



# Blue Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited

## Winston-Salem, North Carolina

July 2010

### President's Letter

David Richards, President

Hello, Blue Ridge Members,

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, I was invited on a private tour of the **Rocky Fork wilderness**, land along the North Carolina/Tennessee Boarder. My invitation came from **Damon Hearne**, Trout Unlimited's SE Land Protection Coordinator.

This 9,700 of land is currently held by The Conservation Fund, which purchased it with the objective of protecting it by transferring the property over to the Forest Service. The Appalachian Trail goes through this property, one of the few sections of the trail that are not permanently protected.

The day began with 16 of us meeting up at a welcome center off of Highway 26, between Johnson City and Asheville. From there we car drove convoy style to the entrance of Rocky Fork, which was about 10 minutes away. There we consolidated into sturdy 4X4 vehicles and drove to the entrance to the property, which is blocked to public driving access – but we had special access for the day, as Ralph Knoll of the Conservation Fund was there to explain the situation and help lead the group. Other hosts included Jay Leutze of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Terry Bowerman (USFS), Jim Habera (TWRA Fisheries), and David Ramsey, a Friend of Rocky Fork, and my tour guide for the day. TU leadership was there from Tennessee and North Carolina Chapters and Councils, including our friend Squeak Smith. I could tell we were in for a great day!

After unlocking the gate, we drove for about one and one-half hours on a road that gets just a few vehicles a year. In fact, the day before our tour some of our hosts drove the road with a chain saw to remove trees that blocked the road. I was glad that I hadn't taken my "city slicker" SUV, but was car pooling with David Ramsey at the wheel of his 4X4, as the road was very rough in some places and his driving skills over the boulders and up the hill was excellent, albeit jolting at times.

We arrived at our destination in early afternoon: Buzzard Rock, on top of a ridge with a view for miles. Gorgeous! At that point Damon Hearne gave an informative talk and plea for a grass roots effort to help protect this land.

On the way down the hill, David Ramsey, who was born and raised in the area, suggested that I fish a section of Rocky Fork river, which parallels the road. Not to pass up an opportunity to try my luck, I fished for a couple of hours and caught both wild brookies and rainbows, on size 14 dry flies.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Aug 7** – Jake's Day

**Aug 14** – Yadkin River Outing

**Sept 21** – Chapter Meeting with Alex Bell, Sylva Guide - WNC Fly Fishing Trail

Keep up to date with events at our website:

[www.blueridgeTU.org](http://www.blueridgeTU.org)

### 2009-2010 Chapter Leadership

#### Officers:

David Richards, President  
Mike Davis, VP  
Bob Lassiter, Sec.  
Peter Lloyd, Treas.  
Peter Lloyd, Past Pres.

#### Board Members:

Chad Fulp  
Brandon Frakes  
Scott Larsen  
Robin Searight  
Jayne Sommer  
Steve Hennings

Rocky Fork is one of the largest portions of land in the Eastern part of our country that isn't permanently protected. It is an important project for TU and we will be hearing more about how we can help protect it. For more information, go to [www.TU.org/rockyfork](http://www.TU.org/rockyfork).



Photo of Rocky Fork area, from Buzzard Rock, by David Richards

## September Chapter Meeting Announcement

David Richards

The presenter at our September 21, 2010 Chapter meeting will be **Alex Bell**, who will be speaking about the **Western North Carolina Fly Fishing Trail**, and he will be sharing tips and information about fly fishing in the Western part of the state.

Alex owns and operates AB's Fly Fishing Guide Service in Sylva. A long-time resident of Western North Carolina, Bell has an intimate knowledge of the trout waters along the WNC Fly Fishing Trail, especially the portions that include the Tuckasegee River. Bell recently retired after 30 years in public education to provide fly fishing instruction and fly fishing guide services in the trout-rich waters of Jackson County.

Our chapter meets at Texas Land and Cattle Steak House, at 1110 Creekshire Way, Winston-Salem, 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 meeting.

For online directions, go to <http://tinyurl.com/blueridgetu>



Alex Bell, presenter at September Chapter Meeting

## The Ararat River DH Section: Your Influence Needed!

At previous BRTU Chapter Meetings speakers Dick Everhart and Squeak Smith told us about how two miles of Ararat River (NC 103 bridge to US 52 bridge in Mount Airy) is being proposed as Delayed Harvest waters for the 2011-2012 regulation cycle.

**Wouldn't it be great to have DH water this close to our home area? We need your support!**

Get your opinion heard!

Public hearings for this and other Wildlife Commission proposals will be held in September, and the following link provides information on specific meeting locations and dates:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/ncwildlife-hearings1>

The closest hearing to Winston-Salem will be in Wilkesboro is on September 16 at 7:00PM.

