



Blue Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

February 2009

President's Letter

Peter Lloyd, President

Hello, Blue Ridge Members,

I hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to our annual conservation Banquet next week, Saturday, February 21st. Gene Pope has done a great job making the arrangements and getting everything ready. We will have a lot of great items for the auctions including several guided trips, unique art, household items, and of course gear. This year's 52 card draw down will be for a hand-made bamboo rod! One new thing we are doing at this year's banquet is to have displays on *Trout in the Classroom*, and other activities your Chapter has been doing. There will be something for everyone so bring your family and friends. I look forward to seeing you there.

We had a great turn out for a January chapter meeting despite the poor weather. Unfortunately, our presenter, Dave Maeda, the NCTU State council Chair, could not make it due to the snow in Raleigh (they got a lot more than we did). However, Dave did provide his slides and we went through them briefly to highlight some of the areas Dave had intended to discuss. The areas highlighted for NCTU's strategic plan are the Native Trout Initiative (*Backie the Brookie*, EBTJV), Education (RiverCourse and Trout in the Classroom), and Conservation Group Partners (Greene River, Elk River, Tellico, and I-3/Corridor K).

Since we had a little extra time, we added a discussion on how the chapter is doing. Financially, the chapter is very sound with enough funds to operate without considering expected revenue. We were very successful last year putting the chapter's funds to work and actually spent down our balance a little. The areas where the majority of funds were invested were Trout in the Classroom (\$2400) and Muddy Creek Partnership (\$2000). We discussed the projects the chapter plans to support this year. Similar to last year, we plan to fund TIC for two additional school projects (~\$2400) and contribute to the Muddy Creek Partnership (\$1000). We also plan to continue supporting Rivercourse (\$500), and will add support for Casting for Recovery (\$500) this year.

We also talked about the upcoming activities planned for this year. One of my goals is to increase membership participation in our activities and I realize that one problem in the past has been late notification. We're trying hard this year to get the word out well in advance and have set

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB. 21, 2009, ANNUAL FUND RAISING BANQUET
MARCH 17, 2009, 6:00 PM BRTU CHAPTER MEETING
APRIL 3, 2009, TIC RELEASE OUTING
APRIL 3-5, 2009, BALSAM LODGE RETREAT
APRIL 21, 2009, 6:00 PM BRTU CHAPTER MEETING
APRIL 25, 2009, HELTON CREEK STREAM CLEAN
MAY 2, 2009, FLY FISHING MERIT BADGE

2008-2009 Chapter Leadership

Officers:

Peter Lloyd, President
Eugene Pope, VP
David Richards, Sec.
Bill Remaley, Treas.

Board Members:

Dan Benfield
Michael Davis
Chad Fulp
Steve Hennings
Bob Lassiter

the dates for many upcoming activities. Take a look at the Calendar of Events and mark your calendars. We will provide more details about these events on our website and in the newsletter as we get closer to them.

We ended January's meeting with a discussion of who's been fishing where and what's been working; one of my favorite topics. What really impressed me during this part was the number of members offering their knowledge, experience, and time to anyone wanting to learn how to fly fish. If you're new to the sport, or to the area, I encourage you to come to a meeting. You have any difficulty finding someone who will be happy to take you to one of their favorite streams and share with you what they know about fly fishing and catching trout (or other fish).

I hope to see you at our Annual Fundraising Banquet on Saturday, February 21st and our chapter meeting on Tuesday, March 17th.

Peter
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(336) 774-0278
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Welcome New Members

Mr. David White, Mr. William Foust, Mr. James C. Kaelin, and Mr. Scott Sink

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Meeting Announcement

Trout in the Classroom will be the topic for the presentation at our March 17th chapter meeting. The first TIC programs supported by BRTU are nearing the end of trout rearing cycle and at this program you will learn how things went this first year at Ledford High School in Thomasville and Sugarloaf Elementary School in Taylorsville . We will have presentations from:

Steve Hennings, TIC Coordinator,
Cathy Berrier, Ledford High School
Liz Cronan, Sugar Loaf Elementary School,
Kevin Hining, NC Wildlife Officer, and
Chad Starbuck, NC Wildlife Officer.

This is sure to be an interesting program and if you know of any teachers that would be interested in starting a TIC project, please invite them. Visitors are welcome.

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 **6:00 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 organization we welcome men, women and children.

Have You Surfed our New Website?

We changed our website last Fall to update the appearance and add functionality. Go to <http://www.blueridgetu.org> and check it out. If your internet browser still takes you to the old Piedmont Communities site, type or click the link above. The primary goal of this site is to keep you informed so let us know what you think and if you have any suggestions.

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 you have an email address, just send it to me at lloydpb@forsyth.cc and you will be notified by email when the newsletter is posted. Thanks to those of you who have already signed up for the email.

300 Brookie License Plate Applications!



We received the necessary 300 applications in late December and the application package was submitted to the DMV in early January. We are told it will take about 12 weeks for the plates to become a reality.

Thanks to everyone for your patience.

Fred Harris, retired NCWRC Executive Director, hit the enter key for the rod/reel drawing. John Spooner of the Pisgah chapter won the outfit [Winston rod and Lamson reel].

If you haven't ordered your plate, it's not too late. You can download and complete an application form from our website at <http://www.blueridgetu.org> or call me.

BRTU 2009 Conservation Banquet

The Blue Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its 2009 Conservation Banquet on Saturday, February 21st. The banquet will be at The Village Inn, 6205 Ramada Drive, in Clemmons, NC from 6:00 PM until 9:30 PM. Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM.

Come and talk with BRTU members and guests, and learn what the chapter has been doing. There will be several activities including Live and Silent Auctions, Bucket Raffles and more for folks to enjoy while supporting the Blue Ridge Chapter.

This event isn't just for TU members. In fact it's one of our greatest opportunities to engage our community and gain their support. So bring your family, friends and neighbors, to show them a great time while learning about our great organization.

Go to <http://www.blueridgetu.org> for a registration forms or call me if you haven't registered yet.