



Gold Rush newsletter

December meeting of Gold Rush Trout Unlimited meeting at

BIG CANOE

December 13 ,2014

3 PM till 7 PM

At Big Canoe Swim Club Lodge



MEETING PLACE

We normally meet the first Tuesday of the month at Camp Gilson just north of Dahlonega.

WE WILL MEET IN December at :
___BIG CANOE___

See page 7 for details

Presidents message

- As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, I think it's time to pause and count our blessings both personally and as a Chapter. My own life is rich with family, fishing, work, and our family at Gold Rush. I look up to the sky, and say a prayer of thanks.
- In turn, our Chapter has much to be grateful for. The past year has seen much growth, several new programs, and increased participation in our projects. Let's take a minute to review what we have accomplished as a team the past year.
- As usual, our monthly programs were strong. Interesting presentations were made every month and topics included wild stream conservation projects, cane rod construction, fishing in Alaska, guide presentations, and Fishing with the Vets.
- A peek into the next six months reveals a schedule just as strong. It makes me look forward to being there on the first Tuesday of every month.
- Our monthly fly tying class has also been well attended. We now have a video every month of the fly we're working on. These are posted on our Chapter website and seem to help our attendees. Everybody seems to have fun and the group as a whole has made wonderful progress. There are several members who started as novices and are now good tyers. I'm so proud of these folks. They are a good natured group who work hard to improve. We always have room for more people if anybody wants to attend. All you need to do is show up. We've got vises and materials. We just need you.

President's con't

- Spring saw our participation in the Lumpkin County Middle School After Class Program. We spent four afternoons teaching 30-50 kids to cast and tie flies. This was an “at risk” group, who seemed to respond. Led by Win, our members did a wonderful job of instruction. Hopefully, we made a difference.
- Summer brought on stream renovation projects on Petty Branch, Loving Good Creek, Martins Branch, and Boggs Creek. We devoted a day to each of these streams in partnership with the US Forest Service, and other TU chapters. Each outing saw stream cleanup, and the building of new structures to improve trout habitat. Participation was good at all our workdays, and many new friends were made.
- Again this year, we sponsored two campers at Trout Camp. In addition, we had several members who participated as instructors. Fred stayed the week and acted as a mentor. Our two campers excelled and had a good time. Volunteers are always needed, so give a thought to helping out for a day or more next year.
- Our local 4-H organization held a Wilderness Camp in July. Again, we had several members act as instructors, teaching both casting and fly tying.
- October brought on cool weather, and our first annual Chapter Camping trip to the Davidson River watershed. We had several members attend, not all of who camped

Presidents message

- The weather was wonderful, and the fishing even better. We fished every thing from Delayed Harvest Streams to wild trout waters accessible only after a hike. We hope to have this again next year, so please try to join us.
- The end of October found us stocking the Amicalola the day before Delayed Harvest began. Over a dozen Gold Rush members helped place fish as we helped ready the stream.
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- The last project of the year occurred at Camp Glisson. Ken Nichols rounded up our Big Canoe members and treated the Hemlocks. This involved four visits and over 150 volunteer hours. A lot of work, but it will keep these trees beautiful for years to come.
- We also had three significant awards given this year. In January, Sam Johnson and Pat Patillo received the Founding Fathers Award. This is the only time this award will be given. In our history, we've had several presidents. These two are the only charter members who served as president and are still active today. They have been, and still are, leaders who still continue to participate.
- In November, we also gave out a special award. Fred Ruppel received the first Lifetime Achievement Award. Everybody knows Fred, but I don't think they realize how much he has done, and continues to do for our Chapter and TU in general. He is a past president who continues to achieve, having done literally everything in the Chapter. He is full of ideas and wants to see our Chapter move forward. He works tirelessly in doing so. He has been one of my mentors, and has been the face of Gold Rush Chapter for a long time. Well done, Fred, and thanks from all of us.

