



Meeting this month at
BIG CANOE

SATURDAY December 12th, 2015

-----PM till PM



Gold Rush
Newsletter
December

DECEMBER / JANUARY program

- THE DECEMBER PROGRAM WILL BE OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AT BIG CANOE
- WHERE THE WINNER OF THE PONTOON BOAT WILL BE AWARDED,
- **DON'T FORGET TO RSVP TO GET YOUR NAME ON THE GUARD LIST AT THE GATE.**

- **January program will be :** Greg Grover and Gordon Brand talking about fishing the San Juan.

- If there is a program you think you would enjoy and or have a relationship with a professional that you think the club would benefit from please forward any suggestions to George : secretary@goldrushtu.org

- Call a friend and come join us for an entertaining evening. I hope to see you there.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

- We will be having our annual Christmas party at the Swim Club at Big Canoe on Saturday, December 12th, from 2-5pm. As in past years, the Chapter will provide a meat, and we ask that the members bring a side. Could you please rsvp me as to whether you will be able to attend, and what you will bring?

Raffle

- We will also be selling raffle tickets for the pontoon boat we are giving away at the Christmas celebration at Big Canoe. They are only **\$10 each, and we only printed 200** tickets. This is a great little craft to navigate both still water and streams as large as the Holston. See Win Crannell for your tickets.



Project Healing Waters

- sponsor an afternoon of fishing with the veterans from the Oakwood VA Clinic. Everybody had a great time as Unicoi Outfitters generously donated a barbeque lunch and use of Nacoochie Bend for the afternoon. Over forty people participated, and spent a sunny afternoon chasing large trout which were stocked just the day before.
- Our Chapter was well represented as the following members participated;
- 1.Don Wildes 2.Fred Ruppel 3.Brock Livingston 4.Deb Scott
- 5.Win Crannell 6.Bob Post 7.Mike Thornton 8.Ken McKinnon.
- I am providing links to pictures of the event posted on Facebook.
- https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10206265321086775&set=pcb.10153123380711759&type=3&relevant_count=1
- <https://www.facebook.com/gafoothills/posts/765025543644199>
- Healing Waters event at the Nacoochee Bend...
- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tedjones/albums/72157660137755768>
-
- Many thanks to all who participated. A special thanks also goes out to those who organized the event; Ken McKinnon, Brock Livingston, Fred Ruppel, and Ron Thomas.

AWARDS

Care Parson cook of the year award



Work day awards ^

New member > welcome award



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE PAGE 1

- As we near the Holidays, I would once again like to pause and review the progress of our Chapter this year, and be thankful for all of our many blessings. It may seem like a tired old saw, but what we have in our lives and in this Chapter, is unique. This area is blessed to have friendly people, temperate weather, beautiful scenery, and good restaurants. But, best of all, we have nearby a plentitude of good trout water that is fishable year round. At another level, Gold Rush Chapter has a group of individuals who actively attend meetings, and participate in our service projects. We have a sense of community, but we are so much more than a social organization. This past year we spent over 4000 service hours making our little corner of the world a better place.
-
- On top of what we normally do, our members have been responsible for three main thrusts this past year.



- The first would be our efforts at the VA Clinic in Oakwood. We partner with the Foot Hills Chapter to man the clinic on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. On these days we teach fly tying and casting, as well as just talk about fishing. About a year ago, there were four veterans who tied flies on a regular basis. That number has risen to eighteen at the last meeting. On Friday, November 6th, we spent the afternoon fishing together for large trout at Unicoi Outfitters. This group of vets has given a lot for this great country, and I know we all feel fortunate and honored to be able to provide this program.
- The second extra thing we are involved with is our adoption of Jones Creek. We have committed as a Chapter to restore stream structures over the next 2-3 years. This summer we had two workdays and made a lot of progress. We had another scheduled, but our wet weather got in the way. We plan to hit this strong next year. If you didn't get a chance to participate this year, please plan to join us next spring. Participation in this project gives one a sense of camaraderie and accomplishment that we don't often get anymore

MESSAGE PAGE 2

- Our third area of expansion is the Trout in the Classroom project. As you know, we initiated this last year at Lumpkin County High School. The aquarium presented several challenges, but we persevered and learned much from the experience. This year we will again have the TIC aquarium at LCHS, but it has been moved to the classroom of one our members, JD Barron. JD has been teaching for several years and has a great deal of experience with aquariums. We also had a request from Wildwood Academy for a TIC project. In September the Board approved the request, and we now have an aquarium with baby trout. We look forward to seeing how both of these batches of trout fry develop over the coming months. Teachers from both schools will present a program in the spring telling us of their experiences
- As you can see, we should be proud of our Chapter. We are a team who work together well. Our members are dedicated and have worked hard. Much was accomplished this year, and along the way, we've had fun.
-
- I am thankful for each and every one of you, and feel honored that you have allowed me to work with you. This has been a great year, and I'm sure the next will be even better. I hope each of you has a wonderful Holiday season.
-
- Thanks
-
- Mike

