outing. The RRTU booth was combined with NCTU's booth where a scaled down version of a Trout in the Classroom aquarium was on display. The aquarium contained trout fry from both our Davidson Day School TIC project and from the TIC project at Ledford High School near Thomasville. Several Ledford students accompanied their trout on the trip to the "Big City". The trout caught everyone's eye and was a great way to introduce people to the project and our involvement.

We were also able to add some funds to the treasury during the show. We sold raffle tickets for three different raffles. One was a \$500 Bass Pro gift card; the second raffle was for a March Brown 7 piece 9' 4 wt. travel rod with a Lamson Konic 2 reel and Rio line and the third was a week's use of a cabin in Last Chance, Idaho (August 15- 22) for 4 guest. The Bass Pro gift card winner was drawn at the show. Mr. **Joe Isenhour** of Catawba, NC was the winner and the card is on the way to him. Thanks to all those that purchased tickets for this raffle and your support of Rivercourse. The two remaining raffles are still active and tickets will be available at the meetings and at the Barnqurt on March 21 at Oehler's Mallard Creek BBQ.

Bill Thomas has arranged for Mr. Dick Pickard to speak to us at the February 18th meeting. This meeting will be held at REI at the North Lake Mall. The meeting will

start at 6:30 (Plan to eat either before or after the meeting since this is not a restaurant). Our meeting should last about an hour and a half. The subject is *Drag Free Nymphing* and should be of interest to everyone.

With the Fly Fishing show behind us we will now begin to concentrate on the Barnquet. This is our major fund raiser for the year and tickets will be available at the meeting at REI. Cost will be \$30 per person, \$50 for couples and \$22 for children over 6 years old. Children under 6 are free. We have about 10 exhibitors as of now for the Expo in the afternoon and there may be a couple more to add to the list by Barnquet time. Fishing and non fishing items are needed for raffle and door prizes. If you have access to items that can be donated, please contact Bill Thomas or me. Thanks again to all those that helped with the Fly Fishing Show booth.

Jim Mabrey

RABUN RENDEZVOUS

Jan. 24th **Jim Mabry** and myself went to the 22nd Annual Rabun Rendezvous at the Dillard House in Dillard, Ga. What fun! The fundraiser for Rabun TU started at 5:00 pm with a pig pick'n, veggies and fruit. They had bucket raffles and both silent and verbal auctions. The more interesting things were hand made Blue Bird boxes, Orvis rod and reel set up, personal map of the Chattooga River and a chance for a week's trip to Wyoming. Dinner for 300 started at 6:30 with everyone eating by 7:15 and the speaker by 7:45. This is very well organized and you can see the 22 yrs of experience.

On the way down we stopped at Mills River, Pisgah Hatchery on the Davidson and the Walhalla Hatchery close to the Chattooga river. We also stopped at a couple of bridges on the Chattooga River, a Wild and Scenic River. Awesome!

During the Flyfishing show a member of Rabun, whom we sat with last year, stopped by to say hello. He liked our booth and what we were doing.

As this was our second year going we again had a good time and hope to go again next year.

Bill Thomas

THE 2009 ROCKY RIVER TU BARNQUET AND EXPO

The 2009 Rocky River Trout Unlimited Barnquet and Expo are about 5 weeks away. What's a Barnquet? Well it is part banquet with a big dose of getting out and spending a little time with other members and their families. Our banquets have served us well over the years, but even nationally the day of the big TU banquet may be behind us. So we thought we would try something new and since it is being held at Oehler's Mallard Creek BBQ Barn it was decided to call it a Barnquet. Plus we thought we'd add another element to it and resurrect the Trout Expo that we successfully held each year in the days before the Fly Fishing Show came to town. We have over ten vendors / exhibitors that have agreed to be there for the Expo. There is a pond and reportedly fish in the pond. Need I say more? (Oh, and there will be no wing shooters exhibiting.)

