

08-04-09 T.U. MINUTES – MEMBERS MEETING – Gold Rush Chapter,
Dahlonega, Ga.

The members of the Gold Rush Chapter of Trout Unlimited, convened August 4th, at Ivey Lodge, Camp Glisson; the meeting was conducted by Vice President, Fred Ruppel. The minutes from the prior month's meeting were reviewed and accepted by vote of the members present. All members were reminded to sign the attendance roster at each meeting. The chapter photo album, chronicling various activities, continues to be updated and is available at each meeting for review.

Volunteer hours are approximately 2,000 for the year; the prior Saturday workday on Stover Creek earned 714 hours. There were 30 volunteers, 6 T.U. chapters participated, and there were several unaffiliated volunteers present.

Kenny Simmons announced that preparations for the Frog Hollow fishing challenge, a T.U. sponsored event, are continuing. A public announcement of the event has been made and publicity will continue through various media including, newspaper, magazine, & internet.

Sherman Head announced that caution should be taken when fishing in the Noontootla Creek area, because a large number of rattlesnakes had been sighted. He presented a snake skin of about 5 feet in length, from a snake he had recently killed.

The chapter fly tying program meets at the American Legion on the 2nd Thursday of each month; all members are invited to attend. The board has approved for the chapter to purchase fly tying equipment including tools, vises, & materials; the total cost of which is not to exceed \$500.

Member, Bob King, Drug Court coordinator, for the State Court, solicited for volunteers to help with a planned one day conference at which the chapter would staff an informational display about Trout Unlimited. The focus of the conference is to aid those involved with alcohol and substance abuse treatment and recovery, by demonstrating to them the various activities available in the community.

The October cookout planned for the first Saturday in October was announced. It will be held this year at Pine Valley, on the outskirts of Dahlonega, for convenience.

An evaluation and recommendation form was provided to the members. The form is designed to elicit input from the membership about the progress and direction of the chapter. The form was provided by member Ken McKinnon and had been used successfully in a prior fishing/conservation organization in which Ken was a member.

An appeal for nominations for all chapter officers was made; the current officers have all served two consecutive one-year terms because there were no other volunteers to serve.

Sam Johnson & Pat Pattillo, both past chapter presidents, provided a brief history of the origin and history of the chapter, which at this time is only about six years old. Fred Ruppel briefly reviewed the S.W.O.T. analysis completed for the chapter, which is a strategic plan outlining the goals and objectives for the chapter.

Sam Johnson renewed his appeal to the membership to develop a plan to have the Georgia Aquarium create a special display for the Brook Trout, which is the Georgia State fish.

The meeting was adjourned.