Council meeting

- The Georgia Council Trout Unlimited will be having the last Council meeting of the year on Saturday, December 5th, from 9am-12 noon at the US Forest Service office in Gainesville. If you plan to attend, please let me know.

Thanks,

Mike

Conservation

End of year in Washington means budget and legislative activity aimed at next year. The CEO of TU has been active in this process through testimony and I thought it would be valuable to know what TU is trying to do on a National scale:

Land and Water Conservation Fund Reauthorization (LWCF): This fund has been a success story for years and fundamentally provides funds for land acquisition and easement purchase to add to protected lands (National Parks, wildlife refuge, etc). The Chairman of the House Natural Resources committee is considering revised legislation called the PARC act that strays from the traditional LWCF model and in fact provide funds for other activities (Operations, training offshore oil rig workers, etc.). TU supports a straightforward reauthorization of LWCF under the existing model.

Mine Cleanup: The pollution from old mine sites has been a problem for years and highlighted by the recent Animas River Spill. TU is backing Good Samaritan rules to new legislation that would permit chapter volunteers to participate in the cleanup process without being subject to liability.

Budget Raiding: USFS budgets for restoration of forests have been hurt by “Fire Borrowing” in recent years that takes restoration money and moves it to forecasted fire fighting costs. Fire season is now 80 days longer than it was in 1970. TU supports a more realistic forecast process and accelerated restoration efforts using money provided by the Farm Bill.

- Submitted by Ralf Ripley

Delayed harvest

- **- What is Delayed Harvest ?**
- Delayed Harvest (DH) is a popular management strategy designed to provide a high quality catch-and-release trout fishery from fall through spring, after which the stream is opened for harvest under general regulations. Because each trout can be caught more than once, catch rates remain high over long periods of time.
-
- **- Effective Dates:**
- Nov 1 - May 15
-
- **- Regulations during DH:**
-
- Delayed Harvest regulations are simple and brief:
- - Anglers fishing delayed harvest streams must release all trout immediately and use and possess only artificial lures with on single hook per lure from November 1-May14 annually.
- - The use of additional “dropper” lures on one line is permitted as long as each lure contains one single hook.
- - A valid Georgia fishing license and trout license are required.
- - **The following areas are the five Delayed Harvest waters for Georgia:**
- **Chattahoochee River** (Cobb and Fulton Counties) from Sope Creek (off Columns drive) downstream to US Highway 41 (Cobb Parkway).
- **Toccoa River** (Fannin County) from a point 0.4 mile above the Shallowford Bridge upstream 1.3 mile to a point 450 feet above the Sandy Bottoms Canoe Access.
- **Amicalola Creek** (Dawson County) from County Road 192 (Steele Bridge Road) downstream to GA Highway 53.
- **Smith Creek** (White County) on Unicoi State Park from Unicoi Dam downstream to the State Park property boundary.
- **Chattooga River** (Rabun County) from GA Hwy 28 upstream to the mouth of Reed Creek.

Trout in the classroom

This year we have two Trout in The Classroom projects up and going, and going very well

Lumpkin County High School is under the direction of science teacher JD Baron .

As of last week we have not lost any fish.

All our fish were from eggs

Our second program is at Wildwood Academy in Marble Hill/ Big Canoe and is under direction of science teacher Jeff Hites.

At Wildwood we started with live fish and again all are survivors

Video can be viewed on our face book page “ gold rush chapter trout unlimited “

Fly tying

- NEXT TYING SESSION
 - December 10
- AT THE AMERICAN LEGION IN DAHLONEGA
 - On the hill behind Chic-fill-lay
 - The pattern is:

Rainbow Worrior variation 2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fadS_7J4LEk

•

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

PROJECT HEALING WATERS

- **THE PRICE FOR FREEDOM CAN BE VIEWED AT THE VA CLINIC**
- A reminder that we have a need for volunteers for our Project Healing Waters program at the Oakwood VA Clinic in Beaufort.
- more volunteers are needed if we expect this great program to succeed. We are planning fishing trips and will need volunteers for help on the water.
- **OUR PROGRAM RUNS THE FIRST AND THIRD WEDNESDAYS OF EACH MONTH**
- We have partnered with **OPERATION RIVERS 2 RECOVERY**” headed up by Scott Kesler – thru our PHW program .
- Scott is very good at getting Vets out on the water and fishing, we have had the opportunity to lend a hand water side on some private trophy waters this spring.
- Some great opportunities are coming up this fall to put together a great outdoor fishing program.

