



Newsline

Upper Chattahoochee Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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Chapter 436

May 2002

Dream Rod and Reel Raffle

Tickets are now available for the 2002 Upper Chattahoochee Chapter's "Dream Rod and Reel Raffle." The winner will receive his or her choice of a two or three piece Sage, Winston, Orvis, Thomas and Thomas fly rod and an Able Super 5 Large Arbor Reel. To make this year's raffle even better, the winner also will receive a Dave Scadden Expedition model pontoon boat. The value of the winning ticket is over \$1500!

The Chapter will only sell 1000 tickets for \$5 each.

Tickets will be available in the May meeting and members are encouraged to buy tickets soon. The winning ticket will be drawn in the June 25, 2002 chapter meeting. Aside from buying tickets for themselves, members are encouraged to sell tickets to their fishing friends. Tickets are available from Bob Foster during the Chapter meetings or by contacting Bob at (bob_foster@kawneer.com) or (w)770-449-5555 or (h)770-992-8789. ❖

Next Meeting- May 28

David Baxbaum – Tennessee Tailwaters

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** Spinning Primer- Part 2, Fishing Larger Waters
- 3** Front Page News, CRNRA Seeks Comments, Pontoon Offer Ends and Fishing Reports
- 4** Backcast and Tiers Table
- 5** Forward Cast, Web Site Changes and 2002 Honor Roll
- 6** May 18 Bug Sampling and Chapter Videos
- 7** Coopers Creek Workday

Lines from the Leader

By Mack Martin

Since the last newsletter our chapter has hosted a number of activities and events. We have added a number of new members to our chapter and many of those members have taken the opportunity to go fishing with us and participate in other activities. For those who have been busy with other business or commitments and unable to participate, take some time off and join us!

The chapter completed its first formal casting clinic on April 27, 2002. The clinic provided twenty-five TU members with tips to improve their fly-casting skills. A basic course was offered for those new to the sport and more advanced casting instruction was offered to those wanting to polish up their casting techniques to become better fishermen and fisherwomen. A special thanks is extended to all of the instructors that contributed their time for this event.

On the fishing scene, the chapter had a float trip down the first section of the Toccoa River below Blue Ridge dam on April 28th and 11 members experienced a beautiful day on the river. A few showers seemed to help the fishing and Patsy Lewis caught her first trout. Congratulations Patsy, you are now an official trout fisherwoman. The chapter Spring trip to Bryson City was scheduled for May 3-5, 2002. Poor weather caused the trip to be cancelled, however two of our members decided to take advantage of the opportunity to get married. Although, Sam and Gail did not catch any fish they did catch each other. Congratulations to Sam and Gail Rizzio!

John Gamble and I are just returning from a week on the Provo and Green Rivers in Utah. We spent

Spinning Primer – Part 2, Fishing Larger Waters

By Ken Blankenship

(Note: This is the second article on spin fishing by Ken Blankenship. His first article appeared in the March issue and focused on small streams. If you have some questions for Ken, he can be reached at KenHBlankenship@aol.com.)

Unlike small stream fishing, where the perfect presentation of the perfect fly recipe is the only way to go for many trout anglers, larger and more open waters actually lend themselves to spinning gear as a more productive approach.

Lakes, in particular, present a real problem to the fly fisherman. Warm-water fly fishing for bass and bream has really taken off in recent years, but catching trout in cold, still water is virtually unheard of. More and more Georgia anglers are discovering that there is a healthy population of brown trout in the reservoirs of the northeast corner of the state. One of the best ways to catch these fish is on a light-medium spinning outfit. Spooling a 1000-size reel with 6-lb. test and combining it with a medium-action rod like a Shimano Scimitar will do the trick.

To get to the fish, you should really have a boat. Bank access is very limited on these lakes, and what is there is usually private. Boats can be rented on Lake Burton for around \$30 per half-day from LaPrade's marina on the west side of the lake. They also offer live bait, if you have children who would enjoy catching some yellow perch. Once on the water, your techniques will really depend on the season. One thing is true all year, though: these browns are feasting on the exploded population of blueback herring. From late fall to early spring, browns move into relatively shallow water to feed because it is cold enough for their liking. One killer method is to use a small or medium Rapala Husky Jerk in these areas, especially where there is a drop-off from 2-3 feet down to 8-10. A Yozuri Pin's minnow in gold is equally effective. Keep your rod tip high as you retrieve, and give a few good twitches every few cranks to imitate an injured fish. Into the summer months, the water heats up and the browns take the plunge to deeper, colder water. Try trolling in deep water with diving minnow imitations and

spoons. Medium Little Cleo spoons in gold and silver/blue produced some monster brownies near the dam last year.

In big, swift water the tradition of using small spinners runs into many snags. These lures are also more effective on recently stocked or hold-over rainbows, and do not produce many browns. On the Chattahoochee, for example, spinners can be used but a barrel swivel is a must. Attach the swivel about a foot from a heavier spinner, such as a Mepps Xtra Deep or a 1/16 oz. Panther Martin. Otherwise, you can expect your line to twist its way into a mammoth wind knot after only a few casts. Moreover, smaller spinners will never reach the fish, only surf the 'Hooch's waves. On a float trip down the Chattahoochee, a spin fisherman could literally take three lures and be perfectly happy with many a fat brown to his name: a gold Yozuri Pin's Minnow, a small Rapala Tennessee Shad Husky Jerk, and a back-up gold Pin's Minnow. Really, these lures have a look and an action that simply draws browns out from their lairs to inhale them. Both the hold-over and wild browns in the river are definite fish-eaters, and even after ignoring every fly in the box, they will instinctively attack minnow imitations.

It can definitely be said that while spin-fishing for trout may not be quite as deep of a tradition as a long, bamboo fly rod, it certainly has its own challenges and is just as enjoyable. Hopefully at least a few fly fishing purists will think twice before huffing at a guy with an ultra-light out on a stream or river– it might be me! ❖



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"I WAS CATCHING MORE FISH THAN MY PARTNER...
SO HE BIT MY EAR OFF!"

Front Page News!

In the May 12, Atlanta Journal Constitution, there was a most interesting front page article with new information about trout reproduction in the Chattahoochee River (http://www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/epaper/editions/sunday/news_c3ed806f752e71ac00d9.html). The article includes important information about some of the key issues facing the river and the broader metro Atlanta community. These are important and complex issues that should receive a lot of attention in the near future. If you haven't already, please read this article. ❖

CRNRA Seeks Comments on Johnson Ferry by May 27!

The Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) is currently seeking public comments on the recently completed draft Environmental Assessment document entitled "Recreation and Management Alternatives for the Southern Portion of the Johnson Ferry Unit". The Environmental Assessment document, written pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, presents two recreational use alternatives for the southern portion of the Johnson Ferry Park Unit. The No Action/Open Recreation Alternative would allow the National Park Service to continue maintaining the land in open active recreation activity fields. The second Environmentally Preferred/Passive Recreation Alternative would allow the park to stop active recreation use of the area in order to restore natural processes and enhance passive recreation opportunities.

The Environmental Assessment document can be reviewed at the following locations:

Park Headquarters – Island Ford Park Unit, 1978 Island Ford Parkway; Atlanta, GA 30350 or
East Marietta Public Library – 2501 Lower Roswell Road; Marietta, GA 30068

Persons wishing to voice their opinion may do so by either sending U.S. Mail to:
Superintendent, CRNRA
1978 Island Ford Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30350
or by sending an email to:
chat_superintendent@nps.gov. Please be sure to include "JF-EA" in the subject line and provide your name and postal address so that they may respond. The public comment period ends on May 27. ❖

Pontoon Boat Offer Ends

If you would like to take advantage of the special offer to buy a Dave Scadden pontoon boat, you must act before May 31 when the offer ends.

Mack Martin has negotiated a special deal for our members. You can buy the DSL Expedition model for \$599 or the regular Expedition model for \$349. The DSL model has 9 foot pontoons (a foot longer than the regular Expedition) which provide a little more stability and better tracking and the DSL model has more "bells and whistles." If you have any questions about the boats, Mack is glad to tell you of his experience. More info is available on the chapter web site (www.ucctu.org) that includes photos and links to the Dave Scadden web site.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, contact Mack (mamjr@mindspring.com) or Ray Gentry, Secretary/Treasurer (regentry@aol.com).

