

# Tuck Tales



<http://www.smokyonthefly.com/tucktu/>



June 2004

Tuckasee Chapter #373 of Trout Unlimited

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## No Meetings Until September

The Tuckasee Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its next regular monthly membership meeting on Tuesday, September 7, at 6:30 PM at the United Carolina Community Bank located on highway 107 south in Sylva. The meeting room is at the rear of the building.

Our program will be determined later in the summer. Your *Tuck Tales* newsletter will continue to be published over the summer months.

Members and other concerned persons are cordially invited to attend our next meeting. The Tuckasee Chapter is made up of members from Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties.

*Tuck Tales* is published twelve times per year by Tuckasee Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a nonprofit organization, for its members and supporters. Edited by Craig Forrest.

Please address comments to  
*Tuck Tales*,  
P. O. Box 3196, Cullowhee,  
NC 28723

E-mail:  
sleepyhollo1@earthlink.net  
The Tuckasee Chapter has a  
web presence at:  
<http://www.smokyonthefly.com/tucktu/>

## NCWRC News

Reminder - The Delayed Harvest section of the Tuckasee River will revert to Hatchery Supported Waters on June 5. This section will remain Hatchery Supported Water until October 1 when it will again fall under Delayed Harvest regulations. Stocking of this section of the Tuck is now over for the season but will resume in the fall.

Hatchery Supported Waters allow a daily creel limit of 7 fish with no minimum size limit and no lure restrictions. Most Hatchery Supported streams will not support trout year-round; however, some do contain small wild trout populations. Stocked fish average 9-10 inches in length with a small percentage being 12 inches or larger. Approximately 600,000 catchable trout are stocked each year in NC trout streams of which 40% are brook, 40% are rainbow and 20% are brown trout.



The Delayed Harvest section of the Tuck is stocked with 3,920 brook, 3,920 rainbow and 1,960 brown trout in each of the following months; March, April, May, October and November. **That's a total of 49,000 trout!** The Tuck receives more stocked trout than any other stream in North Carolina.

This stretch of the Tuck was recently featured on **TUTV** and has become one of the most famous streams in the southeastern United States in recent years due to its excellent fishing and positive publicity.



# GSMNP News

## WIN-WIN FOR PARK LAND EXCHANGE WITH ALCOA

New Smokies Superintendent Ditmanson joined Senator Alexander and Representative Duncan, officials from Alcoa, and Judge Craig Manson, Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Interior Department, on Monday, May 10, to execute a new agreement that will result in adding 186 acres to the west end of the park. The agreement is an outgrowth of a 5-year negotiation process that was precipitated by Alcoa's need to seek FERC re-licensing of Chilhowee Dam and three other hydropower dams owned by them.

Under the agreement, coupled with legislation being sponsored by Senator Alexander and Representative Duncan, Alcoa will benefit by being able to continue producing aluminum using cheap, clean hydropower for 40-50 years under the new license. Alcoa generates nearly \$400 million annually to East Tennessee. The Smokies will give up 100 acres of park land which has been under Chilhowee Lake for 50 years, but the Park will immediately gain 186 acres of land from Alcoa which will provide a much more recognizable and enforceable boundary and enhance our capability to control exotic species and manage wildland fires. In addition, Alcoa agreed to permanent conservation measures to preserve over 6,000 acres, which will connect the Park with the Cherokee National Forest and maintain an undeveloped corridor for wildlife movement across over a million acres of public land. Approximately 4,000 additional acres will be managed as temporary conservation easements through the 40 to 50 year life of the FERC license.

The agreement was developed and supported by a broad constituency of state and federal agencies and NGO's representing conservation and recreational interests.

## NPCA SAYS PARK'S RESOURCES ARE IN "ENDANGERED/POOR/FAIR" CONDITION

The National Parks Conservation Association has a program called "State of the Parks." The objectives of this program are to assess the health of our national parks by objectively examining the resource conditions and threats in selected park units. The program's objectives are to: 1) identify wildlife, plant, and historic features in jeopardy across the National Park System; 2) create and enhance public and political understanding of park threats; 3) track changes in flora, fauna, and historic objects over time; and 4) solicit active support to secure appropriate measures that will remedy areas of degradation identified in the studies.

### Ratings:

Current overall conditions of known natural resources rated 62 out of 100, indicating they are "endangered." Ratings were assigned through an evaluation of park research and monitoring data (which are explained more completely in the report's appendix). Challenges include air pollution and associated acid deposition, non-native pests and diseases, historic fire suppression, and urban encroachment.

Cultural resources at the park rated 52 out of 100, indicating they are generally in "poor" condition. Insufficient staff and funding, the park's lack of an ethnography program, and inadequate funding for long-term museum and archive storage facilities contribute to this score.

The current overall stewardship capacity-the Park Service's ability to protect park resources-rated a "fair" score of 64 out of 100. This score reflects the park's large budget shortfall, outdated General Management and Resource Management plans, and the absence of several key cultural resources plans.

