



Blue Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

April 2008

President's Letter

Peter Lloyd, President

Hello, Blue Ridge Members,

It's Spring and Income Taxes are due. Both are excellent reasons to get out and head to your favorite stream.

If you were at our March Chapter meeting, you learned about our efforts, headed by our webmaster, Martin Boggess, to develop a new and more interactive website. Martin has done great work on this and I am very excited about the new look and how much we will be able to do with it. We are very close to launching the new site so stay tuned.

We held our Banquet back in February (February 16) and the final numbers are in. I am pleased to inform you that we raised \$4,447! With this addition to our bank account, we have the funds to support many education, outreach, and conservation projects. Your board has been working hard to do just that.

At the March 12 board meeting, we approved a donation of \$2000 to help with Squeak Smith's restoration efforts on the Catawba River and its tributaries, particularly Muddy Creek. This is very a successful, ongoing, project that has leveraged \$85,000 into over \$10 million of funding resulting in the restoration of 16 miles stream bank. We're also looking for opportunities to participate in upcoming restoration projects and plan to set up a field trip for interested members to see some of the work.

The board approved a donation of \$500 to NCTU RiverCourse including \$400 to offset part of the tuition of a camper and \$100 for operations. We also approved a \$100 donation to help support Jakes' Day, which will be on August 2 this Summer (volunteers needed). Jakes' Day introduces kids to many outdoor activities including fishing and hunting and helps them develop a conservation ethic consistent with TU's mission. We will also award a lifetime fishing license to a deserving kid at the event.

Perhaps the most exciting news is that the board has approved \$2000 to fund two Trout in the Classroom Projects for the 2008-2009 school year. BRTU will provide equipment and maintenance for each project allowing science teachers to incorporate TIC into their curriculum. Steve Hennings has been working hard on this and we are in the final stages of signing a contract with Ledford High school. TIC requires a large commitment from the Chapter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 15, 2008, 6:30 PM BRTU CHAPTER MEETING
MAY 3, 2008 FLY FISHING MERIT BADGE
MAY 20, 2008, 6:30 PM BRTU CHAPTER MEETING
MARCH 18, 2008, 6:30 PM BRTU CHAPTER MEETING

2007-2008 Chapter Leadership

Officers:

Peter Lloyd, President
Dan Benfield, VP
David Richards, Sec.
Bill Remaley, Treas.

Board Members:

Michael Davis
Chad Fulp
Steve Hennings
Eugene Pope
Paul Scheponik
Sam Wauford

and school but it's more than worth the effort. You can learn more about TIC at: <http://www.troutintheclassroom.org>.

We are also beginning efforts to work with K-3 teachers and hope to provide copies of the children's book, Trout are Made of Trees, by April Pulley Sayre, to as many teachers as possible. This is a wonderful book about stream ecosystems and our responsibility to preserve and protect our environment. This looks to be a pretty big project and we're looking for volunteers who'd like to help us work with the schools. Please contact me if you'd like to be involved in this project.

BRTU will be at Raven's Knob on May 3 to teach the Fly Fishing Merit Badge during the Boy Scouts' Merit Badge weekend. We'd like to have 8 -10 folks for this and could use a few more volunteers. We did this last year and had a great time working with the kids. Please contact me if you'd like help out. Also, Mike Davis will be representing BRTU at Hanging Rock State Park on Friday, April 18th during Environmental awareness days, April 16th thru 18th.

In local conservation news, Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina, on behalf of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, has secured a contract to purchase 649 acres along almost four miles of National Wild and Scenic Wilson Creek in Caldwell County. Read more at: <http://www.NCTU.org/>

I hope to see you at our next chapter meeting.

Peter
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Meeting Announcement

Dan Benfield, Program Chair

The program at our April 15th meeting will be about our very own Yadkin River. Montie Hamby is a Board Member for the Yadkin River Keepers project and some of you may know Mr Hamby from his very active role in preserving the Yadkin for many years. He will give brief history of the River Keeper organization and discuss past and current activities on the Yadkin River. The Yadkin River Keeper organization is very interested in working with BRTU and there may be some good opportunities for conservation projects in the upper Yadkin River basin to *Protect, Reconnect, Restore, and Sustain* cold water fisheries in the upper Yadkin River basin.

Our chapter meets at **Texas Land and Cattle Steak House** just off of Hanes Mall Blvd across the road from Target. Our meetings start at **6:00 PM** to allow folks to mingle, order dinner and get settled before the 7:00 program. We welcome new members and visitors. Bring your family with you. This is a family oriented organization we welcome men, women and children.

Newsletter On-Line

Many of us get this newsletter from the BRTU website. This saves the postage costs so we can use this money for conservation and education projects (~\$3.50 for each member annually). If you have an email address, just send it to me at lloydpb@forsyth.cc and you will be notified by email when the newsletter is posted. Thanks to those of you who have signed up for the email.

Welcome New Members

George William Burke III and Dr. Bob Suber.

Get Your Official NCTU License Plate Now!



North Carolina State Council of Trout Unlimited is pleased to announce that the North Carolina *Back the Brookie* license plate is now available. To reserve your new license plate, you can download and complete an application form from our website at <http://www.blueridgetu.org>. If you don't surf the web, call me and I'll gladly send an application to you.

The plates are \$20 and \$50 for a personalized plate and NCTU receives \$10 from each plate (\$20 from personalized plates). We had hoped DMV would be able to begin printing the plates by April but we are still short of the 300 applications necessary for this to happen.

DON'T DELAY! MAIL YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!

Thanks to the many people who worked to make this possible. A special thanks to Debbie Griffith for getting the plate approved by the legislature; to Michael Simon for creating the wonderful artwork for NCTU; and to BRTU's own Sam Sticher for laying out the plate.

This is a beautiful piece of art and sure to catch the eyes of the motorists around you. What a great way to raise public awareness of Trout Unlimited and support cold water conservation.