



Gold Rush Chapter E-Newsletter

January 2007 Volume 4 Issue 1

Chapter Report

Scott Goss, President

Greetings GRTU members. I trust that everyone had a safe and happy Christmas. I am sorry to say that I have not fished lately. Therefore, I do not have any tall tails to share. I did get word that the Nantahala's delayed harvest is fishing well. I also got a look at a new bug that Scott Abernathy has out. It looks pretty hot to me. Tritt's has a few of them in stock, if anyone is interested. I'm sure that many of you have taken advantage of the warm weather. I look forward to your reports at the meeting. I have arranged for Monte Seahorn to come back and speak again. Monte is going to be speaking about some of the more local restoration projects that he has been involved with. If you missed Monte last time, he is retired from the US Forest Service. He is a certified wildlife biologist and fisheries scientist. Monte is a wealth of information and I believe that we can all learn from his vast experience. I hope that everyone makes it a point to attend. Until then, tight lines. Scott Goss

HAVE YOU SEEN US?

Well, If you haven't here are some things you better take care of before you get to the creek.

1. Clean your boots
2. Clean and Patch those waders
3. Clean those vest pockets out, and restock.
4. Check and clean your rod, especially those eyes.
5. Check and clean that fly line.
6. Practice those knots, need new leader, tippet.
7. Don't forget the reel, clean and lubricate.
9. Buy or Tie some more flies.
10. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, January, 2, at 6:30 PM

(Directions on Page three)

SMOKED TROUT FOR DINNER
SPEAKER: MONTE SEAHORN

What's Happening 2007

Dream Fly Fishing tickets ON SALE now

New vendors on Trout Unlimited www.tu.org go to About Us then Sponsors & Friends

Workdays will start in Spring. Cane Creek and Jones Creek.

Council News website georgiatu.org

Georgia DNR website gofishgeorgia.com

2 January Gold Rush Chapter Meeting 6:30, Camp Glisson

6 January Stream Of the Month, Smith Creek, see page 3

20 January Rabun Rendezvous, rabuntu.com

20-21 January Atlanta Fly Fishing Festival, Gwinnett Civic Center (Sat. 9am, Sun. 10am)

10 February Sportsman Day, Amicalola Falls State Park

24 March Georgia Foothills Chapter Banquet, Dream Fly Fishing Winner Announced



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Russell and the Gita

Russell Stevens was a retired Canton High School teacher who I first met at the organizational meeting of the Cohutta Chapter of T.U. in Marietta Ga. Can't remember the year but it's been awhile.

Being a neophyte fly fisher who was looking for help in learning the ways of the fly, Russell appeared to be someone who might fit the bill. Since I was working most weekends and usually had my choice of days off during the week, we were a perfect fit. Russell, like most retirees did not like to fish on weekends. Thus began a long and rewarding friendship.

Russell was the best small stream fisherman I ever saw by far.

He was a little guy, maybe 5' 6" and about 135#, soaking wet. He had a deep voice befitting someone twice his size. Russell knew every stream in North Georgia that could hold a fish and several different ways to get there. He never took anyone the same way twice.

When fishing, Russell always wore dark clothing and approached a fishing spot in a crouch, wading slowly and carefully. He was a master of the roll cast. He cast with an economy of motion that put his fly right where he wanted it despite tight places and overhanging brush. I fished with him for a long time before I knew that he could make an overhead cast and a good one too. Russell usually fished with one of his creations called a "Gita" (pronounced "Geeta"). He had two versions, a wet and a dry. The Wet was tied wet fly style, with a white down wing, a golden pheasant tippet tail, and a cream dubbed body with a gold rib, size 6 or 8. It was heavily weighted with lead wire. The dry was tied with the same materials. I once asked Russell if he ever fished with any thing else. " Oh, I fish a wooly worm on a dropper sometimes".

Russell taught me a lot, the most important two: If the fish see or hear you, you won't catch them. More important than what is on the end of your leader is how you fish it.

Russell passed on several years ago. It was only at his funeral that I learned that he was a fighter pilot during WW2, flying Lockheed P38's in the Pacific.

Russell's magic fly was the Gita. Most of us have a fly that we reach for when the fishing gets tough, a fly that we are confident that the fish will take if we fish it properly. We succeed with it because we concentrate on presenting it. We know it will catch fish!

Gita (my dry version)



Mustard 94840, 12-14
Thread Cream
Wing Turkey flat (white)
Tail Golden pheasant tippets
Body Cream fur
Rib Gold tinsel

What's your magic fly? Pat Pattillo

2007 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!*

- 6 January** Smith Creek, Delayed harvest (*Frank Shirley*)
10 February Noontootla Creek, Blue Ridge WMA (*Sam Johnson*)
10 March Chattooga River, Delayed harvest (*Scott Goss*)
April Conasauga River, Cohutta Wilderness
May Davidson River, Pisgah Forrest
June Jacks River
July Snowbird, North Carolina
August Upper Chattahoochee
September Dukes Creek
October Conasauga River, Cohutta Wilderness Area
November Amicalola River

April thru November—subject to change

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.*

January Stream Of the Month

Saturday, January 6, 2007

We should meet at 8 am at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Dahlonega. I would advise bringing warm clothes for I have fished there with ice in my guides. This is of course a DELAYED HARVEST stream so those regulations apply. Everyone must have either a GA state park pass or purchase a parking permit from the Unicoi State Park office prior to entering the parking area below the dam. Permits are required for fishing here but are free. The delayed harvest portion of Smith creek is all of the stream within the state park boundary downstream from the dam. It is a medium-sized (for Georgia) trout stream and is generally open enough for fly-casting. The vast majority of the trout are concentrated in the area closest to the dam although stockings take place throughout the creek's length. Nearly all are rainbows although in times past I have caught a few browns. Most will be in the ten to twelve inch range but larger (14-18") are present. Deeply weighted nymphs will probably be the best choice this time of year. Some of the best dry fly action that I have had has been in April or May just before DH ends. Smith is an excellent beginner's stream and is less affected by January weather than most of our other year-round waters.

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!**

Sportsman's Day

Amicalola State Park

Saturday, February 10, 2007, 10AM to 4PM

NEED VOLUNTEERS

Gold Rush Chapter will have an indoor booth. Volunteers needed to talk with folks and demonstrate fly tying and provide general information about TU.

Join local outfitters, state wildlife officials and park staff in the park's lodge as we take a look at wildlife population and conservation issues, and a variety of hunting/fishing equipment and techniques. Free plus \$3 parking. 706-265-4703.

Website <http://gastateparks.org/info/amicalola/>

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\$\$\$ 2007 Chapter Dues \$\$\$

Local Chapter #733 dues are \$10 per year. These dues are not mandatory, but they help defray our Chapter's cost of doing business and to fund projects. See Treasurer at monthly meeting or mail to address above. Every donation helps. Thanks!