

# TUCK TALES

## Westmoreland Speaks

*Jackson County not satisfied with Duke's proposal.*



Last month featured a presentation to a well-attended TUCK TU meeting by Jackson County Manger Ken Westmoreland. Mr. Westmoreland spoke to the chapter about the

reasons Jackson County declined to sign the Stakeholder Agreement with Duke Power regarding the FERC re-licensing issue.

While citing numerous reasons for Jackson County's refusal to sign the agreement, it boiled down to the fact that Duke Power doesn't appear to be doing enough to satisfy the county in exchange for the use of the public resource for a 30 or more year license. One interesting point that was brought up was the fact that there is some question regarding FERC's ability to make Duke Power

accountable for specific actions promised in the agreement.

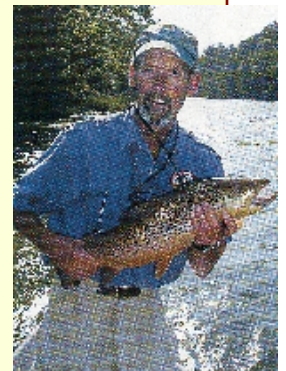
A motion was made and seconded from the floor to have the Executive Committee review the proposed settlement agreement for the chapter.

### Next Month

The Tuckaseegee Chapter of trout Unlimited will hold its next regular monthly membership meeting on Tuesday, March 1, at 6:30 PM at the United Community Bank located on Highway 107 south in Sylva. The meeting room is at the rear of the building.

Our program for the March meeting will be provided by "Squeak" Smith of the Table Rock Chapter. He will talk about steelhead fishing in Michigan.

The Tuckaseegee Chapter is made up of members from Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties.



### KIM RYALS TO PROVIDE PROGRAM FOR APRIL 5TH MEETING

In native waters from Georgia to Maine, the *brookie* is considered "America's fish" by many... a remnant of days gone by, when all streams and rivers were pure and crystal clear... flowing freely through lush forests and natural landscapes.

The current decline of native brook trout signals a decline in watershed health. And unhealthy

watersheds cannot provide clean water, a basic necessity for life.

### BACK TO BROOKIE

*Back the Brookie* combines the best of Trout Unlimited - passionate, dedicated, grassroots volunteers with professional fisheries staff - to work towards the brook trout's future and the health of our watersheds. Don't miss this program by our Southeastern Coordinator.

## ASK JACK!

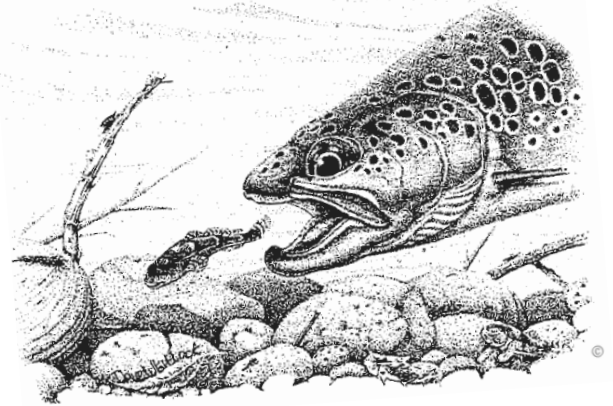
Q. I have read a lot about the importance of wild fish over hatchery fish, but how can you tell them apart in the field?

A. Based on appearance alone, it can be difficult to separate wild from hatchery fish. Look at the fins, especially the dorsal, adipose and caudal (tail) fin. Some regenerate, leaving a short ragged appearance. Many federal hatcheries clip or freeze-brand the adipose fins of steelhead and Chinook salmon.

Trout that are reared in hatcheries usually are not fin clipped but often have ragged looking dorsal and caudal fins owing to abrasion and crowding that occurs in hatchery raceways and ponds. The lines on these fins just don't look as sharp as they appear in wild fish. Some hatcheries tag their fish, but most of these tags are coded-wire or Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) types that are injected into the body and are not visible. Behavior and genetics are

different but without careful study, such differences are hard to decipher.

— Jack Williams, Chief Scientist for TU




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**TROUT UNLIMITED'S 4TH ANNUAL REGIONAL RALLY!**


Deep in the heart of Trout Territory and Dead Center of the World for SC, GA, NC, TN, KY, VA & WV TU!

Join over 100 of your closest TU buddies and a few of your favorite national staff for a weekend to remember! Fishing, workshops, fishing, contests, networking, fishing, prizes, spouse activities, a live band...and more fishing!

April 29 - May 1 (Friday evening thru Sunday morning) 4-H Educational Center, Abingdon, VA

\$60 per person covers breakfast Saturday thru breakfast Sunday, a bunk for Friday & Saturday nights, all workshops, contests, a band, and much more fun than you can possibly handle! Private rooms for couples are \$170 for 2.

Make check payable to Trout Unlimited and send to PO Box 1191, Black Mountain, NC 28711, along with your name, e-mail address and phone number. Deadline for payment is April 25th!




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**TOM MASSIE NAMED TO STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

TCTU member and past president Tom Massie, of Sylva, has been appointed to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee. The group's role is to advise the Commission on matters related to the conservation of nongame wildlife, including the creation of protected animal lists and development of conservation programs for threatened species.

