



Blue Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

February 2011

Get Involved: Conservation and Educations Committees

David Richards, Chapter President

The Blue Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited has different committees that define the activities and programs that our Chapter will undertake. We are looking for members like you to join us on two of the committees: the Conservation Committee, and the Education Committee.

The time commitment as a committee member isn't excessive, and consists of attending committee meetings during evenings approximately every two months. You will have the opportunity to get more involved than that if you chose.

The Conservation Committee, chaired by Bob Lassiter, determines which conservation projects our Chapter will be involved with and support. These include stream cleans, stream restorations, Adopt a Stream, land conservation, etc. For information about the Conservation Committee, contact Bob Lassiter: Bob.Lassiter@TIMCO.aero

The Education Committee, chaired by Mike Davis, is involved with Educational projects such as Trout In The Classroom, Boy Scouts, Jake's Day, Fly Tying Classes, and Rivercourse. For information about the Education Committee, contact Mike Davis: davism@andassoc.com

Becoming a committee member is a way you can get more involved with TU and help our conservation and education mission move forward. I encourage every member to consider joining one or both of the committees as a way to help form the future of Blue Ridge TU.

Contact Bob or Mike at the emails provided above.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 26 – Conservation Banquet

March 15 – Chapter Meeting

April 8-10 - Balsam Lodge

Keep up to date with events at our website:

www.blueridgeTU.org

2010-2011 Chapter Leadership

Officers:

David Richards, President

Bob Lassiter, Sec.

Peter Lloyd, Treas.

Peter Lloyd, Past Pres.

Mike Davis, VP

Board Members:

Brandon Frakes

Scott Larsen

Robin Searight

Jayne Sommer

Tim O'Connell

Don Davidson

Barry Johnson

Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited's Fundraiser

Conservation Banquet

Feb. 26, 2011

Time: 5:30

Place: Pine Brook Country Club on Germantown road in Winston Salem (pinebrookcc.com)

Advance: \$35.00 (Postmarked by Feb 14)

At the door: \$40.00, Child \$20.00

How to Purchase Tickets:

If you are a chapter member you will receive a package in the mail that will allow you to purchase tickets in January. If you are not a member or want to get the tickets before your package arrives you can contact Peter at lloydpb@forsyth.cc or access an online form by going to the Meetings Tab on our web site www.blueridgetu.org, clicking the highlighted text on the Fund Raising Banquet and open the document on the bottom of the page.

January Chapter Meeting Al Kittredge Presented on the Smith River

By Scott Larsen

Al Kittredge did a presentation on Trout fishing in the tail waters of Smith River for our January 2011 Chapter Meeting. The Smith River is roughly one hour north of Winston Salem. His presentation is available to view at our website, www.blueridgetu.org

Al went over a history of the fishery. The involved parties have initiated some recent changes aimed at improving the fishery and based on comments at the meeting the quality of the Brown trout caught on the river improved slightly last year. Al indicated that despite recent troubles the Smith does provide some good trout water with lots of fish but not a lot of big ones that is available all year since it is tail water fishing.

The Smith is a combination of Special regulation section and hatchery supported sections and your fishing license requirements depend on the section you are fishing. If you go get a VA fishing license, before fishing check the generation schedule (276-629-2432); don't even try to wade if they are generating and keep an eye on flows and get out when they start to rise. The water is typically very clear and the trout are wary so carefully wading, long casts, long small diameter tippets, and small nymphs and soft hackles are most productive.

The entire presentation with more detailed explanation of the sections and the license requirements can be viewed by going to our website, going to the programs tab, double clicking this event and going to the bottom of the page. The maps are located at [smith river map.xls](#). Al Kittredge's email is aakitt@earthlink.net and his phone number is 910-868-6235.

Nat Greene Fly Fishers Annual Spring Banquet

There's another banquet in our area (in addition to the Blue Ridge Chapter Banquet on Feb 26!) The Nat Green Fly Fishers Annual Spring Banquet and Seminar will be March 5. Nat Greene Fly Fishers is the Greensboro Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Please see the banquet page for more details, at <http://www.natgreeneflyfishers.org/banquet.htm> .

Make Your Balsam Lodge Reservation

By Allie Hutchinson

The Balsam Lake Lodge dates for 2011 are as follows:

April 8-9-10
October 21-22-23

You can make your reservations with me by e-mail Allie.Hutchison@hutchisonallgood.com or by calling me at work = 336-769-0000; at home 336- 724-2176; or on my cell phone 406-6006

Some people have asked me to always put them on the list unless they tell me different, but I sometimes fail to remember. Put the dates on your calendar, and let me know as soon as you can, because the spring trip is almost always over booked. Allie Hutchinson

Welcome New Members!

