

# Tuck Tales



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



July 2004

Tuckasee Chapter #373 of Trout Unlimited

Vol. 6 No.7

## 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.

## Jackson Co. Commissioners Oppose 'Trophy Trout' Proposal

Some readers of this newsletter will recall that Mr. John McGrew addressed the Tuckasee Chapter over a year and a half ago at one of its regular membership meetings regarding his plans to privatize a 2 mile stretch of the Tuckasee from the Dicks Gap Bridge to the shoals opposite the Masonic Lodge to accommodate his Tuckasee Trout business. At the meeting he offered memberships in what he called 'The Tuckasee River Trout Fishing & River Maintenance Club.' Membership in the club provided access to this section of the Tuck on a reservation basis and would have required a \$50 annual fee along with 12 hours per year of stream improvement work by each member. Mr. McGrew advised the Chapter that access rights had been acquired through purchase of land and negotiated term leases with riverside property owners of the 2 miles of river and no one other than invited/and or paying guest would be permitted to fish there .

Subsequently, at the January 2003 annual North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission public hearing, then Chapter President Tom Massie, speaking on his own behalf addressed the hearing with his concerns over privatization of public trout water in North Carolina. (*editor's note: If you don't have a copy of the February newsletter which provided some of President Massie's comments you can download it from the archived newsletters on the chapter's web site.*)

The audience in attendance was assured that the Wildlife Commission was well aware of their concerns regarding privatization of the Tuck. NCWRC Assistant Director Richard Hamilton stated:

The North Carolina Attorney General's office has determined that the State of North Carolina owns the river bottom of the area in question between the high water marks due to the fact that the river is navigable.

You may legally wade and fish this section as long as you do not trespass on anyone's property above the high water mark and you follow the state fishing regulations.

You may fish from an anchored boat on this section legally.

He further stipulated that NCWRC Enforcement Officers had been instructed to notify

*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/>



© Dave Whitlock

local law enforcement regarding the Commission's position on the issue and to not make arrests of licensed anglers who are not trespassing. Anyone who harasses a licensed angler will be subject to arrest by Wildlife or local law enforcement officers.

---

A public hearing was convened by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday evening, June 29, 2004 to receive comments both for and against a proposal to change the fishing regulations on a 9 mile stretch of the Tuckasegee River.

The Jackson County Commissioners had previously received a request from Mr. John McGrew to endorse a proposal by him to the NCWRC to have the Tuckasegee River designated 'Trophy Trout Water' from the Cullowhee dam to the confluence of the river's East and West forks at Tuckasegee. Mr. McGrew's proposal further requested that this section be designated fly fishing only with a 2 fish limit, no fish harvested being over 15 inches in length. Mr. McGrew is to meet with the NCWRC Cold Water Fisheries Committee on July 13 to present his proposal.

Prior to convening the hearing, the Board of Commissioners allowed Mr. McGrew to show a video presentation and make a brief oral presentation. A 5-minute recess was called after Mr. McGrew's presentation during which time Jackson County Sheriff Jimmy Ashe arrested Mr. McGrew charging him with misdemeanor larceny.

Petitions had been placed at several area grocery stores/mini markets over the weekend and an eyewitness identified Mr. McGrew as the man who had stolen a petition from Jimmy's Mini Market in Tuckasegee on Sunday morning (June 27). Sheriff Ashe indicated that additional charges may be filed against Mr. McGrew relating to an incident at Middleton's Grocery Store in East La-Porte. Mr. McGrew posted bail in time to return to the Hearing and witness the unanimous decision of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to oppose his proposal. The Commissioners further stated that they would relay to the NCWRC that they "disapprove any changes to the current regulations as they pertain to the Tuckasegee River." A copy of the minutes from the hearing was to be attached to the Commissioners recommendation.

Over 200 people were in attendance at the hearing. When asked by Commissioners' Chairman Stacey Buchanan how many were there in support of Mr. McGrew's proposal, only about 10 people raised their hands. Only 3 people spoke on behalf of the proposed changes.

Of the 25 or so people who addressed the Commissioners to oppose the changes, most cited concerns for their children and grandchildren's opportunity to fish the Tuckasegee with unrestricted lures permitted by General Regulations. Also of concern was access to the river.

