



Trout Tales

Rocky River Chapter Trout Unlimited

May 2009



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all RRTU members.

The year is moving on really quickly. We have just wrapped up our Spring Appletree outing with a whopping 34 attendees. We had a great group at the campground again this time. We were honored with 5 pairs of Fathers and Sons and one Grandfather and Grandson and we had three ladies join us this trip. We were also glad that we had a group of four from the Land O' Sky TU Chapter (Asheville, NC) join us for the trip. As usual the food was over the top and in great supply and this trip the weather was great, cool night and warm days. Sunday morning we were treated to a small rain event that insured that everyone would be pitching their tent again when they get home to dry them out. The fishing was a little more challenging than some of the previous trips but there were fish caught. We had several new fly fishermen show up and they were all able to catch a couple fish to hopefully hook them on fly fishing. As always, the nights were enjoyed by all the group either around the fire or in conversation with old friends or new acquaintances.

We have an release location and date for the Trout In the Classroom program. We have a permit from the NCWRC to release in the Jacob's Fork River in South Mountain State Park. Our Teacher, **Mrs. Vicki Carbone**, has selected the date of Tuesday May 19 as the release date. In the event of foul weather the rain date is Wednesday May 21. Mrs Carbone has selected the Sixth Grade class to be the ones to release the fry this year. They have been the most involved in the TIC program at Davidson Day School and would probably benefit the most from seeing the release. We are expecting 16 students and possibly a couple of Parents to be there. Mrs. Carbone has asked that we try to have a couple members meet them at SMSP to talk to the students and to let them try casting a fly rod. If you

would be interested in helping with the release, teaching a casting lesson or even trying to catch a more mature trout for the students to see, call me at 704-786-0342 and sign up. To those that can and will go, I'll be in touch with more details as I get them.

The North Carolina Trout Unlimited tags are here. I have received a few of mine but not the personalized one yet. They look great and are a great conversation starter. RRTU members placed the largest order for the tags in the State with 77 being purchased. Thank you for showing your support for TU and making this project a reality. If you have not ordered a tag, they are still available through NCTU (not through the State yet).

For those that have not yet made it to the streams in the mountains, there is plenty of water there now. The water level was really up on the Nantahalla and the Hiwassee Rivers while we were on the camping trip. I have heard from some other that have fished smaller streams in the Northern mountain area and they report that there is plenty of water there also. The fishing on small streams seemed to be diminished from previous years. Not sure if it is because the fish have more water to hide out in or if there were losses from the past couple years of low water conditions. May need to take a fact finding trip soon.

Our May meeting will be at REI at Northlake Mall and the meeting will start at 6:30 with the program to start at 7:00. The program will be presented by David Merryman with the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation. The topic will be the Catawba Riverkeeper Program. Everyone should attend this meeting and find out about the work that the Riverkeepers do, chances are, you drink the water they try to protect. Check our their website at www.catawbariverkeeper.org.

I look forward to seeing you soon,
Jim Mabrey

APPLETREE WRAP UP

The Appletree event was a very successful trip. The weather was probably the best we have had. Hot during day and chilly at night. NO rain till Sunday morning. I am thinking the first timers are spoiled. The firewood came from our local provider and some lunches were had at a local joint on the lake close to the campground. Good Stuff!

Jim Mabrey again did a remarkable job as strawboss and head cook. We missed **Kurt Mazeraut** for our Thursday night dinner so I volunteered chili with the trick being to serve it late. Friday morning, **Bill Ritter** cooked bacon and **Andrew Cole's guest** prepared the french toast, which was on time. **Ted Kluttz** again did a great job tending the pig. I am thinking no rain and a sunny day seemed to help. The fire stayed lit. We all got our fill and the night fire was awesome. **Caleb** (Jim's grandson) and **Ken Hanshaw's** son kept the fire going and our future looks bright at the fire pit.

Saturday's breakfast was cooked by **Erin Purvis** with help from one of our Land O'Sky Chapter guests, our standard of pancakes and sausage with a raffle that raised \$300.00 for TIC. We got a fly tying donation from deceased father of a marine in Iraq. I sent him pictures.

Saturday's dinner was deep fried turkey. **Wayne Miller** and his 3 friends broke out a mountain of shrimp and along with Salmon Locs, the lying was in full swing. From the stories I heard, you all should be ashamed of yourselves, especially the 4 guests from Land O'Sky. The bar has been raised for fishing stories I hope they will be able to join us again next time. **Dave Wilson** also set a personal best with 6 cobbles lasting a total of 5 min. GREAT!

Sunday breakfast was Eggs in a Bag. This is the perfect meal for the last morning. Easy cleanup.

This was one of our best years for water and diversity. We fished the main Nanahala, the DH portion, local small wild streams, Snowbird and a good size group hit the Hiwawasse.

Thanks to all with clean up, dishes, early coffee, and breaking camp.. What a great trip. A special thanks to Pres Jim. Your organization and tireless energy are amazing. See you all in the fall. The Weather will be different HAHAA

Bill Thomas

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This year for the first time, it is kids only, on the morning Delayed Harvest switches to Hatchery Supported. **Bob Curry**, NCWRC Division of Fisheries chief and I talked about the TU helping the transition by having a presence on some of the DH waters. I thought it was a great idea and made a commitment to Bob that I would do something.

