



Blue Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

February 2012

Letter from the Chapter President

It's almost time again for our annual Blue Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited Conservation Banquet. Many volunteers have worked hard to pull together what we hope will be our best banquet yet and I look forward to meeting some new folks at the banquet this year. Please take a look inside your newsletter for more information.

Now for the fish tales....

I hope you all had wonderful holidays and were able to spend some time in the outdoors. Winter is a favorite time of mine for getting outside and chasing trout. Many of our Delayed Harvest streams offer some great fishing opportunities in the winter and with the type of gear and clothing available now, we don't have to suffer with cabin fever. No more wet wool coats and soaked leather boots, now you can wear heated gloves, space age wicking thermals and lightweight down pants.



Of course the fishing can be slower in the winter but I find that the solitude and quietness of fishing in winter is something to appreciate. Don't be fooled though, there are winter hatches which can quickly turn a quiet day into a loud one from the hoots and hollers. Stick with darker smaller flies in the winter such as black stones or dark brown nymphs and emergers and long leaders. Catching trout in winter can be great fun, just use the proper clothing, good gear and common sense and you don't have to endure a frozen ride back home. Get out there and break in those new thermals.

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Tight lines,
Michael E. Davis

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 15th – Board Meeting

Feb 21st BRTU Chapter meeting Catawba River guide

Mar 3rd – BRTU Banquet Pine Brook Country Club

No Chapter meeting in March due to the banquet

2011-2012 Chapter Leadership

Officers:

Michael Davis, President
Jayne Sommer, VP
Bob Lassiter
David Richards, Past Pres.

Board Members:

Scott Larsen, Secretary
Peter Lloyd, Treasurer
Barry Johnson
Jonathan Raymer, Legal
Ron Zambor
Martin Boggess
Roy Davidson

Speaker Bio

Our speaker for February will be Ryan Dunne, guide/owner of Appalachian Fly Guides. Ryan grew up in the foothills of Western North Carolina and started angling with a fly rod at age 7. He now guides the streams of the Southern Appalachians, Tailwaters of Tennessee, Catawba Tailwater, and Carp on fly. He has fished the waters of Argentina, Bahamas, Chile, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Western United States.

Volunteer opportunities...

Spring clean up on the Mitchell River or Ararat ~ tbd

TIC Release day at Stone Mountain ~ May 7th and 11th

Environmental Awareness Days at Hanging Rock State Park ~ April 13, 14th and 15th

Fly Tying event for charity ~ tba

2012 TU National Convention Asheville ~ Sept. 14-16

Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited CONSERVATION BANQUET Sat. March 3rd 5:30 – 9:30 PINE BROOK COUNTRY CLUB

Please make plans to join us on Saturday, March 3rd for our 2012 Conservation Banquet and Auction. Based on favorable feedback from last year, the banquet will be at the same venue, Pine Brook Country Club, 5475 Germanton Road.

(Go to www.pinebrookcc.com for map. Directions also on BRTU website.)



The Banquet Committee has been meeting since late December and is making plans for this year's event to be great fun. They have already begun to nail down some exciting auction items for both our fishing and non-fishing guests.

Our auction will feature a guided trip by area guide, Jeff Wilkins. Along with being an excellent fishing guide, expert fly tier/caster and knowledgeable teacher, Jeff has been a long time friend of Blue Ridge TU. We hope to have Jeff at the banquet to chat with guests on various topics of interest.

This is the one fund raising event for Blue Ridge TU. These funds make possible:

- Our successful Trout in Classroom program at 5 area schools
- Youth and adult conservation/fly fishing education programs (e.g. our sponsorship of one area youth to the NC TU Rivercourse Camp)
- Stream cleans, restorations and support for home water conservation efforts
- Chapter meeting speaker fees and monthly newsletter mailing costs

You have all received a Save The Date card, and an invitation/registration form will be mailed out on Feb 3rd to give you more details on the banquet and for you to make your reservations.

What can you do to make this a great event?

