



# Gold Rush Chapter E-Newsletter

August 2006 Volume 3 Issue 8

## Chapter Report

Sam Johnson, *President*

Our website update is finally finished. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Gloria Pattillo for her skill and commitment to this project. You'll find it not only more informative, but also more organized and functional than the original release. Of course, we'll continually improve it and keep the "Calendar" updated regularly. Let us know what you think.

As we begin Q3 of 2006, it's time to start thinking about officers / board nominees for 2007. I cannot stress enough the importance of being willing to step up to the plate and commit your time, talents and resources. This Chapter can be no better than the members are willing to make it. So, if you haven't served in an "official" capacity in the past and wish to do so, please let me know. We'll be trying to finalize the nomination process by the September meeting. New officers take office October 1<sup>st</sup>.

We're in full planning mode for our "**2006 Picnic / Fund-raiser**" at Camp Glisson. Be sure and mark September 30<sup>th</sup> as the date. Scott Goss and Frank Shirley are co-chairs for this event. They, along with many others, are planning to make this a fun time for all. Make plans to bring your family and friends to the event.

Finally, we've had several good work days in June and July. Logs split, steps constructed, and structures built and adjusted are the accomplishments. We plan to build one more set of steps and some additional structure work before the end of October. This will complete this year's initiative.

Hope to see you at the August meeting next week! Pat's got a good program planned.

*Sam*

## Rants and Raves

### More Rants and Raves

Back in the dark ages of fly fishing, in the days of silk lines and gut leaders, there was no standards for line weights and the rod's ability to easily cast that line weight. Lines were rated through a letter system, "A" for the heaviest and decreasing in weight as you go down the alphabet.

### Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, August 1, at 6:30 PM

(Directions on Page three)

Raffle Items: **One (1) dozen assorted fly's,**

A double taper might be designated a "HCH", meaning an "H" tip and a "C" belly. The first weight forward I ever bought was a "GBF". "G" tip, "B" belly and "F" running line.

The trouble with this system was no two manufactures agreed on how much each letter designation weighed. One manufacturer's "D" was another's "B". Lo and behold, the AFTMA (American Fishing Manufactures Association) decided to standardize things and end the confusion.

Lines were to be rated by the weight in grains of the first 30 feet and rods rated as to their ability to comfortably cast that weight line. A "0" line weighed 40 grains and each line number increased that weight by 20 grains. Thus a "1" weight was 80 grains, a "3" 100 grains etc, etc up through a "6" wt. Beginning with a "7" wt the gain was a little more. Wonderful! All I need to know is to buy a 4-wt line for a 4-wt rod.

Enter marketing strategy! When I started fishing there were only a few line types. Basically level, double taper and weight forward.

Cabela's fly fishing catalog lists 30 different type lines from just one manufacturer and that ain't all of them. Listen to this: "Fly line of choice for a wide range of fly-fishing applications. Formulated to be weight-specific to meet the unique demands of each weight. Proprietary-taper design and balanced-loading system casts farther with greater accuracy.

OK, What does weight specific mean? I thought I got that by buying the labeled line#. Casts farther than what? What is greater accuracy and how do I measure it. What the heck is a "balanced loading system"? You can bet the retailer doesn't know!

My point is: the labeled line # may or may not meet the AFTMA standard. We have come full circle. I for one wish the manufacturers would put the weight in grains on the box so I would have some idea of what I'm getting for my 60 bucks!

*Pat*

## July SOTM News



Snowbird Creek, North Carolina. Again no takers on the fishing trip. Must be the price of gas or too much going on at home. I have heard some of the guys getting in some fishing locally, that may be all we have time for right now. There is nothing better than being on the creek or just standing around talking about that old fly rod of your Daddy's. Mr. Pat finished his fly rod that he wrote about in last month's newsletter "Rants and Raves". Gold Rush Chapter has some very talented and educated members.