This concern was expressed by Ray Crawford who stated: "I believe (McGrew's plan) is a covert attempt to privatize the river. It's greed masquerading as a conservation effort."

Many who spoke expressed their satisfaction with the way that the NC Wildlife Resources Commission was working hard to provide an equal opportunity for all to enjoy the river as a resource.

Commissioner Joe Cowan received a standing ovation from those in attendance when he stated: "You can bet we'll stop this proposal."

## TU National Responds to Request for Assistance/Publicity

On June 9th TU members across the nation on TU National's e-mail list received an Action Alert notice regarding the threat posed by the North Shore Road Proposal to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Our NC Council recently made a request to TU National that a nationwide alert be posted to all TU members regarding the situation here in the Smokies. It got results!

The Tuckasegee Chapter has learned through the grape vine that there have been a considerable number of e-mails generated already expressing opposition to the North Shore Road Proposal from TU members across the country. It seems the Action Alert must have struck a chord with a lot of TU members and the Department of the Interior is getting the message loud and clear.

An e-mail letter can be sent to Interior Department Secretary Gale Norton from the TU National web site by simply filling in your e-mail address, name and postal address. It's a simple process and only takes a few minutes to do. Here is the URL:

[http://capwiz.com/tu/mail/oneclick\\_compose/?alertid=5981136](http://capwiz.com/tu/mail/oneclick_compose/?alertid=5981136)

## GSMNP News

**BROOK TROUT RESTORATION EFFORTS SUCCESSFUL:** Non-native rainbow trout were successfully removed from 3.0 miles of Sams Creek in 2001. In 2002, 150 native southern Appalachian brook trout were released into the first mile of Sams Creek upstream of the barrier. Monitoring in 2002 indicated that a May flood had virtually eliminated reproduction. Follow-up sampling in 2004 collected few brook trout in any site. Based on these data, a decision was made to transplant additional brook trout to Sams Creek in June 2004. Park staff assisted by staff from Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency collected 120 brook trout and released them at two sites June 17, 2004. Follow-up monitoring will occur in 2005 to evaluate the success of this transplant.

In September 2003, antimycin was used to remove non-native rainbow trout from 3.5 miles of Bear Creek. Stream surveys this spring indicated that portion of the project was successful. June 21 -23, 2004 approximately 200 brook trout from upper Forney Creek and Huggins Creek were released into Bear Creek. Park fisheries staff was assisted by biologist from North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission with the completion of this phase of the project. Fisheries staff will evaluate the success of this transplant in 2005.

*(editor's note: Tuckaseegee Chapter made a cash contribution in the amount of \$1,500 to the Park to assist in the Bear Creek phase of the brook trout restoration. Chapter members participated in the angling phase of the project as well.)*

## Public Mountain Trout Water in North Carolina

Of the more than 4,000 miles of streams in North Carolina capable of supporting trout, more than one-half are open to public fishing. Most of these waters are managed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). Some trout waters fall under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Public trout waters managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission are designated as Public Mountain Trout Waters (DPMTW) and are identified by signs posted along the stream banks or lake shore. These waters are located both on and off of state game lands. Game land streams and ponds are on State-owned lands, private lands under formal lease by the state, or U.S. Forest Service lands.

Trout waters off game lands are primarily on state parks or on privately owned land where public fishing is allowed. While there are seldom any changes in designation of game land waters, the nongame land category is subject to change at the discretion of the individual landowners who may decide to post their land against trespass. Anglers should look for the DPMTW signs and should not fish where "No Trespassing" signs are posted without obtaining landowner permission.

## July Hatches

Hatches this month are numerous and include:

Midge (Chironomidae)	all month
Blue Wing Olive (B. vagans)	1st half of month
Eastern Gray Drake (S. quebecensis)	all month
Light Cahill (S. candense)	1st half of month
Little Yellow Stonefly (A. chloroperia)	all month
Isonychia (I. bicolor)	all month
Brown Drake (E. simulans)	1st half of month
Hexagenia (H. limbata)	1st half of month
Yellow Drake (E. varia)	1st half of month
Slate Wing Olive (E. lata/attenuata)	all month
Trico ( T. stygiatus)	all month



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

**David S. McGuire  
DDS**

Preventive Dentistry  
Restorative Dentistry

45 King Street  
Sylva, NC 28779

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



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

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