



Blue Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited Winston-Salem, North Carolina

June 2011

Southeast Regional Meeting 2011

By David Richards, Chapter President

I was able to attend the Southeast Rally on May 12-14 in Townsend Tennessee. Also attending from our Chapter was Rusty Berrier and Sam Ogburn. The meeting was held at the Highland Manor Inn, and also that weekend in Townsend was Troutfest.

The agenda of the meeting included a presentation by Damon Hearn, who talked about land trusts and the importance of chapters like the Blue Ridge Chapter in "boots on the ground" restoration and making contacts with people in our local areas.

Steve Moore, fisheries biologist in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, spoke of the acid deposition in coldwater fisheries. He explained the how and why of "acid rain" which is one of the greatest threats to fish in our area.

We did a field trip to the Great Smoky Mountain Institute in Tremont, where we heard about the work that organization is doing through educational programs and camps.

Al Folger spoke about the veterans programs he is involved with, including Project Healing Waters. These programs work with disabled veterans using fly fishing as therapy.

Jim Herrig spoke about Appalachian Brook Trout hatchery programs and restoration of brook trout populations in their native streams. Through research and a lot of hard work, it looks hopeful for the beloved brookie!

On Friday night we attended the banquet associated with Troutfest. This is a fundraiser for Little River Chapter of TU. Lefty Kreh, Bob Clouser, Joe Humphreys, Tom Rosenbauer and other notable fly fishermen offered free seminars both days for the Troutfest.

An added delight was that Townsend TN is only a few minutes from great fishing in the Great Smoky National Park. Rusty, Sam, and I enjoyed the beautiful streams once or twice during the weekend, catching a few of the wild fish that call GSMNP their home.

Dave

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 11 – Mitchell River Steam Clean (see information on page 2)

June 21 – Chapter Meeting

July/Aug 2011 - No Chapter Meeting

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

June 21 Chapter Meeting Announcement

Our June 21 chapter meeting will feature Kelly McCoy of RiverGirl Fishing.



Our chapter meets at Lone Star Steakhouse (formerly the Texas Land and Cattle), 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>

MITCHELL RIVER STREAM CLEAN JUNE 11

Blue Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited is organizing a stream clean at the Mitchell River on Saturday morning June 11th. We scheduled this cleanup one week after the June 4th "harvest" date. A lot of litter accumulates during the first week after the harvest season opens. Hopefully this will help keep the area clean through the Summer. This is a great chance to show our appreciation to the land owners for keeping this area open for fishing and for us to "give a little something back" to this close-by "home water" for good times had there over past seasons.

We will meet at the Mitchell River Delayed Harvest section at the parking area on the right, just past the Juddsville School Rd bridge. Plan to arrive at the river between 9:00 - 9:30 AM. We usually pick up trash & debris for a couple hours and then meet back at the parking area around 11:30 - noon. We'll have some drinks and sandwich makings there, and afterwards all are welcome to rig up and do some fishing! Please make plans to join Blue Ridge TU in this important conservation effort!

For more information (and for possible ride sharing candidates), please contact Bob Lassiter at (336) 723-4550 or rhlwired@triad.rr.com

For directions to the clean up site, go to this link:
<http://www.tinyurl.com/mitchell-river-nc>

2011 National Fly Fishing Competition held in Cherokee, NC

By Mike Davis

On Sat. May 21st I had the opportunity to judge for a section of the 2011 National Fly Fishing Competition in Cherokee, NC. This was an interesting experience and educational. I learned a lot about how to fly fish for trout in a lake and some tips and tricks on tying on flies and changing spools without retying the setup. The competitors are required to carry all of their gear with them that they will need that day. These guys had 3-6 fly rods, a large bag of gear, fly boxes, packs, 2 large nets, rain gear, etc. Makes me appreciate my truck a lot more.

