

Tuck Tales



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



January 2003

Tuckaseegee Chapter #373 of Trout Unlimited

Vol. 5 No. 1

NOTICE Meeting Date Change!!!

Next Month's Meeting

Trount Unlimited, Tuckaseegee Chapter, will hold its next regular monthly membership meeting on **Monday**, January 6, 6:30 PM at the United Community Bank on highway 107 south in Sylva. The meeting room is at the rear of the building.

The program for the January meeting will be a presentation by Scott Loftis, Fisheries Biologist with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. In addition, District 9 Commissioner Bob Setzer says that there will be an attorney with the Commission present to discuss the concerns of the Wildlife Commission regarding the privatization recently of a nearly 2 mile stretch of the Tuckaseegee river. This will be the program that was canceled last month due to the ice storm.



Tuck Tales is published twelve times per year by Tuckaseegee Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a non-profit organization, for its members and supporters. Edited by Craig Forrest.
Please address comments to *Tuck Tales*,
P. O. Box 3196, Cullowhee, N. C. 28723.
The Tuckaseegee Chapter has a web presence at:
<http://www.smokyonthefly.com/tucktu/>

NCWRC News

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will conduct its annual public hearings in January at nine locations across the state. At each hearing, Wildlife Commission biologists will explain each of the proposed changes to the states hunting, fishing and trapping regulations. Members of the public will then be allowed to ask questions about the proposals or to state their opinions. Comments will be forwarded to the commission to review before it votes on the changes this spring. Any proposals that are approved would take effect during the 2003-2004 hunting, fishing and trapping seasons.

This years annual public hearings for District 9 will occur on January 14th once again at Southwestern Community College in Sylva. Comments may be submitted online at the NCWRC web site:

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/>

Written comments can be submitted via snail mail here:

NC Wildlife Resources Commission Regulations
Inland Fisheries Division
c/o Diane Renzi
1721 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1721

All comments must be received by February 17, 2003.

Proposed Changes in Fishing Regulations for 2003-2004

The following changes in the statewide fishing regulations are proposed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, and are offered for your comments, opinions and suggestions.

GAME FISH

TROUT

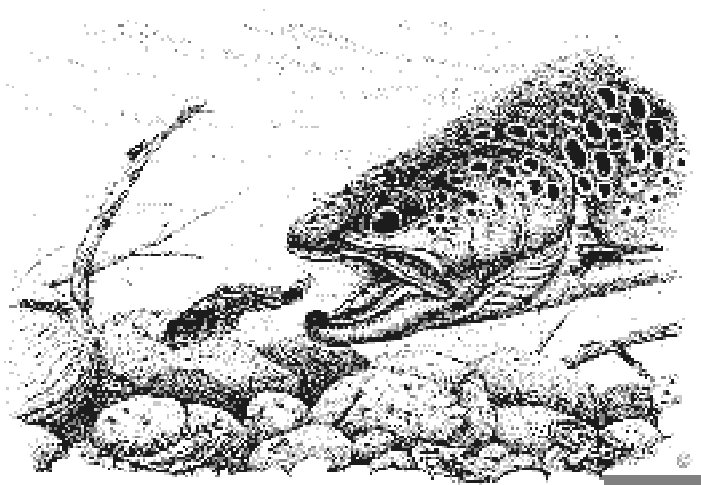
F-1. Swannanoa River (Buncombe County) Extend the lower

boundary of the Hatchery Supported trout water to the Wood Avenue Bridge.

Justification: The scheduled destruction of the previous lower boundary landmark makes it necessary to establish a new lower boundary that also adds 0.5 miles to designated public mountain trout water.

F-2. Richland Creek (Haywood County) Redesignate this water from Delayed Harvest to Hatchery Supported trout water.

Justification: With the addition nearby of new Delayed Harvest waters, this redesignation will better serve Haywood County Parks visitors.



F-3. Tuckaseegee River (Jackson County) Clarify that the lower boundary is the SR 1534 bridge at Wilmot.

Justification: The proposal will properly identify the lower boundary.

F-4. Spillcorn Creek (Madison County) Redesignate this water from Wild/Natural Bait to Hatchery Supported trout water.

Justification: Some adjacent landowners have agreed to remove posted signs with the redesignation, preserving the stream's inclusion in the designated public mountain trout waters program.

F-5. Gorges State Park (Transylvania County) Designate all streams located on Gorges State Park as Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters and further classify them as Wild trout water.

