



**Newsletter  
June, 2013**

**Chattahoochee/Nantahala Chapter 692  
Trout Unlimited  
www.ngatu692.com**

**President:** Joe Duket  
**Secretary:** Alan Sirmans  
**Webmaster:** Larry Bundy

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

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

***Thursday, June 13th  
Cadence Bank, Blairsville, GA***



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

***May's Meeting:*** Our educational program was presented by Kevin Dyer, Ranger First Class, Region II of the Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources. Ranger Dyer covered the many responsibilities that are involved in conserving, managing, and improving Georgia's wildlife and fresh water fishing resources, protecting endangered wildlife and plants, conducting the hunter safety program, and administering and enforcing the Georgia Boat Safety Act. He gave us a hotline number to call, 800-241-2113, if we spot a poacher.

***Special Note: In a related note, please read this article that appeared in the May 21st edition of Macon's The Telegraph:***

ATLANTA -- A proposed reorganization of law enforcement duties in Georgia's state parks and wildlife habitats would result in a single, efficient chain of command, the Department of Natural Resources says. Some hunters and others worry, however, that the change would result in public areas open to illegal hunters and crooks.

Wildlife technicians -- all-purpose staff at Georgia's Wildlife Management Areas and Public Fishing Areas -- would shed their law enforcement duties, and the state would shed the cost of their certifications under a five-year DNR plan to create an agencywide Law Enforcement Division. That division would police crimes related to wildlife, such as poaching or taking endangered species, as well as public safety crimes that happen on DNR properties, such as drug possession.

"It's a chain-of-command change, so they all answer to one colonel. ... But we don't have any intention of reducing numbers," DNR Commissioner Mark Williams said after a Tuesday DNR board meeting where the plan was formally introduced.

But a hunters group says DNR properties would essentially lose 86 law enforcement officers if technicians can no longer issue citations, file charges or make arrests. That argument comes from the Georgia Wildlife Federation. Its CEO, Todd Holbrook, who until last year was a DNR deputy director, called on the board to delay action on the rule and formally solicit comments from the hunting, fishing, and park-visitor communities.

He made similar points in an open letter to the board that was co-signed by Trout Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Quality Deer Management Association.

They want a plan that assures “taking time and/or money from hunting and fishing activities won’t be the mechanism that pays for enforcement on state parks,” Holbrook said at the board meeting. It’s hunting and fishing licenses that pay for game protection and conservation.

David Waller, a retired DNR Wildlife Resources Division director, testified against the plan at the meeting. He said a separate Law Enforcement Division would focus on high-profile offenses such as drug busts, not poaching.

Other law enforcement agencies such as sheriffs and the state patrol deal with public safety, he said, but “we’re the only people that are in wildlife resources. ... If we go to a separate division, they won’t have anybody doing that.”

For certain crimes such as murder, DNR law enforcement calls in more specially trained colleagues, such as sheriff’s investigators.

Williams said he “categorically” disagrees with charges that poachers or other crooks could go uncaught.

“We intend to have complete coverage over the state of Georgia to protect all our resources: cultural, natural and wildlife,” Williams said, adding that the agency does not foresee any reduction in numbers or coverage.

The board is scheduled to vote on the change at its June 25 meeting in Statesboro.

## ***2013 Hatchery Events Completed***

This past weekend, the Seniors and Family Fishing Festivals were held at the fish hatchery and, once again, TU 692 played an integral part in the success of the events. On Saturday, 900 people were fed by a group of Tu692 volunteers. In May, the Special Kids Fishing Rodeo and Veterans Appreciation Day rounded out the calendar of events for this year.

***Congratulations and thanks to all of our members who gave up their time and energy by participating and representing our chapter in the best possible way.***





## Much-Awaited Georgia Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife App is Here

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. (11/7/2012)

Georgia hunters, anglers and wildlife enthusiasts now have an app of their own!

The Official Georgia Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife Guide, powered by Pocket Ranger® technology, is the official app of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division. This free, mobile app gives both novice and seasoned sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts essential information in the palm of their hand.

Features include:

- Species profiles
- Weather information
- Georgia rules and regulations
- Licensing information
- Boat ramp locations
- Maps of public wildlife areas

Advanced GPS technology enhances any trek through the woods by allowing users to track friends' locations, mark trails with photo waypoints and keep track of wildlife sightings. Sportsmen can even cache map tiles for offline use.

Wildlife Resources Division manages nearly 1 million acres of public lands for wildlife and habitat in Georgia. These Wildlife Management Areas and Public Fishing Areas are featured on the app. App updates are already in development and will include enhanced birding trails, expanded saltwater species list, a Trophy Case for posting photos and comments and universal formatting for horizontal and vertical viewing.

Download the free app now on your mobile device through the Apple App Store or the Android Market and search "GA Fish & Wildlife Guide." Visit <http://www.pocketranger.com/apps/ga-fw/apps.php> to learn more.

