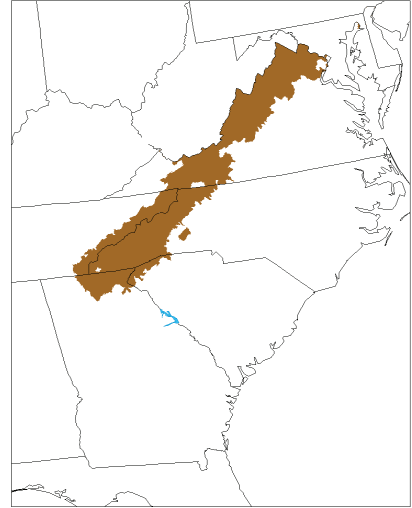


# The Eastern Brook Trout Newsletter: South Eastern Division

*A partnership between  
Trout Unlimited And the  
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture,  
Together with all who value  
Brook Trout And its Habitat*



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## **Important:**

### *Your Response Needed!*

**In response to grassroots feedback, future issues of this newsletter will be directly emailed to TU members and agency leaders.**

**This method puts this information to the hands of brook trout leaders and volunteers directly .**

**You must respond to an upcoming email request to sign up for direct distribution.**

**Due to spamming ethics, only one request will be sent.**

## **Calendar**

**TU National Meeting in Boise, ID, Sept. 13, 12, 16.**

EBT Work Group will have a 90 minute meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, please attend if able.

## **GEORGIA**

Report from Kevin McGrath, BTB chair

### **Advocacy:**

**Farm Bill.** GA Back-the-Brookie represented GA TU at a Farm Bill Summit sponsored by the GA Wildlife Federation.

### **Conservation:**

**Interns.** GA Back-the-Brookie partnered again this summer with GA DNR and the USFS, to employ a team of summer interns pursuing fisheries studies and careers to work on brook trout projects in Georgia

### **Stream Enhancement.**

Interns installed over fifty stream structures.

## PROTECT, RESTORE, RECONNECT, SUSTAIN

### Georgia (continued)

GA TU Chapters conducted five workdays on four brook trout streams including a workday at GA TU Trout Camp. Interns began renovation of a brook trout stream.

#### **Identification.** Interns:

Sampled ten miles of streams.

Confirmed brook trout in two previously undocumented streams.

#### **Restoration.** Interns:

***Confirmed restoration of Southern Appalachian Brook Trout to a North Georgia stream. Our first restoration in thirty years!  
Introduced Southern Appalachian Brook Trout to a previously fishless stream.***

Interns began renovation of a brook trout stream by serial electrofishing.

#### **Monitoring.** Interns and GA TU Chapters:

Collected and analyzed water samples for ANC and PH from fifty seven sites.

Deployed twenty two thermographs in brook trout streams. The thermographs were purchased by GA Back-the-Brookie through a fund raising event last fall.

#### **Development:**

##### **2008 Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Grant.**

USFS submitted grant proposal on behalf of local partners GA DNR, GA TU, North Georgia Tech and Soque River Watershed Association Plan to restore and conserve brook trout on 13.6 miles of brook trout streams in the Chattahoochee National Forest. The project spans four watersheds on sixteen streams constructing seventy five structures.

Twelve of the sixteen streams contain Southern Appalachian Brook Trout.

Project will restore carrying capacity to the streams and provide seed stock for future restorations.

**GA TU Chapter Donations.** Contributions received from two GA TU Chapters to partially fund intern program and complete the Smithgall Woods education project.

#### **Education:**

**GA TU Trout Camp.** One day of Trout Camp focused on brook trout education in conjunction with a project on a brook trout stream. Twenty four campers participated.

##### **Back-the-Brookie/Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Update.**

New presentation that covers the history of Back-the-Brookie and both EBT: Status and Threats and EBT: Roadmap Restoration reports completed.

Three TU Chapters have received the update at Chapter meetings.

A local partner, Soque River Watershed Association, is scheduled for the update at their quarterly meeting.

