



# Blue Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited

## Winston-Salem, North Carolina

September 2008

### President's Letter

*Peter Lloyd, President*

Hello, Blue Ridge Members,

Summer is just about over, September 22 or Labor Day depending on your point of view. We are also approaching the end of our fiscal year, and will need to elect a new slate of officers and board members. We're looking for some new members to join our chapter leadership and this is great way to contribute to our Chapter, our State Council, and our National organization. Serving as an officer or board member requires time but the rewards are well worth the effort. I have found it very rewarding by teaching kids about cold water conservation, supporting conservation efforts such as Muddy Creek/Catawba River, and bringing program and activities to our members. If you want to experience these rewards, please contact me.

Although we took a break from chapter meetings over the Summer, your board stayed busy. BRTU participated in Jakes Day in Davidson County on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, made significant progress with our Trout in the Classroom project, and launched our new chapter website (see related articles below). We have also planned several events for the coming year.

BRTU will participate in Big Sweep in Winston-Salem which will be October 4<sup>th</sup> this year. David Richards is coordinating this event and will have a specific section of stream that BRTU will work on. Contact David (336/595-3364) if you'd like to participate.

BRTU is also planning a stream clean at the Mitchell River on October 18<sup>th</sup>. We will clean in the morning, break for lunch (provided), and then fish. Mentors will be available to help novice anglers so this will be a great opportunity to help maintain one of our popular fishing destinations and get some one-on-one instruction from some pretty darn good fly anglers. Contact Mike Davis (336/429-3860) or Dan Benfield (336/723-7165) if you'd like to participate.

Unfortunately our Balsam Lodge trip for this Fall will not happen. Despite Allie Hutchison's persistent efforts, we could not get a reservation. Fortunately, Allie has reserved the lodge for April 3-5, so we will have the trip this Spring. Mark your calendars!

A couple more items before signing off. TU has been actively working to improve conditions for native brook trout in the Tellico River. This habitat has been impacted by unchecked recreational off-road vehicle use. While TU successfully worked cooperatively with federal land managers and ORV stakeholders to protect this habitat,

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPT. 16, 2008, 6:00 PM BRTU CHAPTER MEETING  
OCT. 4, 2008 BIG SWEEP  
OCT. 18, 2008, MITCHELL R. STREAM CLEAN & FISH  
OCT. 21, 2008, 6:00 PM BRTU CHAPTER MEETING  
NOV. 18, 2008, 6:00 PM BRTU CHAPTER MEETING

### 2007-2008 Chapter Leadership

#### Officers:

Peter Lloyd, President  
Dan Benfield, VP  
David Richards, Sec.  
Bill Remaley, Treas.

#### Board Members:

Michael Davis  
Chad Fulp  
Steve Hennings  
Eugene Pope  
Paul Scheponik

litigation by some ORV groups could reverse this progress. You can learn more about this issue at NCTU's website: <http://www.nctu.org>.

Finally, now is the time to reserve your "Back the Brookie" license plate! You can download your application from our website.

I hope you can join us at our Chapter meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Peter  
><>J

(336) 774-0278  
[lloydpb@triad.rr.com](mailto:lloydpb@triad.rr.com)

### TIC Now in North Carolina

Thanks to Steve Hennings' hard work and determination, BRTU will be working with two schools this year making *Trout In the Classroom* (TIC) a reality in North Carolina; Ledford High School in Davidson County and Sugarloaf Elementary School in Alexander County! We have purchased the necessary equipment, tanks, chillers, etc., and will be setting them up in the next few weeks. We also want to thank the NC WRC for supporting this program, particularly Doug Bessler, Chad Starbucks, and Kevin Hining.

Steve is now the TIC coordinator for NCTU and will be working with State Council and other local chapters to bring this program to more schools in the state. If you know a teacher that would like to incorporate TIC into their curriculum, have them contact Steve (336/407-1206) to get started. Steve has set up a website where you will be able to follow the progress at the schools and learn more about the program.

**Blue Ridge Chapter  
Trout Unlimited  
2608 Weymoth Road  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### Chapter Meeting Announcement

*Dan Benfield, Program Chair*

**Kevin Redding**, Executive Director, of the Piedmont Land Conservancy (PLC) will be our speaker for the September 16 meeting. The Piedmont Land Conservancy mission is to protect natural and scenic lands, farms, and open space in Piedmont North Carolina to enrich the quality of life for our communities and future generations. They are active in 9 piedmont counties. Many of their land protection activities overlap and compliment TU efforts in cold water habitats. Kevin will provide us an overview of the PLC and activities where we may work in partnership. Check out your Fall, 2007 Issue of *Trout* for an extensive article on Land Trust partnerships.

Our chapter meets at **Texas Land and Cattle Steak House** just off of Hanes Mall Blvd across the road from Target. Our meetings start at **6:00 PM** to allow folks to mingle, order dinner and get settled before the 7:00 program. We welcome new members and visitors. Bring your family with you. This is a family oriented organization we welcome men, women and children.

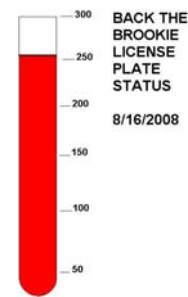
### BRTU Launches New Website

We are pleased to announce the release of our new website. Since becoming our webmaster last year, Martin Boggess has been working to update the look of our website and add functionality. The new site makes it easier to add content and includes new features such as message boards and member alerts. Go to <http://www.blueridgetu.org> and check it out.



Many of the kids enjoyed catching their first fish with a fly at Jakes Day

### Get Your Official NCTU License Plate Now!



### DON'T DELAY! MAIL YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!

We're close but still need a few more applications to have the *Back the Brookie* license plates printed. You can download and complete an application form from our website at <http://www.blueridgetu.org> or call me.

### BRTU Works with Kids at Jakes Day

*Mike Davis*

BRTU members Steve Hennings, Dan Benfield, Bill Remaley, and Sam Wauford joined me at this year's Jakes Day in Davidson County. Jakes Day is put on by the Davidson County Longbeards chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation to introduce kids to many outdoor activities

There were approximately 220 kids at Jakes day this year and the kids and volunteers had a great time! The kids were eager and in the morning hours the fish were biting and some experienced fly rod hookups. There's nothing like seeing the excitement that catching a fish has on a kid. It's tough to get one on one with so many kids at once, but Steve, Dan, Bill, and Sam did a great job covering as many as we could. I think all the kids got a chance to take up the fly rod and learn some basics thanks to some patient tutoring. Some kids are naturals and they all gave it a good try.

I watched you guys work with the kids too and seeing you take time to make a difference is something you can be proud of.

### Welcome New Members

Richard Meisky, Matt Fisher, Henry Williamson, Joseph Cox, Chris Rose, Jeff Rose, Greg Adzima, and Erik M. Wince,