President's. Con't

- This summer and fall saw the start of two new programs which are huge in the future of this Chapter. The first is our program twice a month at the VA Clinic in Oakwood. This took over a year to get off the ground, and is now going strong. We have partnered with Foot Hills Chapter to teach vets at the clinic fly tying and casting. Four of our vets attended Riverence, an event sponsored by the Blue Ridge Chapter on the Toccoa River.
- The other new program is Trout in the Classroom, which we are partnering with Lumpkin County High School. We have provided an aquarium and about six weeks ago, we put trout eggs in it. The trout have hatched and are now growing. The students and faculty are excited about the project and so far things are going well. Our teachers have lesson plans, which they will teach as the year goes along, and the trout grow. Sometime next spring we'll have a ceremony as we release the trout into a local stream.
- As you can see, we've been busy as a Chapter. We've logged over 2500 service hours since last October. I'm so thankful to all of you. Everybody has played a part. Those who have participated in our projects have played an integral part in their completion. For those of you who have only been able to attend the meetings, you also have played a vital role. Without good attendance, interest as a whole diminishes, and our outreach suffers.
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- Thank you to all of you for all you have done this past year. Keep up the good work!
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- I hope everybody has a great Holiday season.
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- God Bless.
- Mike

Christmas Party

December 13th at Big Canoe, swim club building

All attending must RSVP so that the guard will
have you on the list Time 3 pm till 7 pm

- We will be having our annual Chapter Christmas party on Saturday, December 13th, at Big Canoe. The party will be held at the Canoe Club from 3-7pm. This is an event for family and friends. If you've got know anybody interested in TU, or have some friends in town, bring them along. All are welcome.
As in the past, the Chapter will provide turkey, ham, and drinks. We're asking that all attendees bring a side dish.

Big Canoe is a gated community, and we will need your name to allow entrance.

- Would you please RSVP me as to your attendance, and what you will bring? Don't miss this. Last year was a wonderful event with good food and fun times with family and friends

PROJECT HEALING WATERS

- We are now up and running at the VA clinic in Oakwood. On the first and third Wednesday of every month, we will be spending a couple of hours with the vets, teaching them fly tying, casting, and the TU mission. Gold Rush is partnered in this ongoing project with both the Foot Hills .
- **In order to make this project work, we need YOU**. This is a great way to spend a morning, giving back to these folks who have sacrificed so much. It's a small thing we do to try to contribute.
- This is an ongoing project, so if you can't make it the first couple of times, that's ok. Keep it in the back of your mind. We'll appeal again. Just remember, over the long haul, we very much need you. If you are interested, you can respond to this e-mail, or contact Ken McKinnon, wildturkeyflyer@gmail.com.

we need tiers and casters and plain old talkers to lend a hand on the first and third Wednesday of each month

PHW



Tying at Oakwood VA clinic

Very happy to report that Gold Rush had 8 folks attend the VA Training Seminar for Volunteer Services which means we will be credentialed volunteers to help in any VA clinic in the state of Georgia, Also this past week we had our largest crowd to date We had 8 tiers and a lot of great conversations going. We are growing

THANKS GUYS

PHW

- **TODAY, AFTER VISITING AT THE VA CENTER IN OAKWOOD AND TALKING TO A NUMBER OF VETS, I WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE NEED TO CONTINUE WHAT KEN AND OTHERS HAVE DONE WITH DISABLED PERSONS, BUT PRIMARILY VETERANS.**
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- **AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FISHING AREAS DEVELOPED FOR DISABLED BUT I THINK THERE IS A NEED FOR MORE EMPHASIS TO CONTINUE TO HELP SENIORS AND OTHER DISABLED PERSONS WITH ADDITIONAL FACILITIES, FISHING TRIPS, INFORMATION ETC. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OUR CLUB GET INVOLVED WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO JOINTLY HELP THE HANDICAPPED.**
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- **THESE FOLKS DON'T NECESSARILY NEED TO CATCH A LOT OF FISH, BUT NEED HELP IN JUST GETTING THEM STIMULATED TO GET OUT.
SO MANY OF THESE FOLKS I TALKED TODAY USE TO FISH BUT LOST INTEREST.**
- **Bill Hess**
- **Bill, we sure had a great time this morning talking to so many Vets. I got the same message from some of the wheelchair bound vets. Warren and I have discussed pulling together areas of interest that we would like to turn into projects. i.e. accessibility - for wheelchairs or steps to help get to the water, stream cleanup, stream maintenance etc. Hopefully, we can meet to get things moving**
- **Fred**

programs

- ***December - Christmas Party (no speaker)***
- *The Christmas party will once again be held at Big Canoe at the swim lodge on Saturday December 13th*

- ***January 6, 2015/Speaker: Rene Hesse (Casting Instructor)***
- Program: *“Casting Heavy Flies vs. Bulky Flies”*