Remember, this offer ends May 31! ❖



Fishing Reports

Though the badly needed rains have discolored the rivers, fishing has been good when the water clears.

With warmer weather rapidly approaching, trout in the DH will have a most difficult time carrying over. If you would like to harvest some trout, hit the DH section in the next few weeks and stock up your freezer. Early and late are likely to be the most productive fishing. Nymphs probably will be more productive than streamers. In the evenings around Cochran Shoals, Joe DeGonge reports that size 16 Light Cahills, small BWOs and size 18 Pheasant Tail nymphs have been productive.

On the upper 'Hooch around Abbots Bridge, Bob Beck reports seeing relatively few caddis hatches so far this spring. Bob has been catching some holdover and wild fish on nymphs that while not especially large, have been nicely colored and are hard fighters. Bob also is catching recently stocked fish. Bob is seeing a good many small wild browns in the upstream sections which is very encouraging. However be aware that these fish are very spooky, especially on clear, bright days. ❖

Backcast – April Meeting Report

Again in April, the chapter meeting was well attended with about 60 members and guest. Mack Martin welcomed those attending and invited the new members to introduce themselves. Mack announced that the Chapter had received a certificate of appreciation from the National Park Service for our work on the March 9 project at Island Ford. John Weingart, who coordinated this effort with the NPS, said additional projects are being considered for the fall, perhaps in the McGinnis Ferry area.

Mack updated the Chapter on the upcoming Chapter Casting Clinic, Tocca River float trip, Kid's Fly Fishing Clinic, Coopers Creek Workday and the Bryson City fishing trip. For the Kid's Fly Fishing Clinic on May 11, there will be television coverage from Channel 8 and there will be some nice prizes for the participants. The grand prize is a fishing trip for two to the White River with Dave Whitlock, internationally known fly fishing author and instructor. This prize includes plane tickets provided by Skip Barnett, CEO of ASA airlines.

Mack also updated the chapter on the Georgia Council's plan for a video of local patterns that work well on the 'Hooch. The video will have several local tiers demonstrating patterns that work well on the section above Lake Lanier and patterns that work well in the tailwater section.

The program was presented by Chris Scalley who owns River Through Atlanta guide service (<http://www.riverthroughatlanta.com>) and has created a non profit foundation, Chattahoochee Coldwater Tailrace Fishery Foundation, Inc.

Chris discussed conservations issues as well as providing updated fishing information. Chris thanked our Chapter for our support to his organization. Chris said the ultimate salvation for the Chattahoochee may be that 80% of Atlanta's drinking water comes from the Chattahoochee. Given the present trends in amounts of water needed and costs of treating the water, the community really will have little choice but to find ways to reduce the pollution going into the river. Chris is trying to identify and work with some property owners on the river to become models for restoring buffers that protect the river. Chris continues to perform quarterly samples of insects along the river. The next sampling will be May 18.

Chris reports that due to the limited water releases from Buford Dam, the weed growth has significantly increased in certain areas which is providing additional insect habitat. With limited water releases and warm weather, the water temperatures have increased and may become a problem. Chris reports that surveys continue to show about 5000 fish per mile and healthy brown trout reproduction in the 25 mile section below the dam. The DNR is looking for evidence of rainbow trout reproduction and Chris ask anyone catching small rainbows with full fins to please save the fish for Lisa Klein, the DNR trout biologist, to inspect.

Chris reports good caddis and mayfly hatches especially when water temperatures change a few degrees. Chris said size 18 Elk Hair Caddis work well in riffles and LaFontaine Sparkle Pupa and X Caddis in a dark dun gray to be more effective in smoother water. If you would like to talk with Chris about fishing the 'Hooch (or Cumberland River in Kentucky) or his foundation, please call him at 770-650-8630.

