



Gold Rush Chapter

E-Newsletter

September 2007 Volume 4 Issue 9

Toccoa Tailwater Fishing report:

It seemed that with the mild weather in July that August would be somewhat tolerable. Unfortunately, as we all know, this would not be the case. With low water levels, high stream temperatures, the best bet has been on Georgia's tailwaters. The DNR and federal hatcheries have been releasing the bulk of their stockers into these waters instead of the smaller streams. The Toccoa has been fishing extremely well with catches of 30-40 fish in a day. At Tammen Park below Blue Ridge Dam, there are also quite a few 8"-10" stocked brookies. With plenty of casting room and cool oxygenated water, it's really hard to beat this fishery.

The real draw to the Toccoa is the chance for a big brown trout or one of its larger rainbows. Floating the river offers you the best chance to get into some of the water inaccessible by the majority of the wading public. I had the good fortune of being invited to fish a stretch of the Toccoa from a friends cabin. We fished from 9 am until 2 pm when the water began to rise. During the entire day, only 2 kayakers floated through, and this was on a Saturday. While the catch rates were less than at stocking points like Tammen Park and Curtis Switch, the quality of fish clearly was hands down better. Several beautifully rainbows were landed that showed off their amazing colors with amazing acrobatic displays. I landed a 16" brown that nearly had my heart pounding like I won the lottery. Other surprises included several native stream born rainbows with large dorsal fins and white tips on their pectoral and anal fins as well as a juvenile brown. It is refreshing to see that this healthy tailwater has natural reproduction for rainbows and browns. There is currently a nice Blue Winged Olive hatch in size 18-20. It is easy to identify when the hatch starts as the dragonfly activity will give this secret away. There are a few Light Cahill's still coming off throughout the day in size 12-16. Fishing this combination of a Light Cahill dry in size 14 with a Blue Winged Olive emerger/soft hackle as a dropper is likely to produce some satisfactory results. Be sure to have a drag free drift, but don't forget to let that fly swing out at the end of the pool to allow that dropper to move. Many of the hits are coming on the swing.

If you are looking to escape the summer heat and catch a few fish, the Toccoa tailwater is hard to beat. For up to date fishing reports, hatches, and all of your fishing needs the folks at Unicoi Outfitters in Blue Ridge is a definite stop.

To see a video of this report, please visit the following link at North Georgia Trout Online.

<http://www.georgia-outdoors.com/forum/showthread.php?p=457935#post457935>

By: Bret Nelson

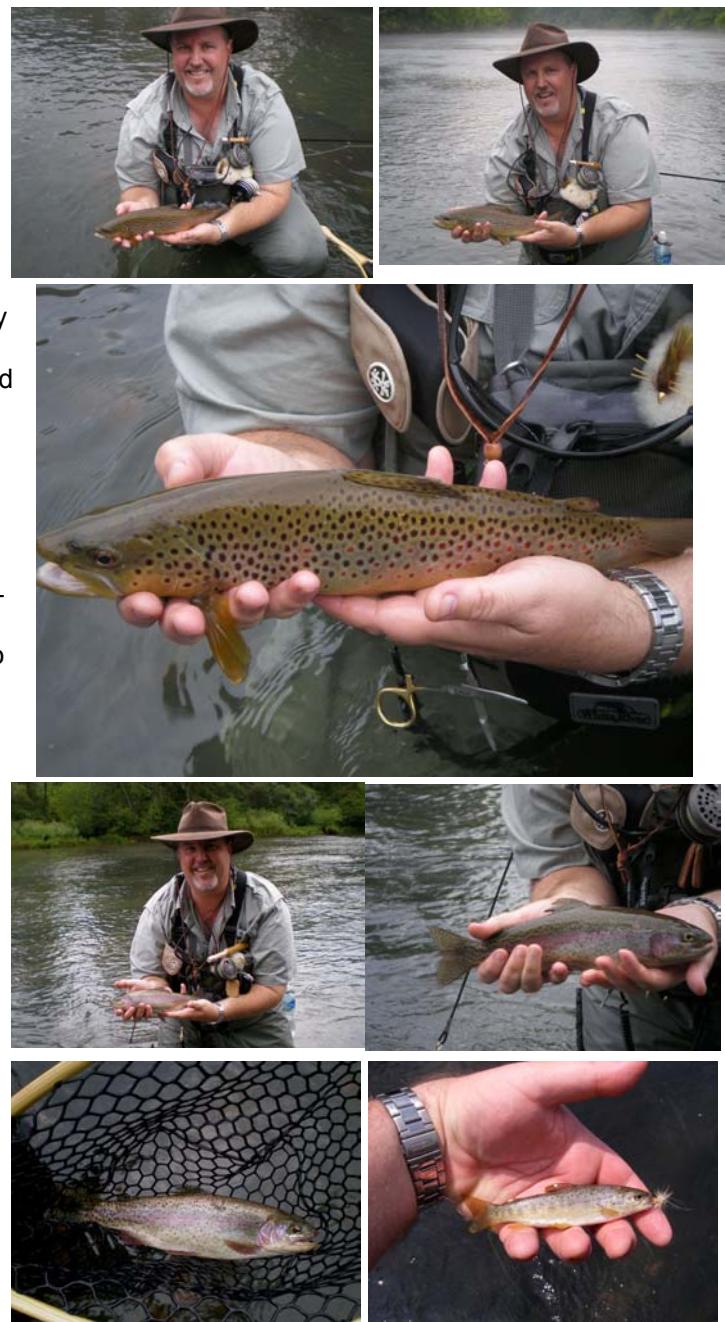
Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, September 4th, at 6:30 PM