### Key Challenges:

- Air pollution, primarily from regional coal-fired power plants, industry, and motor vehicles, has greatly reduced visibility from an average of 113 miles (under natural conditions) to an annual average of 25 miles. In addition, ground-level ozone and acid deposition threaten the health of park visitors, staff, vegetation, soils, and streams.
- An \$11.5 million annual budget shortfall and the need for an additional 108 full-time staff positions hinder the park's ability to protect resources. The largest staff shortfalls are in the Resource and Visitor Protection, Resource Management and Science, and Maintenance and Operation of Facilities programs. Many historic structures are at risk because of limited funds for critical repairs and monitoring programs.
- Non-native pests and diseases are killing Fraser firs, hemlocks, dogwoods, butternuts, and beech trees in the park's forests. Fraser firs and hemlocks may disappear if infestations continue.
- Historic fire suppression threatens the park's ecosystems. Some plant communities require regular fires to persist, and without them, diversity is lost. The park needs additional funds and staff to fully implement the existing fire management program and conduct the burns necessary for preserving park ecosystems.
- Each year more than two million visitors tour popular Cades Cove, creating traffic congestion and causing damage to both natural and cultural resources.
- A proposal to build a road across the southwestern portion of the park, the largest unfragmented tract of mountain terrain in the eastern United States, could be potentially devastating to terrestrial wildlife, especially bears.

## Hatch of the Year?

Quite possibly the most important hatch of the year in our area is occurring as I write this. Of course I'm talking about the Green Drake. The peak of the hatch for this fly normally comes some time around the Memorial Day weekend.

The only bad thing about it is that the Drakes wait so darn late into the evening to come off that you have very little time to take advantage of the opportunity. When they do come off, if you're on the right stream, at the right time and ready, you'll have a good chance of having the most fun of the season.

A good pattern for the Green Drake hatch in our area is the

### Coffin Fly

**Hook:** 2x-long dry fly sizes 6-10 (That's right 6-10! These are BIG flies.)

**Thread:** White

**Body:** White dubbing on the rear 2/3 of the hook and black dubbing on the front 1/3 of the hook.

**Tail:** 3 long moose mane strands, one down the middle and 2 split on either side.

**Hackle:** Oversized grizzly hackle wound over the black dubbing, clipped top and bottom.

Tie yourself a few of these and head for a stream where Drakes are known to come off. Where's that you ask? Well I can't tell you everything now can I?

## June Hatches

Hatches this month are numerous and include:

Midge (Chironomidae)	all month
Blue Wing Olive (B. vagans)	all month
Eastern Gray Drake (S. quebecensis)	all month
Light Cahill (S. candense)	all month
Little Yellow Stonefly (A. chloroperia)	all month
Eastern Green Drake (E. guttulata)	1st week
Isonychia (I. bicolor)	all month
Brown Drake (E. simulans)	all month
Hexagenia (H. limbata)	all month
Yellow Drake (E. varia)	all month

### Duke Power Flow Schedules

Duke Power, a division of Duke Energy Corporation, Nantahala Area (DPNA) makes power generation schedules available for the public at its web site here:

<http://www.nantahalapower.com/nantahala/lakes/schedules/>

The flow schedule for the Tuckasegee River is available here:

<http://www.nantahalapower.com/nantahala/lakes/flow/>

The posted schedules have been quite accurate throughout most of the spring fishing season. Fluctuations have been noted by your editor who lives on the Tuck just below Cullowhee dam; but these appear to have possibly been weather related.

Duke's biggest problem is that they can't spell Tuckasegee.



1640 East Main Street  
Sylva, NC 28779  
(828) 631-9166

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Special thanks to Chapter Member Steve Gray for having his company print and fold our newsletter!

**David S. McGuire  
DDS**

Preventive Dentistry  
Restorative Dentistry

45 King Street  
Sylva, NC 28779

(828) 631-3283  
(888) 585-2400

Craig Forrest  
 Editor, *Tuck Tales*  
 P. O. Box 3196  
 Cullowhee, NC 28723



### Chapter Contact Information

Mike Lackey - President	631-3619
e-mail: tm_lackey@msn.com	
Tim Martin - Vice President	293-7080
e-mail: timmartin@southwest.cc.nc.us	
Ernie Sipler - Sec./Treas.	293-7039
e-mail: esipler@earthlink.net	
Larry Tucker - Program Chair	586-6448
e-mail: lwtucker@mchsi.com	
Milt Wofford - Director	631-2613
e-mail: Milt.Wofford@FayPWC.com	
Larry Tucker - Director	586-6448
e-mail: lwtucker@mchsi.com	
Tom Massie - Director	586-4133
e-mail: Tom.Massie@ncmail.net	
Willie Cope - Webmaster	586-4787
e-mail: Smonthefly@aol.com	
Craig Forrest - Newsletter Editor	293-9425
e-mail: sleepyhollo1@earthlink.net	

### Other Contact Information

Squeak Smith - TU SE Reg. VP	(828) 584-2848
Tim Wilhelm - NC TU Council Chair	(704) 442-1253
- TU Nat'l Resource BD. ( ) -	
Scott Loftis - Fisheries Biologist WRC	(828) 452-0422
NC Wildlife Violations	1-800-662-7137
TVA Information	1-800-238-2264
Tuckaseegee River Water Schedule	(828) 369-4559
Nantahala River Water Schedule	(828) 369-4556
Tennessee Wildlife Commission	(615) 781-6500
TU National Office	1-703-522-0200
Kim Ryals - TU SE Coordinator	(828) 275-3346



**NEWSLETTER OF THE TUCKASEEGEE CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED**  
 Serving Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties