



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

November 2008

President's Letter

Peter Lloyd, President

Hello, Blue Ridge Members,

I hope everyone is doing well. We have a new President and there are only 45 shopping days left until Christmas. I'm happy the political ads are gone, and still have time to plan for the Holidays; but I should probably go fishing first.

Time is flying but our chapter has been very active over the past month or so. We participated in Big Sweep on October 4th and had a stream clean on the Mitchell River on October 18th along with members of the Stone Mountain Chapter and a Chapter of the Fly Fishing Federation (see article on next page). Trout in the Classroom is off and running and the kids from Ledford High School and Sugarloaf Elementary School will be releasing trout before we know it. Check out the Trout in the Classroom website at <http://www.ticnc.org>.

We had a great turn out at our last chapter meeting! Dick Everhart with the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Surry County gave us a great presentation on conservation and restoration along the Mitchell River and its tributaries. (It was also good to see Dick, a member of the Stone Mountain Chapter, at the Mitchell River stream clean.) We also elected our officers and directors for the 2009 fiscal year

In other news, Gene Pope, Bill Remaley, and I were given a tour of some of the stream restoration work in the Muddy Creek Watershed by Steve Melton from Equinox Environmental, the firm managing the project. We were taken to one site where restoration work will begin shortly and three completed site, including Goose Creek. Muddy Creek, as its name suggests, deposits thousands of tons of sediment every year into the Catawba River below the Lake James dam. The 12 miles of the Catawba River

Apply for RiverCourse 2009 Now

Rivercourse applicants will be accepted on a first come-first served basis. Ten spaces for early registration through Chapters will be available until December 15th. After the 15th, all unfilled spaces will be accepted on a first come-first served basis open to all applicants.

RiverCourse 2009 will be June 24th-19th. If you know of a kid who will be between 13 and 15 years old and would like to attend, contact me or another board member for an application. For more information on RiverCourse, go to <http://www.nctu.org/rivercourse.html>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- NOV. 18, 2008, 6:00 PM BRTU CHAPTER MEETING
- JAN. 20, 2009, 6:00 PM BRTU CHAPTER MEETING
- FEB. 21, 2009, ANNUAL FUND RAISING BANQUET
- MARCH. 17, 2009, 6:00 PM BRTU CHAPTER MEETING
- APRIL 3-5, 2009, BALSAM LODGE RETREAT

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

below Lake James is a cold water fishery that is adversely impacted by the heavy sediment load from Muddy Creek. The Muddy Creek Partnership (previously the Muddy Creek Watershed Restoration Initiative) has been working to restore Muddy Creek and its tributaries since 1998. To date 117,848 linear feet of stream bank has been restored at a cost of \$16,798,132. Funding for this work has come from many sources including Trout Unlimited. Blue Ridge has contributed to this effort and plans to do so again this year. The tour was very interesting and I certainly learned a lot about the science as well as the challenges involved in getting this work done. I think we're pretty lucky to have such a large project nearby and we may plan another tour in the future if folks are interested.

I hope you can join us at our Chapter meeting on November 18th.

Peter
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Steve Melton from Equinox Environmental near an incised stream channel in the Muddy Creek Watershed.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Meeting Announcement

Dan Benfield, Program Chair

Margaret Williams, the local representative for Casting for Recovery (CFR) will be our speaker for the November 18th meeting. CFR is a national non-profit, support and educational program for women who have, or have had, breast cancer. Various TU Chapters have been involved in assisting CFR in providing fly fishing opportunities at their sponsored retreats. Margaret will present to us a program on CFR's efforts in the southeast and how TU has been involved in retreats in western NC.

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 this 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.

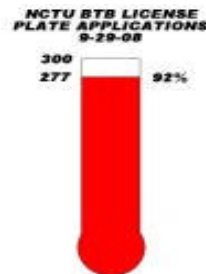


TU members and Ledford High students enjoy hotdogs after collecting trash on the Mitchell River.

Welcome New Members

Phil McKinley, Don Davidson, William T. Chappell, Anthony Masich, Marion Peebles, George T Mann, and Harlan W. Stone

Get Your Official NCTU License Plate Now!



DON'T DELAY! MAIL YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!

We're close but still need a few more applications to have the *Back the Brookie* license plates printed. You can download and complete an application form from our website at <http://www.blueridgetu.org> or call me.

Mitchell River Stream Clean a Success

Dan Benfield

We had our first Annual Mitchell River Clean-up on October 18th to clean-up the Mitchell River and access sites, with special emphasis on the Delayed Harvest area. This was a collaborative effort with the Stone Mt. Chapter as well as some members from the Federation of Fly Fishers.

We had around 40 folks there, which included the Ledford High School students and their teacher, Cathy Berrier, participating in the Trout In the Classroom program we started this year. Even though the area didn't seem to be too littered, we managed to pull out a lot of trash. We sent the high school gang to clean the upper end – wow! They retrieved a lot of stuff - about 7 tires and lots of other junk. I was surprised they got that much there!! We had a hot dog roast for everyone and it was a great turnout.

One of the best parts of this project was getting the two chapters together - we hope to do more projects with our two chapters. We will try to do a cleanup again in June (after the harvest season) when most of the trash is there. We also plan to do a clean-up on Helton creek in April.

Thanks to Kevin Hining with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and the NC Department of Transportation for their help in making this possible.