(Directions on Page three)

Sam Johnson

Slide presentation of Boundary Waters



The Good News and the Bad News (02 August 2007)

In advance of your weekend, which do you want first?
OK, we'll end on the high note.

The bad news is that, after a bit of a July respite and some decent trout stockings thru that month, it's turned very hot and dry once again. To save our small fingerlings (4") that will be next year's catchable fish for you, we have to dedicate more of the remaining (dwindling) hatchery flows to them and hope those inflow temperatures do not get any hotter. Therefore, we must now stock most of the catchable-size (9" plus) trout we had planned to stock later this month. So there's the bad news- few, if any stockers for the last half of August.

So what good news can we find in this drought? Let me just say that the fishing should be darn good for the next week or two!

Last call before school starts again!

Best bets:

1) See the attached newsletter for some Toccoa Tailwater tips and fish wins.

2) Hooch up high in the WMA

3) Hartwell Tailwaters (ah, some cold water!)

4) Tallulah

5) Wildcat

6) Rock

7) Cooper

8) Dicks

9) Boggs

Classifieds

Help Wanted

Position: Rain Dancer.

Contact: Burton Hatchery 706-947-3112

Send resume and rainfall amounts incurred.

Good luck.

www.gofishgeorgia.com

03 August 2007

Lake Burton's thermocline ought to be setting up strongly now. It may be easier to find some browns and nice yellow perch. Remember Anthony's Burton trout guide, here: <http://georgiawildlife.dnr.state.ga.us/content/displaycontent.asp?txtDocument=117&txtPage=9>

More info: WRD: 706-947-3112

Good luck.

www.gofishgeorgia.com

Check out the Fish Hawk! <http://www.thefishhawk.com/>

**10 August 2007**

fyi. Reservoir anglers may wish to contact Ken and have him add you to his email list.

Check out fishing reports by Ken Sturdivant

<http://havefunfishing.com/>

17 August 2007

We're about stocked out. This August is tough on hatcheries! try: Tallulah, Wildcat, Toccoa tailwater, where somebody had a good day yesterday - - -

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FitFisher

Native

FitFisher's Avatar

Join Date: Jan 2007

Location: Jasper, Ga

Posts: 410

Default Best bet for the weekend. I had to fill out a form for a job up in Ellijay and afterwards I figured I would head up the road to Tammen park before they released from the dam. I got to the park at 12:30 and got onto the water around 12:45. For the first hour I caught a ton of fish but didn't count, then it got kind of slow for just a bit and then the last hour I started counting and got 36 right up until they released water at 3. As far as "catching" goes you can't beat it right now. For any of you this weekend that are looking for a place to take a newbie or your family, Tammen is loaded. You have to get there before they all get taken out. Best bets for flies are obvious, pellet flies, egg patterns or y2k's. Small split shot, enough to sink it, not touching the bottom; touching the bottom results in cleaning your line after every drift and not as many fish. They will actually chase an egg/pellet pattern if you slightly move the line/fly. Example) If you give a big upstream mend as soon as your fly hits the water be ready for a strike!! If you are simply satisfied with having your line tight and your rod bent alot, then find a spot at tammen, and I do mean spot. You guys be good and have a good weekend and chase some trout Fat fisher

14 August 2007

FYI.