I was assigned to the Caldwell Reservoir section which was 6 small boats with 2 anglers and one judge apiece. Each team fished for 3 hours and Judges were not allowed to assist with gear, discuss tactics or previous angler's techniques. Competitors were required to land their fish and hand the net to the judge who records the length, species and times and releases the trout. These guys are judged only by the total length of fish so they are into production fishing and there wasn't a minute that there was not a line in the water. They used a variety of brightly colored searching wet flies and either a sinking tip or full sinking line. Most used 3 wet flies and I saw no use of dries even though there were some risers. They would make a long cast and hand retrieve slow and steady and at the end of the retrieve they would lift the flies out very slowly. This is often where we would see a strike or miss from a fish that followed the flies. I can't wait to try this method on a lake because I've always just retrieved the fly as soon as it was close to the boat.

I met and talked to a lot of anglers and some members of the U.S. Fly Fishing Team. This competition is the result of several others across the nation and some of these anglers are trying to get enough points to get on the U.S. Fly Fishing Team. This team consists of 15 anglers chosen on the cumulative results of their nationwide competitions. I saw some nice rods and reels and a few pair of those Simms Pro Guide series waders and those Simms ratchet boots. I'll have to save my dollars for a pair of those.

My friend and I did get to fish Curtis Creek twice and the Tuck on Sat. We did well on Curtis but we only got to fish the Tuck for about an hour just below where the competitors had frothed the water all day and we didn't have any luck.

Still I enjoyed the experience and can't wait to try some of those tricks.



BRTU member Steve Hennings attended a bike show as a TU fundraising and informational event. "The Bike show went great!" said Steve. "We had some members there at the show. The Triad Pleasure Riders supports our efforts and helped us raise \$100 for Trout in the Classroom!"

Trout in the Classroom Release Days

Wow – What a week! May 2nd & May 6th 2011

Stone Mountain State Park on Monday and Friday, over 300 kids participated in The Blue Ridge Chapters Trout in the Classroom release days. Trout in the Classroom is a program that brings trout into classrooms so that the students can see them hatch from eggs and grow. In May each year the fish are released into streams. Once again a huge success and many thanks to everyone involved to help take our classroom projects to a higher level.

Monday's release, three schools were in attendance, Sugar Loaf Elementary, Ledford High and Sandy Ridge Elementary, and on Friday, William Ellis Middle. They were greeted by Stone Mountain State Park Rangers Lynette Hicks, Jeff Jones and NC Wildlife Resource Commission Fisheries Biologist Kevin Hining, along with several volunteers from the Blue Ridge Chapter, Don Davidson, Ryan Davidson, Rusty Berrier, Michael Davis, Tim O'Connell, Tyler Hennings, Gene Fulp and Leigh Waugh. If I missed anyone please forgive me and let me know.

We began both days with Kevin helping the students release the classroom trout and then sending part of the students with Rangers Hicks & Jones, including nets and other tools provided by the park, to explore the stream looking for creatures that are easily overlooked if you don't dig around or turnover rocks in the stream. Lots to report on their findings, crayfish, caddis flies, larva, pupa of all kinds, salamanders and more! They were assisted by the rangers and teachers in identifying the stream insects and macro invertebrates. Not many dry kids after that one. Kevin kept the other group, explaining regulations, how he and the other biologist sample streams and count fish, game fish behavior and more. Then he breaks out one of his cool work tools, an electric stream shocker, this allowed the students to participate in stream sampling and see what other species of fish live in the stream. The kids as well as the adults enjoy this part of the day very much!

Monday, about 11:00 the Table Rock Fish Hatchery truck arrived and the kids assisted with stocking the stream. I can't tell you how many trout were carried to the stream by the kids – Many! And all three species were stocked that day. The kids really get into this. Some of the TIC teachers have sent me notes that this was the talk of the students for days after. Many thanks to the hatchery for allowing us to help; I hope we can continue to have this as part of our release day events in the future!