Justification: The streams support naturally reproducing populations of wild trout and will provide additional public mountain trout waters.

F-6. Cattail Creek (Yancey County) Designate this water as Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters and further classify it as Wild trout water.

Justification: The stream supports naturally reproducing wild trout and will provide an additional public mountain trout water.

SPAWNING AREAS

F-7. Cape Fear River (Bladen County) Prohibit fishing within the bypass channel to be constructed for fish passage around Lock and Dam 1.

Justification: The proposal will protect migratory fish including white shad and striped bass while concentrated in the bypass channel on their way upstream to spawn.

PROHIBITED FISHES

F-8. Add the snakehead fish (Family Channidae), swamp (rice) eel and red shiner to the list of fish species prohibited in North Carolina.

Justification: These exotic fish present significant potential threats to North Carolina's native fish and other aquatic life.

FISH HATCHERIES

F-9. Permit fishing on McKinney Lake Reservoir at the McKinney Lake Fish Hatchery.

Justification: Fishing is currently permitted on McKinney Lake and this proposal is necessary to continue that practice when the lake is transferred from federal to state hatchery property.

BLACK BASS

F-10. Re-establish the default 12-inch minimum size limit with a two fish exemption for spotted bass on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir in Wilkes County.



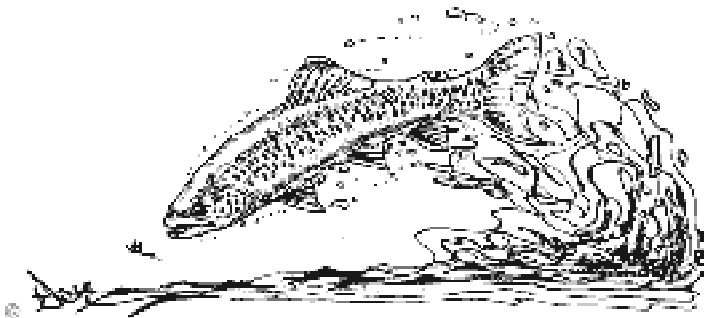
**1640 East Main Street
Sylva, NC 28779
(828) 631-9166**

Justification: The presence of larger spotted bass in the lake now makes the current special regulation for spotted bass unnecessary.

F-11. Establish a minimum size limit of 14 inches with no exception for largemouth bass in all public fishing waters east of I-95, except Tar River Reservoir.

Justification: Eliminating the size limit exemption will help more bass survive to exceed 14 inches in length. The proposal conserves small bass in eastern waters where bass reproductive success is often inconsistent.

F-12. Establish a 14-inch minimum size limit with no exception for largemouth bass in the entire Yadkin-Pee Dee River from Idols Dam to the South Carolina State line.



Justification: The proposal will provide uniform largemouth bass regulations within North Carolina's Yadkin-Pee Dee River below Idols Dam.

F-13. Establish a 16-inch minimum size limit with no exception for largemouth bass in Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash

counties.

Justification: Local county parks and recreation officials have asked for the proposal to protect largemouth bass in this new impoundment.

CRAPPIE

F-14. Establish an 8-inch minimum size limit and a 20-fish per day creel limit for crappie in the entire Yadkin-Pee Dee River from Idols Dam to the South Carolina State line and in Lake Norman.

Justification: The proposal will provide uniform crappie regulations within North Carolina's Yadkin-Pee Dee River below Idols Dam and meet angler requests for more protective crappie regulations on Lake Norman.

F-15. Establish a 20-fish per day creel limit for crappie in Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties.

Justification: Local county parks and recreation officials have asked for the proposal to protect crappie in this new impoundment.

WALLEYE

F-16. Clarify that a 15-inch minimum size limit exists for wall-eye taken from Lake James and its tributaries.

Justification: The existing Lake James walleye rule is not clearly identified as an exemption to the general walleye regulations in the NCAC.

NONGAME FISHES

F-17. Prohibit the possession of grass carp in Lake James and Mountain Island Reservoir.

Justification: The proposal protects grass carp in specific sites where they have been stocked to control aquatic vegetation.