**Smithgall Woods Education Project.** Project completed and implemented this summer.

## PROTECT, RESTORE, RECONNECT, SUSTAIN

### South Carolina:

#### Conservation

Listed below are the activities of the South Carolina partnership (SC Department of Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, SC Wildlife Federation, Clemson University, and the SC Council of TU) since the last report (4/17/07):

1. Attended Southeastern TU rally and BTB Annual Meeting in Hungry Mother State Park, VA to meet with other State Coordinators and learn what other states are doing.
2. Wrote article (accepted) about restoring the brook trout for South Carolina Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources widely acclaimed magazine.
3. Published progress reports for our brookie restoration program in the newsletters of state TU chapters and the newsletter of the SC Wildlife Federation, which reaches approximately 8000 conservationists in the state.
4. DNR and Forest Service fisheries biologists, assisted by TU volunteers, electroshocked the two creeks which have been stocked with southern Appalachian brookies (after non-native species were removed). Both adult and young-of-the-year brookies were found in both creeks, suggesting that these populations will be sustainable.
5. SC State Coordinator participated in a DVD produced by the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and released in July in which he discussed the effects of global warming on brook trout and their habitat. The DVD has been distributed to conservation and business interests throughout the state and Southeast.

TU prepared a poster "A Partnership to Restore the Eastern Brook Trout in South Carolina" that was displayed at a legislative reception held for some of South Carolina's national and state legislators at Table Rock State Park in August. Copies of the poster are being displayed in fly shops and other strategic locations throughout the upstate (DNR offices, Fish Hatchery, State Parks, etc.). (see attached poster)

During the next quarter, TU will work with our partners to:

1. Develop educational brochures about the brookie restoration program for distribution at certain state parks in South Carolina.
2. Build partnerships with private landowners who own property along brook trout streams to encourage wise land management to protect and enhance brookie populations in those streams.
3. Educate leaders of conservation/environmental organizations about the partnership's efforts to restore the brook trout. This will be planned for Fall, 2007 when a field trip will be organized to visit a restored stream and show these leaders an electroshocked male brookie in spawning colors.
4. Supplement southern Appalachian brookie populations in restored creeks with additional stockings.
5. Investigate other avenues to increase exposure of the brook trout restoration program.
6. Examine streams in the Jocassee Gorges area of the upstate to determine their suitability for brook trout restoration.

## PROTECT, RESTORE, RECONNECT, SUSTAIN

TENNESSEE report from Jim Herrig, Fisheries Biologist Cherokee National Forest

The Cherokee National Forest in cooperation with Trout Unlimited and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) have implemented a systematic approach for the brook trout restoration and monitoring in the Tellico River watershed. Since the early 1980's these partners have recognized the need to protect the brook trout populations in the Tellico area from competing, non-native trout species. 2007 marks the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of partnership efforts in this watershed. Initial rotenone treatments isolated the brook trout from competing rainbow trout; subsequent annual electrofishing surveys have been effective in maintaining the brook trout populations and in documenting the success of the program. Finally, instream work has improved brook trout habitat.

This year 41 volunteers assisted in surveying Meadow Branch and Henderson Branch. A third stream, Roaring Branch, was not done because of an equipment failure. It will be surveyed in the next week along with McNabb Creek which is currently being restored. Surveys are conducted using electrofishing gear with one person carrying the backpack shocker and two or more people netting fish. Each survey covers about 1 mile of stream. The volunteers donated about 300 hours of labor that is valued at over \$3600. The results of the surveys (see table below) are encouraging and enable the biologists to make management recommendations for maintaining and improving these fisheries.

### Survey Results

**Meadow Branch** was electrofished above the waterfalls. The site produced 58 brookies and no rainbow trout. All three age classes were present and were dominated by young-of-the-year (38 <4"; 19 4" to 8"; and 1 >8").

**Henderson Branch** was electrofished above the waterfall barrier. This site produced 49 brook trout and no rainbow trout. All three age classes were present and were dominated by Y-O-Y (30 <4"; 12 4" to 8"; and 7 >8"). These numbers are consistent with previous surveys and the absence of rainbow trout is encouraging.

The table below summarizes the 19 years of work in restoring brook trout to the Tellico Ranger District. All streams have barriers on them except Rough Ridge Creek, McNabb Creek and the two wilderness streams. While the Appalachian Chapter of TU has led the way most other chapters in the state of Tennessee have participated over the years.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who have participated in the Tellico Brook Trout Survey. Your assistance has provided us with important information that will enable the Forest Service and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to better manage the brook trout on the Tellico Ranger District. I hope to see you again next year.

