

Tuck Tales



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



October 2004

Tuckasee Chapter #373 of Trout Unlimited

Vol. 6 No. 10

Next Meeting

The Tuckasee Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its next regular monthly membership meeting on Tuesday, October 5, 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 provided by our chapter president, Mike Lackey. Mike took a fishing trip to Alaska at the end of the summer and will talk to us about his experience.

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.

TU National News

TU Releases "Settled, Mined and Left Behind" Report

Ten Western watersheds affected by pollution from abandoned mines profiled in report

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8/18/2004 -- *Washington* -- The national conservation organization Trout Unlimited (TU) today released a report entitled "Settled, Mined and Left Behind," which illuminates the threats posed by abandoned hardrock mines to drinking water and fisheries throughout the West.

"The EPA estimates that 40 percent of the West's headwaters streams are affected by abandoned mines," said Chris Wood, TU Vice President for Conservation Programs. "Abandoned mines are the environmental equivalent of the crazy aunt in the attic – they're a huge problem about which no one wants to talk."

"Settled, Mined and Left Behind" highlights neither the most polluted nor most widely known abandoned mine-affected rivers and watersheds, but instead focuses on those where effective clean ups are possible. The report includes Montana's Blackfoot, Colorado's Animas and Upper Arkansas, Oregon's Rogue, New Mexico's Red, Idaho's Salmon, Washington's Kettle and Methow, and California's Sacramento basins.

The centerpiece of the report is the American Fork Canyon, located between Salt Lake City and Provo, Utah, where TU recently hired Ted Fitzgerald to clean up abandoned mine sites on private land, adjacent to the Uinta National Forest where the Forest Service has worked to remediate environmental hazards from abandoned mines on public land.

Speaking at a press conference at the Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort overlooking the canyon, U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth told reporters, "There should be no doubt that federal land stewards need to remain diligent in finding

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

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finding ways to deal with these sites. Nothing short of the quality of some of the West's best rivers and streams – and the public's drinking water – are at stake.”

TU is launching a major effort to clean up abandoned mines identified in the report. Trout Unlimited staff in Utah, Colorado and Montana will work with TU chapters, other anglers and local community leaders to help set priorities and secure sorely needed funding.

“Existing laws may actually create a disincentive for private entities such as TU to cleanup abandoned mines, and funding is woefully scarce for restoration efforts,” TU's Wood added. “But significant progress can be made when people work together to restore the health of the lands and waters that sustain us.”

At a simultaneous press event in Denver, Sharon Lance, Chairperson of the TU Colorado Council, said, “Most people don't think of abandoned mines as problems that touch their daily lives, but the reality is far different. These sites often are the source of the heavy metals that make it into our drinking water and onto our dinner plates. This is why our volunteers are so energized to work on this issue.”



Please note:

“Settled, Mined and Left Behind” can be downloaded in PDF format from www.tu.org.

Hard copies of the report can be obtained by calling 703.284.9427 or 503-827-5700, extension 10.

Editor's Cast

Well it has been quite a rough time around here the past few weeks hasn't it? As I write this the rain is falling on my roof from the remnants of hurricane Jeanne and the scanner is crackling in the background with messages from local officials regarding the rise of water and trees downed in various areas.

I have lived above the Tuckasegee river in Cullowhee for almost 25 years and this is only the second time that I have seen the Cullowhee creek bridge at the mouth of the creek covered by water. As a result I was stranded at home on Friday the 17th. I was finally able to get out Saturday afternoon.

Checking several web sites on the Internet I find that damage to roads, facilities and infrastructure in GSMNP, on the Blue Ridge Parkway and in other places has been considerable. It appears it will probably be some time before all is “put right” again. Driving around the area one can see many instances where trees fell across the roads and had to be cut to allow passage. Landslides have made some roads impassable. Our DOT folks have been doing a hero's job on the many damaged roads in the area and are to be commended.

Also we must remember to thank the fire and rescue, law enforcement and utility personnel who have worked tirelessly to make repairs, help with evacuations and in many instances save lives. These people put themselves in harm's way at times like this and deserve our grateful thanks and admiration.

I visited a chapter member's property this past weekend that borders a small creek in the southern area of Jackson County and witnessed firsthand just how powerful the force of water can become in a narrow stream. He had lost almost 40% of his yard on the upstream section of the property. The water had completely demolished an old concrete block retaining wall and literally created a new channel into the yard. It will require a lot of work and expense to repair the damage.

A couple of things he pointed out to me on my visit were the changes made to the adjoining section of the stream. First it was noted that there were a lot of new rocks and boulders in the creek which weren't there before hurricane Ivan. These will provide excellent holding areas for trout. Additionally, the creek bottom had been scoured by the force of the water and as a result a lot of silt and sediment from upstream development had been washed out - much of it into his lower yard.

We both took time to reflect on the fact that we had been spared the terrible losses of not only a dwelling but loved ones which many others in the path of this and other storms have experienced. You can always look around and find someone less fortunate if you take

the time.

A little later on in the Fall when the streams have hopefully returned to more normal levels and the water has cleared up, do yourself a favor and get out and do some fishing. You'll probably notice some changes in your favorite beat. Some will be good and others possibly not. That's nature isn't it? Take this time to enjoy being on the water and count your blessings for the opportunity.

"The only certainty is that nothing is certain." - Pliny The Elder



October Hatches

Hatches this month are sporadic and include:

Midge (Chironomidae)	all month
Blue Wing Olive (B. vagans)	all month
Trico (T. stygiatus)	all month
Tiny Blue Winged Olive (P. anoka)	all month



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Park/Parkway Closures

Roads, Trails, Campgrounds, and Picnic Areas - GSMNP

September 24, 2004

Road and facility openings/closings may change throughout the day. For **updated** road and weather information please call **(865) 436-1200**. Once you hear a voice, dial extension 631 for road information or extension 630 for a weather forecast. You may wish to write this number down when traveling to the area for handy reference for road and weather updates.

Web Site:
<http://www.nps.gov/grsm/index.htm>

Current Park Road and Facility Openings/Closures - Blue Ridge Parkway

September 27, 2004

Contact
Blue Ridge Parkway, 828-271-4779, ext. 200

Web Site:
<http://www.nps.gov/blri/pphtml/news.html>



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

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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
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NEWSLETTER OF THE TUCKASEEGEE CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED
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