1. Please come – bring a guest (the spouses/significant others and non fishing guests are what makes the event enjoyable)
2. Donate an item to the auction – especially if you have access to overnight accommodations, sports tickets, restaurant coupons, or any other items
3. Let the Banquet Committee know if you'd like to take on a role at the banquet
4. But most important – COME! And have fun at this enjoyable evening

From the Banquet Committee (see the BRTU website for a listing of Banquet Committee members and other Banquet details)

Conservation Easements ~ Jon Raymer

Trout Unlimited is always seeking to preserve coldwater habitats. One tool for accomplishing this feat is through the legal tool of conservation easements.

You may live in a community that disallows the display of pink flamingoes in your front lawn. Although everyone is burdened by such restrictions, everyone benefits from a more beautiful neighborhood (unless you love your pink flamingoes). A conservation easement is an encumbrance of this type.

What exactly is a conservation easement?

Specifically, the conservation easement is a binding agreement between the landowner and the government or a qualified conservation organization (or "land trust"). This agreement restricts the landowner's right to develop the land and is recorded on the deed language, binding all future owners of the land to this agreement.

So, what is the benefit to the landowner?

The landowner maintains ownership of the land and is allowed to make a sizeable charitable contribution deduction on their income tax returns. In addition, North Carolina offers a tax credit for qualifying lands determined by NCDENR (N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources).

Why should Trout Unlimited support conservation easements?

Trout Unlimited benefits by being able to maintain the nature of the natural environment and preventing development that would negatively impact our rivers.

What about fishing access?

Conservation easements do not change the private ownership of the property. As such, the owner is not required to allow public fishing access. However, at the time of the easement formation, groups can negotiate certain terms to allow public fishing access. Some states provide additional benefits for allowing public access. North Carolina does not provide such benefits.

For more information please contact Jon Raymer at jon_raymer@hotmail.com

Trout Unlimited 2012 Southeastern Regional Meeting ~ Beverly Smith

We hope you will consider joining us at the Trout Unlimited (TU) Southeastern Regional Meeting in Asheville, NC, April 13-14, 2012. Fellow TU council and chapter leaders from across the Southeast will rally on Friday to tour different spots in the area that highlight a few of the many conservation success of TU's grassroots in North Carolina.

That evening, TU will host a barbecue for attendees.

On Saturday, we will gather at the Doubletree hotel for a full-day session to include group discussions, concentrated presentations and opportunities for council and chapter leaders to share successes and discuss common challenges.

More to come as details develop.

**Blue Ridge Chapter
Trout Unlimited
104 Northridge Drive
King, NC 27021**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TU Tech news ~ Martin Boggess

We added a new face to the Blue Ridge TU web presence last year. We are on Facebook, or Fishbook as we will call it. We have 40 people that like us already, which is pretty good. We already have some good pictures from our members fishing trips, including a nice Ararat lunker.

If you are on Facebook and not following us, look us up or click on the link off our website.

Our website continues to grow as a community site for our members. We have 1900 visits to our website this month already and added two new members. Along with meeting announcements and electronic newsletter, our site has a growing number of contributors on our Fishing Report. We have had over 15000 visits to this page since we put it out there and already over 400 visits this month.

What's so special about this page? We have well over 100 fishing reports from our members on our local streams. Paul Scheponik, Scott Larsen and David Richards have been are leading contributors. They have revealing tales of fish caught, secret locations, the newest streams and most important what patterns are working. You will find very useful information about fishing techniques that worked on a certain river.

Scott recently posted about a successful trip on the Ararat, "*fish started showing a preference to the pink SJ worm as long as I had enough weight to overcome the current*". I have personally used reports from Paul to plan successful outings to new waters, like the Wilson DH section. Check out Paul's most recent post "*Toe-riffic*", which even has a great picture of a really nice Rainbow.

Our website has great insight on all the local streams: Ararat, Mitchell, Wilson, Helton, Roaring and many more. You can get updates emailed to you from the website, so you will know when the fishing is good. You can also contribute your fishing tales to the website or Facebook and help others that are trying to get out and fish.

For more information please contact Martin Boggess at martinboggess@yahoo.com