



# Tie One On

April, 2014

**President:** Joe Duket  
**Secretary:** Frank Retter  
**Webmaster:** Larry Bundy

**Vice President:** Pat Bradley  
**Treasurer:** Frank Glowaski

***The next meeting will be:***

***Thursday, April 10th  
Cadence Bank, Blairsville, GA***

The fly tying session begins at 5:00 pm and the business meeting starts at 7:00 pm.



## ***April's Program:***

As many of you know, Zack and Kelly Phillips have now opened their new fly and gift shop, Southern Highroads Outfitters Gift Company in Blairsville. They are very pleased to announce that David Hulsey, formerly guide and manager of Unicoi Outfitters in Blue Ridge, is now a part of their team. David will talk to us about his role with Southern Highroads Outfitters, some of the guide trips planned, as well as his expert observations on the current fishing in our area. Don't miss this chance to welcome David back to our area and pick his brain on the best ways to fish our streams and rivers.

## ***March's Program:***

Callie Moore, Executive Director of the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, presented the program. The functions of the HRWC are extremely compatible with the mission of Trout Unlimited, stream quality. The HRWC was founded in 1995, starting with the local population's concern with the decline of fish quality in Brasstown Creek. HRWC is a coalition of local governments and soil and water conservation districts. The coverage includes drainage of local streams in a four county area in NE Georgia and Western North Carolina, ending at the TVA Appalachia Dam at the Tennessee border. The organization monitors water quality, stream restoration projects, storm water best system practices, septic system repairs, etc. Excessive sedimentation and water temperature are extremely important for the trout population. The outreach programs are important to educating the public; especially the youth program CREEK; Creative Recreational and Environmental Education for Kids. The volunteer stream-monitoring program is importance to the maintenance of stream quality. Other important programs are the Lakes Program, which incorporates action plans for both Lake Nottley and Lake Chatuge and stream restoration that relies on volunteers to perform needed repairs on local streams. More information is available at the website; [www.hrwc.net](http://www.hrwc.net).

# The News Observer

BY DUB JOINER, STAFF WRITER Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:30 PM CDT

## Deborah Burger retires

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Deborah Burger says she had no intention of working at the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery and following in her dad's footsteps. Her dad, Ralph Tritt, began working at the hatchery in the late 1950s. However, an opportunity for her to help out part-time in 1977 turned into more than 36 years of federal service looking after millions of rainbow and brook trout.

On April 2, Burger will retire from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with a number one priority of spending time with her family. "Oh, I will do other things," Burger said, "but spending time with my husband Scott and our children and grandchildren will occupy most of my time."

In the mid-1980s, her father retired as the assistant hatchery manager, she said. "When I was three years old, we lived in the house that is now the hatchery office. My office now was my bedroom when we lived here. So I guess you can say I really never left here." In 1977, there was an opening for a clerk-typist position at the hatchery and Burger said she "went behind my daddy's back and interviewed for the job and to my surprise, I got the job."

Ralph Tritt retired in 1989 and died in 1996. In 2010, a monument was placed in his memory and that of another employee, Sylvan Pickelsimer, near one of the pavilions at the hatchery. Over the years, Burger said she moved up to a biologist, then hatchery manager, and for the last several years, she has served as the regional program supervisor with responsibility for six federal hatcheries - two each in Arkansas and Tennessee, one in Kentucky and the hatchery in Suches.

At times, this requires her to work out of an office in the regional headquarters in Atlanta, and make visits to the other hatcheries at least once a year. Over the years, she said, the Chattahoochee hatchery has seen all its facilities renovated and upgraded, but the number of rainbow and brook trout raised annually has remained about the same through the years. The hatchery receives its water supply from Rock Creek and Mill Creek, a situation which has limitations at times when water levels are low. In addition to rainbow and brook trout, she said the hatchery raises some threatened and endangered species as well, including the Conasauga Log Perch, Slack Water Darter and the Eastern Hell Bender.

