

Tuck Tales



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



August 2004

Tuckasee Chapter #373 of Trout Unlimited

Vol. 6 No.8

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.

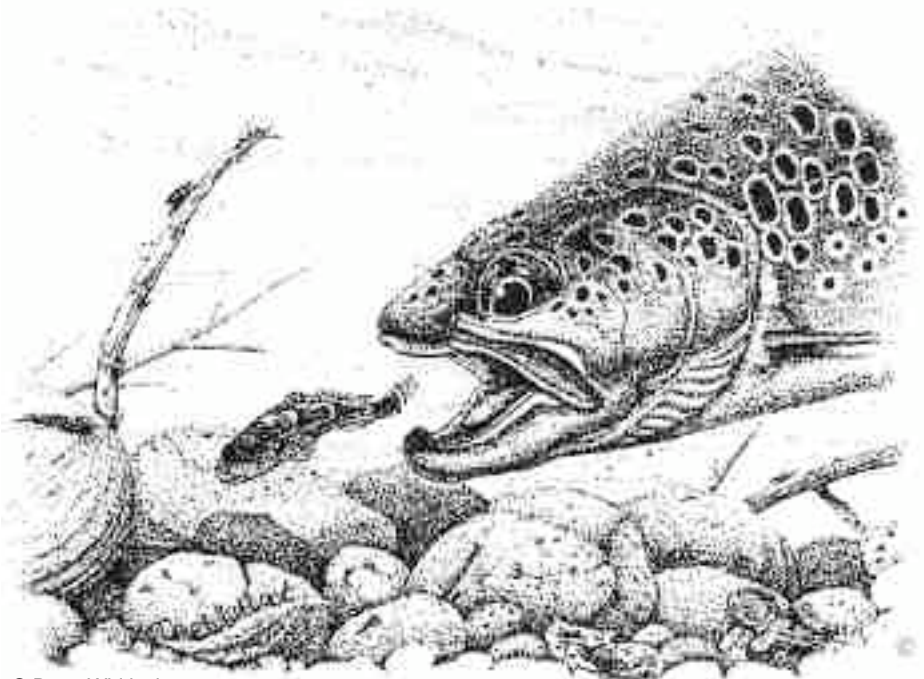
Our program will be announced in the September issue of *Tuck Tales*.

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.

GSMNP News

Local Fishing Chapter Supports Brook Trout Program

Great Smoky Mountains National Park Superintendent Dale Ditmanson was recently presented with a \$7,620 gift from the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited (LRTU of Maryville) as part of their continuing efforts to support the Park's fisheries program. The donation was raised during LRTU's first TroutFEST event held in June in Townsend, specifically to support the restoration of native brook trout in the Park.



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Since 1987, the Park has had an active brook trout restoration program to restore native brookies to as much of its original territory as possible. In the early 1900's,

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populations of brook trout, the only trout species native to the Smokies, lost up to 75 percent of their historic range – first due to logging impacts and later because of competition from non-native rainbow and brown trout. Working with its cooperators and volunteers, the Park has been able to restore over 14 miles of streams as brook trout habitat and has plans to restore an additional 25 miles of stream in future years.

Superintendent Ditmanson said that, “Trout Unlimited has been very instrumental and an important partner in helping us to conduct our extensive fisheries management program. We appreciate their continuing efforts to help us protect the only native trout species in the Southern Appalachians. Over the years, they have generously donated both money and much-needed labor to conduct hands-on research and stream improvement projects in the Park.”

Brook trout restoration is conducted by two different methods, dependent on stream size. In smaller streams biologists and volunteers use electro-shocking gear to capture as many non-native trout as possible from identified stream segments. The captured fish are then carried downstream and released below natural barriers such as waterfalls to prevent their return.

In larger streams, Park managers have begun to effectively use antimycin, a fish toxin, to remove the non-natives from these segments. “Both methods are very labor intensive,” commented Superintendent Ditmanson, “and our limited staff couldn’t adequately perform all the necessary tasks for these projects without the help we receive from our cooperators and volunteers. The Park contains over 730 miles of fish-bearing streams and another 1,300 miles of tributaries spread over its 800 square mile area.”