Following the program, the Chapter raffle included a number of nice prizes. There were four dozen flies with Justin Loadholt, Mack Martin, Sid Elliott and the Chapter each providing a dozen. The Chapter also donated two Orvis books, a \$75 gift certificate for a Marryat reel and an Orvis nipper and tying tool. Orvis Atlanta donated a fly box. Orvis Norcross donated an Orvis Wonderline fly line and a leader wallet. Sid Elliott donated a coffee mug, Trout Fishing Tactics magazine and a dozen hand tied leaders. For an auction item, Greg Megan framed and donated a very nice print that was donated by David Brumfeld. Thanks to all who donated prizes and congratulations to the lucky winners. ❖



Tiers Table

"Tiers Table" will **not** meet in May due to the Memorial Day holiday weekend. If you are interested in future sessions but have not contacted Steve Collins, please contact him at 770-992-5677 or beckstevec@aol.com. All skill levels are welcome including those who have never tied. ❖

Forward Cast

Following is a list of Chapter event. Please check www.ucctu.org for updated information and more details.

Note: Chapter Meetings are held at the Red Lobster Restaurant at 1050 Holcomb Bridge Road near the Ga 400 exit (770-998-8573). Social hour and dinner begin at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7:30 p.m.

May-

18- Hooch Bug Sampling- Chris Scalley
28- Chapter Meeting- David Baxbaum, Tennessee Tailwaters

June-

8- Chapter Work Day- Cooper Creek
25- Chapter Meeting- Ed Schenk, Before There Were Terrestrials and Dream Rod and Reel Raffle Drawing

July-

13- Chapter Work Day- West Fork of Chattooga
25- Chapter Meeting- Wanda Taylor, First Casts of the Greats ❖

Web Site Changes

You may have noticed that the chapter's traditional web site (www.ucctu.org) has been replaced with a site that has some basic information but is far less robust. This is a temporary situation as we expect to have a "new and improved" web site in the near future. Stay tuned! ❖

2002 Honor Roll Continues!

Through the end of April, Ray Gentry has received \$10 voluntary chapter dues from several additional members including L. H Zalkow, Patsy Bowen, Michel Eckert, Walter Remter, Jim Farmer, Ricardo Myer, Charles Gardner, Stephen Glenn, Ed Sullivan, Jay Chastain, Mack Toney, Bill Laber and Ian Bastelier. These voluntary dues help support our chapter's activities and are greatly appreciated. If you paid your dues before March 25 and have not been listed in the newsletter this year, please contact Ray Gentry (regentry@aol.com). If you have yet to pay your voluntary dues, please consider mailing a \$10 check to Ray Gentry, Secretary/Treasurer, at 4403 Chowning Way, Atlanta, Ga. 30338. ❖

Lines from the Leader

Continued from Page 1

several days with local guides on both rivers and found that decision to be beneficial. Larry Tullis taught us a unique method to do bounce nymphing on the Provo and we caught fish all day long. On the Green River we learned about a midge bead head pattern that the trout could not resist and we caught fish along sections A & B, where others were catching little or nothing. The moral to our story would be to consider spending as day with a local guide, if you want to improve your chances for successful fishing on unfamiliar waters. Many thanks to Larry Tullis of Orem, Utah and Brent Johnston of Vernal, Utah; they are great guides.

The Dave Scadden pontoon boat offer has been extended through the month of May and many of our members are already enjoying their new boats. Dave Scadden is planning to introduce a new flats version of the pontoon boat and is considering having a booth at the 2003 Shallow Water Show. For those interested in saltwater flats fishing on the coast, you should find this line of boats an economical way to fish.

The Youth Fly Fishing Clinic is coming up on May 10, 2002 and we will have 36 new young fly fishermen and women by the time you read this newsletter. Also, the workday at Coopers Creek is coming up on June 8, 2002 and we hope to have a good turnout for this event, as this is an important part of our mission in the chapter. More next month.....

Tight Lines, **Mack** ❖

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"It's a worm patch. I'm trying to quit bait fishing."

May 18 Bug Sampling and Party

By Chris Scalley, President Chattahoochee Coldwater Tailrace Fishery Foundation

We hope that you and your friends can make the fourth annual benthic macroinvertebrate ("bug") sampling from the main stem of the Chattahoochee tailwater below Buford dam. There are six established sampling sites throughout a forty-five mile reach of the river where a viable trout fishery is available to the public within the CRNRA.