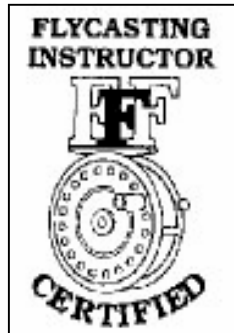
## Atlanta Fly Fishing School

The Atlanta Fly Fishing School has a new home with a new and revised teaching program suited for both beginning and advanced fly fisherman. Contact information for the school is as follows:

M. A. (Mack) Martin Jr.  
Manager/Casting Instructor  
6105 Paddock Lane  
Cumming, GA 30040

Office (770) 889-5638  
Fax (678) 455-7161  
Cell / voice mail (404) 683-0070

[www.atlantaflyfishingschool.com](http://www.atlantaflyfishingschool.com)  
[www.mackmartin.com](http://www.mackmartin.com)



## 2006 Streams Of the Month

Each month the Chapter targets a favorite stream and we go fish it! Some are day trips, and others are hike ins and / or overnight camp outs. The usual date each month is the Saturday following our meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. Actual dates, meeting place, guide, and meet times are announced in each month's chapter meeting, on the website calendar, and also in the newsletter PDF on the site.

These are opportunities for you to perfect your skills, learn from others, catch fish, experience new streams and rivers, and have a good time in the great outdoors. *Come join us !*

- January** Smith Creek, Delayed harvest (Frank Shirley)
- February** Noontootla Creek, Blue Ridge WMA (Sam Johnson)
- March** Chattooga River, Delayed harvest (Scott Goss)
- April** Conasauga River, Cohutta Wilderness (Pat Pattillo)
- May** Davidson River, Pisgah Forrest, Camp out (Scott Goss)
- June** Jacks River, A backpack trip to the Cohuttas (Pat Pattillo)
- July** Snowbird, North Carolina
- August** Upper Chattahoochee
- September** Dukes Creek
- October** Conasauga River, Cohutta Wilderness Area
- November** Amicalola River

**Attention:** If you would like to lead one of these trips or have a favorite stream you'd like to share with chapter members, please let us know.

## August Stream Of the Month

### Upper Chattahoochee

The Chattahoochee River begins thirty-five hundred feet high in the Blue Ridge Mountains at Chattahoochee Gap in the national forest, and flows 36 miles to Belton Bridge at the headwaters of Lake Lanier. The 1000-square mile **Headwaters** region combines trout fishing, whitewater boating with many wilderness parks and hiking trails.

The Upper Chattahoochee River Campground is a great place to "get away from it all" while still being close to all the "happenings" in and around Helen, Georgia. Located near the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River, the recreation area offers camping, picnicking, hiking, and fishing. The Chattahoochee River is one of the best trout fishing streams in north Georgia. In addition, the Appalachian Trail is nearby, as well as the Horse Trough Falls Interpretive Trail and the Mark Trail Wilderness. Wildlife flourishes in this area, where black bears, turkeys, deer, song birds and other small animals make their home. Anna Ruby Falls, the most visited waterfalls in Georgia, is located just a short distance from the campground. The campground generally sits at an elevation of about 2,200 feet above sea level which gives you a feeling of being in high mountain forest. It's noticeably cooler here in the summer time.

**Watch the Gold Rush Chapter Calendar for the details on this trip in August.**

## Last Months Meeting

The July program was a brook trout DVD produced by the Central Wisconsin Chapter of TU, in collaboration with Bob Hunt, retired researcher for the Wisconsin DNR. It consisted of his research efforts on a well known Wisconsin brook trout stream, and included details of habitat improvement techniques, results in physical changes, and long term effects on the fish population. The general theme and techniques applied to most streams we work on.

## August Meeting Topic

Mr. Pat Pattillo has an extreme "X" factor passion! He has agreed to do a demonstration on fly rods and lines for our August meeting. Bring your own fly rod and line and discuss the theory.

Check out this website for one EXPERTS advice.  
<http://www.sportchalet.com/info/index.jsp?categoryId=222874&infoPath=222980#B>

**"Sites to Behold: The History of Georgia's State Parks" celebrates the 75th Anniversary of Georgia's State Parks System.**

**Documentary Premieres Wednesday, July 26 at 8 p.m. on Georgia Public Broadcasting**

**Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites:** While everything else changes, Georgia State Parks remain true to nature. During 2006, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will celebrate 75 years of protecting Georgia's natural, cultural and recreational resources for a happy and healthy Georgia. To join this celebration, visit [www.gastateparks.org](http://www.gastateparks.org) and [www.gpb.org](http://www.gpb.org)



Anyone interested in assisting WRD Fisheries trout stream sampling efforts should contact Lee Keefer or Leon Brotherton @ 706-947-3112 or [lee\\_keefer@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:lee_keefer@dnr.state.ga.us) The days we most need help on are : 24 and 25 July (Noontoola Cr) 22, 23 August (Sarahs Cr and upper Chattahoochee), 28 And 30 August (Hedden Cr and Dicks Cr), 6,7 and 11 September (Cooper cr. and SF Moccasin Cr.)