- Erik Bruce
- Mark Haldeman
- James Hooks

Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Mike Davis if you can help out with these volunteer opportunities: davism@andassoc.com

April 16th, Order of the Arrow Conclave, Camp Raven Knob near Mt. Airy, NC

- 1500+ scouts, 40+ exhibitors, 9am - 12 noon
- they will let us structure our presentation as we would like
- our location will be on a small river with grassy wide banks, river feeds into their lake
- they would like as much hands on as possible

April 30, Hunt-N-Fish Day will be merged into the Old North State Council Camporee, Denton Farm Park, Seagrove, NC

- 3500+ scouts, carnival style, all day
- they will let us structure our presentation as we would like
- there is no water
- they are hoping for some hands on casting.

Donations for Our Banquet

By Scott Larsen

Please remember to think about possible donations that can be sold as bucket raffles or auctioned off during the banquet. And they don't have to be fishing related since we have ladies present who love to get in on the action. When you really think about it a lot of us have good connections to folks who would love to donate things to auction..... some of the non-fishing items last year:included overnight stays at mountain, lake or beach condos that members may have access to, flat screen TV or other electronics (i.e. iphone/ipad) items, restaurant certificates, wine, home accessory items, spa treatments, boxes of hand tied flies, etc. and this year we will have box tickets to a Dash game so lets all put on our thinking caps and help make this years auction the most fun and exciting that we have ever had.

Sam Ogburn has offered to store auction items at his business until the banquet.... so if you have items that you want to donatedrop them by his place, mail them, or call he might even pick them up. His business is Ogburn Electric 5425 Murry Road, Winston Salem, NC 27106 , his cell is 336-345-8759 , and his email is dryfly@triad.rr.com



Paul Scheponik at Cherokee with 26 inch rainbow

Featured Fishing Report

Paul Scheponik Jan 29, 2011

Cherokee may be a little distant to call 'local' waters but, it's with 3 hours for most of us. If you want to catch some really big trout it's worth the drive. My Son and I fished the trophy section on Raven's Fork Saturday both of us caught new personal record fish. My Son landed a 23" Rainbow for his best ever and late in the afternoon I landed a 26"er (photo to left). They increased the annual fee for fishing the trophy section from \$20 to \$75 in December 2010 and added a 3-day permit at \$25 for those who don't get here very often but, it's still a bargain compared to the fees on some private waters. (There is also the \$7 daily fee in addition to the annual trophy section permit).

For more fishing reports blueridgetu.org

Trout In The Classroom Update

By Mike Davis

As our TIC programs head into the new year I wanted to give some updates on the programs.

The 4 programs we sponsor are going into their 2nd and 3rd years and the learning curve is smoothing out well for the schools as well as Steve, Brandon and myself. We have seen the programs become almost self sufficient with the teachers doing a fantastic job of educating students on tank maintenance, ph levels, and the feeding and care of their trout. The students are also learning about life cycles, water quality, stream habitat and ecosystems and the responsibility of raising trout in the classroom. Our Trout Release dates are May 2nd and May 6th at Stone Mountain and if you are interested in assisting with the release days please contact myself or one of our Chapter officers.

Michael E. Davis
V.P. BRCTU
TIC Coordinator

Ellis Middle School

"The trout are doing well. We currently are down to about 17 trout. The surviving trout are about 3 inches long and seem to be growing faster than they did last year. The students enjoyed the dissection activity and they had a web-quest activity to accompany that. The dissection was video taped and shared with all the 8th grade students."

Dana Keeney 8th grade Science and Social Studies Teacher



Sandy Ridge Elementary School

"We are very, very pleased with the trout program we've been tending this year! On Friday, students estimated right at 50+ trout still alive which is way better than last year when we eventually lost them all!

Groups of four students, boys and girls, do water tests twice-weekly and all of them have become proficient with it and enjoy doing their parts in this project. There is also a list of anxious students who are more than just willing to be the "fish-feeder" for a week at a time, each one is delighted to help out! We will be bringing twenty-five students with us to Stone Mountain and are really looking forward to another delightful day there! Thanks much for all you fellows are willing to do for our environment!"

Peter Zeien 5th grade Math, Science, Social Studies

Ledford High School

"The trout are doing great. The ones remaining are fat and happy! We are monitoring the water chemistry and temperature daily. A new batch of students are enjoying them (our spring semester has started)."

Cathy Shoaf Berrier Academy of Biotechnology

Sugar Loaf Elementary School

"The fifth graders at Sugar Loaf have been enjoying the changes occurring in the tank. Keeping track of their development in our journals makes us aware of these rapidly changing organisms. Through a dissection of a frozen trout we were able to recognize and comprehend the outer and inner parts of a trout. It was unbelievable to see the size of a trout's brain and eye. The eye is so huge compared to the brain. The best part was to find the swim bladder and see how it inflates to help the fish move about in the water. During the spring month we hope to enjoy a visit from Kevin Hining, the NC Biologist, to teach and show us the many species of fish in NC and Jeff Wilkins to demonstrate the art fly tying and fishing."

Thank you BRTU for this great opportunity!

Liz Cronan 5th grade