1) We will close Dukes Creek to angling, effective immediately, because of high water temperatures. To protect these trout and give them the best chance of survival through this summer's worsening conditions, we will remove the additional stress of angling until water temperatures cool off. Questions: Site: 706-878-3087 or WRD fisheries biologist Lee Keefer: 706-947-3112. Thanks for your understanding, patience, and support.

2) The U.S. Forest Service has asked for public comments on 6 alternatives to managing the Chattooga River above Highway 28. Public comment deadline is Sept 13.

Details here:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/>

(see "scoping package")

Hopefully this drought will break soon and our lower elevation trout stream resources can begin the recovery process. Trout fishing is still good, especially in the mornings, on our higher elevation streams and tailwaters. There was a recent report on NGTO about a 30 inch brown taped on the Toccoa Tailwater!

September Stream Of the Month

Dukes Creek

Wild conditions for almost wild trout. Charles Smithgall was a newsman with a vision. He began buying up parcels in the north Georgia mountains. His dream was to create a retreat where he and his guests could enjoy some of the finest trout fishing in the Southeast. He set about building a lodge, ancillary cabins for staff, and restoring all but the uppermost reaches of Dukes Creek, one of the major tributaries to the Chattahoochee. About five years ago, he sold the holdings, including about five miles of the creek (at about 50 percent of their appraised value) to the state which then established the Smithgall Woods-Dukes Creek Conservation Area. Fishing here is like visiting your rich uncle's estate. Species: Brown, rainbow. Angling methods: spin, and fly-fishing. We'll be making plans to fish Dukes Creek on September 9.

Watch the Gold Rush Chapter Calendar for details or contact one of the officers.

This newsletter is just a small portion of what is happening in the TU world. It is critical that you continue to monitor specific websites that will keep you more informed. Please visit www.tu.org, www.georgiatu.org, <http://www.georgia-outdoors.com/ngto/>, www.gofishgeorgia.com. Every chapter also puts out a newsletter, and their individual websites can be found at the www.georgiatu.org website.

Where and When We Meet

We meet the *first Tuesday of every month* in Ivie Lodge at beautiful Camp Glisson just north of Dahlonega. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. while it lasts, and programs start about 7:15 PM. All welcome!

Camp Glisson is just two miles north of Dahlonega on Highway 60. Turn left onto Camp Glisson Road and continue about one mile through the camp to the bridge on your right. Cross the bridge and Ivie Lodge is 100 yards on the left. See you there!

Where YOU can HELP!!

15 SEP - Waters Creek

Well folks, it is fast approaching. The Third Annual Water's Creek Clean-Up will be on Saturday, September 15th. As many of you know, this has been a great success each year and I hope it will be again. NGTO will once again be supplying lunch and I hope we get a great turn out again. As usual, we will start work around 9am and then break for lunch at 1pm. So who can make it? Let's get a list going so we know how much food we need. Contact: GRIZZ via <http://www.georgia-outdoors.com/ngto/> under events.

22 SEP - Unicoi Outdoor Adventure Day

<http://www.georgia-outdoors.com/ngto/> under events.

Also, <http://www.nhfday.org/> , <http://gastateparks.org/info/unicoi/> Sign up to volunteer for this event.

Traditional Family Cookout and Fun Day!

Gold Rush Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Third Annual Picnic Fundraiser
At Camp Glisson

Saturday, September 29, 2007

At 1 PM

Dinner around 5PM

Bucket Raffles and Auctions to follow!

Free Food!

Games and Contests for adults and kids!

Bring the whole family and invite some friends to enjoy a cookout at Camp Glisson for our traditional family cookout and fun day! We will have bucket raffles and auction items, plenty of food (bring a dish if you like), games and contests for adults and kids. Plan to have a great time and help raise money too!

**Please contact any officer or Deborah Scott for more details.
(770)-503-9373 or e-mail littlebee7@yahoo.com**