**PROTECT, RESTORE, RECONNECT, SUSTAIN**

YEAR	MEADOW	ROARING	SUGAR	BALDRIVER	BROOKSHIRE	HENDERSON	BIG COVE	ROUGH RIDGE	McNaabb	Wilderness		SYCAMORE
										FALLS	N. FK. CITICUS	
1989	5%	100%	20%	100%	45%*	80%	100%	70%	0%	70%	50%	70%
1990	65%	100%	30%*	100%	65%*	95%		60%				75%
1991	*		100%					90%*				
1992	**				100%					50%		**
1993												
1994	100%		100%									100%
1995	95%											100%
1996	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	95%	100%	95%			50%	100%
1997						85%		75%				
1998			100%	100%	100%	80%		80%				
1999	100%	**					100%					
2000		100%		100%	100%	100%						100%
2001	100%		100%				100%	60%				
2002				100%	100%	100%						
2003	100%		100%				0%***	16%				
2004				100%	100%	100%		20%				38%***
2005		**							0%***			100%
2006			100%				100%		14%			
2007	100%	X				100%			X			
2008			X	X	X							

The latest percentage in each stream column is shown in bold. Blank years were not sampled. X indicates the next scheduled monitoring.

\* Rotenone treatment; \*\* Brook trout stocked; \*\*\* Sampled below barrier.

## PROTECT, RESTORE, RECONNECT, SUSTAIN

# VIRGINIA

-Report by Larry Puckett, BTB Chair

**Triploid Fish Equipment:** The new equipment for producing triploid fish is working. This equipment purchased through a donation of Dominion Power through TU, and in collaboration with the VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries, will provide a process to sterilize fish eggs in state hatcheries. Beginning this year they expect to be able to produce enough fish to stock sterile fish downstream of brook trout populations in streams in the southern portion of the state. This means no more genetic pollution of those brookies and no new non-native fish populations in those streams. They will be producing brookies, rainbows, and browns as part of this effort. As the capacity for triploid fish production increases they will expand the stocking of those fish to streams in the northern portion of the state, especially in those streams outside Shenandoah National Park. This should go a long way to solve the historic problem the SNP has had with stocked fish moving upstream into the park and establishing populations that compete with the native fish populations. This is a great step forward in Virginia's effort to control the invasion of invasive fish species.

**Two EAS Projects a Success in Virginia** Two years ago in 2005 the council received an EAS grant to attempt to re-establish a population of brook trout in a small tributary to Passage Creek, near Front Royal. After monitoring stream chemistry and water temperatures to determine whether conditions were acceptable, we transferred 75 brook trout to the stream in December 2005. The following September 2006, a VDGIF team electro-shocked the stream and found that a healthy population of adult fish had survived and were in spawning colors. In July 2007 the VDGIF sent another team back to determine whether these fish had survived and whether there had been a successful spawn. They conducted a qualitative electroshocking survey and this time in the target reach they found 11 adults ranging from 6.2" to 8.8" and 37 young of the year fish ranging from 1.9" to 2.8". While it would be premature to publicize this stream for fishing, it appears that we have one more brook trout stream in Virginia than we did 2 years ago. Let's hope this will be the first of many such success stories in the coming years as we undertake more projects in partnership with the VDGIF as part of the Back the Brookie/Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

**Dismal Creek EAS Project** This year the Clinch Valley Chapter in Bluefield, VA received an EAS grant for a brook trout restoration project in Dismal Creek in Southwest Virginia. This spring the chapter moved an equestrian camp from alongside the stream and replanted the area with native grasses and trees to eliminate an erosion problem. Other work included a synoptic sampling of all the tributaries and the main stream in several locations for chemical analyses, the results of which indicated that stream chemistry was not limiting brook trout. Stream temperatures are being monitored as well. Population surveys conducted this summer turned up only a few stocked brookies and we are attempting to determine why there are no native brookies in the main stem in spite of there being a population of pure southern strain fish in one tributary and a genetically mixed population in another. Plans are underway to transplant a population of southern strain fish into the upper main stem and expand them throughout the rest of the stream.

VDGIF has stocked fingerling brook trout into Roaring Run as an effort to expand potential brook trout waters.

**Education** The newly revised DVD "Battle for the Brookie" which focuses on the problem of acid rain and how it affects brook trout streams is now available. Copies can be obtained at the EBTWorkgroup meeting at the National Meeting, or by contacting [jross@crosslink.net](mailto:jross@crosslink.net).

VA hosted the annual TU Conservation and Fishing Camp which brings together high school students from MD, WV, & VA on a trout stream at Graves MT Lodge in Syria, VA where the campers have an opportunity to fish for native brookies on the Rose River in SNP. This is a memory of a life time.