The most popular person about lunch time on Monday - NC Wildlife Officer Chad Starbuck, Chad has been the "Grill Master" for the past 3 years of our TIC's, along with the very generous support of Mike Johnson. Mike Johnson, owner of Hickory Toyota, has provided the food and beverages for at least one of our release dates since the beginning. Mike is also a Hunter Safety Educator and has talked to our TIC classrooms at past release dates. We extend our gratitude to Chad and Mike for their continued support and hope to continue for years to come!



As you can see there are a lot of people that make these projects what they are, and like I said above, to take them to a higher level. Stone Mountain State Park, The Rangers, NC Wildlife Resource Commission, The Hatcheries, BRTU Members, and local Sportsmen – Thank You all for your generous support! I really want to thank most of all our Blue Ridge TU – TIC Teachers. We are proud to be a part of your classrooms and really admire your enthusiasm and efforts to connect your students/ our kids with coldwater conservation and make these projects successful in the classroom.

Honorable Mentions and Quotes of the Week –

- William Ellis Middle School had the largest Classroom Trout yet! – Great Job!
- Sandy Ridge Elementary – Congratulations Peter Zein, Enjoy Retirement!
- Student while helping the hatchery truck – "That's a Nice'n"
- Kevin Hining at our Friday's release day – "This is the Best Thing Going"

Looking forward to next year,

Steve Hennings



Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited Helps Scout Troup 910

Three members of the BRTU board of Directors taught about 25 Boy Scouts of Troup 910 how to tie a very easy but effective fly: The Green Inchworm, better known as the "Green Weenie." With the help of Bob Lassiter, Don Davidson, and David Richards the scouts each got to tie a fly.



For a video instructing how to tie this fly, go to this web site:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMR2q35V8pY

Opportunity to Serve on the BRTU Board of Directors

Starting with our new fiscal year in October 2011, you have the chance to serve on our BRTU Board of Directors. This is a great way to get more involved with Trout Unlimited.

If you are interested in getting more information about serving, contact chapter president David Richards at david.richards@hanesbrands.com or 336-519-5421

Boy Scouts Fly Fishing Merit Badge Program

On Sat. May 14th Bob Lassiter and I presented the Fly Fishing Merit Badge program to 19 Boy Scouts at Camp Raven Knobs Merit Badge Weekend. This is a popular merit badge and originally had 29 Scouts signed up, but they culled it down to 19 since that was about all we could handle with the programs requirements. We were a little short-handed for that many Scouts but fortunately we had 2 Scout dads volunteer, Chris and David. One dad was an experienced fly fisherman and he and his son were preparing for a trip to fly fish in Alaska which helped a lot on the casting portion.



The program follows the Scouts National FFMB requirements. We covered fly fishing history, NC regulations, sportsmanship, safety, knots and the basic setup of a fly rod and reel in the morning session. After a good lunch at the canteen we started covering the fun stuff; Bugs, tying flies and casting instructions. We tweaked the program some and split the group in two and while Bob directed the fly tying, myself and the volunteers worked with the Scouts on casting. If you have never tried teaching 10 kids how to tie a fly, or cast a fly rod, just let us know and we can provide you that exciting opportunity next year. After tying their flies we switched groups eventually getting everyone through the tying and casting class.

Then we got down to the dangerous act of giving 19 beginner fly fishermen fly rods with hooks attached! This is the part that gives the scouts a chance to use their new skill to catch a fish which several Scouts accomplished and the part that requires eye protection.

We had a good group of Scouts this year and all were successful in getting their merit badges. The joy that comes from helping our future sportsmen and conservationists is immeasurable.

Many thanks to Bob and the 2 volunteer Dads for their assistance in completing another successful Fly Fishing Merit Badge program.

There was a lot of interest in the program this year and I proposed to Raven Knob that we can provide another FFMB program if it can be worked into their yearly Camp program.

Thanks and tight lines,
Michael Davis
BRCTU Education Chairman and Chapter Vice President