## FLY OF THE MONTH

**Epeorus pleuralis (Family Heptageniidae)**

From Ernest G. Schweibert, Jr.'s classic book; Matching the Hatch by Macmillan Publishing Co., "This medium-sized May fly is the first insect of major importance on Eastern trout streams, and is often present when banks of snow still lie in places sheltered from the midday sun. The hatches usually occur during the last week in April, but specimens are sometimes found emerging well into May.

The delicate little duns are known by many names on various streams, but the most common one is the Gordon Quill. Other local names are Blue Quill, Grey Quill, and Blue Dun.

These May flies are very susceptible to temperature change and require fast, pure water. They die quickly in still or slightly polluted water, and are very difficult to raise in captivity for these reasons....The main emergence comes between one and two in the afternoon. Anglers can look for these May flies at any time after the streams have passed the fifty-degree mark. About two or three days of such stream temperatures

and one can expect good hatching activity."

## THE PATTERN

**Quill Gordon**

This pattern is still known as the Gordon Quill in parts of upstate New York.

**HOOK**

Mustad 94840 or equivalent

**THREAD**

Gray 6/0

**WING**

Lemon wood duck flank fibers

**BODY**

Stripped peacock quill

**Hackle**

Medium to dark dun

According to Eric Leiser stripping the peacock quill by



hand is the preferred method. No longer should Clorox be used to remove the barbules. This weakens the quill.

Several quills may be stripped at one time. This is faster and sometimes easier to do.

**Tuck Tales**

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The Tuckaseegee Chapter has a web presence at:

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

*Tuck Tales* is available on the web site as a full color, downloadable pdf file, current month as well as archives.

**Sponsors**

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



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TCTU TO SPONSOR SMOKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AT RIVERCOURSE



TCTU will sponsor 16 year old Smoky Mountain High student Jesse Taylor at this year's Rivercourse Youth Camp. Jesse is from Sylva and will be the first student our chapter has sponsored to attend the camp.

Campers are lodged in cottages with double occupancy rooms and private bathrooms. Adult counselors are lodged with the campers. All meals are included and served at a modern dining hall.



The North Carolina State Council of Trout Unlimited is proud to sponsor the third annual N.C.T.U. Rivercourse: Coldwater Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. The program is designed to teach the ethics of coldwater conservation to our youth. The camp is scheduled for the week of June 12 - 17, 2005 at Lake Logan Center near Canton. The area features the pristine habitat and rich history of the West Fork of the Pigeon River and the mountainous region of Haywood County, North Carolina.

The camp is modeled after the highly successful camp hosted by Pennsylvania TU for the past several years. There are now TU sponsored camps in Maine, Michigan, and Georgia. More camps are being started in other states and regions.

Twenty-four boys and girls ranging from 13-16 years of age will be selected to attend camp.

*Above photos copyright Richard Bernabe from 2004 Rivercourse camp <http://www.richardbernabe.com/>*

Geology entomology, hydrology, and Herpetology, instruction

Learn about stream restoration

Learn about wetlands ecology



Learn about environmental policy

Fly fishing and fly tying instruction

Swimming, boating, field trips, meeting new friends and a whole lot of FUN!

THE FUTURE OF COLDWATER CONSERVATION LIES IN OUR YOUTH

## UPCOMING PROJECTS

**Used Equipment Sale**

TCTU will have a booth at the Jackson County Arts Council's WCU Annual "Garage" Sale on April 9th. Milt Wofford requests that members please bring items to donate to the chapter to sell at its booth at the Sale.



The items can be brought to the March and April meetings. Any old (or new) equipment still in good shape will be appreciated. I'm sure most of us have something which we could donate so get into your fishing closet and find that stuff and bring it to the meeting. This should be a good opportunity for the chapter to make a little money and for us all to be able to clean out some stuff we no longer use.

**Kids Fishing Day**

TCTU will be assisting Pisgah Chapter, NC Wildlife Resources and the US Forest Service with the annual Kids Fishing Day event at Cliffside Lake in Highlands, NC this June.

Our responsibility will be to help cook hot dogs, assist with clean up and promote Trout Unlimited. Wal•Mart of Franklin has agreed to share expenses for the purchase of food with the Pisgah chapter's Wal•Mart store.

A chairman for the project is yet to be appointed. That person's responsibility will be to coordinate with Pisgah chapter and the other Wal•Mart store to make sure everything needed is purchased. Please plan on signing up at the March 1st meeting to help with this project.

**Ducks on the Tuck**

Once again TCTU will be participating April 30th in the Ducks on the Tuck event for the benefit of the New Century Scholars Program through Southwestern Community College.



Our chief "duck wrangler" Hoyte Roberson, Jr. will chair this project. All members wishing to participate should please contact Hoyte, Jr. at Roberson's Supply at 586-4358 to let him know you will be available to help.

You haven't lived until you've wrestled with hundreds of ducks on the Tuck. Be sure to bring your waders and quick hands!

**Annual Tuckaseegee River Clean Up**

Chairman Jon Phillips reports that this year's annual clean up will occur on Saturday, April 16th. The event is sponsored by Western Carolina University's Last Minute Productions. TCTU has participated in this clean up every year since our chapter was re-activated. It started in 1984 and covers 26 miles of the Tuck from East LaPorte to Whittier.

We will focus on the original delayed-harvest section of the Tuck from the 107 S. bridge to the Webster bridge.

Plan to meet at 8:30 AM at Jack the Dipper Ice Cream. Bring suitable clothes and boots and a good pair of work gloves. Everyone, **PLEASE BE CAREFUL!** We don't want anyone stuck by a hypodermic needle or otherwise injured.



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