The money raised at the TroutFEST will be used to restore the next stream slated for antimycin treatment, 1.6-mile section of Indian Flats Prong in September 2005. “We recognize that it took many hours to plan and organize their first TroutFEST, which proved to be a fun and rewarding experience for the participants, and, at the same time, raised awareness for the Park’s brook trout restoration effort.”

“We were very pleased with the turnout at the TroutFEST,” said Little River Trout Unlimited President Joe Hatton, held on the grounds of the Townsend Visitor Center. “The two-day outdoor event with crafts, educational exhibits, food, music, and storytelling was well attended and generated a substantial contribution that we could donate to the Park. We hope to continue this festival each year, making improvements to grow its attendance and hopefully generate more funds for the Park. We have a number of dedicated individuals in the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited who are extremely interested and willing to work with the Park to reach important milestones in reestablishing stable reproducing populations in healthy streams to ensure that this unique species is protected and preserved now and in the future.”

Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting 2004 Hyatt Regency Denver

Agenda

WEDNESDAY (9/15) 7:30am – 4:30pm (meet in the Hyatt Lobby)	All-Day Hosted Fishing Trips Hosted fishing trips with local members. Lunch and transportation provided.	11:00am-12:00pm NLC Workgroups Meetings State Council Chair Meeting (Part I)
THURSDAY (9/16) 7:45am – 4:30pm	Big Thompson Watershed Conservation Tour (meet in the Hyatt Lobby)	12:00pm Volunteer Awards Luncheon
6:00 pm	NLC Representative & Council Chair dinners (off-site)	1:30pm -3:30pm NLC Workgroups Meetings State Chair Council Meeting (Part II)
8:00pm	Reception (Hyatt)	3:30pm-5:30pm Eastern Brook Trout Restoration Coordination Meeting Public Lands Initiative Coordination Meeting
FRIDAY (9/17) 7:30am	Continental Breakfast	6:30pm Barbeque (off-site)
8:30am-10:30am	Annual Members Meeting: State of TU	SATURDAY (9/18) 7:30am Grassroots Breakfast
		9:00am NLC Meeting <i>continued on page -3-</i>

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- 12:00pm **Luncheon**
- 1:00pm- 5:15pm **Workshops** (two scheduled simultaneously)
- 1:00 pm- 2:15 pm *Working With State Resource Agencies (Panel Discussion)*
Membership Acquisition for Council Officers
- 2:30 pm- 3:45pm *Working With State Resource Agencies (Roundtable)*
Press Strategies for Your Council
- 4:00pm- 5:15pm *Working With State Resource Agencies (Training)*
- 6:30pm **TU's "Going Native, Going Wild" Dinner**
- SUNDAY (9/19)**
8:15am **Board of Trustees Meet**

July Hatches

Hatches this month are fewer and include:

Midge (Chironomidae)	all month
Little Yellow Stonefly (A. chloroperia)	all month
Isonychia (I. bicolor)	1st half of month
Slate Wing Olive (E. lata/attenuata)	1st half of month
Trico (T. stygiatus)	all month
Tiny Blue Winged Olive (P. anoka)	all month
White Mayfly (E. Leukon)	all month

NCWRC News

There is an excellent article written by Doug Besler in the July 2004 issue of *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine titled "Tar Heel Treasure." Doug is coldwater research coordinator with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and has been our guest at a Tuckaseigee Chapter meeting.

The article is subtitled: "Cutting-edge DNA tests are differentiating North Carolina's native speckled trout from non-natives."

From the opening of the article:

"Ask an old-timer from the mountains of North Carolina what he fished for as a child, and he'll probably say 'speckled trout.' If you suggest those fish were actually brook trout, he'll likely reply, 'No. Specks are a different fish.' Turns out he's right.

Scientists now recognize speckled trout, North Carolina's only native mountain trout, as the Southern Appalachian strain of brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). Because the current distribution of Southern Appalachian brook trout is much reduced from historic times, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is working on a project to locate and identify all remaining speckled trout in the state."

At a cost of \$12/year for a subscription *Wildlife in NC* magazine has got to be one of the best values out there. Credit card orders for subscriptions may be placed by calling 1-866-WILDSHOP (945-3746). Lifetime subscriptions are also available at a cost of \$150.



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

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NEWSLETTER OF THE TUCKASEEGEE CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED
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