Trout in the Classroom

- We are now the parents of trout fry.
- Our eggs hatched on November 5, 2014. at Lumpkin County High School,
- You can view a video of the hatchlings at:
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC82pWTg9U368IPdE1S9kFxA>
- This is an exciting day for Trout in the Classroom. I'm looking forward to a successful year and lots of trout to release in the spring.
- **There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting for class monitors**

Paula's corner

- *The feeder was indeed dropped off and set up mid week last week. I will be stopping by tomorrow to ensure all is well with our little guys! Before I left the school on Friday, I checked the water quality....all looked good. I also set up 35 gallons of water to be "de-gassed" over the break. I am expecting to begin water changes by mid to late December. We will be ready! :-)* Also, when I left Friday...*there were 5 freely swimming in the current at the top (the rest were still hovering in the rocks below)! They looked very happy and healthy!*
Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!
Paula

Fly tying

- NEXT TYING SESSION WILL BE
- December 11 th AT THE AMERICAN LEGION IN DAHLONEGA
 - On the hill behind Chic-f-lay
- Mike's videos are available to be viewed at :
 - You tube Gold Rush TU Fly Tying videos
 - Or
- Go to the gold Rush web site and drop down Fish'n and click on videos

Club news and notes

- **One of our long time members, Clyde Edwards, has been diagnosed with brain cancer.**
- **Clyde has been active in the Chapter over the years, and attended our last meeting. He's a super fellow, who always has a smile on his face and a kind word for others. Please keep him in your prayers as this Holiday season progresses.**
- **Hey Mike,**
- **Just wanted to shoot you a quick note -- I want to thank you and the chapter for allowing me to participate in the Big Pig Tournament today. I was a sincere honor and privilege to represent Gold Rush chapter in such a wonderful event.**
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- **What an incredible experience...a picture-perfect day for fishing (though the fish were few and far between). Fred and I guided for Dennis "Doc" Durham, a paratrooper who recently underwent hip replacement surgery, and this was his first time back in the water since undergoing that procedure in late July. He was so grateful for the chapter's sponsorship, and couldn't thank us enough as we parted ways. I believe we'll be fishing with him sometime soon.**
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- **As far as the results, Team Doc Durham/Gold Rush finished with 2 fish landed totaling 64cm, netting us a total of 22 points (though the image, attached, shows 23 points, their addition was wrong) and we ended up placing 7th outright.**

T shirts now available



Earn a t shirt by showing up at the upcoming work days

Shirts can be ordered at regular club meetings

They are \$16.00 each for short sleeve or can be earned by volunteering for a work day project

Long sleeve are \$18.00 each

LINKS AND SITES

Of course the best place for information is our own web site

goldrushtu.org

WE also have a facebook page:

[Gold Rush Chapter-Trout Unlimited](#)

For those with a face book account :

- Federation of fly fishers
- R&R fly fishing
- Fisherman's handbook
- Also U Tube (fly fishing) has great videos on fishing and tying
- [The Itinerant Angler](#) podcast
- askaboutflyfishing.com (another pod cast)
- ngto.org (North Georgia Trout On line)
- frog hollow fly fishing.com (A special friend to Gold Rush)
- [Thenewflyfisher.com](http://thenewflyfisher.com) (an online magazine free)
- <http://www.orvis.com/news/fly-fishing/tuesday-tip-how-to-tie-and-fish-tandem-rigs/#.UcnFXz44Vps>

•President-	Mike Thornton	drtrout@bellsouth.net
•Vice President-	Ken McKinnon	Wildturkeyflyer@gmail.com
•Secretary-	George Parsons	
Treasurer-	Warren Martin	treasurer@goldrushtu.org

Board members/ committee chair

John Simmons	past President	johnsi@goldrushtu.org
Ken Nichols	board member	ken.nichols0@gmail.com
Winn Crannell	board member	wcrannell@windstream.net
Ken McKinnon	<u>newsletter</u>	newsletter@goldrushtu.org
Fred Ruppel	TU council rep.	streamwalker2@aol.com
Ben trail	raffle boss	btrail@windstream.net
John Simmons	web site	johnsi@goldrushtu.org
Mike Thornton	fly tying	drtrout@bellsouth.net
Pat Pattillo	education	jrpat@windstream.net
Marge Ruppel	sunshine	mar2391@aol.com
Kenny Simmons	fundraising	kenny@froghollowflyfishing.com
Sherman Head	mentoring/ trout camp	beartooth@windstream.net