I'm still trying to figure out what that "something" is ultimately going to be, but here are some of my thought. First, that particular morning is smack dab in the middle of National Fishing and Boating Week and the Forest Service and NCWRC have partnered to hold several Kids' Fishing Days. The NCWRC has received donations of 4 lifetime licenses that will be raffled off and given to 4 lucky kids participate in one of those events. I am proud to say that NCTU has donated one of those licenses to the NCWRC. (I used one of the tactics I've learned from **Alen Baker** at the last NCTU meetings and was able to raise the funds in short order.)

I have been in contact with **Jake Rash**, the fisheries biologist in District 8 for the NCWRC and he has offered to help us. I am not quite certain what we'll do, but in its most simple form, we'll be there to answer questions and sign the kids up for a chance at one of those free licenses.

If you have an interest, I'd like to hear from you. Probably the best why to contact me is by email, twilhelm@carolina.rr.com but you can call me too at 704 442-1253.

Thanks
Tim Wilhelm

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Jim Mabrey got the following note from the Blue Ridge Chapter about this year's work day:

Hey Jim,

The Blue Ridge Chapter is Coordinating a Stream Clean on the Mitchell River's Delayed Harvest Section per request from the land owners there on the stream. They are telling us that the week after the season opens that the area gets trashed pretty bad. So we were trying to get a few of the local chapters together to meet at the Mitchell River Delayed Harvest Area at the Parking area on the right, just past the Juddsville School Rd bridge on June 20th between 9-9:30 AM to clean the place up. If you would consider passing this along to your members there with The Rocky River Chapter would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please let me know. Trash bags and disposal will be provided. Our chapter will have many cases of bottled water on site as well.

Thanks,
Steve Hennings
Blue Ridge Chapter

LOOKING FOR FRIENDS

I got to admit, I didn't buy much during this year's silent auction Barnquet but I did come away with what I thought was a really good deal, a day of fishing **Jim Mabrey's** pond with 5 of my closest friends. Well at the time I thought it was a good deal until the charming Mrs. Wilhelm reminded me that I don't have 5 friends. (She is honest to a fault.)

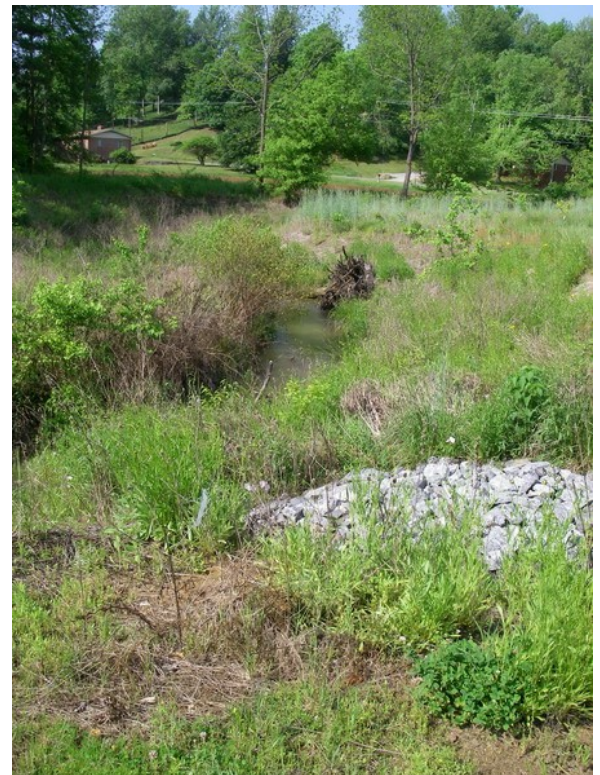
Well I'm no Paris Hilton, but like Paris, I'm going to give you an opportunity to be my BFF (Best Fishing Friend). I'll have raffle tickets for sale at the next 2 meetings and at the end of the June Meeting we'll find out who those lucky folks are.

GOOSE CREEK REDUX

This past Saturday, **Chuck Menninger** and I rode up to Goose Creek (Marion, NC) to meet with **Andy Brown** of Equinox Environmental. Some of you may remember that several members of the chapter participated at a work day in December 2007 on Goose Creek. Goose Creek runs into Muddy Creek which then flows into the Catawba River about a mile below the Bridgewater Dam. The Muddy Creek subwatershed is responsible for a significant amount of the sediment and silt that runs into the Catawba. Muddy Creek is a warm water stream and there are no trout in it but some

of the headwaters that flow into Muddy Creek support trout and that portion of the Catawba is a tailrace managed under special regulations for trout. One last piece of work needs to be done on Goose Creek and that is to build a foot bridge over the creek. **Squeak Smith** asked if I knew an engineer that could design it and that is why Chuck had the meeting with Andy on Saturday.

Redux is defined as to bring back and I think it is the appropriate word to use when talking of Goose Creek. Goose Creek, like so many of our streams, was high banked and straight channeled stream that was highly erodible during storm events. Now it is a gentle meander with sloped, vegetated banks. It was on that cold wet day in 2007 that we planted that vegetation. Hopefully these photos will be clear enough for you to see how Goose Creek is being brought back.



Each month after the newsletter has been out for a couple days, I receive notice that 10 to 15 new members have signed up to receive the chapter newsletter by email. This month we are up to 82 “subscribers” which means our monthly printing expenses have been cut by 10%. Lets see what we can cut it this month. Please consider “subscribing” to receive the chapter's newsletter by email.

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*

May Meeting
Program: David Merryman – Catawba Riverkeeper Program

REI
9755 Northlake Centre Parkway
Charlotte, NC 28216
Wednesday May 20th
Social Time: 6:30 pm
Meeting Starts: 7:00 pm