



Blue Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

March 2009

President's Letter

Peter Lloyd, President

Hello, Blue Ridge Members,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the beautiful weather. No matter how you define "beautiful weather," winter snow to mild Spring days, we've had over the past two weeks.

I'd like to thank everyone for coming out to our Conservation Banquet last month and making it a success. We had about 90 attendees and netted \$3963 to support annual our activities for this year. The winner of the bamboo rod in the 52 card draw down was Bill Britt and Mike Davis won the \$75 prize in trout bingo.

Even though the economy is slow at best, we were able to raise nearly \$4000 at this year's banquet. This is in line with our budget and will allow us to fund the activities we have planned for the year and leave plenty for the chapter to operate next year.

I want to thank Gene Pope for all of his hard work to make the banquet a success. I also want to thank all of the members who worked with Gene on the Banquet Committee. I was especially pleased with the number of members who donated their time and talent to help plan and pull the banquet off. I think this level of participation really shows what a strong chapter we have.

Finally, please refer to the Calendar of events above. We need volunteers to help with these events.

For information on the Trout in the Classroom release day, contact Steve Hennings (shennings@triad.rr.com or 407-1206).

For information on the Helton Creek Stream Clean contact Dan Benfield (dancon7@earthlink.net) or Mike Davis (davism@andassoc.com).

For information on the Fly Fishing Merit Badge contact Mike Davis (davism@andassoc.com).

I hope to see you at our next Chapter meeting on Tuesday, March 17th.

Peter (336) 774-0278
><>J loydjb@triad.rr.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Trout Unlimited Applauds U.S. Forest Service Proposal to Close Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trails in the Nantahala National Forest

ARLINGTON, VA--Trout Unlimited (TU) applauds the decision by the U.S. Forest Service to protect critical brook trout habitat in North Carolina's Upper Tellico Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) trail system by recommending as its preferred alternative the closing of a 39-mile OHV trail system in the Nantahala National Forest.

For the complete press release go to <http://www.tu.org/>.

The Southern Environmental Law Center has been working on this important issue with TU. SELC and our State Council is urging members to contact the Forest Service to support closing the Tellico ORV system to protect water quality and trout habitat (Alternative C) and to keep the area closed temporarily until the Forest Service reaches a final decision on the future of the Tellico ORV system.

Send comments by March 27, 2009 by emailing them to: comments-southern-north-carolina-nantahala-tusquitee@fs.fed.us; by mailing them to: National Forests in North Carolina, Attn: Candace Wyman, 160 A Zillicoa Street, Asheville, NC 28801; or faxing them to 828-257-4263. More information on our website at <http://blueridgetu.org>.

**Blue Ridge Chapter
Trout Unlimited
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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, 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.

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.

Welcome New Members

Brian M. Smith and Scott Larsen.

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.

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.

TIC Release Day – April 3

Ledford High School and Sugarloaf Elementary will release the trout they raised at Stone Mountain State Park on Friday April 3rd. This event will mark the conclusion of the first *Trout in the Classroom* projects sponsored by our Chapter. In addition to releasing the trout Matt Amadon (SMSP), Kevin Hining (NCWRC), Chad Starbucks (NCWRC) and BRTU members will work the kids and have an electroshocking demonstration. The event will run from 9:00 to 3:30 and lunch will be provided by Mike Johnson and Hickory Toyota at the Hemlock Picnic Shelter. Everyone is welcome to attend and we need some volunteers to help work with the kids. Contact Steve Hennings (shennings@triad.rr.com or 407-1206).



Folks enjoying dinner at the 2009 Conservation Banquet