Please join us to understand and celebrate this unique trout stream we call the 'Hooch! We will have an impressive attendance of distinguished guests who have an extensive understanding of the evolution of cold "tailwater" fisheries in the "Deep South". Retired U.S. Fish & Wildlife and entomologist Donald Pfitzer, Bill Couch of the Buford hatchery, John Vermont of Ecological Solutions, Lisa Klein with DNR fisheries and many more professionals who know the subtleties of this complex river system.

We will create a casual forum on various future projects and issues pertaining to the Chattahoochee cold tailwater fishery. For example: thermal pollution and state standards for secondary trout water, fish traps or weirs within the 'Hooch stream bed and the historical and structural significance they possess (Bill Frazier with the Archeological Society will discuss this topic), primary trout stream classification of the tailwater, trophy trout water regulations, sand mining permits, Metropolitan River Protection Act, enforcement of the undisturbed riparian zones within the river corridor, and much more. Let's create a dialogue!

Those volunteers who have completed the Adopt-a-stream entomology course with Sharon Cowden of Fulton County Water Quality (404-730-8006) can participate with the sorting of macro inverts but those who did not complete this course can still witness this fascinating process just by showing up to observe and enjoy lunch with us. We will have a microscope available for the viewing of those critters that are difficult to distinguish with the naked eye. Our discoveries will tell a story about the health and productivity of the Chattahoochee tailwater. There will be innovative fly tying demos with professional river guides and commercial tiers. For those who want to try fishing local water, there will be a shuttle to Island Ford shoals. Anglers can either float tube down

to their car at Ace Sand Mine Operation or just wade fish with regular shuttles throughout the day. Please bring your children. They can enjoy these creepy-crawly-critters from the samples, which many will still be alive, or take the kids fishing at our local "honey-hole" at Don White memorial park!

The meeting will be on Saturday, May 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and lunch will be provided. If you really want to get festive, please join us later at 7:00 p.m. for a keg party with live Blue Grass band to celebrate our beloved 'Hooch. Take GA 400 to Exit 6, Northridge, and go west to Highway 9. Then go north three miles, cross the Chattahoochee and immediately take your first street on the right, which is Riverside Rd. Go one mile and pass the Ace Sand Co. sign on the right. Please park just past this sign on the right side of Riverside Rd. in the sand covered parking area. We are across the street at 710 Riverside Dr., just a short walk up the hill. Be careful crossing the road. Please let us know you can make it. RSVP at 770-650-8630. We look forward to seeing you and appreciate your help! (www.riverthroughatlanta.com) ❖

RIVER THROUGH ATLANTA



CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER GUIDE SERVICE

Video Library

Duane Stalnaker (duanespc@mindspring.com) has a library of videos that are available to chapter members. He has over a dozen good tapes now and several more on the way. The tapes cover a variety to casting, tying and fishing techniques. Please see Duane at a chapter meeting about these videos. A \$20 cash deposit per video is required and you will receive a \$15 refund upon return.

Because Duane is in the process of acquiring additional videos, he is offering free rentals for one year to any member who donates a tape that he needs for the library. ❖

Coopers Creek Workday – June 8

On June 8, our Chapter will participate in a work day on Coopers Creek in North Georgia. Over the history of the Upper Chattahoochee Chapter, Coopers Creek has been “our” stream as we have been very active in stream improvements going back to the 1980s.

We will be working at the “Shope Fields” ford and campsites. From Daholenga, take Highway 60 north to Suches. Turn right on Highway 180 and go approximately 4 miles. Just past the entrance to Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area, turn left on Coopers Creek Road, FS 33. Go approximately 5 miles until you see Coopers Creek and a series of campsites below the road. There will be a road that turns down to the campsites. The work area is approximately ¼ mile further downstream. We will meet at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided by the famous UCC Chuck Wagon (Glen Lee and crew). The U.S. Forest Service will be on site to help and direct our efforts. The Cohutta and Blue Ridge Chapters will be joining us on this project. We should complete our work by mid afternoon, but if you

have to leave earlier, that is not a problem.

Duane Stalnaker is coordinating our efforts and will have updated information in the May meeting. If you have questions, please contact Duane at 678-937-0450 or duanespc@mindspring.com. If you think you may be able to participate, please contact Duane as he needs to let the Chuck Wagon and Forest Service how many people we are likely to have working. ❖



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

