

**CHATTAHOOCHEE FOREST***National Fish Hatchery**Kelly Taylor, Deputy Hatchery Manager***VOLUNTEER LETTER**

Deb Burger Retired Raceway Construction

Deborah Burger, Program Supervisor/Hatchery Manager, retired in April 2014 after more than 36 years of dedicated service. She is missed with best wishes for a long and happy retirement. We look forward to continuing to have her around as an active Friends group member and volunteer. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has not filled the vacancy. Deputy Hatchery Manager Kelly Taylor has been tasked with her duties and responsibilities.



Congratulations Deb!

Yes, the raceway construction is finally underway. Eighteen of the hatchery's concrete raceways have been completely demolished and are now being reconstructed. This project has been long overdue as the surfaces of the old raceways had begun to break apart. The completion date is uncertain as this time but stocking will resume as usual in March 2015. The hatchery will remain closed to visitors until the construction is complete.



Trout 2015

We should begin our regular stocking season around mid-March and be in full distribution mode by April. Both the rainbow and brook trout are absolutely beautiful. We should have a full stocking season with plenty of fish. Get those rods and reels ready for some action.

Remember to follow us on Facebook. It is listed as the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery and we are posting our stocking and any news daily. Just go to Facebook, "like" our page, and you are set up to be "in the know". We would love some feedback from all of you on what you'd like to see on Facebook and what you think about the page.

Keep an eye out on www.gofishgeorgia.com for the upcoming 2015 trout season dates and regulations.



Economic Data

What does Chattahoochee Forest NFH do for your local economy?

Linking Aquatic Resources with Economics			
Jobs			333 People (\$8.6 Million Wages)
Retail Sales			\$16 Million
Taxes Generated			\$2 Million
Total Economic Output			\$30.3 Million
Each Tax Dollar Return			\$40.00
Economic Boost			North Georgia

Fish production at Chattahoochee Forest NFH creates a positive ripple effect as Congressional Districts 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11 receive direct benefits. Recreational angling results in considerable expenditures of recreation-related goods and services such as lodging, food, transportation, boats, fishing gear, and other equipment. Businesses and industries benefit from these expenditures which also create jobs and yield tax revenue for local and state economies. These economic benefits are especially significant in small towns and rural areas near the waters that are stocked by the hatchery.

Last Year's Events

The hatchery hosts four annual fishing events. The 2014 fishing events were a huge success thanks to the hard work of volunteers, Friends of the Hatchery, and Trout Unlimited and generous donations for food, prizes, and educational supplies.

Event	Number of Participants
Veterans	150
Special Kids	200
Seniors	250
Family Fishing	800



The hatchery provides trout eggs to schools participating in Trout in the Classroom as well as educational outreach information and presentations for the University of Georgia Environmental Day, Project Healing Waters, Fannin County Schools Career Days, Woody Gap Agricultural Day, and the Alternative Education Program. These are just some of the educational and outreach events that the hatchery participates in every year. We stay busy!



We are in need of volunteers. Help is needed with presenting educational programs, preparing and serving food, helping kids fish, set up prior to events and cleanup. It is really an enjoyable way to give back to your community.



THANKS TO ALL OF OUR LOYAL VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK HARD EACH YEAR TO MAKE THESE EVENTS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Volunteer.gov

Are you retired or working as a seasonal/temporary laborer and looking for a great way to spend extra time? Check out www.volunteer.gov, the website where the federal government goes to find volunteers who are interested in devoting their time to assist in serving the American people. Chattahoochee Forest NFH is fortunate to have the interest of a very dedicated volunteer, Floyd Rider, who moved on station in May 2013 and serves as the "watch guard." Additionally, Mr. Rider maintains the grounds and assists with the fish.



Friends Group

Friends of the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery (CFNFH) is a group committed to supporting the hatchery's mission, promoting conservation ethics, education, and encouraging the sport of trout fishing. Friends of the CFNFH is a 501(C)3 non-profit group that raises



funds through membership fees and donations to provide t-shirts, hats, food, fishing supplies, prizes, educational materials, etc. for annual fishing events held at the hatchery. Become a member today. Call 706-838-4723 or pick up a membership application at the hatchery office. All you need to complete an application is your name, address, phone and, if available, email address. Membership fees are inexpensive with the individual option at \$15.00 annually. If you cannot volunteer time, it's okay. The Friends will gladly accept any donations and your membership fee alone will greatly assist with these yearly events.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND JOIN TODAY!

FRIENDS

President	Roger Schulz
Vice President/Treasurer	Marilyn Parrott
Secretary	Nancy Mims
Board Members	Dan Mims, Robin Mims, Stephen Tanner, Charles Broom, Ann Broom, Lindsey Keef, Robert Thomas

Hatchery Manager's Corner

As you know from the last volunteer letter, Deborah Burger retired in April of this year. I have been tasked to take over her duties and responsibilities until the position can be advertised and filled. It will be some big shoes to fill, but I am up for the challenge.

Just to give you a little background information on me, I have been working for the Service for 20 years. My career started at the Bo Ginn National Fish Hatchery below Augusta, Georgia. From there I went to the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery in Kentucky. I've spent the last 16 years of my career here at the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery.

If you have been following us on Facebook, you will know that there has been construction going on since August. They are replacing 18 raceways and existing supply lines and drain lines. The construction is going along slowly, and should not impact the upcoming stocking season.

The budget for the upcoming year looks good. We are still receiving money from the Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Valley Authority. We are currently operating on a continuing resolution until December, and then we will see from there. The election results will certainly change everything, so we will wait and see.

I look forward to a great upcoming year. We have already set the dates for the upcoming fishing events on the hatchery, so if you have questions call the hatchery or follow us on Facebook. Hope to see you all on the creek banks this spring!!

– *Kelly*



2015 Fishing Events

Chattahoochee Forest NFH
Volunteers needed. Mark your calendar!

Veterans Fishing Rodeo – May 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Open to United States Military Veterans. Participants must bring their own fishing gear and bait.

Special Kids – May 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (May 14th is inclement weather date). Open to special needs youth. Limited slots/pre-registration required.

Seniors – June 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Open to adults ages 55 and older – great fishing! Participants must bring their own fishing gear and bait.

Family Fishing Festival – June 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Open to youth ages 16 and under – fun-filled day of fishing and learning! Participants must bring their own fishing gear and bait.

Your help is greatly appreciated. These events are not possible without the support of caring volunteers. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