AQUATIC ADVENTURES
Fred Eldridge
 Corporate TU Member

- FLY RODS, REELS & GEAR
- FLY CASTING INSTRUCTION
- FLIES FOR TROUT & BASS

828-524-7532
 Cell - 269-4656
 fkeldred@dnet.net
 1025 Bethel Church Rd.
 Franklin, NC 28734




T.J. Walker
 (828) 586-3898

www.dillsboroinn.com
 tollfree 866-586-3898
 email: info@dillsboroinn.com

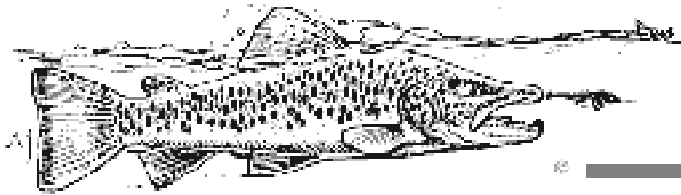
Dillsboro Inn
 146 North River Road
 PO Box 270
 Dillsboro, NC 28725

*Come visit our front yard
 a river runs through it*

F-18. Establish a minimum carapace size limit for blue crab of 5 inches (point to point) and a creel limit of 50 blue crabs per day per person, not to exceed 100 per day per vessel in inland fishing waters.

Justification: The proposal is intended to limit blue crab harvest in inland waters.

F-19. Prohibit the possession of more than 200 freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula flumencia*), from impounded waters.



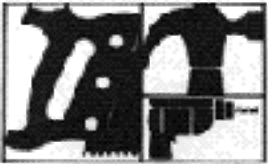
Justification: The proposal will stop the commercial sale of uninspected meat from freshwater clams originating in North Carolina.

F-20. Add the following waters to the Community Fishing waters where the daily creel limit on channel, white and blue catfish is 6 fish:

- * Hagan-Stone Park Ponds (Guilford County)
- * Reedy Creek Park Ponds (Mecklenburg County)
- * Bond Park Lake (Wake County)

Justification: These sites are being added to the Community Fishing Lakes program where the creel limit is used to spread the harvest of stocked catfish among participating anglers.

F-21. Establish a daily possession limit of no more than 25



**ROBERSON SUPPLY
INCORPORATED
HARDWARE - PLUMBING
BUILDING MATERIAL
TOYS**

**472 EAST MAIN STREET
SYLVA, NC 28779
(828) 586-4358**

herring (alewife and blueback in aggregate) greater than 6-inches in length in the inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries extending upstream to the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its tributaries.

Justification: The proposal will allow limited possession of herring for consumption or bait while assisting the recovery of depressed coastal herring populations.

SPECIAL FISHING DEVICES

F-22. Require that all eel pots with mesh sizes smaller than one inch by one-half inch set in inland waters possess an escape panel.

Justification: It is illegal to possess eels smaller than 6 inches in length. Eel pots with small mesh sizes must have an escape panel to prevent capturing these small eels.

F-23. Establish a limited gill net fishery from March 15 to April 15 (Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only) for herring in Town Creek in Brunswick County by allowing one net, less than 50 yards in length, to be fished per person. Each net must be constantly attended and a daily possession limit of 25 herring observed.

Justification: Local fishers have requested a gill net fishery for herring.

PRIMARY NURSERY AREAS

F-24. Specify that primary nursery areas in inland waters are designated based on extensive sampling by the Wildlife Resources Commission or the Division of Marine Fisheries.

Justification: The proposal will clarify how primary nursery areas are identified.

F-25. Add Peter Mashoes and Spencer creeks in Dare County to the list of primary nursery areas in inland waters.

Justification: Juvenile fish concentrations meet the criteria for primary nursery area designation.

GAME LANDS

F-26. North Fork Catawba River (McDowell County) Exclude the portion of the North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek from the Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters program.

Justification: The area is popular with catfish anglers and the proposal will allow night fishing, multiple hooks, and bait fishing. There is no significant trout resource in the site. The change will remove 2 miles of water from designated public mountain trout water.

USFWS News

Needmore Tract Secured at Little Tennessee River

December 4, 2002

Release from:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

After nearly three years of study, discussions with The Nature Conservancy and plenty of lobbying from residents, Crescent Resources has reached an agreement to sell more than 4,600 acres in Macon and Swain Counties, North Carolina, for a little more than \$19 million.

