

4-07-2009 - T.U. MINUTES – MEMBERSHIP MEETING – Gold Rush Chapter, Dahlonega, Georgia

The monthly membership meeting convened at Ivey Lodge, Camp Glisson; presiding was chapter president Deborah Scott. Minutes from the prior month were distributed, reviewed by the members, and approved by vote. The chapter treasurer reported a balance of \$9,556.78. Discretionary funds are: \$3,391.78; pledged funds from the T.U. grant, for the Stover Creek stream improvement program are: \$6,165.00. The Georgia Council quarterly meeting will be held May 30th, in Blairsville. A chapter board meeting will be scheduled for a date yet to be selected in April. Volunteer time was reported by Vice President Fred Ruppel at 900 hours for various activities; chapter volunteerism will likely exceed last year's number. During the course of the meeting, 15 different workdays/ events from April into June, were announced for various levels of member involvement. It was pointed out that a photo album, of the ongoing work, social, and recreational activities of the chapter, was available for review during each chapter meeting; the album is maintained by Fred Ruppel.

It was announced that the Gold Rush Chapter, in recognition of its exemplary performance, had been rechartered by T.U. National for another four years; effective at the expiration of the current charter, September 2009. New attendees were recognized; additionally, all members were reminded to sign in each meeting & to wear name tags. 120 active members are listed on the chapter roster.

The program for the May meeting will consist of a report from the students at the Lumpkin County High School who conduct stream quality monitoring on the adjacent Cain Creek area. Chapter members, Marge & Fred Ruppel, Sherman Head, Deborah Scott, & Pat Patillo, assisted with a fly casting & tying program, headed by Henry Bazella, at the Lumpkin County Middle School.

Members are needed to assist Alex Watson, with gathering stream samples during each season of the upcoming year for the purpose of monitoring the buffering ability of particular streams after a period of significant rainfall (one inch or more). Acid neutralizing capacity (A.N.C.) is the characteristic being monitored. Gold Rush will monitor Stover Creek and Chester Creek.

Two Trout Camp applicants have been approved; Nick, from Dublin, and Elly, from Dahlonega. Upon motion and second, a unanimous vote approved \$400 tuition for each camper from chapter funds. A motion & vote of approval was made to permit Fred Ruppel to arrange for the production and purchase of 50 Gold Rush T.U. lapel pins to be sold for \$5.00 each.

Member, John Simmons, the webmaster for the chapter, reported that the chapter website is continuing to be modified and updated. It has been greatly enhanced as to its content; in addition to chapter business information, it now includes more links to other sites, practical fishing information, tying info, hatch charts, etc.

The April program was given by member, Pat Patillo. Pat provided an exceptional overview and introduction on how each member could build his own graphite fly rod.