That night we'll eat and then raise a little money with an auction and raffles. We have a minimum 4 guided trips to be either in the auction or raffled off and are beginning to accumulate items, both fishing and non fishing to have at the fundraiser.

Want a ticket? Tickets will go on sale at the February meeting. Ticket cost will be \$30 per person, \$50 for a couple or significant other and \$22 for attendees 21 to 6 years old. Under 6 will be Free.

The Expo portion will get started around 2:00 and will last until about 6:00. The BBQ dinner will start at 5:30 with the fund raising portion to follow the meal. There will be bucket raffles, auctions and games of chance during the evening.

This is our major fund raiser of the year. Please make every effort to attend and support you chapter.

Finally I got it, the new logo. Actually it turned out I had it all along, it was hidden in my email. Hope you like it and if you sign up to receive the newsletter by email, you can even see it in color.

Speaking of email, we have 31 members signed up to receive the monthly newsletter by email. That is a great start but it also means that there is still a potential more will sign up. Instructions are one on the back of the newsletter and if you have difficulties email me. twilhelm@carolina.rr.com

Lastly, while putting together the newsletter, I noticed that our membership apparently draws from 8 states. Not only was there NC and SC but we have members in UT, ID, CA, VA, TX and GA. I think that is great, but I also suspect that there has been a minor mistake or a typo made and some of you folks would prefer being assigned to a chapter closer to home. That is probably true also for a number of members within NC and SC that are more than a comfortable drive from one of our meetings. If anyone would like help in being reassigned to something closer to home, please feel free to email me at twilhelm@carolina.rr.com

NCTU LICENSE PLATE

I want to extend my personal thanks and gratitude to those of you that bought an NCTU plate. We hit our goal of 300 and more are trickling in day by day. The money and our design have been sent to the DMV and we're told that they will print and get them out some time around the end of the 1st quarter. Sure is going to be nice to finally see one on the car in front of me.



FRIENDS OF ROCKY RIVER ANNUAL FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

Starting in 2009, the chapter is launching a new program call Friends of Rocky River. Under this format, we are challenging our members, friends, and business associates to pledge an annual contribution of \$100, \$250, \$500, or \$1,000. Our 2009 budget is \$11,000 and our current membership is over 700. While we will continue to have chapter socials each year, whereby we will offer a limited number of raffles and auctions, we are hoping we can raise the majority of the annual funds through this program.

We ask that the pledge cards and checks be received by March 15, 2009. Your donations are 100% tax deductible and go directly into our operations account. We appreciate your continued support and patronage over the years.

If you have questions about the program, please call Steve Craig at 704-875-0932 or Terry Hill at 704-847-4438.

Friends of Rocky River Program Pledge Card

Name: _____

Date: _____

Amount: _____

Checks should be made out to Trout Unlimited. Mail your donation to Dave Wilson, 516 Shoreline Drive, Matthews, NC 28104.

If you noticed, the TU logo is the new 50th anniversary logo. This year TU is celebrating its 50th and several of us are already planning to attend the national meetings August 17th through 23rd in Traverse City, Michigan. We'll talk about it more as the year progresses but mark it on your calendar now so you don't forget.

Visit www.TU50.ORG for more information

All right, we're ready if you are.

You can help us save a little money by receiving the chapter newsletter by email instead of delivery by the US Postal Service. Here's what you need to do to get switched over:

Using the account you wish to receive the newsletter on, send an email addressed to

sympa@list.nctu.org

The subject line to this email should read

subscribe rrtu-news *yourname*

The moderators will be notified of your request and they will have to approve your subscription. One approved you will be notified with further instructions. Doing it this way allows us to keep track of who is subscribing so you can be removed from the mailing list.

January Meeting

Program: Drag Free Nymphing

Presented by Dick Pickard

REI

9755 Northlake Centre Parkway

Charlotte, NC 28216

Wednesday February 18

Time: 6:30 pm