"We'll raise over a million trout in a year's time and that has not changed for a number of years. Those trout are distributed to waters throughout North Georgia." For every dollar spent in raising trout at this facility, we estimate that the state receives \$40 in return through various means including trout fishing and the off-shoots from it," she said. Over the past 36 years, she said the biggest change has been the employees that have come and gone and that "God has always provided us with others to take their place."

She said when the hatchery begins stocking streams each year, trout fishermen that regularly fish the streams and rivers "will let us know if we are slow in putting the trout in. "When its time to stock the creek here at the hatchery, we'll have a crowd waiting on us, and they'll let us know if we are late." As she leaves the hatchery, she said the biggest need is long-term funding from the Fish & Wildlife Service. "It appears to me that the directorate for FWS does not see trout hatcheries as a fundamental priority, and they have tried every way in the world to get rid of the hatcheries.

"They have stated plainly that if there is not funding coming to FWS from TVA and the Corps of Engineers, the hatcheries will be closed or redirected to other species.

"I don't think FWS takes into consideration the needs or wants of the American people, nor do they consider the economic impact these hatcheries provide."

Burger said the biggest need she sees for the Chattahoochee Forest hatchery is for Congress to pass legislation that would ensure the future of the mitigation hatcheries, and "that is also the biggest challenge I see for those who follow me."



Crystal Thomas and Deborah Burger at the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery.



Our chapter presents Deborah with some parting gifts on her retirement. Kelly Phillips created a beautiful retirement basket full of interesting, unique products and we also added a gift card for a meal out at Fatz. Larry, Marcus, Joe and Frank represented TU 692.

## Dream Ticket Winners

The Grand Prize winner and runners-up were announced at the Hoot on the Hooch fundraiser in Helen recently. The Grand Prize winner was Monty English of the Rabun Chapter. He and a partner will spend:

- Five days fishing and six nights' food and lodging at a private cabin in Island Park, Idaho near the west entrance of Yellowstone National Park, from July 28 through August 2, 2013 (negotiable)
- Choice of a Winston BIII-x, 5 wt. or a Sage ONE, 4,5 or 6 wt. Rod
- A fly Reel with Scientific Angler line
- A fly box and flies (approximately 5 to 7 dozen per box) for the trip.
- \$500 in travel expenses (this is total, not per person)

***Joe Duket from Tu692 was a runner-up and will receive a full day float trip on the Chattahoochee with River Through Atlanta.***

Because all of the allotted tickets were sold again this year, our chapter received its \$500 rebate check from GA TU Council last week. Congratulations to all of the winners and to those of us who bought tickets to support the programs of TU.



## ***Unaka Chapter 201 of Trout Unlimited***

Bobby Hand, new president of the Unaka Chapter 201 of Trout Unlimited, came to our meeting last month to introduce himself and tell us about their new chapter and its focus for the future. The chapter covers Cherokee, Clay, Graham and parts of Macon county in western North Carolina. Bobby stressed that it was not the intention of TU or the Unaka Chapter to draw members away from our chapter, but rather to work together with us on projects that affect us all.

The chapter is presently quite small, but growing. They meet the second Tuesday of each month at Sweetwater United Methodist Church which is located on Sweetwater Church Road, 1/2-1 mile past Fires Creek Road on left (from Murphy), or just past Dyer Cove Road on the right (from Hayesville). Fly tying begins at 5:00 pm with the meeting at 6:00 pm.



Steve Banakas will once again be hosting 2-day guided fishing trips (non-consecutive days) to introduce our members to the joy of small streams fishing. The \$80.00 fee does not include lunch (the cheapskate) but Steve guarantees that all who participate will come away with a new appreciation for the beauty and allure of catching wild trout in picturesque settings. The fee is donated 100% to the chapter thanks to Steve's generosity.



# Monthly Fly Tying