Starting in September, the you will be able to also visit [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) to comment online or submit comments by mail to 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1701

We will keep you posted about this very important project!

Information provided by Jacob Rash, Coldwater Research Coordinator, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

## Mitchell River Stream-Clean Report

By Scott Larson

We had a good turn out for the Mitchell River stream cleaning on Saturday 6/13/2010 with 9 participants and one dog. We started around 9:30 picked up trash for a couple of hours and then enjoyed the sandwiches drinks and oatmeal cookies that Bob provided while several mentors made suggestions on their most productive fly patterns and recent productive fishing trips. Paul let us review his fly box with all of those beautiful flies and indicated that his most productive fly patterns were often small (size 20) and included Barr's emerger, blue pickpocket, and rainbow warrior. After the clean up Bob took a few of us to his secret spot on the Mitchell for some Small Mouth Bass action before getting chased off the river by an incoming thunderstorm.



Mitchell Stream Clean Volunteers  
Jayne Sommer Photo

---

## Smith River Chapter of TU Planning a River Clean Up

The Smith River is a great place to fish, just across the border around Bassett Virginia. On Saturday, August 21, 2010, 8:30 am through 2:00 pm they will be conducting a Smith River Clean-Up.

For more information, contact SRTU member Darrin Doss [admin@dossphoto.com](mailto:admin@dossphoto.com) or Paul Fogle [pwoolley@centurylink.net](mailto:pwoolley@centurylink.net)

## Do you want to take a leadership role?

By David Richards

Like most non-profits, our chapter has a Board of Directors, which meet regularly to make decisions as a team. Each fall, as we start our new fiscal year in October, we welcome people who want to join the board. The board of directors meets monthly for two hours, to define programs, decide how to distribute contribution money, talk fishing, and eat pizza. No experience is needed; In fact, I volunteered to be on the board **at my very first TU meeting**, when Sam Stitcher was our President

**Please consider becoming a member of our board.** It's a way you can make a difference. Contact David Richards at [david.richards@hanesbrands.com](mailto:david.richards@hanesbrands.com) if you have any questions.

## Jakes Day Volunteers Needed

By Steve Hennings

The coordinators of Jakes Day, August 7<sup>th</sup>, an annual event to expose kids to outdoors activities, are looking for BRTU volunteers for their fly fishing activities. The location is Smith's Farm, in Lexington.

Blue Ridge Chapter has helped with Jakes Day for several years, with funding for the event as well as volunteering to help. For more information, contact Steve Hennings at 336-407-1206

## Hanging Rock Program, July 24th

On Sat. July 24th from 1-4pm Michael Davis will be at the Visitors Center at Hanging Rock State Park presenting a program on Cold Water Conservation, Stream Restoration and Fly Fishing.

If you are interested in more information, contact Michael at [davism@andassoc.com](mailto:davism@andassoc.com)

# **Yadkin River Outing Planned for Aug 14**

By Scott Larsen

The Blue Ridge Chapter of TU is organizing a day on the Yadkin River, fishing for small mouth bass, on Saturday August 14. We will meet in the Yadkin River section of Pilot Mountain State Park in the morning between 8:30 and 9:00 am. We plan on staying until around 2pm.

See directions below. Check our web site for more details in early August.

Since river clarity will be a major factor in the success of the event we will post on our website ([www.blueridgetu.org](http://www.blueridgetu.org)) if the event has been canceled due to turbid conditions along with a rain date. A wading staff is recommended since the river has a lot of ledges and rocks and is not especially clear on the best of days.

As far as lure selection is concerned ---Kevin Hining who is a NC fisheries biologist and has done fishing surveys of the Yadkin River recommends a 3" tube with 1/8 oz jig head or 4" lizard in chartreuse pumpkin or chartreuse pepper for those who prefer spinning gear. For fly rodders you can always try poppers in the morning or some very colorful streamers with a little weight to get them down in the current. From his surveys of the river Kevin has found that the Yadkin has one of the fastest growth rates in the state with truly trophy sized small mouth just waiting for the river to clear up so we can go fishing.

Right now we are planning to provide refreshments and sandwiches for those folks who email me @ [ssbbeng@gmail.com](mailto:ssbbeng@gmail.com) and let us know you are coming by August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Directions:

Directions to Pilot Mountain State Park, River Section South: Take Reynolda Rd /Hywy 67 to East Bend – turn right at Stoplight (you'll see brown Park sign), go to Main St of East Bend – Turn left (West) – follow brown park signs.

GPS Coordinates: 36.253722,-80.5091

Map: <http://tinyurl.com/yadkin-river>



Yadkin Picture by Robin Seawright