The next meeting will be:

Thursday, March 13th
Cadence Bank, Blairsville, GA

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

February’s meeting was unfortunately cancelled due to the inclimate weather and the fact that our president was stranded in Whitefish, MT, when his Delta flight was cancelled.

Monthly Fly Tying

Note from Bob Kern:

“Well, the snow threw us for a loop so here is what I propose for March. You all tie the Quill Gordon and the Red Head for March. That means you will have three different flies to turn in including the Wooly Bugger for February. Remember the more flies you turn in the more points you get for the box full of flies!”
January’s Presentation:

The program for the evening was presented by Steve Hudson, “Getting Started in Saltwater Fly Fishing.” He was also the guest fly tyer, demonstrating several saltwater patterns for the 5 tyers and the audience. The flies seemed relatively simple to tie. The selection was a Clouser Minnow and a Gurgler using a unique folded over foam body. Plus a rather simple but very unique shrimp pattern, incorporating 40-lb. Mono, five minute epoxy and glitter. Steve’s program was a slide presentation covering all details for the required rods, reels, lines, leaders and a suggested fly selection. He showed many rather inexpensive alternatives for the beginner in salt water fly fishing. Prevention of saltwater corrosion was emphasized for both gear selection and maintenance. He stressed personal protection from the sun and proper wading footgear, and he left very little untouched. In Phase Two of his presentation, Steve’s slides showed us maps, photos and the techniques for the most productive fishing at several locations in Florida. The locations included the panhandle area’s Big Lagoon State Park near Pensacola, the east coast’s Sevastian Inlet State Park, southwest Florida’s Darling national Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island and the beach area a Naples.

Submitted by: Frank Retter, secretary

Now Available to Members.....

Podcasts of our meeting speakers’ presentations are now available on the home page of our web site. Just follow the link for either Mac or PC users to listen to the entire presentation at home!

Thanks, Larry Bundy, for figuring out how to accomplish this!!
March Presentation:

Callie Moore, executive director of the HRWC, will be our guest speaker. Callie became the first full-time executive director in January, 2003. She has a Master's Degree in Water Resources from Indiana University and is also a graduate of Western Carolina University’s Environmental Health Program.

The Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition is an 19-year-old 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining good water quality in streams, lakes and rivers that flow into the Hiwassee River. The upper Hiwassee River watershed boundary includes almost all of a 4-county area: Cherokee and Clay counties in North Carolina and Towns and Union counties in north Georgia. We work in a non-confrontational manner with local landowners, governments, schools and businesses to recognize and address threats to our water resources. Over the past 10 years, the Coalition has brought $6 million in grant funding into the upper Hiwassee River watershed. More than 92% of these funds were spent for on-the-ground projects and programs to facilitate water quality and aquatic habitat improvements in areas where it has declined!

Our Trout Camp Candidates 2014

"Cam" Reece, age 12, of Pensacola Fl., has a junior membership in Trout Unlimited. He and his mother are friends of Steve Banakas.

"Josh" Goeltz, age 15, lives in Young Harris. His father, Brad, is affiliated with Project Healing Waters and is the psychologist at the Blairsville Veterans Administration Clinic.
Southern Highroads Outfitters and Gift Company

Grand Opening

Zack Phillips and his wife, Kelly Ann Payne, are opening their new store on Highway 515 between Ingles and Home Depot on March 29, 2014. The building shares space with Taste of Napoli restaurant which will remain in operation.

Zack is a fellow member of TU692 and has been dreaming of opening a shop for many years. He has done unbelievable research into the products that he will be offering and wants the shop to feature many local artists and crafters, as well. Zack will be in charge of the “outfitters” side with a heavy emphasis on fly fishing. He will have one of (if not, the best) selection of flies anywhere in the Southeast. He’ll also be selling such lines as Simms, TFO, Allen Rods, Echo, St. Croix, Lamson and many others. Zack will also be a dealer for Tenkara USA. In addition to fly fishing, the shop will also carry hiking supplies and equipment, hard shell kayaks and other products geared to the great outdoors.

Kelly will handle the “gifts” side of the store and sell custom gift baskets among many other home accessories and merchandise.

We wish Zack and Kelly the very best and know that they will do well in this area. With the unique mix of products they are offering, Southern Highroads Outfitters and Gift Company will become a destination for fly fishers and outdoors enthusiasts around the area.
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Dream Tickets 2014

Once again, our chapter has sold its allotment of 100 Dream Tickets. The stubs will be delivered to the GA TU Council at its quarterly meeting this Saturday in Alpharetta. Harold Hogan and Larry Bundy will represent our chapter at the meeting.

By selling all of our Dream Tickets, the chapter will receive a $500 rebate from the GA TU Council. Since we sold the tickets at half-price ($5.00), the chapter will break even and those of our members who bought tickets have received a valuable commodity for half price.

The winner will be announced at the “Hoot on the Hooch” fundraiser on March 22nd in Helen.