Fishing and face book

- As most folks today have a face book account which is a great way to keep up with all aspects of fly fishing.
- [Gold Rush chapter-trout unlimited](#)
- The chapter has a face book page along with neighboring clubs ,Foot Hills.
- I for one will start posting : when I plan to go fishing so any one that wants to tag along with me or would like company to tag along with them can post up.
- You can also post your fishing report with or without pictures, follow TIC ,

More upcoming

- December 5th Council Meeting Gainesville
- December 5th Big Pig Tournament at Frog Hollow
- December 12th chapter Christmas party
- Big Canoe
- Next Gold Rush Meeting Tuesday January 5th

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- Presidents, I was not aware of the new membership process so below is what I learned. Just thought I would share so all chapters can take advantage of the reduced cost and Free Veteran process. Hope this helps us bring in even more new members.
-
- *** New members for \$17.50**
- - New members can get an introductory 1 year membership for \$17.50
- - They can even identify the chapter # that they want to join.
- - To apply, fill out form at the following site:
- <https://gifts.tumembership.org/member/intro>
-
- *** Veterans Membership - FREE**
- - TU National offers a 1 year membership to all Vets.
- - Paid for by TU Nat not council nor chapter
- - To apply fill out "Partnership Trial Membership Form" at the following site:
- https://gifts.tumembership.org/vsp_join?_ga=1.263417740.1809698493.1431983741
- Directr any questions to Fred Ruppel at Cell - [678-520-4378](tel:678-520-4378)
- ***[note- There is a senior renewal of \\$20.00 this is best done by phone as it does not appear on the on line renewal](#)***

River clean up

-
- The 10 th Annual Rivers Alive cleanup of the Etowah and Chestatee Rivers in Lumpkin County was held on Sat Oct 10, 2015. In spite of terrible weather the turnout of about 75 folks was outstanding. Our chapter was represented by Mike Thornton, Fred Ruppel, Bob Post, George and his daughter Paige Parsons. Our support was very much appreciated. In just a half a day's work in the rain, over 2,070 pounds of trash and 15 tires were removed from our streams.
-
- Thanks for your support.
-
- Fred Ruppel

CONSERVATION

- **Stream conservation:** Gold Rush had a successful year in promoting TU conservation goals. There was a real step forward real step forward with the Chapter's adoption of Jones Creek for project focus. This was no small effort and is a tribute to the efforts of Warren Martin and Fred Ruppel to make this program a reality. The Jones Creek project will take several years to complete but gives us a real focus for improving a great stream right in our back yard. We will know more about the 2016 project slate after the December Council meeting. The goal is to publish dates well in advance so members can plan ahead to participate. One of the dates will be a work day that Gold Rush will provide logistical support. The objective is to have 2-3 workdays at Jones Creek next year as a special chapter initiative.
- **Recent news:** TU announced a recent decision in circuit court that has delayed implementation of a clean water rule that the EPA has been sponsoring as part of the clean water initiatives. The rule(s) are designed to reestablish dominion over headwater streams that was lost in earlier Supreme Court decisions. The clean water rule requires that development in sensitive headwater streams be reviewed and permitted to ensure water quality for fish and wildlife downstream. The court suspended ruling pending a more thorough examination of concerns and challenges. TU supports implementation of the clean water rule.

- The Conservation team needs your help



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>

•CONTACT LIST

•President-	Mike Thornton	drtrout@bellsouth.net
•Vice President-		
•Secretary-	George Parson	Secretary@goldrushtu.org
Treasurer-	Ken McKinnon	treasurer@goldrushtu.org
Newsletter	Ken McKinnon	newsletter@goldrushtu.org

Board members/ committee chair

John Simmons	past President / web site	johnsi@goldrushtu.org
Winn Crannell	board member/ education	wcrannell@windstream.net
Fred Ruppel	TU council rep.	streamwalker2@aol.com
Ben trail	raffle boss	btrail@windstream.net
Mike Thornton	fly tying	drtrout@bellsouth.net
Marge Ruppel	sunshine	mar2391@aol.com
Brock Livingston	membership mentoring/ trout camp	