



The Arkansas Trout

Newsletter of the Arkansas Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Chapter 514

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June, 2008

GO ONLINE! Click on “Subscribe” to begin receiving your newsletters and updates via e-mail — it will take less than 60 seconds to complete. In order to improve the speed, frequency, and to lower the cost of communicating with our members, the Board of Directors of our chapter has decided to publish our newsletter via e-mail only. This means that this is the last issue of the Arkansas Trout we will be mailing to you (hold onto those old issues, they may be collector’s items). Our next issue will be e-mailed to those who have signed up online.

With our membership growing to nearly 350 members, printing & mailing newsletters is costly. By moving to an e-mail based newsletter, we can reach more people and save thousands of dollars over the next several years. These savings will be plowed into improving conservation, habitat, and education which will give you a better return on your investment in TU.

GREAT PROGRAMS: Our chapter is fortunate to count a number of knowledgeable individuals as members. Recently, two of our members shared some of their insight. In April, Ken Bethe delivered a colorful presentation on the fishing in Alaska. In May, Ken Richards gave an excellent and practical “how-to” on outfitting yourself for trips to the Western U.S. If you have a topic that you would like us to cover in an upcoming meeting or an idea for a speaker, please email scott@bostonmmm.com and we will do our best to include it in future meetings.

THANKS. Ken Richards, a 14-year TU member is stepping down from our board. On behalf of our entire chapter, we want to thank Ken for his years of service and support for TU.

SAVE THE DATE: We will be going to Rim Shoals on the White River on Oct 17-19 this Fall. Come and enjoy a great farm fresh breakfast, cool morning air, fighting fish, and be back at your cabin in plenty of time to watch the Razorbacks on TV (they play at Kentucky).



OVERLOOK ESTATES — RESOLUTION!

A special thanks to the attorneys — Bob Estes, Greg O’Neal and our own Ray Smith for their efforts in initiating, negotiating, and bringing closure to the Overlook Estates litigation. We also want to give special recognition to our President Bruce Ritter and Dennis McCarty for their efforts.

On March 24th, 2008, a settlement was reached between the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Trout Unlimited (TU) and Homeport Land Company (Homeport), the developer of Overlook Estates and Benny Doyal, it’s managing member.

Use of Proceeds:

Per the agreement, Homeport and Doyal have paid \$175,000 to settle a case for water quality violations. ADEQ is to receive \$50,000 and Arkansas TU received \$40,000 after attorney’s fees. Additionally, the Arkansas and White River Chapters of Trout Unlimited have received a combined \$25,000. These funds have been deposited into special accounts for the sole purpose of assisting in restoration and habitat improvement on the Norfork River.

The remaining funds from the settlement are slated to go to other local organizations which will use the funds for similar purposes. As part of the settlement, Homeport is bound by the conditions of remedial actions reached in a previous agreement, which ensures that future development will not endanger stream and streamside habitat.

Background:

Overlook Estates is an approximately 100-acre hillside development on the Norfork Tailwater across from Quarry Park. In 2006, much of the vegetation was scraped off the land. Though some erosion control efforts were instigated by the developer, the first big rain led to massive amounts of sediment cascading down the mountain and into the Norfork. This sediment has had a significantly negative effect upon the wildlife and their food sources.

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The ADEQ inspected the site in 2006 and cited Homeport for numerous violations of state environmental regulations. After little progress and continued degradation of the river, ADEQ filed a lawsuit. Shortly thereafter, TU became involved in the suit, filing to “intervene” or join the lawsuit. After much gnashing of teeth over the past 2 years, the parties reached a settlement.

PREZ SEZ:

I hope all of you are having a great summer and finding some low water somewhere to fish. Speaking of water levels, I want to encourage every member of the Arkansas Chapter to be gearing up for some major habitat work in the coming months. Because of the high water levels, we don’t have any meaningful assessment of the damage done to our tailwaters. But, we know that significant damage occurred, particularly on Beaver and Norfork. When the water levels come down, we will work closely with AGFC to identify the highest priority habitat restoration projects.

Two things are required for habitat restoration projects: money and volunteers. There will be some funding available from various agencies, and we will work to get our fair share, but our Chapter will need to come up with additional funding, from our own resources, from foundations, or private individuals. If you can help us identify funding sources, we would love to hear from you.

Of course, all of us can volunteer for projects. We anticipate needing a number of “worker bees”. Yes, it’s hard work, but it’s also good fun, and you probably need the exercise anyway. I’m hopeful that in a year or two, we will not only have restored our tailwaters, but made some significant improvements along the way. Go to www.arkansaschaptertu.org and sign up.

Bruce Ritter

Random Casts

May the holes in your net be no larger than the fish in it.

—Irish Blessing

The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad.

—A.K. Best

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

—Anonymous

Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught.

—Anonymous

FISH ON! Congratulations to the following for their years of membership in TU:

H. Reiss of Kingston — 22 years

Joseph Fulton of Fayetteville — 21 years

William Lundy of Little Rock — 21 years

David Knowles of Fayetteville — 20 years



Chapter Member and State Council Chair, Dennis McCarty accepts honorable mention on behalf of the Arkansas Chapter of TU from AG&FC's Larry Rider for the Chapter's volunteer work renovating the Parker Bend Access Facility.

The Arkansas Trout is published quarterly for members of the Arkansas Chapter of Trout Unlimited (Chapter no. 514). Membership in the national organization entitles the member to an assignment to a local chapter and its newsletter. When you join TU, you may request assignment to a specific local chapter or accept the default geographical assignment. Requests to renew membership, change chapter assignment, or update your mailing address or membership information should be sent to the national organization (listed below). Other questions or comments may be addressed to the Editor. Recent issues are available online.

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!!

R.R. Burkhead, Lonoke
Joel Jewell, Fayetteville
Creston Mackey, Fayetteville
Josh Richardson, Fayetteville
M.D. Tabor, Ft. Smith
Bucky Worrall, Gentry

RENEWAL REMINDER

Many of you will be receiving renewal notices from TU this summer. Please continue to be a part of the 135,000-strong Trout Unlimited.

GET INVOLVED — Volunteer Opportunities:

- Youth Education
- Casting for Recovery
- Reel Recovery
- Project Healing Waters
- Learn to Fly Fish Days
- Stream Action

Contact a Board Member or go to our website online to learn more. Have an idea for community outreach? Let us know.

*Check our website www.arkansaschaptertu.org. You can find pics, a calendar of upcoming events, past newsletters, and links to other helpful websites to keep abreast of trout, conservation, and fishing issues. Our intention is to post timely information regarding meetings, functions, and to provide updates as they occur.
email: webmail@arkansaschaptertu.org*

REMINDER: No regular meetings are scheduled in June, July, and August. Take a kid (or someone who acts like a kid) fishing and enjoy the outdoors.

Chapter meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. Meetings begin around 6:30 p.m. with social time. Dinner can be ordered if you would like. Program starts promptly at 7:15 p.m. Normally, there is one meeting/program and one outing per month.