Crescent Resources announced Wednesday December 4, 2002, that it accepted a letter of intent to purchase the land, known as the Needmore property, from the North Carolina Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. TNC is acting on behalf of the state. The land will be transferred to the state and managed as game land by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

TNC and the State have 12 months to come up with the money and close the deal. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service granted \$2 million toward the project back in August from its Recovery Land Acquisition Grants Program. The Wildlife Resources Commission is also seeking about \$13 million in grant money from the state Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

While the Needmore Tract is recognized throughout North Carolina and the nation as an area of exceptional biological significance, locally it is also recognized as the heart of the rural communities of Macon and Swain Counties. Today's announcement will protect both the biological resources as well as the rural communities along the Little Tennessee River.

The Needmore Tract buffers one of the best remaining examples of what Southern Appalachian rivers should look like. In fact, the Little Tennessee River through the Needmore Tract still contains its full complement of original species - the only major river in the Blue Ridge to do so. Other Needmore superlatives include:

- * 27 miles of Little Tennessee River frontage, over half of the river between Franklin and Lake Fontana
- * 37 miles of tributary streams, more of which are being documented to provide habitat for the spotfin chub during late summer/fall
- * Half of all the native freshwater fish species in NC, including the spotfin chub, the "sicklefin" redbreast, and olive darter.
- * The greatest diversity of freshwater mussels in the state, including the Appalachian elktoe and littlewing pearl mussel

* Critical wildlife habitat in the wetlands and forests surrounding the river

* Keystone to the forested corridor connecting the Nantahala and Cowee Mountain ranges, providing pathways for black bears and other migrating wildlife

For additional information, check out the web page for The Land Trust for The Little Tennessee at <http://www.ltl.org/>

Information provided by:

Mark A. Cantrell

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

160 Zillicoa Street

Asheville, NC 28801

828/258-3939, ext 227

mark_a_cantrell@fws.gov

NPS News

Great Smoky Mountains National Parks Air Quality Specialist, Jim Renfro, received national recognition in November when he was presented with the prestigious Stephen T. Mather Award from the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). Renfro was recognized for his extraordinary success in raising public awareness of air quality issues while building an invaluable database on the levels and effects of pollution on resources and visitor enjoyment of Americas most-visited national park.

NPCAs Southeast Regional Director, Don Barger, who presented the award at the National Park Service Ranger Rendezvous said, "Jim embodies the highest standards of stewardship and personal dedication to the national park ideal of anyone I have ever known. By producing high-quality data and interacting relentlessly with parties from every interest, Jim has placed the welfare of our parks into the public debate on air pollution. In addition, he has become a master at translating complex data into understandable information for a variety of audiences. Basically, Jim Renfro has created the path for the leaders to follow."

Named for the first director of the National Park Service, the Stephen T. Mather Award is given annually to people who have demonstrated initiative and resourcefulness in promoting environmental protection in the national parks; who have taken significant action where others have hesitated; and who exemplify the principles and practices of good stewardship of the parks.

DAVID S. McGUIRE

DDS

Preventive and
Restorative Dentistry

45 King Street
Sylva, N.C. 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, Trout Tales
 P. O. Box 3196
 Cullowhee, N. C. 28723

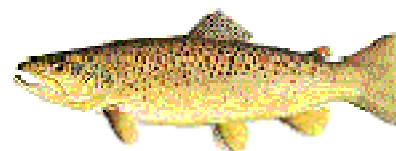


Chapter Contact Information

Willie Cope - President	586-4787
email: Smonthefly@aol.com	
Glenn Causby - Vice President	586-4285
email: fgcausby@msn.com	
Steve Yurkovich - Sec./Treas.	293-5717
email: yurkovic@jackson.main.nc.us	
Hoyt Roberson, Jr. - Program Chair	586-4358
email: flypfly2@aol.com	
Joe Burgess - Director	586-3591
email: flyfisherwjb@cs.com	
Mike Lackey - Director	631-3619
email: MiLackey@aol.com	
David McGuire - Director	631-3283
email: mcgfam@gte.net	
Willie Cope - Webmaster	586-4787
email: Smonthefly@aol.com	
Craig Forrest - Newsletter Editor	293-9425
email: sleepyhollo1@earthlink.net	

Other Contact Information

Kirk Otey - TU SE Regional VP	(704) 332-8232
Sam Ogburn - NC TU Council Chair	(336) 924-6622
Squeak Smith - TU Nat'l. Resource Bd.	(828) 584-2848
Jim Borawa - NCWRC	(828) 299-7023
Scott Loftis - Fisheries Biologist WRC	(828) 452-0422
NC Wildlife Violations	1-800-662-7137
TVA Information	1-800-238-2264
Tuckasegee 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