

Tuck Tales



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



January 2004

Tuckaseigee Chapter #373 of Trout Unlimited

Vol. 6 No.1

January Meeting

The Tuckaseigee Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its regular monthly membership meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 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.

At the time of publication of this month's newsletter the program for the January meeting had not been determined.

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



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

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The Tuckaseigee Chapter has a web presence at:

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

NCWRC News

Commission Schedules Public Hearings 7 PM at SCC, 1/13/04

RALEIGH, N.C. (Dec. 18) – The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will hold its annual public hearings at nine locations across the state beginning Jan. 13. During each hearing, Wildlife Commission biologists will explain the 34 proposed changes to the state's hunting, fishing and trapping regulations.

The public can ask questions about the proposals or provide comments on a variety of wildlife-related topics. Remarks from these hearings will be forwarded to the Commissioners for review before they vote on the changes in March. Approved proposals will take effect during the 2004-2005 hunting, fishing and trapping seasons, which begin on July 1.

"These public hearings are excellent opportunities for citizens to participate in fish and wildlife regulation review and possible amendments," said Richard Hamilton, chief deputy director for the Commission. "Their opinions can help make a difference in managing our state's fish and wildlife resources. All comments made at the public hearings will be considered by the Commissioners when deciding on the proposed regulations."

Among the proposed regulations are changes in the deer seasons, revision of

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TU National News

Statement of Trout Unlimited in Approval of EPA and Army Corps Decision to Abandon Effort to Narrow Clean Water Act

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12/17/2003 -- Washington -- Trout Unlimited, the nation's leading fisheries conservation organization, expressed approval for yesterday's decision by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to abandon an effort to narrow the scope of the Clean Water Act.

In January 2003 the EPA and the Corps announced a proposed rulemaking that would have significantly contracted the class of streams and wetlands that currently benefit from the protection of the Clean Water Act. Among the potential effects of the rule would have been the elimination of the act's jurisdiction over many small streams.

Trout Unlimited, along with other fish and wildlife conservation organizations, strongly opposed the rulemaking, in part because of the critical role that small streams play in the overall health of watersheds.

The administration decided to drop the rulemaking after receiving strong opposition from many groups throughout the conservation community, including more than 100,000 comments against the proposal.

"We are glad that the Bush administration and its agencies have heeded the calls of the fish and wildlife community – many of which came from TU's grassroots members – to drop this ill-conceived rulemaking," said Steve Moyer, TU Vice President of Volunteer Operations and Government Affairs. "It was a grave threat not just to our trout and salmon fisheries, but to clean water throughout the country."

The rule was announced in the wake of a recent Supreme Court decision, commonly known as "Solid Waste Authority of Northern Cook County," or simply "SWANCC," that held that the use of an isolated wetland by migratory birds was not a valid basis for Clean Water Act jurisdiction over that wetland.

"We hope that the Bush administration and its agencies will now take steps to maximize protection of our nation's waters by clearing up the uncertainty created by SWANCC," said Moyer. "The first step that needs to be taken is to fix the regulatory guidance that EPA and the Corps issued last January. That guidance restricts the activities of EPA and the Corps more than needed under SWANCC, and still leaves some small streams and wetlands without the protection of the Clean Water Act."

Trout Unlimited also urged the Bush administration to continue defending the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act in court, and to put its support behind legislation to correct SWANCC and re-establish the scope of the Clean Water Act that Congress intended when it first passed the statute.

Mission: Trout Unlimited is North America's leading coldwater fisheries conservation organization, dedicated to the conservation, protection and restoration of trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. The organization has more than 130,000 members in 450 chapters in North America.

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equestrian rules on game lands and reclassification of several mountain trout waters. Full text of the proposed regulations can be found at the Commission's web site link below.

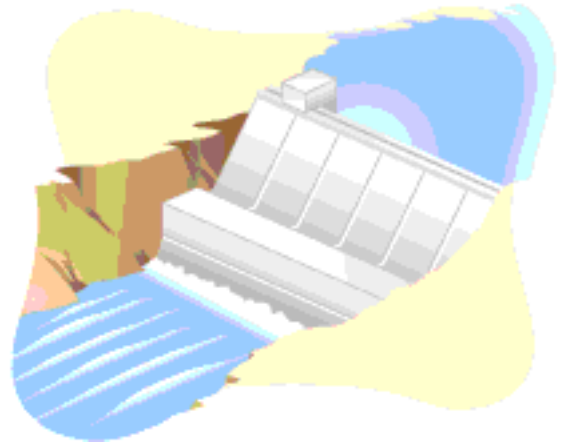
Interested persons can submit comments in person at the public hearings or in writing to 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1701. They can also submit comments online via the link below.

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

Dam Removal Expert to Speak

Dr. George Annondale, one of the country's foremost experts on dam removal, will be speaking on Jan. 21-22, 2004 in Jackson County to consider the prospects of removal of the Dillsboro dam. A public reception to meet Dr. Annondale will be hosted by the Dillsboro Inn on Jan. 21st from 1:00-6:00 PM. He will speak at a public meeting on Jan. 22nd in Courtroom 1 of the Jackson County Administration Building at 6:00 PM.

This is an excellent opportunity for interested TU members to learn about dam removal and the associated positives and negatives for the fishery. Every member is encouraged to attend one of these meetings to ask questions and glean some information about the process. Here is a chance to learn about the best options for the Dillsboro dam.



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

Upcoming Projects 2003

Delayed Harvest road clean up November 15th - Meet at the Jack the Dipper pull-off

**David S. McGuire
DDS**

Preventive Dentistry
Restorative Dentistry

45 King Street
Sylva, NC 28779

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

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Jim Borowa - NC WRC	(828) 299-7023
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