



Blue Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

February/March 2008

President's Letter

Peter Lloyd, President

Hello, Blue Ridge Members,

We had very good attendance at our January meeting. Squeak Smith (from my home town of Morganton) gave a great presentation with information about restoration efforts on the Catawba River and its tributaries including some insight into the FERC relicensing of Lake James' dams. Squeak also kept us entertained with pictures of large trout and Michigan Steelhead (a.k.a. trout porn, rated 'G' of course). I learned quite a lot from his presentation and left the meeting optimistic about the future of the Linville/Catawba tailrace below lake James.

We held our Annual Fund Raising on Saturday, February 16 at the Village Inn in Clemmons. If you weren't there, you missed having a great time. Activities included Bucket Raffles, Trout Bingo, Silent Auctions, Live Auctions, and a 52 Card Drawdown for a pontoon boat. The food was great and I believe everyone had a good time. We had 105 attendees and netted several thousand dollars to go towards our conservation and education/outreach efforts. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to making the banquet a success. Several of our members worked hard preparing for the banquet and the Village Inn staff did a great job with the accommodations. I particularly want to thank Randy Welfare, our Banquet Chair, for his outstanding work in planning and organizing this event.

TU had two booths at the Fly Fishing Show (February 8-10) in Charlotte. In addition to a booth promoting TU's overall mission, Our State Council, currently chaired by BRTU member Rusty Berrier, operated a booth to promote TU's youth activities. Thanks to the BRTU members who helped to man this booth at the show.

In other news, BRTU joined over 600 organizations as a signatory to a letter encouraging federal legislators to support climate change legislation, take action in reducing harmful emissions, and help guide our nation toward more efficient and effective use of resources. The "Sportsman's Letter to Congress" was delivered to congress on February 12. To read the letter and see the list of signing organizations go to:

http://online.nwf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=TGW_SignOnLetter

If you'd like this information but don't have internet access, please contact me and I'll be happy to provide it for you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 18, 2008, 6:30 PM BRTU CHAPTER MEETING

APRIL 15, 2008, 6:30 PM BRTU CHAPTER MEETING

MAY 20, 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

Don't miss this opportunity! Applications for Rivercourse 2008 are due by **March 15th, 2008**. River course is a camp for boys and girls ages 13-15 sponsored by NCTU. The camp will be from June 22nd through the 27th and I believe some slots are still available. If you know a kid that's interested in conservation and fishing, encourage them to apply. You can get more information and apply online at www.NCTU.org or simply contact me.

The Southeast Regional Rally will be April 25th through the 27th at Hungry Mother State Park in Western Virginia. This is a great opportunity for folks to meet TU members from across the Southeast learn how to become more involved. Accommodations are great and the cost is very reasonable. By the way, you'll also have an opportunity to sample some great fishing.

Finally, you now can get your official TU license plate issued through NCDMV. Details below.

I hope to see you at our next chapter meeting at the Texas Land and Cattle Steak House.

Peter
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(336) 774-0278
lloydpb@forsyth.cc

Contacting Anthony Hipps

Unfortunately, Mr. Hipps lost the contact information from a member at the banquet so asked me to pass this along. The pattern is available on Ward Bean's site: <http://www.warmwaterflytyer.com/corner.asp?page=4> or you may contact Mr. Hipps at: anthony.hipps@syngenta.com.

**Blue Ridge Chapter
Trout Unlimited
2608 Weymoth Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27103**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Meeting Announcement

Dan Benfield, Program Chair

At our next meeting on March 18, Martin Boggess our volunteer web master for the BRTU website, will present the new website format he's been working on over the past several months. Martin is doing an excellent job and this will be your chance to give some input into what you would like on the website. We hope to have the new site up and running in a few months. Also, we will have or annual member "Show & Fish Tale" presentations. Members are encouraged to bring their favorite fly and share a short Fish Tale on when, where, and why it is their favorite "go-to" fly (or perhaps a token from a treasured memory). Last year this provided some entertaining Tales and we look forward to hearing some more!

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 **6:30 PM**, but come early and join us in conversation and get to know your fellow members. We order from the menu and after dinner, our speaker gives their presentation. We welcome new members. Bring your family with you. This is a family oriented organization we welcome women, children as well as men.

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 have an email address, just send it to me at loydpc@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

Reid Marsh, Edward J. McCoy, Jarrett Canada, Dr. Samuel Ravenel, Rachel Kilby, and Alan Nealeans,

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>.

The plates are \$20 and \$50 for a personalized plate and NCTU receives \$10 from each plate (\$20 from personalized plates). We expect DMV to begin printing the plates by April but we need to get at least 300 applications before this will happen.

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 cold water conservation. I can't imagine a better way to end a day on the river than walking back to my vehicle, seeing the plate and being reminded of the great work we all make possible as members of TU.