## 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!**

## Gold Rush Chapter Workdays



**Watch the Gold Rush Chapter Calendar for Work Days in August and September.**

## Gold Rush Chapter Contacts

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110 Cloudland Park Road

Dahlonega, GA 30533

**Mark Your Calendar- Sept 23- Unicoi Outdoor Adventure Day!**

[jeff\\_durniak@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:jeff_durniak@dnr.state.ga.us) [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com)

DNR organizers met this week to kick off plans for this annual event, scheduled for September 23, 2006 at Unicoi State Park. For those of you who have not attended one of these in the past, it's a ton of fun. Attendees are treated to trout fishing, archery, BB gun, and skeet shooting, live animal demos (snakes and hawks), hunting dog demos, hayrides, and much more. The event is held at Unicoi State Park, along Smith Creek below Unicoi Dam, from 10 AM til 4 PM. It will cost you only three bucks for a Georgia park pass for your vehicle. Last year's event was canceled due to recent tornado damage at the venue site, but we hope for better luck with the weather this year! The event is only possible due to the large (150+) volunteer force that helps Wildlife Resources and State Parks Division staff to host and teach our visitors. This volunteer force will be even more critical this year, as we are faced with fewer DNR staff members to tap into. **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- 1) Consider volunteering. You can help register guests, direct traffic, be a creek side fishing guide, teach fly tying, etc. As the event staffing coordinator, I'll find a niche for you. Once again, working thru organized groups like Trout Unlimited, The UGA Wildlife Society, and the Wild Turkey Federation, I'm gonna need about 150 conservationists to step up and volunteer their Saturday. The number of smiles and "thank you's" from suburbanite families will make you glad you volunteered, and you will help recruit our newest generation of Georgia conservationist.
- 2) Bring your kids!
- 3) Encourage other folks to come spread the word to family, friends, schoolmates, scouts, and church members. This is a great chance for non-outdoorsy types to learn from real experts!
- 4) WISH FOR GREAT WEATHER!!!!

I'll be in touch with more details and an appeal for your help in the near future. In the mean time, mark your calendars and spread the word.

**PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCED FOR CHATTOOGA WILD AND SCENIC RIVER VISITOR USE CAPACITY ANALYSIS**

The USDA Forest Service will hold a public meeting on July 27 in Highlands, NC to give an update on the Upper Chattooga River visitor use capacity analysis. The meeting will be from 6 to 8 pm Thursday, July 27 at the Highlands Civic Center, 600 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street (US HW 64), Highlands, NC. For more information see, [www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms).

**Kevin F. McGrath, Chairman, Back-the-Brookie, Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited**

- **Advocacy Alerts.** GA TU is in talks with the Georgia Wildlife Federation (GWF) about partnering with the GWF Camouflage Coalition [www.camocoalition.com](http://www.camocoalition.com). GWF Camouflage Coalition is an advocacy email alert network with thousands of members state-wide. This is a way to reach non-TUer's on issues important to TU and support GWF in its mission.
- **Interns.** GA Back-the-Brookie in partnership with GA DNR, USFS, North Georgia Tech, Soque River Watershed Association, and Georgia Power Foundation has employed three summer interns pursuing fisheries studies and careers to work on brook trout projects in Georgia. Their work will include water sampling, fish sampling, stream habitat mapping, and stream enhancement work on brook trout streams in conjunction with TU volunteers, GA DNR and USFS personnel, and N. GA Tech instructors. Funding for the intern came from two GA Chapters – Rabun and Upper Chattahoochee, TU's Embrace a Stream Program, and the Georgia Power Foundation.
- **Stream Projects.** Rabun TU conducted a Back the Brookie workday on a local, wild brookie stream.
- **Fund Raising.** GA TU has received a rod and reel outfit from Cabela's to raffle off. Proceeds from the raffle will be matched by GA Back-the-Brookie for purchase of thermographs to monitor stream temperatures in brookie stream across North Georgia. The thermographs will be gifted to GA DNR.
- **GA TU Trout Camp.** One day of trout camp was devoted to brookies. Twenty four campers worked with the USFS and GA DNR on a local brook trout stream. All campers saw a wild brookie during an electroshocking survey and learned about a brookie's habitat and life cycle.